

Council

Date: **26 March 2026**

Time: **4.30pm**

Venue: **Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall**

Members: **Councillors:** Grimshaw (Chair), Asaduzzaman, Atkinson, Alexander, Allen, Bagaeen, Baghoth, Cattell, Czolak, Daniel, Davis, Earthey, Evans, Fishleigh, Fowler, Galvin, Gauge, Goddard, Goldsmith, Guilmant, Helliwell, Hewitt, Hill, Hogan, Lademacher, Loughran, Lyons, Mackey, McGregor, McLeay, McNair, Meadows, Miller, Muten, Nann, Oliveira, O'Quinn, Parrott, Pickett, Robins, Robinson, Rowkins, Sankey, Shanks, Sheard, Simon, Sykes, Taylor, C Theobald, Thomson, West, Wilkinson, Winder and Williams.

Contact: **Anthony Soyinka**
Head of Democratic Services
01273 291006
anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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Chief Executive
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove BN3 3BQ

Date of Publication - Wednesday, 18 March 2026

AGENDA

Part One

Page

95 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests;
- (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
- (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services Officer preferably before the meeting.

96 MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous Council meeting(s) which will be circulated separately as part of an addendum for the meeting.

Contact Officer: Anthony Soyinka

Tel: 01273 291006

97 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

To receive communications from the Mayor.

98 TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.

To receive any petitions to be presented to the Mayor by members of the public and/or Members as notified by the due date of 12 March 2026 (10 working days).

99 LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive announcements by the Leader and Portfolio Holders.

100 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A list of public questions received by the due date of 10am on 16 March 2026 will be circulated separately as part of an addendum for the meeting.

101 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A list of deputations received by the due date of 10am 16 March 2026 will be circulated separately as part of an addendum for the meeting.

PETITIONS FOR DEBATE

Petitions to be debated at Council. Reports of the Executive Director for Governance, People & Resources.

102 PETITIONS FOR DEBATE

To follow.

103 CALL OVER FOR REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

(a) Call over (items 106 - 108) will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for consideration.

(b) To receive or approve the reports and agree with their recommendations, with the exception of those which have been reserved for discussion.

104 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

9 - 16

A list of the written questions submitted by Members has been included in the agenda papers. This will be repeated along with the written answers received and will be taken as read as part of an addendum circulated separately at the meeting.

Contact Officer: *Anthony Soyinka*

Tel: 01273 291006

6.30 - 7.00PM REFRESHMENT BREAK

Note: A refreshment break is scheduled for 6.30pm although this may alter slightly depending on how the meeting is proceeding and the view of the Mayor.

105 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

17 - 20

A list of Councillors who have indicated their desire to ask an oral question at the meeting along with the subject matters has been listed in the agenda papers.

Contact Officer: *Anthony Soyinka*

Tel: 01273 291006

REPORTS FOR DECISION

106 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

21 - 28

Contact Officer: *Raymond Bruce-Cathline*

Ward Affected: *All Wards*

107 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGY 2026 - 2029

29 - 272

Contact Officer: *Charlotte Farrell*

Tel: 01273 291099

Ward Affected: *All Wards*

108 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2026-27

273 - 286

Contact Officer: *Laura Rush*

Ward Affected: *All Wards*

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following Notices of Motion have been submitted by Members for consideration:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| 109 AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON THE BRIGHTON GENERAL HOSPITAL SITE | 287 - 288 |
| 110 3G PITCHES – USE OF CRUMB RUBBER INFILL | 289 - 290 |
| 111 FOODBANK FREE CITY - FROM PARCELS TO COMMUNITY SUPPORT HUBS | 291 - 292 |
| 112 POST-BUDGET CHANGES TO THE TOILET TAX | 293 - 294 |

113 CLOSE OF MEETING

The Mayor will move a closure motion under Procedure Rule 17 to terminate the meeting 4 hours after the beginning of the meeting (excluding any breaks/adjournments).

Note:

- 1. The Mayor will put the motion to the vote and if it is carried will then:-*
 - (a) Call on the Member who had moved the item under discussion to give their right of reply, before then putting the matter to the vote, taking into account the need to put any amendments that have been moved to the vote first;*
 - (b) Each remaining item on the agenda that has not been dealt with will then be taken in the order they appear on the agenda and put to the vote without debate.*

The Member responsible for moving each item will be given the opportunity by the Mayor to withdraw the item or to have it voted on. If there are any amendments that have been submitted, these will be taken and voted on first in the order that they were received.
 - (c) Following completion of the outstanding items, the Mayor will then close the meeting.*
- 2. If the motion moved by the Mayor is **not carried** the meeting will continue in the normal way, with each item being moved and debated and voted on.*
- 3. Any Member will still have the opportunity to move a closure motion should they so wish. If such a motion is moved and seconded, then the same procedure as outlined above will be followed.*

Once all the remaining items have been dealt with the Mayor will close the meeting.

FOR INFORMATION

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 10:00am on the eighth working day before the meeting.

Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

Infra-red hearing aids are available for use during the meeting. If you require any further information or assistance, please contact the receptionist on arrival.

Webcasting notice

This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 1998. Data collected during this web cast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy.

Therefore, by entering the meeting room and using the seats in the chamber you are deemed to be consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for the purpose of web casting and/or Member training. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured, they should sit in the public gallery area.

Access notice

The Public Gallery is situated on the first floor of the Town Hall and is limited in size but does have 2 spaces designated for wheelchair users. The lift cannot be used in an emergency. Evac Chairs are available for self-transfer and you are requested to inform Reception prior to going up to the Public Gallery. **For your own safety please do not go beyond the Ground Floor if you are unable to use the stairs.**

Please inform staff on Reception of this affects you so that you can be directed to the Council Chamber where you can watch the meeting or if you need to take part in the proceedings e.g. because you have submitted a public question. **Attending a Council meeting held in public**

To ensure that Council meetings remain safe and accessible there are a number of measures in place. Please take note of them before and during your attendance at one of our meetings that are held in public:

Visitors are admitted on condition that they allow themselves and their belongings to be searched.

You will be asked to sign in upon arrival and may be asked to show proof of identity.

The following items are not permitted at any of our meetings:

- Sharp items e.g. knives (including Swiss army knives) scissors, cutlery and screwdrivers;
- Paint spray or similar items;
- Padlocks, chains and climbing gear;
- Items that make a noise (e.g. whistles, loud hailers, mega phones); and,
- Banners, placards and flags or similar items.

Please restrict the size of bags brought to meetings as there are no facilities for storage of bags or other personal items – all bags will be searched upon entry. You may also be subject to secondary searches once inside the meeting.

Conduct at meetings

Councillors must be able to make themselves heard on behalf of those they represent.

The Mayor or the Chair will not allow behaviour that disrupts council business. Under the Council's Constitution, Part 3A, Council Procedure Rules 16.2 -16.3, at any meeting of the Council, the Mayor has the power to order the removal of any member of the public who:

- interrupts the proceedings
- acts in a way that impacts the proper and orderly conduct of the meeting

In the interest of order during a meeting, the Mayor may suspend or adjourn a meeting. We would ask that you respect these arrangements for the benefit of all those attending and participating and to ensure that Council meetings are able to proceed safely in public.

Fire & emergency evacuation procedure

If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions:

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move some distance away and await further instructions; and
- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so

Further information

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Anthony Soyinka, (01273 291006, email anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 104

Subject: Written questions from Councillors

Date of meeting: 26 March 2026

Report of: Director of Governance & Law

Contact Officer: Name: Anthony Soyinka
Tel: 01273 291006
Email: anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

The following questions have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answer detailed below:

1. Councillor Wilkinson asked:

Subject: Improving Signposting and Promotion of Kemptown

Kemptown is one of Brighton & Hove's most vibrant and distinctive neighbourhoods, with a strong LGBTQ+ heritage, and a thriving independent business community. However, many residents and businesses feel that Kemptown is often overlooked in citywide wayfinding and visitor promotion. Better signposting and promotion could help increase footfall, support local businesses, and ensure visitors are encouraged to explore beyond the city centre and seafront.

Will the administration consider working with local businesses and ward councillors to review how Kemptown is signposted and promoted across the city, and explore opportunities to strengthen the area's visibility as a destination?

Reply from Councillor Miller, Cabinet Member for Culture, Heritage & Tourism

2. Councillor Wilkinson asked:

Subject: Developing a Kemptown Environmental Strategy

Residents in my Kemptown ward have consistently raised the importance of improving the local environment, including cleaner streets, more greenery, better air quality, and enhanced public spaces. While the council has citywide environmental commitments, there may also be opportunities to work with the local community to develop neighbourhood-level initiatives that support these goals.

Will the administration consider working with ward councillors, community groups, and residents to explore the development of a "Greening Kemptown" environmental strategy to support greener streets, increased planting, and improved public spaces within the ward?

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

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3. Councillor Earthey asked:

(BHCC Rights of Way) What progress has been made on establishing public access rights to the orphan BHCC land by Looes Barn in West Saltdean, and if none has been made, why not? This matter was raised by Dr Richard Stow as a Public Oral Question to December's Full Council following months of resident questions, but despite repeated follow ups by Cllr Fishleigh and myself, no resolution to this case appears to have occurred.

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration

4. Councillor Earthey asked:

Large stretches of the Marina to Saltdean Undercliff are frequently submerged under shingle resulting from storms, resulting in danger to pedestrians and cyclists. The shingle is mainly cleared by local volunteers (the "Pebbledasher Project") using manual equipment such as brooms and shovels. Given that under climate change, we can expect more storms and thus more shingle, what steps are being taken to provide the Pebbledasher Project with the resources they are requesting, plus restoring the original Undercliff maintenance team to full strength (personnel and equipment)?

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

5. Councillor McNair asked:

We believe funding is being sought to reduce flooding in Winfield Avenue, Warmdene Drive and Dale Drive/Carden Avenue. Could we have any update on progress and what measures are likely to happen and when?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure

6. Councillor McNair asked:

Patcham Dovecote is an early 17th century dovecote – an extremely rare example. However, it is currently in a very poor state, with a sagging roof, collapsing boundary wall, and its door needing secured. Could we have an update on when Patcham Dovecote will be restored to its former glory?

Reply from Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Customer Services & Public Realm

7. Councillor Meadows asked:

It is now two years since the Scape project on Carden Avenue was implemented; could we have an update on its progress, including any successes or shortcomings?

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Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure

8. Councillor Meadows asked:

The caravan at the bottom of Carden Hill is still present despite the court order of 1st October granting the Council the power to move it; can the Council provide a full explanation covering the cost of obtaining that order, why it has not been enforced, how much could potentially be saved annually if court orders are not pursued but left unused, and when the new policy on van dwellers will be published?

Reply from Councillor Daniel, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Youth Services

9. Councillor Theobald asked:

On December 18th, Cllr Theobald was told in a written response that a timeline to re-open Patcham Place pavilion could not be given because a member of staff was on maternity leave. The cricket season is fast-approaching and urgent action is required. Will cricket teams be able to use Patcham Place this season as they will need toilet access?

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Sports, Recreation & Libraries

10. Councillor Theobald asked:

In answer to a written question from Cllr Meadows at Full Council on 23rd October 2025, Cllr Allen responded that "officers have a landscape design for [Patcham] roundabout for which we now have approval from National Highways. Officers continue to liaise with the landscaper and have a proposed contract with them to carry out the landscaping and maintenance on the roundabout for free, in return for sponsorship boards. This requires a planning application and legal sign-offs for the contracts with the landscaper and National Highways. There is progress on these items but there is key issue to resolve as financing enabling works (salt margin and access hardstanding) and the cost of traffic management have not yet been secured."

Could we have an update on current timelines for the work to commence?

Reply from Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Customer Services & Public Realm

11. Councillor Lyons asked:

In regard to many residents living within Nevill Rd, Nevill Ave, The Closes & Woodland Drive having asked for a Parking Consultation; the response received from Cllr Muten to my question at Full Council in December 2025, was that Officers will arrange to meet with Ward Councillors early in the new year to discuss the

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boundary and details of the scheme. We are now in March and no meeting has yet been forthcoming. Please advise as to when this will be arranged.

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure

12. Councillor Lyons asked:

Within Westdene & Hove Park Ward (and no doubt elsewhere within the city), many drains are blocked and haven't been cleared in some cases for years. Wards that are particularly hilly are susceptible to flooding as a result. Residents and I have been requesting for many drains to be cleared – but weeks & months later, these are not being done. What is the policy for drain clearance & timescales for clearances in 2026/27 tax year?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure

13. Councillor Hogan asked:

Why were Christmas trees in some areas of the city not collected until 21st February 2026?

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

14. Councillor Hogan asked:

Residents have contacted me about planting wildflowers in green spaces, but sometimes we're told the space is too small. Is there any criteria for where residents can plant wildflowers and what is the process for applying to do so?

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

15. Councillor De Oliveira asked:

How will the administration set out what actions the council is taking—through commissioning, contract management, and partnership work with the NHS/ICB—to ensure people with learning disabilities and autistic people are proactively supported to access cancer screening on an equal basis?

Reply from Councillor Alexander, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities, Public Health & Adult Social Care

16. Councillor De Oliveira asked:

How will the administration ensure that free public assets—such as the Paddling Pool on King's Road, which provides overstretched families with an affordable day out on the seafront—remain open, functional, and protected for long term use?

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Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Sports, Recreation & Libraries

17. Councillor Hill asked:

I feel it was inappropriate for administration Councillors to wish a 'Merry Budgetmas' to each other during budget Council whilst pushing through potential cuts to places like Wellington House. Do you understand why statements like this might be considered inappropriate given the very real fear families like those affected by proposals regarding Wellington House are currently feeling due to cuts from this budget?

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council

18. Councillor Hill asked:

Investigations by the Councils Planning Enforcement team are taking longer at the moment than as advertised in the Council's adopted Planning Enforcement policy document as they have had vacancies in the team now for the past year. Is the Council able to provide additional support to this overstretched team? Residents of mine on D'Aubigny Road has complained for a long time now about difficulties to enforce a persistent noise problem which I am told is affected by this staffing issue.

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration

19. Councillor Hill asked:

Government policy changes restricting UK social care visas showed that in 2025 there was an over 90% drop in visas compared to 2023. This will cause nationwide severe staffing shortages, including in Brighton & Hove. How does the administration intend to respond to this and will that response include lobbying the government to U-turn again on this policy?

Reply from Councillor Alexander, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities, Public Health & Adult Social Care

20. Councillor Sykes asked:

Please can the Finance Lead provide additional information about the £4.775m Housing Benefit subsidy loss mentioned in the 26th Feb Council Budget papers, section 3.14, including how this loss appeared, what the multi-year impact is, whether back-office cuts may have increased the likelihood of this happening and any lessons on avoiding such in-year shocks in the future?

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration

21. Councillor Sykes asked:

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Please can the Finance Lead provide additional information about the 'planning legal challenge' referred to in the 26th Feb Council Budget papers, section 3.14, including the quantum of the loss or the provision made if it has not yet been finalised, and any lessons on avoiding this nature of financial risk to the Council in the future?

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration

22. Councillor West asked:

Due to the slow action to remove bird boxes at the King Alfred redevelopment before the start of nesting season, some work will now be delayed by the need to protect wildlife. The administrations' choice to redevelop the King Alfred leisure centre in situ was always going to be a complex process, highly at risk of known and unknown factors leading to delay and cost overrun. We don't wish the project to flounder. We don't want to see the council embarrassed and financially exposed by its own version of the HS2 debacle. What effective risk management is being employed to prevent further delays?

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Sports, Recreation & Libraries

23. Councillor McLeay asked:

I am reading increasingly concerning information about BHCC's proposed role as a Primary Authority. My understanding is that other local authorities have chosen not to take on this role due to the potential financial and legal liabilities it can create. Could the Cabinet lead clarify what assessment has been made of these risks, and whether BHCC's legal team has formally reviewed and signed off the proposal?

Reply from Councillor Miller, Cabinet Member for Culture, Heritage & Tourism

24. Councillor McLeay asked:

In light of the council's substantial overspend on temporary homeless accommodation, approximately £5m above budget and largely benefiting private landlords, will the council agree to pause all asset disposals pending evidence that none of these assets could be used as temporary accommodation to help reduce ongoing financial pressures?

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration

25. Councillor Lademacher asked:

Given that only 453 Airbnbs in Brighton & Hove currently pay business rates, can the Council provide a full explanation covering the average amount paid by each of these properties and the additional income the Council would receive if the estimated further 2,000 Airbnbs operating 'under the radar' were also paying their full business rates?

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Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration

26. Councillor Lademacher asked:

What is the current average annual net revenue cost to the council for a unit of each of the following types of homeless temporary/emergency accommodation?

- Spot purchased
- Block booked
- Seaside homes
- Private sector leased
- Manoj House (council owned)
- Bed and Breakfast
- Home purchase scheme council TA units

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration

27. Councillor West asked:

Does the administration believe it is appropriate to release a report about a highly controversial matter, a report they know to be poorly informed and partial, into the public domain and then use it for party political purposes?

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council

28. Councillor Pickett asked:

With regard to what has happened at Middle Street School, will the administration be calling for an external investigation and report in order to fully understand the complexity of what occurred?

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration

29. Councillor Pickett asked:

With regard to the audit report of January 2025, on the KC report, related to Hollingdean depot, it was noted that there were 'lessons to be learnt' and that these should be actioned. Cabinet noted the audit report but what were the lessons learnt and how have these recommendations been actioned in real terms within the council?

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

30. Councillor Goldsmith asked:

I've had an increase in the number of people getting in touch with me over incorrect council tax bills, who have had a lot of trouble getting the council tax team to address the problems, which only seem to get resolved after councillor input. Errors like these understandably cause a huge amount of stress for residents, so it's vital we get it right. Is the administration aware of an increase in issues and what steps are being

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taken to ensure the council tax has the support, capacity, and resources to carry out their role?

Reply from Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Customer Services & Public Realm

31. Councillor Goldsmith asked:

What work is being done by the council to support staff, students, and parents at Middle Street Primary School throughout the stressful process of consultation on closing their school, especially after what has already been a period of difficulty for those at the school?

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 105

Subject: Oral questions from Councillors

A period of not more than 30 minutes is set aside for oral questions from Members, at the expiry of which, the mayor will call a halt and proceed to the next item of business of the agenda.

The following Members have indicated that they wish to put questions to the Leader, Cabinet portfolio holder, Chairs of Committees or Members of the Council that have been appointed to an outside body. The Councillor asking the question may then ask one relevant supplementary question which shall be put and answered without discussion:

Date of meeting: 26 March 2026

1. Councillor McNair:

Emails on admissions to parents

Reply from Councillor Daniel, Cabinet member for Children, Families and Youth Services

2. Councillor Fishleigh:

Extending the Bus Ultra Low Emission Zone

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure

3. Councillor Asaduzzaman:

Community Safety

Reply from Councillor Czolak, Cabinet member for Children, Families and Youth Services

4. Councillor De Oliveira:

Findings from the Global Glyphosate Study

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

5. Councillor Meadows:

Academisation of Local Authority Schools

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance and City Regeneration

Brighton & Hove City Council

6. Councillor Earthey:

What progress has been made on the mitigation of serious flooding in the Ovingdean, Rottingdean, and Saltdean areas.

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure

7. Councillor Bagaeen:

Events

Reply from Councillor Miller, Cabinet Member for Culture, Heritage & Tourism

8. Councillor Wilkinson:

Managing the Impact of Supported Accommodation

Reply from Councillor Alexander, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities, Public Health & Adult Social Care

9. Councillor Sykes:

Divestment Notice of Motion and agreed actions

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council

10. Councillor Lyons:

Information about potholes

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet member for Transport and City Infrastructure

11. Councillor Shanks:

Section 106

**Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member – Finance and
Cabinet Member – Finance and City Regeneration**

12. Councillor Theobald:

Fortnightly refuse collections

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet member for Net Zero and Environmental Services

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13. Councillor Goldsmith:

Middle Street School

Reply from Councillor Daniel, Cabinet member for Children, Families and Youth Services

14. Councillor Hogan:

Children's pedestrian training

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure

15. Councillor Hill:

Local service impacts from drastic reduction in social care visas

Reply from Councillor Alexander, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities, Public Health & Adult Social Care

16. Councillor Lademacher:

Short Term Lets

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing

17. Councillor McLeay:

Temporary Accommodation

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing

18. Councillor Pickett:

Pavements

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 106

Subject: Appointment to Committees, Outside Bodies and Partnerships

Date of meeting: 26 March 2026

Report of: Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Name: Anthony Soyinka
Tel: 01273 29 1006
Email: anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update appointments to the Committees, Sub- Committees, Joint Committees, Boards, Forums and Panels of the Council and to various outside bodies for the 2025/26 municipal year.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council appoints/reappoints Members/representatives to various bodies as listed in Appendix 1 to the report.

2.2 That Councillor Sam Parrott be appointed as Chair of People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.3 That the Chief Executive be granted delegated authority to make any necessary in-year changes to appointments to Outside Bodies and Partnerships, following consultation with the Leader (and any additional Member consultation considered appropriate).

2.4 That the Monitoring Officer be granted delegated authority to update the Constitution to reflect recommendation 2.3 above.

3. Context and background information

3.1 A function of Full Council is 'Appointing representatives to outside bodies unless the appointment has been delegated to a Committee, Sub-Committee or an officer.' A number of appointments require review, and the new appointments are proposed as set out at Appendix 1.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

4.1 The proposed appointments are required to replace previous appointees, where vacancies have arisen. For this reason, it is not appropriate to wait until the annual full Council in May when such appointments are normally made.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 Community engagement has not been undertaken in relation to these proposals which are internal governance matters for the Council and, in relation to appointment of Councillors to bodies, for the relevant political group to nominate.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The appointments set out in Appendix 1 are recommended to Council, having been through the internal process for nominations with the relevant Groups.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report

Name of finance officer consulted: Ishemupenyu Chagonda

Date consulted: 18/03/2026

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 Under the Council's Constitution, Full Council has responsibility for the appointment of Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Committees and Sub-Committees.
- 8.2 Full Council also has responsibility for appointments to Outside Bodies.
- 8.3 The proposals in this report include a proposed change to the Constitution to enable in year changes to membership of outside bodies, where vacancies have arisen in year, to be made by the Chief Executive. This is to enable vacancies to be filled on a short-term basis where they have arisen in year, before being reconsidered at the full Council AGM.

Name of lawyer consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date consulted: 18/03/2026

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 Decisions made by committees/sub committees could be challenged if those meetings are deemed to be unlawfully constituted.

10. Equalities implications

- 10.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

11 Sustainability implications

- 11.1 There are no sustainability issues arising from the report.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

Appendix 1 Appointments to Outside Bodies and Partnerships

Newly appointed members are highlighted in bold, red italics and underlined as shown below:

| | Name of Organisation | Description and Legal Position | Term of Office | Allocations | Nominations May 2025/26 | Status / End of term |
|---|---|--|----------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------|
| | Appointments to Council Bodies: | | | | | |
| 2 | The Brighton Fund (Mayor plus 4) | The primary objective of the Brighton Fund (approx. £1m) is the relief of Brighton residents who are over the age of 60 and who are in need, hardship or distress. The Charity's articles list the Mayor and 4 Councillors as making up the Board of Trustees. | Annual | The Mayor 2L; 1G;1C | Amanda Grimshaw <u>David McGregor</u> <u>(from 26 March 2026)</u> Mitchie Alexander Ellen Mcleay Emma Hogan | May 2026 |

| | Appointments to Outside Bodies: | | Term of Office | Allocations | Nominations May 2025/26 | Status / End of term |
|----|---|--|----------------|-------------|--|----------------------|
| 1A | Brighton & Hove Estates Conservation Trust (2) | Registered charity with objectives to improve the conservation and enhancement of the natural and built environment of the south downs, in particular Stanmer Park. | 4 years | 2L | Maureen Winder <u>(from 26 March 2026)</u> Theresa Fowler | May 2027 |
| 3 | Brighton Dome & Festival Limited (2) | Charitable Trust with 2 Cllrs appointed to the Board of Trustees. | 3-years | 2L | Joy Robinson <u>(from 26 March 2026)</u> Lucy Helliwell | May 2027 |
| 4 | East Sussex Fire Authority (6) | Under the East Sussex Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1996 each constituent authority appoints members to the Fire Authority | 4 years | 4L;1G;1C | Ty Goddard Amanda Evans Mohammed Asaduzzaman Amanda Grimshaw <u>(from 26 March 2026)</u> Raphael Hill Carol Theobald | May 2027 |
| | Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust | The Council of Governors plays an important role in the successful running of the Trust. Governors are responsible for ensuring that services and overall direction relate to the needs of the local communities | 3 years | 1L | TBC (from 1 April 2026) April 2029 | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---------|-----------|---|--|
| | | that the Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust serve. | | | | |
| | Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust | The Council of Governors acts as a link between service users, carers, staff, the general public and the Trusts Board of Directors. | 3 years | 1L | Sam Parrott (from 1 April 2026) April 2029 | |

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 107

Subject: Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026-2029

Date of meeting: 26 March 2026

Report of: Director of Governance and Law

Contact Officer: Name: Anthony Soyinka
Email: anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 At its meeting on 19 March 2026 Cabinet considered a report on Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026-2029.
- 1.2 This cover report attaches the 19 March 2026 Cabinet report and an extract of the minutes of that meeting (*to follow*).

2. Recommendations

That full Council

- 2.1 Approves the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029, attached in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Agrees to delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Families, Children and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Youth Services and the Community Safety Partnership, to make minor amendments required to ensure alignment with any relevant new legislation (e.g., Crime & Policing Bill) and devolution-related governance, that may come into force during the lifetime of this strategy.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 148

Subject: Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026-2029

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Youth Services

Lead Officer: Corporate Director for Families, Children and Wellbeing

Contact Officer: Richard Tuset

Email: richard.tuset@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions (wards).

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029, the statutory three-year strategy required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Strategy sets out the city’s multi-agency approach to reducing crime, tackling harm, supporting victims, and strengthening safety and cohesion across Brighton & Hove.
- 1.2 The Strategy aligns directly with the Council Plan 2023–2027, in particular commitments to creating a fairer and more inclusive city and a city where people feel safe and welcome, by:
 - Improving safety, community wellbeing and trust;
 - Tackling violence against women and girls;
 - Adopting a learning, evidence-led, prevention-focused approach; and
 - Strengthening community cohesion and resilience.
- 1.3 The Strategy has been shaped by:
 - 2025 Strategic Assessment of Crime & Community Safety;
 - Extensive partnership input;
 - The online public consultation;
 - National policy and legislative changes, including the Crime & Policing Bill and the Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy; and
 - Evolving governance landscape, including devolution proposals and Local Government Reorganisation.

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Recommends to Full Council that it approves the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029, attached in Appendix 1.

That Full Council:

- 2.2 Approves the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029, attached in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 Agrees to delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Families, Children and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Youth Services and the Community Safety Partnership, to make minor amendments required to ensure alignment with any relevant new legislation (e.g., Crime & Policing Bill) and devolution-related governance, that may come into force during the lifetime of this strategy.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026 - 2029 sets out the Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership's (CSP) statutory plan for reducing crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, reoffending, and risks to local communities. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, all responsible authorities - including the Council, Sussex Police, Fire & Rescue, Probation, and Health - must work together through the CSP to prepare, publish and oversee a three-year strategy addressing local community safety priorities.
- 3.2 Ownership of the Strategy rests collectively with the Community Safety Partnership Board, which provides strategic oversight, ensures compliance with statutory duties, and monitors delivery through partnership subgroups. The Strategy therefore represents not only a Council-authored document but a fully shared partnership plan reflecting the responsibilities and capabilities of the whole system. The Strategy appended to this report fulfils these statutory requirements and sets the direction for partnership activity from April 2026 to March 2029.
- 3.3 The development of the Strategy followed the nationally recognised, evidence-led cycle of Strategic Assessment → Drafting → Consultation → Revision → CSP approval. The starting point was the 2025 Strategic Assessment (Appendix 2), which analysed crime trends, vulnerability profiles, community tensions, service demand, demographic change and emerging risks. This Assessment produced a clear set of evidence-based recommendations and identified priority themes requiring a coordinated multi-agency response.
The draft Strategy was then prepared using this analysis, together with policy updates and learning from a range of sources including Prevent Learning Reviews, safeguarding findings, and practitioner insight.

- 3.4 A dedicated multi-agency workshop, facilitated by the CSP, brought together statutory partners, commissioned services, voluntary and community sector organisations, education, youth services, health and community representatives. Additional engagement took place through thematic networks and meetings, including Prevent, VAWG, ASB, Adolescent Services and community forums. Alongside partnership engagement, the draft Strategy was opened to the public through an online consultation. This generated rich qualitative information about community experience, perceptions of safety, and expectations of statutory services. The Strategy was then amended to reflect this feedback before being presented to the Community Safety Partnership Board for formal review and approval in early March 2026.
- 3.5 The Strategy has been developed during a period of rapid and significant change, both locally and nationally. Brighton & Hove continues to experience rising pressures associated with poverty, housing insecurity, mental and physical ill-health, and substance misuse, all of which shape patterns of vulnerability and compound risks across communities. The city's distinctive demographic profile - including a young adult population, high levels of inequality, and increasing complexity of need - means that individuals often experience multiple overlapping risks requiring integrated responses.
- 3.6 National policy shifts have also created a more complex landscape for community safety partnerships. The Crime and Policing Bill introduces new offences, stronger enforcement tools, extended safeguarding responsibilities and expectations linked to the Serious Violence Duty, requiring local services to adapt quickly to heightened statutory obligations. Alongside this, Prevent delivery is undergoing significant reform following the Prevent Learning Reviews, with increased scrutiny on how the system engages individuals with multiple and compound needs. National priorities around Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) have also expanded, with the Government's VAWG Strategy setting a clearer expectation that local areas adopt whole-system, trauma-informed approaches which strengthen early intervention, perpetrator accountability, public space safety and cross-agency safeguarding.
- 3.7 In parallel, the national focus on community cohesion, and the Local Government Association's Common Ground guidance on building cohesive communities, has sharpened expectations that local authorities take an active role in addressing polarisation, tackling harmful narratives, and strengthening trust and belonging. This is particularly relevant in Brighton & Hove, where the Council's own Community Cohesion work and the development of a city-wide Cohesion Roadmap emphasise visible leadership, partnership-led responses, and the need to proactively support communities affected by tension, misinformation and global events.
- 3.8 Global instability, including the ongoing Israel/Palestine conflict, has had a pronounced local effect, fuelling fear among affected communities, driving increases in hate incidents, and contributing to polarisation and elevated community tensions. Online spaces have further amplified harms:

misinformation, extremism, online exploitation and bullying increasingly underpin both the perception and the lived experience of safety in the city.

- 3.9 Overlaying these pressures are changes to governance arising from devolution and local government reform, which create uncertainty about future structures, accountability and resource distribution. The Strategy has therefore been designed to be flexible and resilient, capable of withstanding organisational shifts while maintaining a strong, locally grounded partnership response.
- 3.10 Despite these challenges, the 2025 Strategic Assessment highlights areas of strength: robust multi-agency structures, strong collaboration between statutory and voluntary sectors, innovative work across VAWG, ASB, Prevent and adolescent safeguarding, and resilience in responding to fast-moving community tensions. These foundations underpin the Strategy's approach.
- 3.11 In response to evidence, consultation and statutory requirements, the Strategy sets out a delivery model centred on early intervention, evidence-led practice, prevention, and strong partnership coordination. It emphasises the importance of learning - both from national reviews and local practice - and the need for approaches that are trauma-informed, inclusive, and responsive to community voice and lived experience. The Strategy retains the five established strategic priority areas, updated to reflect the current landscape:
- Serious violence, drugs and exploitation
 - Domestic abuse, sexual violence and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Hate incidents and hate crime
 - Prevent (terrorism and extremism)

Within each priority, the Strategy outlines how partners will work together to prevent harm, disrupt offending, support victims and communities, and identify and respond to vulnerability. It also sets expectations for improved data-sharing, joint tasking, place-based interventions, and hotspot-focused work.

- 3.12 Cross-cutting CSP delivery principles developed in the strategy include:
- Acting early to prevent harm;
 - Tackling issues with the greatest impact on vulnerable residents and high-harm locations;
 - Strengthening trust and confidence in statutory agencies;
 - Aligning enforcement and support;
 - Addressing the underlying drivers of crime and harm, including inequality, disadvantage and exclusion;
 - Addressing community tensions and promoting cohesion;
 - Learning continuously from evidence, lived experience and national practice.

3.13 The Community Safety Partnership Board has reviewed and approved the plan at its March 2026 meeting, and will oversee its implementation through annual action plans, performance monitoring and partnership governance arrangements.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

4.1 **Option 1** – Approve the Strategy (recommended). This enables statutory compliance, provides strategic clarity, strengthens partnership governance, and ensures a coherent citywide approach to crime reduction and safety.

4.2 **Option 2** – Do not approve the Strategy. This would place the Council in breach of statutory duties and risk fragmented partnership working, reduced community confidence, and loss of strategic coherence.

5. Community engagement and consultation

5.1 A dedicated multi-agency workshop was held in November 2025, facilitated by the CSP, that brought together statutory partners, commissioned services, voluntary and community sector organisations, education, youth services, health and community representatives. Additional engagement took place through thematic networks and meetings, including Prevent, VAWG, ASB, adolescent services and community forums.

5.2 Alongside partnership engagement, the draft Strategy was opened to the public through an online consultation which received 147 responses - almost double the volume of the 2023 consultation. This generated rich qualitative information about community experience, perceptions of safety, and expectations of statutory services.

5.3 The consultation received a broad range of responses from residents, community groups, statutory partners, and businesses. Across all priority areas, respondents overwhelmingly agreed with the overall aims and plans, but raised significant concerns about implementation, enforcement and resourcing. See Appendix 3 for more details. A number of cross cutting themes we identified including:

- **Visible policing & enforcement** - increased police responsiveness.
- **Addressing root causes:**
 - Poverty reduction
 - Youth provision
 - Housing and homelessness support
 - Mental health and substance-misuse services
 - Place-based work / tackling geographical city centre hotspots
- **Communication and reporting** – improved ways to report crime/ASB
- **Community tensions around Israel/Palestine:**
 - Both Jewish and Palestinian communities expressing fear
 - Confusion and disagreement about what constitutes hate crime
 - Concerns about protest rights, safety, and approaches to policing

5.4 This feedback has been used to amend the strategy before being presented to the Community Safety Partnership Board and Cabinet for formal review and approval.

6. Financial implications

6.1 The council's costs associated with delivering the Community Safety Strategy are planned for and met through the council's established annual budgeting processes and medium-term financial planning. Delivery of the Strategy is aligned to existing corporate priorities and is managed within agreed financial resources, ensuring appropriate financial governance and value for money.

6.2 Alongside this, the council makes targeted investment in partnership working and the resourcing of services that contribute to improved community safety outcomes. This includes funding and commissioning arrangements with statutory partners, as well as grant funding and commissioned activity delivered through the community and voluntary sector. These investments are focused on addressing the underlying causes of community safety issues, including poverty, homelessness, mental health needs and substance misuse.

6.3 Preventative and early-intervention activity in the city is supported through specific programmes and commissioning arrangements, including the council's community and voluntary sector grant funding programmes. This approach supports sustainable reductions in harm and helps manage future demand on statutory services, contributing to longer-term financial sustainability.

Name of finance officer consulted: David Ellis Date consulted (09/02/26):

7. Legal implications

7.1 There is a statutory requirement for this strategy, as set out at 3.1 above. The consultation requirements are met. There are no other legal comments save to mention the public sector equality duty is a relevant issue and is referred to below. There is also the requirement under the Children's Act to take into account the welfare and well being of children in decision making.

Name of lawyer consulted: Simon Court Date consulted 12.02.2025.

8. Risk implications

8.1 Key risks identified through the strategy development process include:

- Increasing demand & complexity outpacing capacity.
- Community tensions exacerbated by political or international events.
- Data-sharing limitations undermining evidence-led intervention.

- Devolution/LGR changes creating uncertainty in governance and service boundaries.
 - Legislative changes (e.g., Crime & Policing Bill) requiring rapid local adaptation.
- 8.2 Mitigations include strengthened multi-agency governance, quarterly monitoring, annual review, and contingency planning for devolution and LGR.

9. Equalities implications

9.1 The 2026–2029 Strategy is accompanied by a full Equality Impact Assessment (see Appendix 4). Key themes include:

- Disproportionate experiences of harm among disabled residents, Black and Racially Minoritised communities, Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex, young people, women, looked after children and care leavers and those in poverty;
- Barriers to reporting for marginalised communities;
- Increased risk of hate incidents linked to geopolitical tensions;
- Underreporting of incidents affecting TNBI communities.-reporting of incidents affecting TNBI communities

9.2 The Strategy seeks to directly addresses these inequalities through interventions, improved reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and commitments to anti-racist and trauma-informed practice.

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 There are no sustainability implications relating to this report.

10.2 Community safety work contributes positively to sustainability through:

- Reducing crime and ASB that cause environmental damage (e.g., arson, waste, vandalism);
- Supporting safer movement around the city, aligning with sustainable transport goals;
- Enhancing resilience of communities affected by overlapping socio-economic vulnerabilities.

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

11.1 Crime, fear of crime, exploitation, and ASB significantly affect mental and physical health. The Strategy improves health outcomes through:

- Trauma-informed approaches;
- Early intervention around substance misuse;
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults;
- Reducing violence and exploitation;
- Strengthening community belonging and cohesion.

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

12.1 There are no procurement implications relating to this report.

13. Crime & disorder implications:

13.1 Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must consider crime and disorder impacts in all decisions. This Strategy is the primary mechanism through which the city fulfils this duty. It sets out clear partnership plans to reduce:

- Serious violence;
- Exploitation;
- Domestic abuse and VAWG;
- Anti-social behaviour;
- Hate incidents and hate crime;
- Risks of terrorism and extremism.

14. Conclusion

14.1 The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029 provides a clear, evidence-based, partnership-driven framework to reduce crime, prevent harm, strengthen cohesion, and improve safety across Brighton & Hove. It is shaped by community and stakeholder input, informed by the Strategic Assessment, and aligned with national developments and local priorities. Cabinet approval will ensure statutory compliance and enable delivery to begin immediately.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

Appendix 1: Community Safety & Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029

Appendix 2: Summary of Online Consultation Feedback

Appendix 3: Strategic Assessment of Crime and Community Safety 2025

Appendix 4: Equality Impact Assessment

2. Background documents

- BHCC VAWG Strategy
- National VAWG Strategy
- Crime & Policing Bill
- LGA Common Ground guidance.

Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy

2026 – 2029



Brighton & Hove
Community Safety Partnership

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If you would like to provide any feedback on this document, you can do so by email to:
community.safety@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Introduction

The Partnership's aims

The Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership is committed to making the city a safer, more inclusive place for everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Brighton & Hove. Our overarching duty is to:

- **Reduce crime and disorder**
- **Improve community safety**
- **Reduce re-offending**

By focusing on these aims, we seek to enhance the quality of life across our diverse communities. Our approach centres on the following principles:

- Taking early action to **prevent** crime and disorder
- Tackling the issues that have the **greatest impact** on people's lives
- **Reducing the fear of crime** and meeting the needs of victims
- Building and sustaining **community cohesion**
- Improving **trust and confidence**

About this strategy

This strategy sets out our plans for the period 2026 - 2029. It is produced in line with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and reflects our shared commitment to partnership working, evidence-led action, continuous improvement, transparency and accountability.

Learning from the Previous Strategy

In shaping the 2026–2029 Community Safety Strategy, the partnership has undertaken a thorough review of progress achieved under the previous strategy (2023–2026). This earlier period was marked by significant challenges, including the ongoing recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, and heightened community cohesion pressures influenced by national and global events.

The link between poverty, inequality, and community safety is both profound and inseparable. These challenges place significant demands on partnerships and resources, while minority and disadvantaged communities often bear a disproportionate impact. Areas experiencing higher levels of deprivation are more vulnerable to crime, exploitation, and social harm. Addressing these inequalities is essential to creating safer, stronger neighbourhoods where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

These pressures have tested the resilience of our services and communities, reinforcing the need for strong partnership working, adaptability, and a renewed commitment to prevention and inclusion.

Key areas of learning

Partnership Strengths: Multi-agency collaboration remains a cornerstone, enabling coordinated responses to complex issues such as serious violence, exploitation, hate crime, Prevent, and VAWG. The partnership has shown resilience in adapting to new threats, including legislative changes and the cost-of-living crisis. Strong partnership with our residents and diverse communities enabled us to better understand and effectively respond to the shifting context and emerging threats.

Resource Constraints and Innovation: Persistent funding and capacity pressures have limited the ability to scale early intervention and prevention work, despite rising demand. This has required greater innovation, including the use of harm-led approaches, targeted enforcement, and creative use of community assets. However, further innovation is needed, particularly in response to gaps in after-school provision, mentoring, and contextual safeguarding for young people.

Community Cohesion and Engagement: National and international events have had significant local impacts, highlighting the need for rapid, visible partnership responses and robust community engagement. The impact on community perceptions, and inter-community relations have led to increased demands on statutory partners and managing competing priorities within shifting dynamics. The loss of third-party reporting capacity for hate incidents has exposed gaps in support for marginalised communities, underlining the importance of trust, survivor voice, and lived experience in shaping responses.

Data, Evidence, and Knowledge Gaps: Improved use of data and intelligence has supported targeted interventions, but there is scope for more real-time, cross-partner data sharing and evaluation. Gaps remain in understanding the prevalence and motivations for knife carrying, cuckooing, and sexual exploitation, as well as under-reporting across all thematic areas. Meaningfully capturing information from communities and the Third Sector to inform partnership response can be challenging.

Adaptability and System Learning: The partnership has demonstrated adaptability, but further agility is needed as governance structures evolve. Learning from safeguarding reviews, Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs), statutory and independent reviews, and lived experience must be systematically embedded to drive continuous improvement.

A number of recommendations for the new 2026 – 29 Strategy have been identified and are provided in Appendix 1

The Partnership and its work

Partnership working locally

The city is much better placed to tackle crime and disorder if everyone – residents and businesses, community and voluntary groups, and city services – work together in a coordinated way. The local authority, police, health, probation and fire services are statutory partners under the 1998 Act. However, in practice, the Community Safety Partnership works across a much wider range of partners at different levels and on different topics to work out what needs doing, and who can help.

As well as the impact on individuals and communities, the negative effects of crime and disorder increase demand on public services. Working in partnership and adopting a ‘whole system approach’ is essential. Our work contributes to, and overlaps with, the Police & Crime Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan¹, to the council’s Corporate Plan², to the Combating Drugs Partnership work, as well as to measures in the Public Health Outcomes Framework to name a few examples.

National Context

The national landscape for community safety is evolving rapidly, shaped by a convergence of social, economic, political, and technological pressures. While the government’s Beating Crime Plan continues to guide efforts to reduce serious violence, neighbourhood crime, and anti-social behaviour, there is an increasing emphasis on addressing “hidden harms” such as domestic abuse, violence against women and girls (VAWG), online exploitation, and hate crime.

However, the context in which local partnerships operate is becoming significantly more complex. The following national and structural developments are reshaping the environment for community safety:

Rising Extremism and Community Tensions: Persistent extremist agitation-both online and offline-is fuelling division and undermining community cohesion. The amplification of harmful narratives, often linked to international and national events disinformation, and conspiracy theories, is contributing to a rise in hate incidents and polarisation. Local authorities are increasingly required to respond to the consequences of global and national events playing out in local communities.

Complex and Intersecting Needs: Communities are facing overlapping challenges including poverty and disadvantage, mental ill-health, housing insecurity, substance misuse, and digital exclusion. These intersecting ‘compound’ needs require integrated, trauma-informed, and culturally competent responses across statutory and voluntary services. There is a clear recognition of differential impact on individuals, and that the

¹ [Sussex Police and Crime Plan, 2021-24, PDF.](#)

² [Brighton and Hove City Council Plan, 2023-2027.](#)

impact will differ on individuals with multiple and intersecting identities, often referred to as intersectionality.

Cumulative Systemic Pressures: Years of austerity, rising demand, and workforce pressures have created a fragmented service landscape. This is eroding resilience across statutory and community sectors, making it harder to deliver early intervention and sustain long-term prevention work.

Cost of Living Crisis: The ongoing cost of living crisis is deepening vulnerabilities. Financial stress, food and fuel insecurity, and reduced access to essential services are increasing the risk of exploitation, offending, and victimisation-particularly among those already marginalised.

Political Volatility and Policy Shifts: Rapidly evolving national and international political developments are having a direct impact on local cohesion. Certain communities are disproportionately affected by changes in asylum, migration, and equalities policy, contributing to a sense of fear and exclusion.

Health System Reorganisation: The transition to neighbourhood-based models within Integrated Care Systems (ICS) presents both opportunities and uncertainties. These changes affect how community health and place-based safety initiatives are delivered, with implications for access, coordination, and equity.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR): LGR introduces uncertainty around population profiles, service boundaries, and governance structures. Misalignment between new administrative boundaries and existing service footprints risks creating gaps in provision and confusion for residents.

Devolution and Mayoral Governance: The introduction of a regional mayor and devolution of powers will reshape the governance and funding landscape for community safety. While this presents opportunities for strategic alignment, it also brings uncertainty around priorities, accountability, and local influence.

Social Media and Misinformation: The rapid growth of social media has transformed how individuals and communities communicate, but it has also introduced significant risks to cohesion and safety. They engender distrust in their audience towards the government and mainstream media; the lack of trust effectively limits the capacity and impact of countering disinformation and misinformation. Platforms designed to connect people have become fertile ground for **misinformation, polarisation, and harmful narratives**. False or misleading content spreads at speed, often amplified by algorithms that prioritise engagement over accuracy. **Hate speech** and conspiracy theories circulating online disproportionately impact visibly minoritised groups, including Muslim and Jewish communities, and exacerbate vulnerabilities for the disabled, migrants, women and LGBTQ+ individuals. The result is a growing climate of intimidation and insecurity, where online hostility translates into offline abuse and violence.

The Community Safety Strategy and Policy Context

The Community Safety Strategy does not operate in isolation; it is embedded within a network of local and national policies that collectively shape safer, fairer communities. This strategy both supports and is supported by complementary frameworks, ensuring alignment and coherence across priorities.

Key linked policies and strategies include:

- **Brighton & Hove Anti-Racism Strategy** – driving systemic change to eliminate racial inequality and discrimination.
- **National Policing Plan** – setting standards for enforcement, prevention, and community engagement.
- **Financial Inclusion and Anti-Debt Initiatives** – reducing economic vulnerability that often correlates with crime and exploitation.
- **Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Plans** – addressing underlying factors that contribute to offending and victimisation.
- **National and local Violence Against Women and Girls Strategies** – safeguarding vulnerable groups and promoting gender equality.
- **Common Ground** - the Local Government Associations guidance on building more cohesive communities.

These connections are critical to achieving the objectives of the Community Safety Strategy. While this document acknowledges these interdependencies, detailed exploration sits within the respective strategies to maintain clarity of purpose and statutory focus. Further details are provided later in the document.

Legal and Policy Developments

The **Recent Supreme Court ruling** on sex and the Equality Act may require changes to how agencies assess risk, deliver services, and evidence decision-making. These developments bring potential resource pressures as services adapt their policies and processes to remain compliant with the evolving legal landscape. Agencies will need to update practice promptly while balancing community expectations, the requirements of the Equality Act and maintaining strong safeguarding standards.

The forthcoming **Crime and Policing Bill 2025**, currently progressing through Parliament, is set to reshape the legal landscape for community safety. It introduces new offences such as **child criminal exploitation**, **coerced internal concealment**, and **cuckooing**, each carrying significant custodial penalties. The Bill also strengthens police powers to tackle **anti-social behaviour**, **knife crime**, and **retail violence**, including the creation of **Respect Orders** and enhanced enforcement mechanisms.

The Government's new **Freedom from Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (2025–2028)** introduces a strengthened national framework for preventing and responding to VAWG, with a major focus on early intervention, whole-of-system accountability, and

improving outcomes for victims. It places new expectations on local areas to embed trauma-informed practice, expand multi-agency risk management, and improve consistency in responding to high-harm perpetrators. These national commitments will require local partnerships to ensure their governance, training, and data-sharing arrangements are aligned with the strengthened statutory focus on VAWG.

These changes will require local partnerships to review enforcement protocols, safeguarding frameworks, and multi-agency coordination to ensure compliance and effective implementation.

DRAFT

Brighton & Hove and the people in the city

The information in the next two sections has been taken from the Strategic Assessment of Crime and Community Safety 2025. To request a copy, please contact community.safety@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Our residents and visitors

People with many different characteristics contribute to the makeup of the local population; crime and disorder issues will also impact on people differently.

According to the 2024 ONS mid-year population estimates, there are a total of 283,870 people living in the city, up 1.0% (2,735 people) compared with 2023 and 7,416 more (up 2.7%) compared with mid-2021.

Compared with England and the South East, Brighton & Hove has fewer young children or older people, but more younger adults, particularly those aged 19 to 30 years old. Contributing to people in this age group are those who come to the city to study. Within the city there were 3,080 more females than males in the age group 18 to 25 years old, and 2,850 more females than males aged 75 years and over.

For the academic year 2023/24, a total 35,885 students were enrolled at the University of Sussex and the University of Brighton, 5.3% fewer (2,020 people) than in the previous year. This compared with a 0.6% overall decrease in enrolled students across England. In Brighton & Hove, 58% of these students were female and 42% male³.

The city is a popular tourist destination. In 2023, the latest year for which data is available, around 10.2 million trips were estimated to have been made to the city by day visitors (up 2% on 2022), with 5.6 million overnight stays (up 7.0% on 2022)⁴.

According to the 2021 Census, Brighton & Hove is continuing to become a more ethnically diverse city. While the overall number of residents had only increased by 1% between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses, the number of Black and Racially Minoritised residents had increased by 35%, representing 18,921 people. More than a quarter of residents (26%, 72,272 people) were Black and Racially Minoritised under the definition used by Brighton and Hove City Council, which is, all ethnic groups apart from White UK/British. The city continues to be a destination for people born outside of the UK, with one in five residents living in Brighton (20%, 54,343 people) born outside the UK as of the 2021 Census, higher than both the South East (16%) and England (17%).

Brighton & Hove also had the highest proportion of residents identifying as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB+) in England at the time of the 2021 Census. More than one in ten residents aged 16 or over (10.7%, 25,247 people) identified with an LGB+ sexual orientation. This is

³ Higher Education Statistical Agency (HESA), [Where do HE students study? | HESA](#)

⁴ Tourism South East; [Economic Impact of Tourism - Brighton and Hove Report 2023](#)

three times the percentage found in both the South East (3.1%) and England (3.2%) and the highest seen in any upper tier local authority in England. In the 2024 Health Counts survey completed in the city, 28% of residents identified with an LGBTQ+ identity^{5,6}, using a slightly different question to that in the 2021 Census.

At least 2,341 residents (1.0%) in Brighton & Hove identified with a gender different from their sex registered at birth in the 2021 Census⁷, around double the proportion in the South East (0.47%) and England (0.55%). The proportion of residents aged 16 and over in Brighton & Hove identifying with a gender different from their sex registered at birth (1.0%) was in the highest 25 of local authorities in England and Wales.

One in forty residents aged 16 years old or older (5,618 people, 2.4%) have previously served in the UK armed forces⁸. This is significantly lower than in the South East (4.2%) and England (3.8%). Among the 5,618 veterans, 3,948 were in the regular UK armed forces, 1,423 in the reserves and 246 in both the regular and reserve armed forces.

Brighton & Hove residents are significantly more likely to be disabled than people living in the South East and England. At the time of the 2021 Census, nearly one in five residents (19%, 51,797 people) report that their day-to-day activities are 'limited a little' or 'limited a lot' by health problems. In the 2024 Health Counts survey⁵, 37% of adults reported that their day-to-day activities were limited by a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness.

In 2025, 9,780 residents aged 18 to 64 (5.0%) were estimated to have impaired mobility, increasing to 18.6% of people aged over 65. There were an estimated 5,828 people in the city aged over 18 (2.5%) with a learning difficulty⁹.

Brighton & Hove also has significant mental health needs. The proportion of adults with common mental disorders (such as anxiety or depression) are estimated to be 1 in 5 in the

⁵ [Brighton & Hove City Council webpage - Health Counts Survey.](#)

⁶ Health Counts is a health and wellbeing survey of Brighton and Hove adult residents conducted around once a decade. There were 16,729 respondents, results were weighted for age, gender and deprivation to account for differences in response rate. The survey was conducted by researchers at the University of Brighton, in collaboration with Brighton & Hove Medical School, NHS Sussex, Healthwatch Brighton & Hove, Brighton & Hove Federation and Brighton & Hove City Council Public Health Intelligence team. It was funded by the Public Health Department at Brighton & Hove City Council.

⁷ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Gender identity statistics for England and Wales, Census 2021.](#)

⁸ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Census 2021 output: previously served in the UK Armed Forces.](#)

⁹ [Projecting Older People Population Information System](#) and [Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information.](#)

city, which is higher than the England estimate of 1 in 6 and considered an underestimate¹⁰. In the 2024 Health Counts Survey⁶, 24% of respondents reported low levels of happiness, and 38% reported high levels of anxiety.

Brighton & Hove had 1,991 Children in Need and 262 children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan¹¹ as of March 2024, both slightly down from the same time in 2023 but both proportionally higher than the South East and England¹². National evidence shows that people who have been looked after as children are more likely to be unemployed, be involved in crime and be identified as having a substance misuse problem¹³.

Social and economic factors

The Index of Multiple Deprivation¹⁴ (IMD) 2025 ranked Brighton & Hove the 96th most deprived upper tier local authority in England (out of 153). Average IMD rank scores show that Brighton and Hove has lower levels of overall deprivation compared to England, but higher levels compared to the South East. The level of deprivation varies widely across the city - with some of the most deprived areas in the east and central parts of the city. Smaller areas of deprivation are also found in the west of the city. Looking at only the crime domain, the IMD shows that Brighton & Hove has higher levels of crime deprivation than both England and the South East.

There were an estimated 8,000 unemployed people in the city in the twelve months up to March 2025. This represented 4.7% of all those who were economically active¹⁵ compared to 3.9% in Great Britain and in 3.3% in the South East¹⁶.

Around one in 15 (6.7%) of the city's 16–17-year-olds (382 young people) were not in education, training or employment (NEET) or their status was not known, in the three months ending March 2025 - slightly lower than the average for the South East (7.0%) but higher than for England (5.6%)¹⁷.

¹⁰ BHCC; [Mental Health & Wellbeing in Brighton & Hove, 2022](#).

¹¹ Department for Education; [Child Protection Plan statistics, Explore Education Statistics Service](#).

¹² [Department of Education statistics, Children in Need 2024](#).

¹³ [NICE web report - Costing report: promoting the quality of life of looked after children and young people - PDF](#).

¹⁴ [English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release - GOV.UK](#)

¹⁵ Economically active refers to those who are either employed or who are unemployed according to the above definition.

¹⁶ NOMIS; [Brighton & Hove Labour Market Profile](#).

¹⁷ [Department for Education webpage - NEET and participation Local Authority scorecard](#).

Data from the Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT)¹⁸ shows that as of September 2025, there were 22,360 low-income households in the city with 8,527 children living in them. Of these low-income households, 5,939 households - with 3,720 children living in them - were below the poverty line. This is an increase of 201 households living below the poverty line in the city compared with November 2024. In addition, 2,215 households in the city were estimated to have a cash shortfall and 553 households were in food poverty.

Housing and homelessness

Brighton & Hove had 121,401 homes at the time of the 2021 Census, with an average household size of 2.2 occupants. This compared with 2.4 in the South East and in England.

The city has fewer owner occupiers and more people renting from private landlords than the average for the South East and England as a whole. A third of households (33%, 39,684 households) in the city rented privately at that time. This is significantly higher than both the South East (19%) and England (20%) and was the highest proportion in England outside of London and the Isles of Scilly. Meanwhile, homeownership in Brighton & Hove is falling; just over a half of households in the city (51%) own their own home, significantly lower than in the South East (66%) and England (61%).

The personal and societal cost of homelessness remains a profound problem in the city. The Street Outreach Service found 716 people sleeping rough in 2024/25, down from 785 the previous year and 927 in 2022/23, but reflective of a longer-term issue of rough sleeping seen in the last five years. The reduction seen here reflects targeted work across the city to reduce the number of individuals rough sleeping.

...and what we don't know

We need to remain aware that not all the people in the city will feature in the various statistics at our disposal, nor come to the attention of services. This 'invisible' or unidentified population may be among the most vulnerable to crime and community safety issues and extra focus is needed in order to provide help to these groups.

Meeting our equalities duty

The Equality Act 2010 requires that public sector bodies consider and take account of how the lives of people with protected characteristics are impacted by their work. Our Strategic Assessment in 2025 reported on how different people are affected by crime and safety issues. The process of determining our priorities and actions takes these findings into account.

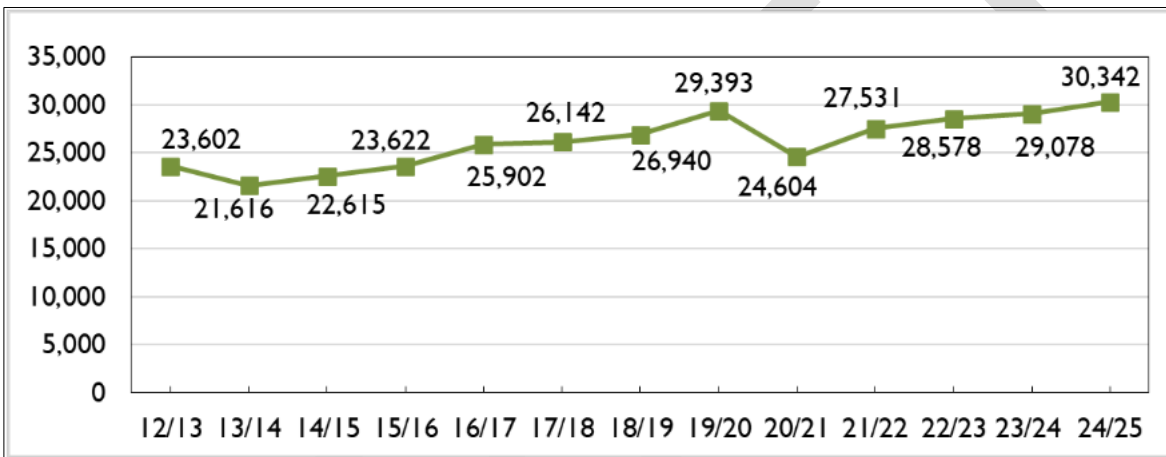
¹⁸ LIFT data is produced using council data on Housing Benefit claimants and DWP data relating to Universal Credit-Council Tax Reduction claimants in the city. These are combined with data on council tax arrears, Housing Benefit overpayments and rent arrears (where BHCC is landlord). This information for each individual household is then calculated against average spend by particular household type. The result is a snapshot of financial vulnerability for each of these households in the city and doesn't include all low income, benefit recipient households.

Crime and disorder overview

Nature and scale of crimes

There were 30,342 crimes recorded by police in Brighton & Hove in 2024/25. This was 4.2% higher than in the previous year and the fourth consecutive year in which total crimes increased in the city, following the sharp decrease in recorded crime in 2020/21 during the Covid-19 pandemic.

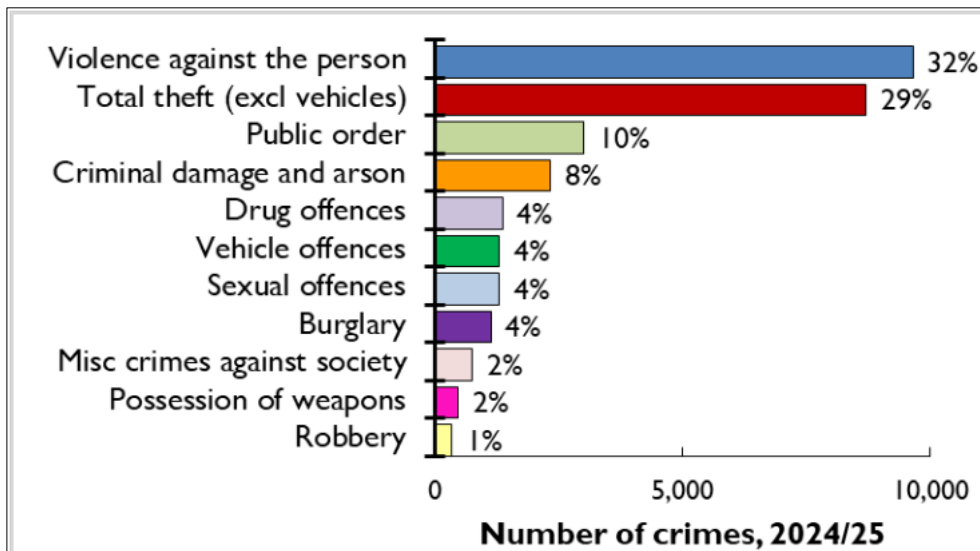
Figure 1. Total police recorded crime, 2012/13 – 2024/25



From 2013/14, total police recorded crimes increased year by year until 2019/20, a long-term peak. Covid-related restrictions put in place during 2020/21 contributed to an approximately 16% drop in total crimes recorded. Following the removal of restrictions, recorded crimes increased by 11.9% in 2021/22, 3.8% in 2022/23, 1.7% in 2023/24 and 4.2% in 2024/25. It remains important to note that, as well as underlying changes in crimes taking place, crime trends are influenced by recording practices, changes in definitions, and changing propensity to report which vary significantly by crime type.¹⁹

¹⁹ The increase seen from 2014/15 onwards was influenced in part by the Sussex Police response to His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabularies inspection program on data integrity, undertaken during 2013/14. This work had an impact on the recording of violent and sexual offences in particular. A subsequent [HMIC inspection in 2016](#) on data recording by Sussex Police found that improvements have been made, while further areas for improvement were identified.

Figure 2. Total police recorded crime breakdown, 2024/25



Prior to 2019/20, Anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents had showed a long-term decline since at least 2007/08 - where more than 22,000 incidents had been recorded – down to less than 7,300 in 2019/20. A sharp increase in ASB incidents took place in 2020/21 as police responded to incidents involving people contravening government Covid-related restrictions or new neighbourly disputes, resulting in nearly 13,500 incidents recorded. Following the lifting of restrictions throughout 2021, recorded incidents fell to around 8,300 incidents in 2021/22 and 4,316 in 2022/23. In 2023/24 there were 4,870 ASB incidents recorded by Sussex Police in the city, 13% greater than in 2022/23, increasing a further 10% to 5,365 in 2024/25.

More information on recorded crimes and incidents is provided in the Strategic Assessment.

Crime patterns

The retail and leisure area in the city centre is also the geographical hotspot for much of the city's crime and disorder.

Seasonal patterns often coincide with the peak visitor season when there are more people in the city to both perpetrate and be victims of crime, and when people tend to spend more time outdoors. Certain crimes are more likely to take place at particular times of day, for example violence occurs more frequently on Friday and Saturday nights, linking with the night-time economy.

Offending and reoffending

There were 1,745 offenders (1,690 adults and 55 young people) in the financial year 2022/23 in Brighton & Hove, the latest full year available²⁰. Of these, 31% of the adults and 35% of the young people perpetrating crime in this period went on to reoffend in the

²⁰ As annual figures were produced by aggregating the four preceding 3-monthly cohorts recorded by the Ministry of Justice, there may be some double-counting of offenders.

following 12 months, and adult reoffending rates in the city were higher than the South East (23%) and England & Wales (26%). On average, juvenile reoffenders in the city had carried out 5.16 offences each, while adult reoffenders had carried out 4.73 reoffences each - both figures greater than in the previous year.

Alcohol and drug use

Violent crime is frequently associated with alcohol misuse, and habitual drug use can be a driver for acquisitive crimes²¹.

Measures of alcohol sales²² and consumption²³ in the latest statistics were higher in the city than in England, the South East and higher than the average of our matched authorities.

Latest estimates based on modelling from 2019/20 show that, compared with the South East and with England, the proportion of the city's resident population using opiates or crack cocaine remains significantly higher.²⁴

Hidden crime and criminal groups

It is necessary to remain aware that crimes may be hidden from sight. Criminal behaviour continues to evolve while pressures on victims to remain silent can persist. Organised crime groups can widen the geography of both perpetrators and victims in areas such as child sexual abuse, drug dealing and human trafficking. Partnerships play an important role in addressing these issues.

Feeling safe

National research found that in 2024/25, 8% of survey respondents reported feeling a high level of worry about violent crime, 8% about burglary, 17% about fraud, and 7% of car owners had a high level of worry about car crime. Women continue to report greater worry than men, as do people from Mixed, Asian/Asian British or Black/Black British ethnicities, people who work in manual routine occupations or who are long-term unemployed due to illness, disabled people and people having already been a recent victim of crime²⁵.

Locally, the Health Counts²⁶ survey conducted in Brighton & Hove in 2024 asked how safe residents felt walking alone in their local area within approximately 15 minutes from their home, both during the day and at night. During the day, 96% of respondents report feeling safe in their local area, however at night this dropped to 65%. Younger adults, those aged

²¹ [Home Office, Modern Crime Prevention Strategy, 2016](#)

²² [NHS Fingertips - Alcohol Sales by Local Authority, 2014.](#)

²³ [NHS Fingertips - Alcohol Profile for Brighton & Hove.](#)

²⁴ [Government Research and analysis on Opiate and crack cocaine use, webpage.](#)

²⁵ [ONS webpage - Annual supplementary tables for Crime in England and Wales using the Crime Survey for England and Wales \(CSEW\).](#)

²⁶ [Health Counts 2024: Summary of Results. Brighton, Brighton and Hove City Council.](#)

85 years and older, females, trans, non-binary or intersex respondents, LGBTQ+ respondents, Gypsy Roma or Irish Traveller respondents, as well as people with experience of the care system, and those who are housed in temporary or emergency accommodation were all significantly more likely to feel unsafe walking alone in their local area at night, compared with respondents as a whole.

Disabled respondents were also more likely to feel unsafe in their local area at night. This difference was particularly marked amongst some groups, such as those with a speech and language issues, those with a developmental condition, those who had a visible difference with a disabling and/or discriminatory impact, as well as those with a learning disability.

There were also geographical differences in feelings of safety across the city. People who live in the most deprived areas of the city are significantly more likely to report feeling very or a bit unsafe walking alone in their local area at night compared with all respondents. Those living in Moulsecoomb & Bevendean, Queen's Park, Kemptown, and Whitehawk & Marina wards were all significantly more likely to feel unsafe walking alone in their local area both during the day and at night, compared with respondents as a whole.

Financial impact

The financial impact of crime is significant. Estimated costs of crime have been provided by the Home Office and cover, for example, physical/emotional harm, lost output, value of property stolen/damaged, and the cost of health, police, and other public services in response to crime.²⁷

The average cost of each crime that takes place is estimated at:

- £14,100 for a violent crime with injury/£5,900 without injury
- £5,900 for a domestic burglary
- £10,300 for a theft of a vehicle/£870 for a theft from a vehicle
- £8,400 for arson/£1,400 for other criminal damage
- £39,400 for rape and £6,500 for other sexual offences

Costs are generally higher if they relate to crimes against businesses.

Current landscape

The context in which we work to reduce crime and disorder continues to be shaped by a range of national and international developments. The following themes reflect the most significant pressures and changes currently influencing community safety in Brighton & Hove.

²⁷ [Home Office Research Paper - The economic and social costs of crime, 2018](#). Based on costs in 2015/16.

Cost of Living and Community Resilience

The cost of living crisis continues to have a profound impact on residents across Brighton & Hove. Financial hardship and poverty have intensified since 2023, driven by inflation, energy costs, and the ongoing effects of the war in Ukraine. These pressures are compounding the challenges that emerged during the Covid-19 pandemic, with many individuals and families now facing more complex and entrenched needs.

Communities are reporting increased levels of stress, isolation, and vulnerability, particularly among those already experiencing disadvantage. The rising cost of housing in the city remains a significant barrier to stability, especially for those on lower incomes. Inadequate or insecure housing can contribute to a range of issues, including increased risk of offending, exploitation, and poor health outcomes.

The voluntary and community sector continues to play a vital role in supporting residents, but demand for services is growing. There is a need for continued innovation and collaboration to ensure that services remain accessible and responsive, particularly for those most affected by poverty, inequality, trauma, and exclusion.

National police statistics highlight that, between the year ending March 2024 and the year ending March 2025, police recorded fraud and computer misuse (up 2%), drugs trafficking/supply (up 28%) and sexual offences (up 11%) had all increased, while robbery (down 3%), knife and sharp implement-related crimes (down 1%), violence with injury (down 7%) had decreased²⁸.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) highlighted a significant increase in people reporting being victims of fraud in the year ending March 2025, primarily due to increases in consumer/retail fraud and bank/credit account fraud.

Partnership Capacity

The capacity of statutory and voluntary partners to meet rising and increasingly complex needs is under significant strain. Years of reduced funding for public services have left many organisations operating with limited resources, even as demand continues to grow.

Community safety partners - including the police, local authority, health services, and the voluntary sector - are working within a context of constrained budgets and heightened expectations. The complexity of need, particularly among individuals facing overlapping vulnerabilities such as mental health challenges, substance misuse, and housing instability, demands coordinated, multi-agency responses that are difficult to sustain at scale.

²⁸ [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) webpage - Crime in England and Wales](#). The ONS note that statistics on police recorded sexual offences are not a good indicator of trends over time, due to improvements in recording practices and increased reporting by victims in recent years.

While the city benefits from a strong foundation of partnership working, the system is under pressure. Sustained investment in prevention, early intervention, and trauma-informed practice is critical to prevent escalation, protect public trust, and maintain community safety.

Community Cohesion

Community cohesion remains a key priority for Brighton & Hove. The city is proud of its diversity and its status as a City of Sanctuary and an anti-racist city, but recent events have highlighted how fragile social trust can be in the face of national and global tensions. The terror attack on a synagogue in Manchester and the arson attack on a mosque in Peacehaven have had a ripple effect locally, heightening fear and anxiety among Jewish and Muslim communities. These incidents have unfolded alongside a wider rise in online misinformation, national increases in hate crime, and growing activity from far-right groups.

Locally, reports of hate incidents and community tensions have increased, including concerns about the politicisation of national symbols and the impact of divisive narratives circulating online. These developments underline the need for clear and visible leadership, coordinated partnership action, and a renewed commitment to promoting inclusion, challenging hate, and supporting those affected by discrimination and harassment.

The national threat level remains at 'substantial', meaning an attack is likely. This reinforces the importance of continued vigilance and strong partnership working to safeguard communities and uphold the city's values of tolerance, respect and safety.

Community cohesion underpins every aspect of community safety in Brighton & Hove. Global conflict, national political rhetoric, and the amplification of harmful online narratives directly affect trust, feelings of safety, and relationships between communities. Strengthening cohesion is therefore essential to preventing escalation, reducing harm and supporting the wellbeing of those most affected by these pressures.

The Partnership will continue to work closely with residents, faith groups, schools, community organisations, and the One Voice Partnership to promote dialogue, reduce tensions and challenge misinformation. Visible leadership, shared messaging and coordinated community reassurance will remain central to maintaining safety, confidence and social resilience across the city.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

The landscape of local governance is also shifting. The proposed devolution deal for the region is expected to transfer new powers and resources to a directly elected mayor in the coming years. This includes potential implications for community safety, with responsibilities for crime reduction, policing oversight, and public health likely to be shaped at a regional level.

At the same time, discussions around local government reorganisation (LGR) raise questions about how services will be delivered across new and potentially non-coterminous

boundaries. Brighton & Hove's unique geography, population density, and community needs must be carefully considered in any future governance arrangements.

There is a risk that changes to boundaries or governance structures could disrupt existing partnerships or dilute the city's ability to respond to local priorities. It will be essential to ensure that any new arrangements protect the integrity of local services, maintain accountability, and reflect the diversity and complexity of our communities.

Crime and Policing Bill

The proposed **Crime and Policing Bill** introduces a number of significant changes that will shape the future of community safety and local enforcement powers in the city. While the Bill is still progressing through Parliament, its provisions signal a shift in the national approach to crime prevention, policing, and public order.

Key elements of the Bill include:

- **Expanded powers for police and local authorities to manage protests**, including new offences for obstruction of highways, serious annoyance, and interference with infrastructure. Police will be empowered to set conditions on protests such as noise limits, routes, and timings.
- **New offences related to serious violence prevention**, including child criminal exploitation, coerced internal concealment, and cuckooing. These are designed to strengthen safeguarding and early intervention efforts.
- **Introduction of Respect Orders** to replace existing civil injunctions for persistent antisocial behaviour, alongside enhanced police powers to tackle ASB, including stop and search without suspicion in designated areas.
- **Stricter knife crime measures**, such as age verification for online sales, powers to seize bladed articles from private property, and personal liability for platform managers failing to remove illegal content.
- **Retail crime protections**, including a new offence of assaulting retail workers and the repeal of Section 176 of the 2014 Act, restoring police response to low-value shop theft.
- **Greater emphasis on data sharing between agencies**, particularly in support of the proposed **Serious Violence Duty**, which would place a legal requirement on specified authorities-including the council, police, health, and education bodies-to collaborate in preventing and reducing serious violence.
- **Victim support enhancements**, including stronger victim impact statements and expanded post-sentence supervision.

For **Brighton & Hove**, the implications of the Bill are wide-ranging. The city has a strong tradition of protest and civic activism, and any changes to the regulation of public demonstrations will need to be carefully managed to uphold both public safety and the right to peaceful protest.

The **Serious Violence Duty** aligns with existing partnership work but may require additional coordination, data infrastructure, and resourcing to meet new statutory obligations. This includes adapting multi-agency safeguarding frameworks and ensuring robust data-sharing protocols across services.

The Bill also intersects with our existing priorities around serious violence, exploitation, and community cohesion. It reinforces the need for a **whole-system approach** to prevention, early intervention, and safeguarding-particularly for young people and those at risk of harm. Local authorities will need to update enforcement protocols, train frontline staff, and prepare for increased operational pressures, including sentence inflation and prison overcrowding.

Finally, the Bill's overlap with **local government reorganisation and devolution**-including the anticipated mayoral authority-means councils must ensure community safety responsibilities are clearly defined and not diluted by boundary change

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Identifying and progressing priorities

Strategic Assessment and Priority Setting

This strategy has been informed by a refreshed Strategic Assessment of Crime and Community Safety, completed in 2025. The assessment draws on the latest data and feedback from across the partnership, providing a comprehensive picture of crime, safety, and community wellbeing in Brighton & Hove. This has informed the setting of our priorities, and the plans for how to progress these. Ongoing and dynamic feedback from our communities through delivering workstreams and strategic leads is included currently, with further consultations in train.

Following this review, we have agreed to retain the existing five strategic priority areas. However, each has been thoroughly updated and revitalised to reflect the current context, emerging trends, and recent policy developments-including the national focus on community cohesion, the implications of the Crime and Policing Bill, Devolution and the Local Government Reorganisation.

Our Strategic Priorities

The priorities in this strategy focus on areas where partnership working is essential to achieving meaningful progress. They reflect both national and local priorities and are particularly focused on areas where the impact on victims is high and where collaborative action adds the greatest value.

The five strategic priority areas for 2023–2026 are:

- **Serious violence, drugs, and exploitation**
- **Domestic abuse, sexual violence, and violence against women and girls (VAWG)**
- **Anti-social behaviour**
- **Hate incidents and crimes**
- **Prevent (Preventing terrorism and extremism)**

Considerations Around Resources

Public sector budgets remain under significant pressure, and difficult decisions continue to be made about how to allocate limited resources. The tension between investing in prevention and responding to harm after it occurs remains a central challenge.

Without sustained investment in prevention, there is a risk that long-term problems will escalate, placing further strain on services and communities. Partnership resources currently support a skilled and experienced workforce. Any reduction in financial support risks disrupting continuity and undermining the progress made to date - rebuilding this capacity would require significant time and effort.

Given the continuing pressures on public sector budgets and increasing complexity of need, the Partnership will adopt a clearer prioritisation framework to focus limited resources on areas of highest harm and vulnerability. This approach will incorporate risk-based decision-making, transparency about what can be delivered, and open communication with communities and partners about resource allocation. Where pressures may impact service delivery, we will work collectively to identify mitigations and advocate for sustained investment in prevention.

Monitoring the Effectiveness of Our Work

Each priority area in this strategy sets out the outcomes we aim to achieve through coordinated partnership action. Detailed action plans will be developed for each theme, outlining specific activities, delivery responsibilities and timescales. Progress will be monitored through the relevant thematic steering groups, with overall strategic oversight provided by the Community Safety Partnership Board.

We recognise that no single crime or safety indicator can fully capture the complexity of the issues facing our communities. For this reason, we will use a balanced suite of performance measures for each priority area, combining quantitative data, qualitative insight, and community feedback to build a more rounded understanding of impact. This will enable us to identify emerging risks earlier, understand what is working, and ensure our responses remain evidence-based and proportionate.

All data will be interpreted with care, acknowledging limitations in reporting, recording practices, and under-representation of some communities. Our aim is to ensure that decision-making is driven by high-quality evidence and reflects the lived experiences of those most affected by harm.

Clear and consistent communication with residents is essential to maintaining trust, reducing fear of crime, and countering misinformation. The Partnership will strengthen coordinated public messaging across all priority areas - including serious violence, ASB, VAWG, hate incidents and Prevent - to ensure communities receive accurate information about risks, available support and partnership action. Targeted reassurance campaigns will be used to support communities disproportionately affected by harm or by narratives that increase fear or vulnerability.

Relevant work of key partners

There are several statutory agencies whose core business is to tackle crime – the police, youth offending service, courts, probation and prison services are some significant ones. The work of other agencies, for example schools, health and social services, is also key to reducing the ‘drivers’ of crime.

The Community Safety Strategy does not operate in isolation; it is embedded within a network of local and national policies that collectively shape safer, fairer communities. This strategy both supports and is supported by complementary frameworks, ensuring alignment and coherence across priorities. Key policies and strategies are summarised below. These connections are critical to achieving the objectives of the Community Safety Strategy. While this document acknowledges these interdependencies, detailed exploration sits within the respective strategies to maintain clarity of purpose and statutory focus.



Brighton & Hove City Council Corporate Plan

The City Council's [Corporate Plan](#) sets out the overarching priorities for Brighton & Hove, including a commitment to creating a safe, healthy, and inclusive city. Community safety and cohesion are embedded within this vision, recognising that reducing crime and anti-social behaviour is fundamental to improving quality of life and supporting economic and social wellbeing. The Corporate Plan emphasises partnership working, prevention, and early intervention-aligning closely with the objectives of this strategy. By integrating community safety into broader goals such as housing, health, and sustainability, the plan ensures that tackling crime and its drivers is part of a holistic approach to building resilient communities.

Fair and Inclusive Plan and the Role of Key Partners

The [Council's Fair and Inclusive Plan](#) underpins efforts to address inequality and promote equity across all services. This includes tackling disproportionality in the criminal justice system and ensuring that interventions are accessible and culturally competent.

Anti Racist City

Brighton & Hove City Council's commitment to becoming an anti-racist city, formalised through its **Anti-Racism Strategy 2023–2028**, underpins the principles of the **Community Safety Strategy** by embedding equity and inclusion into all aspects of public safety. The anti-racist strategy focuses on three pillars: **community engagement**, **data-driven accountability**, and **policy reform**, ensuring that the voices and experiences of Black and racially minoritised communities shape decision-making. This aligns directly with the Community Safety Strategy's objectives to tackle hate incidents, build trust, and create safer neighbourhoods through collaborative approaches with residents and partners.

Adolescent services

Brighton & Hove's work with young people who are engaged in criminal behaviour is part of the council's Adolescent Service. The Service also provides support and safeguarding tailored to adolescents and those transitioning to adulthood, including multi-agency work to address risk connected with exploitation.

The priorities for the Complex Adolescent Strategy are as follows:

- To continue to embed Contextual Safeguarding practice to best meet the needs of these children;
- Increase participation and the voice of the child; and
- To continue the anti-racist journey and address issues of disproportionality.

This work is overseen by the Adolescent Strategic Management Board

Adult and child safeguarding

The city's multi-agency [Safeguarding Adults Board](#) works across agencies to raise awareness and promote the welfare of vulnerable adults and enable people to live safe and secure lives.

The [Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) co-ordinates work by all agencies and individuals to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Other targeted strategies

The [A Fairer Brighton & Hove – disadvantage strategy framework 2022-25](#) lays out how the city can identify, respond to, and support the needs of families at risk of disadvantage, especially those who have been affected by the cost-of-living increase.

The [Adult Learning Disability Strategy 2021-26](#) highlights personal safety, online safety and hate crime as areas for attention in the Relationships, Friendships and Feeling Safe workstream.

Combating Drugs Partnership

The ten-year national [Drugs Strategy](#) has the aim of 'cutting crime and saving lives' through breaking the supply chain, treatment and recovery and reducing the demand for drugs. The purpose of the Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP) is to bring together local partners including in enforcement, treatment, recovery, and prevention to provide oversight and direction to the development and delivery of a combating drugs strategy and delivery plan for Brighton & Hove. [The Strategy](#) has the following priorities:

- Provide safe, supportive, and stigma-free access to treatment and recovery services for people experiencing harms from drugs and or alcohol
- Reduce the supply of illegal drugs into our city
- Help address the primary causes of drug and alcohol use

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

There is a regional strategic plan on IOM, and national operational guidance for the management of adult offenders to reduce reoffending adhered to locally. This sets out how police, probation, courts, prisons, health, local authorities, and others can support the needs of offenders.

Cyber crime

There is a joint police Surrey and Sussex Cyber Crime Unit which focuses on crimes which are enabled or perpetrated using communication technologies and the internet.

Mental health services

Many offenders have needs around mental health, often compounded by alcohol and/or drugs misuse. The Liaison and Diversion Scheme is a scheme whereby people who are

arrested or held in custody are assessed for needs around mental health, alcohol, or substance misuse, and can be referred to treatment services.

Homelessness and rough sleeping

The [Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025](#) has priorities under the headings of prevention, interventions, and sustainability and is currently being updated.

Private sector housing

The licensing of private landlords includes clauses to manage anti-social behaviour.

Serious and Organised Crime

Sussex Police take the lead on tackling serious and organised crime which impacts across communities and is associated with, for example, drugs, fraud, acquisitive crime, child sexual exploitation and abuse, County Lines, modern slavery and human trafficking. The cost to society of serious and organised crime is estimated at many billions of pounds a year.²⁹

Built Environment & Place-Based Safety

The design and management of public spaces play a crucial role in preventing crime and supporting community confidence. The Partnership will strengthen collaboration with planning, regeneration, licensing and environmental services to embed Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in local development and neighbourhood planning. This includes improving lighting, reducing blind spots, enhancing walking routes, and ensuring new developments consider safety from the outset.

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Core business of ESFRS is to reduce the risk of and harm from fires in people's homes and in communities. They work closely with partners, including housing providers, and local communities to provide awareness and education on fire safety in the home and fit smoke alarms where appropriate.

ESFRS works in the context of a mixed and ageing housing stock, an ageing population and vulnerabilities of some residents, overlapping with key populations of interest in the wider community safety context and have a [commitment working in partnership around safeguarding](#). ESFRS have an offer of home safety visits by Safe and Well advisors, which is included in the resilience planning processes for cuckoo victims. As well as potential for target hardening to reduce future risk to the property and therefore the victim, the Safe and Well advisors are trained in identifying a wide range of health and wellbeing needs and can give general advice or refer to a range of partners to help people get the support they need.

²⁹ [Home Office Research Report, 2013: Understanding organised crime: Estimating the scale and the social and economic costs - PDF.](#)

Regulatory services

Regulatory services and other teams within the local authority, for example, environmental health, may help to address issues such as noise-related anti-social behaviour.

The police and council **licensing teams** and other responsible authorities under the Licensing Act have a responsibility to ensure the licensed premises operate in such a way that they do not cause public nuisance or compromise public safety.

Road safety

The council's long term Local Transport Plan includes goals to create streets and neighbourhoods that are safe and welcoming for people to move around and use socially.

Planning and environmental services

Brighton & Hove City Council's Planning Department oversees the development of the city's infrastructure. The [City Plan](#) includes crime and safety as one of the considerations in development plans.

As part of its work to maintain a clean city environment, services provided by **City Clean** include tackling graffiti, removing hazardous waste such as drug litter, and enforcement action around discarded waste.

Priority themes

Serious violence, drugs and exploitation

Our aim: There is less harm caused to individuals and communities in our city due to serious violence, knife crime, organised crime, drugs and exploitation.

What we want to achieve

- A stronger preventative approach to serious violence and exploitation and a decrease in drug-gang related activity through the better use of all available data.
- Fewer people harmed by serious violence and preventing vulnerable people from becoming involved with organised crime networks.
- A thriving night-time economy free from drug and alcohol-related violence.
- Safeguard vulnerable children and adults who are being exploited and provide a safe pathway out of exploitation or involvement with organised crime networks.
- All parts of the community to be free of the fear of violence, drugs and exploitation, to be able to recognise of all forms of exploitation, drug harm and serious violent crime and to have confidence to report it.

Why this is a priority?

Serious violence, or the threat of violence, can have a significant negative impact on individuals and communities. It can undermine wellbeing and feelings of safety. The fear of violence and drug related crime deters residents and visitors from engaging with the city's leisure and commercial services, limiting people's lives and posing further economic costs to the city. Violent crimes with injury incur some of the highest costs on the city, impacting both the individuals and services, such as police and healthcare.

The exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults on a criminal, sexual or financial basis is of significant concern both nationally and locally, and has broader impacts on the community through violence, drug supply, acquisitive crime and anti-social behaviour.

Key facts

In 2024/25 there were 2,980 police recorded violence with injury offences in the city, 2.5% more than in the previous year. A seasonal pattern in offences continues, with a noticeable peak in offences recorded in July and August 2024. These figures were close to the long-term peak recorded in 2019/20. Violence with injury in the city has close links with the night-time economy.

There were 292 serious violence crimes recorded in the city in 2024/25, a 4% yearly increase which followed an 18% increase the previous year.

In 2024/25 there were 333 robberies recorded in Brighton & Hove, 8% fewer than the previous year; business / community robberies (52 in 2024/25) continue to increase in the city.

There were 217 knife/sharp instrument crimes in the city in 2024/25; following a steady decrease since 2019/20 (326 crimes), this represented a 90% increase on the 113 recorded the previous year. There were 474 weapons possession offences recorded in 2024/25, 15% more than in the previous year and continuing yearly increases since 2020/21 (328 crimes).

Drug-related deaths in the city continue to be higher than the rate for England; while figures in 2023 and 2024 suggest small numerical decreases, this disparity in per-capita rates continues to grow.

Recorded drug possession and drug trafficking and supply offences continue to increase. This reflects local concerns around public space drug dealing but may in part be attributable to partnership work with accommodation providers in the city to ensure that instances of potential drug possession are reported to police.

In 2024/25, Sussex Police recorded 441 drug trafficking and supply offences in the city, 20% more than the previous year and a long-term peak.

There are many factors which make a person vulnerable to exploitation; people with more than one factor present significantly increases their risk. These include poor mental health, substance misuse, poverty or debt, school exclusion, experience of coercion or abuse, isolation and homelessness.

Cuckooing takes place where criminal networks establish a local base, typically by taking over the homes of vulnerable adults by force or coercion. They then use this premises to deal drugs from and recruit local children and vulnerable adults as drugs runners.

There were 27 modern slavery offences recorded by the police in 2024/25, significantly fewer than in 2023/24 but similar in number to the two previous years.

Who's affected

In 2024/25, 39% of violence with injury offences occurred in a public/open space, with a further 39% taking place in a dwelling and 10% in a hospitality venue. One in four (25%) of all police-recorded violence with injury offences also had a flag for domestic abuse.

The city's hotspot for violence with injury offences occurring outside of the home is in the city centre, with an elevated number of offences also extending away from the city along main arterial routes. Locations are often closely linked to the night-time economy, with clusters of offences in areas with a high number of licensed premises.

For violence with injury offences that were committed outside of the home, two-thirds (67%) of victims were male; two-thirds (66%) of all victims were recorded as residents of the city. The age group most likely to be victims of injury violence outside the home was 10 to 19 for females and 20 to 29 for males.

Among people attending Accident and Emergency in the city due to assault in 2024/25, 73% were male, while the most common age-group were (for both sexes) between the

ages of 20 and 25. Around 65% of A&E assault patients were recorded as residents of the city; 44% of attendances were recorded between 10pm and 4am, indicative of activity in the night-time economy.

Victims of personal robbery were overwhelmingly male (83%), with the rate of victimisation highest amongst the 10-19 age group (2.6 per 1,000 pop), and over twice the rate seen in any subsequent age group.

For drug trafficking and supply crimes recorded in 2024/25, 96% of offenders were males between the ages of 20 and 29. The hotspot for all drug offences was located in the city centre, with a hotspot that is more dispersed and covering a wider city-centre area than seen previously.

When a potential victim of trafficking is identified, a referral is made to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). In 2024/25, Sussex Police were the first responder for 74 referrals, fewer than the 89 in 2023/24 but similar in number to the two previous years. Brighton & Hove City Council made 25 referrals to the NRM in 2024/25 (4 adults, 21 children), fewer than the 33 in 2023/24 but more than in other years.

Learning from the previous plan delivery

In a context of increasing magnitude and complexity and needs across the city and reduced or static resources, it's important to target partnership efforts on the areas and issues of the highest concern and where services can have the greatest impact. Using data and the pooling of resources and local knowledge, work must be prioritised to deliver better outcomes.

There is further work to be done to understand the role and impact of social media on drug supply and youth violence, both in schools and beyond. Social media also affects perceptions of safety in society at large, and there is scope for better coordinated communications across the partnership to provide reassurance and counter-narratives to potentially inaccurate information, whilst being honest and realistic about the challenges these issues present to the city.

Over the lifetime of the 2023-26 strategy there has been improvements in the capacity of the partnership to identify children and young people at risk of involvement with drugs and serious violence, and to intervene at an earlier stage to prevent greater harm. There is still more than can be done in this area and the upcoming Young Futures Prevention Panels provides an opportunity to target a demographic currently underserved by existing local arrangements, and to bring a broader range of services into the multiagency approach.

The previous delivery plan has also influenced the city's approach to licensed premises, with the upcoming licensing policy anticipated to impose greater safety obligations on premises, especially with regard to the night-time economy, to reduce potential harm.

Our plans

Work will continue through the Brighton & Hove Violence Reduction Partnership and Combatting Drugs Partnership to ensure that local interventions are targeted to address exploitation, serious violence and drug harm.

Support work led by the city council focused on prevention including work to reduce inequality, poverty and Multiple Complex Needs.

Children and young people remain a core focus of our partnership work, especially those at risk of violence, exploitation, school exclusion or social isolation. The Partnership will seek to strengthen collaboration with education settings, youth services and safeguarding leads to improve early identification, ensure timely support, and embed trauma-informed, contextual safeguarding approaches across the system.

We will continue to develop the partnership response to Cuckooing, identifying and supporting vulnerable adults who have experienced exploitation and coercion to criminal activity, such as drug supply (including County Lines).

Developing our use of tools and powers to disrupt perpetrators of exploitation, serious violence and drug-related activity, to safeguard vulnerable people, and prevent victimisation of individuals and communities.

We will continue to develop, promote and embed a contextual approach to safeguarding across internal and external partners (including the local Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership), to prevent both children and adults becoming vulnerable to all forms of exploitation and violence, and provide support and effective routes out to those who may already be involved.

We will work to improve capacity and better reporting across the partnership to identify and support victims of exploitation and ensure consistent reporting under the Modern Slavery Act (2015).

We will work within local partnerships to further our understanding of the additional vulnerability to exploitation of those with Multiple Complex Needs and develop approaches that are better able meet these needs.

We will continue to use multiagency fora such as the Partnership Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group (PTTCG) and Joint Action Group (JAG) to identify and respond to areas of concern and ensure that the relevant local partners participate in identifying emerging issues and work together to deliver solutions. We will work with partners, including police, licensing and the business community, to address the risks of violence in the night-time economy.

Data gathering across the Violence Reduction Partnership will be developed further, with analysis aimed at improving understanding of needs and potential hotspots of vulnerability, and to better identify and form responses to racial and cultural inequalities across the city. We will seek to improve data collection and analysis in key areas including knife carrying, cuckooing, and sexual exploitation.

We will address the fear of violent crime in the city by further developing communications to the community, highlighting the challenges, promoting successes and encouraging further community involvement in developing and delivering responses.

We will work with local partners to develop our structural response to Urban Street Gangs within the city. We will seek to understand the location specific factors that drive crime and ASB in identified hotspots and use intelligence and engagement from across the partnership to address the risks both to and from the individuals involved and identify and disrupt those that seek to exploit them.

Digital platforms increasingly shape how individuals are targeted, exploited, or harmed. The Partnership will expand its focus on online harms - including online misogyny, image-based abuse, fraud, extremist content, youth exposure to violence, and the role of social media in escalating conflict or fear. We will strengthen training for professionals, develop partnership protocols with schools, and increase community awareness of online risks and reporting routes.

Delivery will be aligned with the new Crime and Policing Bill. Actions will include:

- Review and update multi-agency safeguarding protocols to meet and deliver on new statutory requirements.
- Train staff on new offences (e.g., child criminal exploitation, coerced internal concealment, cuckooing) and expanded police powers.
- Communicate changes to frontline teams and affected communities.

Delivery will be reviewed and adapted in line with any changes to governance structures resulting from devolution or local government reorganisation. Partnership protocols will be updated to ensure continuity of multi-agency working across new boundaries, and data-sharing agreements will be refreshed to maintain compliance and effectiveness.

Domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Our aim: Work in partnership to tackle domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and girls (VAWG) to reduce the harm to individuals and communities

What we want to achieve

- Develop an integrated, coordinated response to domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and girls (VAWG).
- Prevention of domestic abuse, sexual violence and VAWG by working in partnership.
- Provide support for survivors/victims.
- Hold perpetrators to account.

Why this is a priority

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) continues to be considered a national threat by Police, cross Government departments and by the new national VAWG sector. The government has acknowledged the need to improve how society responds to VAWG and has declared its mission “to halve VAWG in a decade.” Brighton & Hove City Council’s new Preventing and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2025-2028³⁰ and its three-year action plan³¹ and the creation of a new oversight board to oversee its delivery has been agreed at Cabinet. The strategy has four priorities, these are:

- Strengthening the coordinated response.
- Prioritising prevention.
- Supporting survivors.
- Building an accountable community and changing perpetrator behaviour.

The strategy was informed by a series of consultation and engagement events with the public, key stakeholders, and victims and survivors of VAWG/DA/SV³². A three-year action plan has been established to guide implementation of the strategy³³, with a series of

³⁰ [Brighton & Hove City Council: Preventing and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2025-2028 - PDF.](#)

³¹ [Brighton & Hove City Council: Preventing and tackling VAWG, DA and SV Action Plan - PDF.](#)

³² [Brighton & Hove City Council General Equality Impact Assessment \(EIA\) Form - PDF.](#)

³³ [VAWGDASV Brighton & Hove Oversight Board Terms of Reference - PDF.](#)

actions for each of the strategic priorities and this provides our framework for preventing and tackling VAWG/DA/SV locally.

Key facts

Domestic abuse is a prolific crime in the city - 10% of all police recorded crimes in 2024/25 had a domestic abuse crime flag. While all forms of domestic abuse remain under-reported to police, 5,035 domestic abuse crimes and incidents (3,068 crimes and 1,967 incidents) were recorded in 2024/25. This was 1.9% fewer than in the previous year, continuing a decreasing trend since 2019/20. In June 2023, significant changes were made to the way in which domestic abuse crimes and incidents were recorded by police nationwide. This is likely to have contributed to fewer crimes being recorded by the police since then³⁴.

In 2024/25 there were also 1,289 sexual offences recorded by police – 6.6% greater than in the previous year - of which 460 were rape offences. Sexual offences continue to be associated with the night-time economy, with higher numbers of offences recorded on Friday & Saturday nights, as well as during the week towards the end of schooldays.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) in 2024/25 estimated that 9.1% of women and 6.5% of men across England and Wales had experienced some form of domestic abuse during the year ending March 2025³⁵. Using mid-2024 population estimates, in Brighton & Hove this would equate to 11,425 women and 7,668 men in the city who had experienced domestic abuse in the last year. Using the same methodology, it is estimated that 3,766 women and 826 men in the city over 16 had experienced some form of sexual assault in 2024/25.

In 2024/25 there were 2,014 stalking and harassment offences – including the crimes of control/coercive behaviour and threatening communications - recorded in the city.

Violence against Women and Girls is an often under-reported crime type and feedback from partners continues to highlight that fear of not being believed or of not seeing timely, appropriate justice are key barriers to reporting or help seeking. This is an issue for survivors of all genders and more so for those with intersecting protected characteristics.

Who's affected

Of all police recorded domestic abuse offences in 2024/25, 68% of victims were female, while the most common age group for victims was aged between 30 and 39. Seventy-nine percent of recorded perpetrators were male, and 40% of domestic abuse offences had a perpetrator who was an ex-partner of the victim.

For police recorded sexual offences, 78% of victims were female, and the most common age group for victims was between 10 and 19 years. Ninety-five percent of recorded

³⁴[Domestic Abuse Commissioner - Report about Home Office Counting Rules, April 2024 - PDF.](#)

³⁵[Office for National Statistics webpage - Crime Survey for England and Wales supplementary tables, year ending March 2025.](#)

perpetrators were male, and 41% of sexual offences had a perpetrator who was stranger to the victim, 30% were committed by an acquaintance and 10% were committed by an ex-partner. Eighteen percent of sexual offences were flagged as domestic abuse.

The Health Counts survey⁶ in 2024 found that over one in five respondents (21%) reported that they were very or fairly worried about being sexually assaulted or raped. This was significantly higher for females than males (35% compared with 7%), as well as for respondents from younger age groups; from mixed / multiple ethnic groups, or who described their ethnicity as 'Other'; who are Trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI); LGBTQ+; disabled; live in temporary / emergency accommodation, as well as respondents who live in the most deprived areas of the city.

Whilst the number of cases discussed at the Brighton & Hove Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) decreased by 11% to 732 in 2024/25, the rate of cases per population remained significantly higher than the UK average (78 cases per 10,000 adult female population, compared with 48 per 10,000). The proportion of repeat cases has decreased in recent years (38% in 2024/25). For every case discussed at MARAC in 2024/25 there were an average of 1.2 children in the household.

In November 2024, the council published its first Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) since 2016³⁶. With the introduction of Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) which have superseded DHRs, the Community Safety Partnership are now required to review DA-related deaths by suicide where there has been a history of DA. During 2025, the Community Safety Partnership has commissioned 6 DARDRs. Of these, three are suicide related deaths. This is a significant emerging trend which will inform how we develop our local response to VAWG. It is aligned to the health inequalities associated with the experience of VAWG which is known to impact on mental wellbeing across a life course. DA is now part of the Councils suicide prevention workstream.

Learning from the previous plan delivery

Drawing on the successes and lessons learned from the previous VAWG Strategy and the Community Safety Strategy, we have co-produced and agreed a new Preventing and Tackling VAWG/DA/SV Strategy for the city. This process has enabled us to identify four key cross-cutting themes that shape this section of the draft Community Safety Strategy for VAWG and underpin our future actions.

Key Priorities Identified Through Consultation

- **Safety in public spaces** – We will work with local businesses, licensing authorities, and non-frontline staff to create safer environments throughout the day and night. This includes revising the Licensing Policy, engaging sectors such as hospitality and tattoo parlours, and supporting initiatives that reduce harassment and violence in public spaces and extend our reach by working with the Business Growth Team.

³⁶ [Brighton & Hove City Council - Published domestic homicide reviews \(DHRs\)](#)

- **Mental health support for those affected by VAWG** – We will strengthen trauma-informed pathways and ensure survivors have access to timely, culturally sensitive mental health services. This includes closer integration between specialist VAWG services and mainstream provision, alongside multi-agency training to improve identification and referral. We welcome the firm directives and funding for the health sector in the governments Freedom from Violence Abuse Strategy 2025-2028 and planned revision of the NICE Guidelines which support Health to undertake its crucial role in the prevention of VAWG.
- **Equalities and Inclusion.** We will continue to ensure that all those affected by VAWG are provided with an appropriate response and work to improve the system response via our Community of Practice.
- **Effective communications to raise awareness and improve understanding** – We will deliver targeted campaigns, PSHE education initiatives, and community engagement activities to challenge harmful attitudes and promote available support. Communications will be clear, consistent, and inclusive, ensuring survivors and partners are informed about changes in statutory duties and local services.
- **Encouraging disclosures to the police** – We will build trust and confidence in reporting by improving victim support pathways, training officers in trauma-informed practice, and working with community organisations to address barriers to disclosure. This will include updating impact statement procedures and ensuring survivors understand their rights under the Domestic Abuse Act and Crime and Policing Bill provisions.

The updated VAWG Strategy and these priorities have informed the draft actions within the Community Safety Plan. By embedding these themes across all areas of delivery, we ensure that the complex and nuanced nature of VAWG, DA, and SV is fully reflected in both frontline practice and strategic planning.

Our plans

Our new governance structure and membership under the new VAWG/DA/SV Board will continue to work in partnership with statutory and voluntary sector partners to deliver the aims of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

Continue to share the learning from our recent DHR to improve how Treatment Services identify young people using abusive behaviour in their relationships and train frontline staff to be confident to identify the harm caused by DA.

We will continue to work with partners to improve the VAWG/DA/SV response to those affected by multiple disadvantage including those who have been exploited in cuckooing situations. This will facilitate effective partnership working, make best use of resources, and ensure multi-agency support and response pathways work efficiently

Continue to monitor the local implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 via coordination of the services that provide support in safe accommodation.

We welcome the governments Freedom from Violence and Abuse Strategy and its commitment to a “whole of society” approach and treating VAWG as a national emergency. In addition, its commitment to tackling misogyny, supporting all survivors, and firm stand on making perpetrators accountable and will ensure we align our local response by supporting our partners in Health and Education to achieve its ambition for those service areas

With regard to the Crime and Policing Bill, the provisions on victim support and expanded post-sentence supervision will be incorporated into partnership responses for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Specific actions will include

- Update victim support pathways and impact statement procedures.
- Provide training on new legal obligations for safeguarding and perpetrator management.
- Ensure communications to survivors and partners reflect changes in statutory duties.
- We will conduct a mapping exercise of all services.
- We will continue to offer multi-agency training to provide staff with appropriate training and resources to identify VAWG and signpost appropriately
- We will continue to work with communities including young people in education to ensure that everyone is provided with awareness raising materials and support if required.
- We will continue to work with local businesses to improve safety in public spaces throughout the day and night including Tattoo Parlours

Work in partnership to prevent VAWG

- We will ensure the learning and recommendations from the DARDRs are shared and implemented by setting up a DARDR Oversight Board with key partners to effect change and monitor progress.
- We will continue to work with subregional partners to maximise VAWG/DA/SV resources to ensure increased public awareness of VAWG/DA/SV.
- We will work with the Community Safety Partnership to deliver VAWG/DA/SV awareness via activities and communications aimed at younger people and, where appropriate, incorporate into Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education.
- We will develop our relationship with local businesses and work with the Business Growth Board to disseminate information to support those working locally to access safety and support.
- Continue to work with Licensing to revise the Licensing Policy and, where practicable, to combat sexual harassment
- Continue to work with the pan-Sussex Domestic Abuse Board and Sexual Violence Board on pan-Sussex initiatives

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- We will invite Sussex Police to our local training and Community of Practice to ensure a shared understanding of VAWG and local recourses and responses.
- We will continue to enable colocation of VAWG/DA/SV specialists in places where they are more accessible to those that require their services.
- Develop an improved dataset for improved insights to understand local needs and improve service delivery
- We will continue to commission support services for those affected by VAWG across risk levels
- Ensure that high quality trauma-informed service pathways providing coordinated and accessible interventions and support are available.
- Ensure that the voice of survivors/victims of is central to service development
- The Partnership will expand its focus on online harms - including online misogyny, image-based abuse and the role of social media in escalating conflict or fear. We will strengthen training for professionals, develop partnership protocols with schools, and increase community awareness of online risks and reporting routes.
- Continue to develop the MARAC in line with national best practice
- Continue to work with national and regional partners to develop the Pan Sussex Reciprocal Housing Arrangements
- Continue to support VAWG/DA/SV provider services to work together collaboratively to tackle VAWG/DA/SV and to ensure there are clear routes to safety for all survivors.
- The partnership will ensure that statutory responsibilities for safeguarding and victim support are maintained and strengthened under any new governance arrangements associated with devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. Cross-boundary working groups will be established if required, and oversight mechanisms will be aligned with new regional structures.

Hold perpetrators to account

- Strengthen the criminal and civil justice response to perpetrators and develop sustainable effective interventions and preventative programmes to change perpetrator behaviour.
- We will continue to challenge the attitudes that underpin VAWG /DA/SV via sharing targeted campaigns
- Continue to support and monitor the Sussex Specialist Domestic Abuse Court
- Continue to work with Sussex Police to deliver and review MATAC (Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination)
- We will develop an enhanced response to disrupt perpetrators who are known to MARAC

Anti-social behaviour

Our aim: Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is reduced and causes less harm to individuals, businesses and communities, and trust and confidence in the community response by those impacted by ASB is increased

Definition:

Anti-social behaviour is:

(a) conduct that causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person

or

(b) conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises

What we want to achieve

- Reported anti-social behaviour (ASB) is assessed and responded to appropriately and consistently, making best use of resources.
- Harm caused by ASB to our most vulnerable residents and ASB in vulnerable geographical locations is reduced.
- ASB committed by priority and repeat perpetrators is reduced, making best use of tools and powers available.
- ASB, risk and harm associated with the street community and unauthorised encampments is reduced using supportive interventions and, where necessary, enforcement.
- Youth ASB is identified and addressed at the earliest opportunity using supportive interventions and diversionary activities, and enforcement where necessary.

Successes are communicated to key partners and communities while encouraging and supporting people to report ASB to appropriate services.

Why this is a priority

ASB causes significant harm to communities and has a negative impact on people's lives and feelings of wellbeing in their homes and places of work, as well as in public places.

The Community Safety Partnership has a responsibility to do all that it reasonably can to reduce the harm caused by ASB.

Key facts

In 2024/25 there were 5,365 police recorded ASB incidents in the city, 10% greater than in 2023/24. This continues a steady increase in recorded ASB since 2022/23 but remains lower than the longer-term average, including the peak recorded in 2020/21 associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. Across England and Wales, by comparison, police recorded ASB

decreased by around 1%, while the proportion of people reporting having personally experienced or witnessed anti-social behaviour in their local area remained similar³⁷.

In 2024/25, 44% of police recorded ASB incidents in the city were recorded as 'rowdy nuisance – inconsiderate', 22% were 'rowdy nuisance – neighbour' related, and 13% as 'vehicle related nuisance'. In 2024/25 there were 2,342 police recorded criminal damage and arson offences in the city, continuing a gradual decrease since 2019/20. Criminal damage against dwellings increased by 6% while criminal damage against businesses decreased by 4%. The number of reports of ASB received by Brighton & Hove City Council's Community Safety Casework Team decreased by 22% to 327 incidents in 2024/25, from which 54% were referred to other services and 39% resolved by the team itself. In 2024/25 there were 76 reports to the Community Safety Casework Team of ASB related to the street community, a significant reduction on the number recorded in the previous year (118 reported incidents).

Incidents of ASB recorded by the local authority's Housing team in 2024/25 increased by 16% to 785 incidents, with verbal abuse, harassment and/or intimidation, domestic violence/abuse and noise the most common complaints.

There were 1,486 recorded instances of fly-tipping recorded by the council's City Environment Team in 2024/25, similar in number to the previous year.

Who's affected

Of the city's council housing tenants in 2025, those involved in ASB (as victims and/or perpetrators) are more likely to be living alone, living in a flat, aged under 18, disabled and/or from the LGBTQ+ community.

The most frequent hotspots for police recorded ASB incidents are primarily located in the city centre and include New Road, St. James's Street, Queens Road, Western Road, and West Street. Data from the Community Safety Casework Team showed that between April 2023 to March 2025, Kemptown and Regency wards have had the greatest number of incidents recorded by the team, followed by Preston Park, Central Hove and Queen's Park.

The city's Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) recorded that more ASB relating to children and young people takes place in the summer months, while aggressive begging and reports of repeated nuisance individuals also affect businesses throughout the year. The BCRP report that in places like fast food areas and queues, there were more reports of ASB escalating into physical violence.

Learning from the previous plan delivery

Over the course of the 2023-26 strategy there was a strengthening in partnership working to address ASB and a reduction in blockers to multi-agency working (e.g. GDPR challenges to information sharing). There was also a reduction in silo working with better and more

³⁷ [Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables - Office for National Statistics, March 2025 edition.](#)

timely sharing of community intelligence across partner (e.g. engagement with schools and businesses). This earlier intelligence and information sharing providing for earlier intervention and preventing the further escalation of complex issues. It also allowed for greater involvement of partner agencies, meaning ASB enforcement wasn't solely police led. Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) positive engagement with the community to build trust and confidence.

That said, there is still work to be done to more quickly identify and engage with children involved in ASB. There can also be delayed recognition, so addressing, of the risk and vulnerability among these children. There is also an issue in the delayed consequences for perpetrators, resulting to in greater ASB/deterioration in situations for the community, but this is in partly due to criminal justice processes which are beyond the control of BHCC and partners.

Our plans

The local authority and police will continue to co-ordinate strategic work to tackle ASB across the city together with our key partners. We will monitor any government communication regarding their crime and disorder priorities and action accordingly.

The ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced powers which we will continue to make full use of where appropriate and necessary to do so. We will also use restorative practice and mediation where appropriate to reduce harm and will implement the Home Office guidance that we must "put victims first".

The monthly Joint Action Group will agree and review Community Safety Partnership operational priorities and ensure that available resources are appropriately deployed in our highest harm areas.

We will ensure that work undertaken to address ASB associated with public place drug use is aligned with the new Drug and Alcohol strategy.

We will align our enforcement activity in relation to those with multiple compound needs with the work of the council's Multiple Compound Needs programme integration between enforcement activity and the holistic support offer to those with multiple compound needs.

We will support work led by the city council focused on prevention including work to reduce inequality, poverty and compound needs.

Partnership work to address the harm caused by ASB associated with the street community, tented encampments and occupied vehicles will continue, as will work to intervene early in youth ASB and stop the young people involved causing serious harm and becoming prolific offenders.

The Partnership will deepen engagement with hospitality, retail, tourism, transport and other business sectors to improve reporting, strengthen intelligence sharing, and coordinate responses to ASB, violence and hate incidents. We will work with business networks to reduce harm linked to the night-time economy and ensure staff have clear routes to support and guidance.

We will strengthen our approach to both one-off and persistent ASB incidents by prioritising hotspot areas and proactively managing displacement risks.

The multi-agency ASB Task force will continue its work to address and reduce ASB on Council estates, and BHCC will continue to implement its graffiti reduction strategy, targeting repeat offenders.

We will review learning and recommendations from the ongoing ASB Housing Scrutiny Task and Finish group.

The monthly Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) will manage the harm caused to victims of ASB and address the behaviour of priority and repeat perpetrators. Perpetrators will be offered supportive interventions to address their behaviour, and enforcement will be used when necessary.

The Community Safety Team will continue to provide advice, guidance and training to a wide range of professionals, for example, social workers, local social housing and supported accommodation providers, on best practice in addressing ASB and reducing harm.

Work with partners, whether from the community, voluntary or statutory sector is central to our effectiveness. This includes keeping in close communication with elected members and residents through Local Action Teams and residents' and community groups, feeding back successes and building trust and confidence in statutory services.

The Crime and Policing Bill will introduce Respect Orders and enhanced enforcement mechanisms to tackle persistent anti-social behaviour, alongside expanded police powers. Partnership actions will include:

- Train staff and raise community awareness on new Respect Orders and stop-and-search powers.
- Review enforcement protocols and ASB case management processes.
- Inform the public and partners about changes to ASB enforcement.

In response to Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation ASB response teams will work closely with the new regional authorities to ensure both the needs of the city are met and the delivery of consistent standards and approaches. Local intelligence-sharing and operational coordination will be maintained through joint action groups, regardless of changes to administrative boundaries.

Hate incidents and crimes

Our aim: An increase in reporting and trust and confidence in statutory services response, and a reduction in hate incidents and crimes and the harm they cause to individuals and communities

What we want to achieve

- Trust and confidence in local services is increased so that individuals and communities feel confident in reporting to and engaging with those services.
- Persons impacted by or concerned about hate incidents understand the definition of hate incidents or crimes, know how to report them and have a range of reporting options.
- Reported hate incidents and crimes are assessed and responded to appropriately and consistently, making best use of resources
- Ensure that the harm caused by hate incidents and crimes to our most vulnerable residents and in identified high impact geographical locations is reduced.
- Hate Incidents and crimes committed by priority and repeat perpetrators are reduced, making best use of tools and powers available.
- Progress is communicated to key partners and communities.

Why this is a priority

Those harmed by incidents and crimes where people are targeted, for example, of a disability, their ethnicity or race, religion or faith, sexual orientation, sex or gender identity tell us that it has a significant impact on their quality of life, wellbeing and feelings of safety. People harmed by hate crimes are often more emotionally affected than persons harmed by other types of crime.

Many hate incidents and crimes go unreported due to one or numerous factors including not being confident knowing what a hate incident or crime is, not knowing where or how to report one, a lack of trust in authorities to act or a belief that victim(s) will not see justice. This has been exacerbated by the pressures on community cohesion caused by a number of factors, including concerns around migration and the campaign to fly St. George's flags from lampposts and other structures in public spaces, the Supreme Court Ruling on the definition of sex and the Israel - Gaza Palestine violence. Rarely in recent history has community cohesion faced as many simultaneous and severe challenges.

Recent feedback from the city's One Voice Partnership has provided powerful first-hand accounts of these challenges, identifying antisemitism, Islamophobia, transphobia, and misogyny as key issues affecting many residents. Against this backdrop, the city's equality commitments and its work to become an anti-racism city and the implementation of its associated delivery plan remains a critical component in ensuring the effective delivery of the Community Safety Strategy.

Key facts

In 2024/25 most forms of hate crime and incident in the city increased compared with 2023/24. Sussex Police recorded 728 racist hate crimes and incidents (up 20%), 431 hate crimes and incidents motivated by perceived sexuality (41% increase), 150 religiously motivated hate crimes and incidents (up 26%), 105 hate crimes and incidents motivated by gender identity (up 17%), and 53 hate crimes and incidents motivated by disability (down 22%). The long-term increase in recorded hate crimes and incidents motivated by race, religion, sexuality and gender identity in the city therefore continued, following decreases in some forms of hate crime and incident in 2023/24. Nationally, whilst there has been an increase in the number of police recorded hate crimes motivated by religion, most other forms of hate crime and incident have decreased since reaching a long-term high in 2021/22.

Across most forms of police-recorded hate crime and incident a seasonal pattern can be observed, particularly for hate crimes motivated by race and sexuality during the summer months where public events like Pride take place. For forms of hate crime and incident motivated by disability or religion, this seasonal pattern became less pronounced over 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Offensive graffiti data collated by Brighton & Hove City Council's City Environment Team showed 116 reported instances of explicitly offensive graffiti in 2024/25 – likely a significant underestimate of its true extent in the city – of which anti-faith, generally offensive imagery, political and racist graffiti were the most common types.

The Community Safety Casework Team received 52 reports of hate incidents in 2024/25, fewer than in 2022/23 (92 reports) and 2023/24 (79 reports). This had been driven by a decrease in recorded incidents relating to hate motivated by race – the most commonly recorded form of hate incident – whilst those motivated by sexual orientation and gender identity have both increased in the first six months of 2025/26.

The hotspots for police recorded hate crimes motivated by both race and sexuality in 2024/25 were in the city-centre, in an area including part of North Laine, the south lanes, as well as Old Steine and part of Kemptown. Repeat locations for hate crimes motivated by religion or belief in 2024/25 were often linked to protest locations in the city.

Who's affected

Analysis of hate crime data in the city highlighted that public/open spaces were the most common location type for hate crimes motivated by race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity. Hate crime motivated by sexual orientation showed some association with the night-time economy with peaks on Saturday night and Sunday morning and Sunday evening. No clear patterns were seen in racist offences, though peaks in offences were seen around the end of each school day.

Males were recorded as victims in 72% of hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation, 68% of racist offences and 51% of religiously motivated hate crimes³⁸. When examining relationships to a victim, 79% of hate crimes were committed by a stranger in those motivated by religion, 75% of racist hate crimes and 74% of gender identity-motivated hate crimes. Disability motivated hate crimes, contrastingly, were more likely than other types of hate crime to be perpetrated by an acquaintance (53%).

The current situation in Israel and Gaza is impacting community cohesion locally and has led to an increase in reported hate incidents. Of police recorded hate crimes motivated by religion or belief in 2024/25, 66% were recorded as anti-Jewish and 20% as Islamophobic. Growing concern over national migration management-alongside the St George's flag campaign, the Supreme Court ruling on the definition of sex, and the terrorist attack on Israel followed by the conflict in Gaza-is placing significant strain on community cohesion. These tensions are heightening the risk of hate incidents and public disorder, as demonstrated by the terrorist attack at the Manchester Synagogue on 2 October 2025 and, closer to home, the arson attack on Peacehaven Mosque on 4 October. The challenges to cohesion are both substantial and immediate. Despite severe resource constraints, our response must be robust, proportionate to the threat, and grounded in resilience and unity.

Learning from the previous plan delivery

Following a move away from Third Party Reporting Centres) we have become more dependent on hate crime reporting to the Police to monitor both the volume and nature of hate crime and incidents. The higher threshold at which an incident constitutes a crime means that the volume of recorded hate crime will always be lower than the volume of hate incidents occurring. As such there is a consensus that the loss of Third Party Reporting Centres may well have resulted in an under reporting, so under appreciation both of the volume and nature of hate incidents occurring across the city. There is a specific concern that the fear of hate incidents experienced by TNBI groups is under reported and insufficiently recognised.

It's also important to recognise that as a resort or destination city Brighton & Hove attracts significant numbers of visitors from outside of the city, some of whom will perpetrate hate crime or incidents. Crime reporting data suggests that 20-30% of those committing hate crimes motivated by the sexual orientation or race of their victim reside outside of Brighton & Hove, so activity to address these behaviours needs to be outward as well as inward of the city looking.

Our plans

The local authority and police will continue to co-ordinate strategic work to tackle Hate Crimes and Incidents across the city together with our key partners.

³⁸ Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in understanding hate crime data.

We will increase awareness of what a hate incident or crime is and how and where to report them. BHCC will seek alternative ways of promoting third party reporting.

We will further promote the reporting of hate incidents by promoting a better understanding of what constitutes a hate incident and recognition that an incident doesn't have to cross the threshold of becoming a crime to be usefully and legitimately reported.

The monthly Joint Action Group will agree and review Community Safety Partnership operational priorities and ensure that available resources are appropriately deployed in our highest harm areas.

The monthly Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) will manage the harm caused to victims of Hate Incidents and address the behaviour of priority and repeat perpetrators. Perpetrators will be offered supportive interventions to address their behaviour, and enforcement will be used when necessary.

The ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced powers which we will continue to make full use of where appropriate and necessary to do so. We will also use restorative practice and mediation where appropriate to reduce harm and will implement the Home Office guidance that we must "put victims first".

We will continue to monitor relevant intelligence and community tensions given national and international conflict and coordinate a necessary partnership response.

The Community Cohesion Team will continue to provide advice, guidance and training to a wide range of professionals, for example, social workers, local social housing and supported accommodation providers, on best practice in addressing Hate Incidents, supporting victims and reducing harm, and will continue focused work to strengthen links between diverse communities.

The Partnership will expand its focus on online harms - including online misogyny, image-based abuse, youth exposure to violence, and the role of social media in escalating conflict or fear. We will strengthen training for professionals, develop partnership protocols with schools, and increase community awareness of online risks and reporting routes.

The Community Safety Partnership will seek to better engage with Businesses to promote inclusion and cohesion by better identifying and challenging hate incidents, especially those perpetrated by non-resident visitors to the city.

Support and deliver the One Voice Partnership ensuring lived experience informs decision-making and shapes responses to challenges such as antisemitism, Islamophobia, transphobia, and misogyny.

Implement the Fair and Inclusive Action Plan, driving better outcomes for key groups, including women and TNBI (Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex people), through targeted actions and measurable progress.

Deliver the Anti-Racism Strategy and embed anti-racist principles across the city's policies and practices to strengthen community cohesion and equality.

BHCC will continue to implement its graffiti reduction strategy, prioritising the removal of offensive graffiti.

As part of the anticipated changes to Stop and Search powers under the Crime and Policing Bill, work will be undertaken to deepen understanding and enhance current approaches.

Working with partners, whether from the community, voluntary or statutory sector, including safeguarding agencies, is central to our work. This will include keeping in close communication with elected members, residents and community groups, feeding back successes and building trust and confidence in statutory services.

The Partnership will deepen engagement with hospitality, retail, tourism, transport and other business sectors to improve reporting, strengthen intelligence sharing, and coordinate responses to hate incidents. We will work with business networks to reduce harm linked to the night-time economy and ensure staff have clear routes to support and guidance.

Above and beyond this BHCC will, with its partners, seek opportunities to actively rebuild cohesion and trust across communities to repair the fractures caused by recent pressures and challenges.

With regard to the Crime and Policing Bill, the strengthened powers to address hate crime and public disorder will be embedded in partnership delivery, ensuring robust response and compliance. Specific actions will include:

- Update hate crime response protocols and reporting mechanisms.
- Train staff on new offences and enforcement powers.
- Communicate changes to community groups and statutory partners.

Hate crime monitoring and response will be embedded within any new governance frameworks related to devolution and Local Government reorganisation, with clear lines of accountability and reporting. Community engagement structures will be reviewed to ensure representation and support for all communities across new boundaries.

Prevent (counter terrorism and extremism)

Our aim: Individuals, institutions and communities are resilient to all forms of terrorism and extremism; harm is reduced, and people have higher levels of trust and confidence in Prevent

What we want to achieve

- Terrorisms and extremisms are better understood, and frontline staff, partners and communities are better equipped to challenge them.
- Individuals susceptible to being drawn into terrorism and extremism are identified at an early stage and supported to reduce risk.
- Individuals at risk of re-engaging in terrorism related activities are identified and supported to reduce risks and rehabilitation.
- Key sectors and institutions are better able to manage risks, and work in partnership to reduce permissive spaces, to disrupt radicalising influences (including those who promote it).
- Improved compliance with the Prevent Duty is achieved.
- Community cohesion is supported, and our communities have better resilience to the challenges posed by international, national, and local critical incidents, better manage, and reduce the risk of harm caused to individuals and communities.

Why this is a priority

Prevent is a statutory duty requiring 'specified authorities' 'to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. The Channel Duty requires susceptible individuals to be identified early and supported before they become involved in criminal terrorist-related activity.

Terrorism remains one of the most direct and immediate risks to the UK's national security. Terrorist threat is varied and enduring, becoming more complex in the UK. The terrorism threat level remained at 'Substantial' since February 2022, meaning 'an attack is likely'. Since March 2017, eighteen terrorist incidents have occurred in the UK, including one annually for the last four years. The most recent in October 2025 targeted a synagogue in Manchester, on the holiest days for Jewish communities. Since March 2017, eighteen terrorist incidents have occurred in the UK, one annually in the last four years, the most recent in October 2025 targeting a synagogue in Manchester, on the holiest days for Jewish communities.

Additionally, since 2020, nineteen terrorist plots have been successfully disrupted by the police and security agencies, with over 800 live counter terrorism investigations. Three organisations were proscribed in 2025, alongside an increase in arrests for proscription offenses nationally. Threats from hostile States have increased rapidly.

The threat from Extreme-Right Wing Terrorism is growing and evolving, particularly through the radicalisation of increasingly younger individuals from dangerous online content. The Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit received over 11,000 referrals in 2024. Arrests for terrorism offences have increased, with higher number of minors and women. This increase is reflected in Prevent referrals too.

Currently, several macro factors could likely impact, increasing demand, complexities, and likely to drive people into extremism and terrorism: growing multipolarity and intensifying strategic competition between states-and with nonstate actors-for political, military, economic, and technological power; geopolitics (e.g. Russia/ Ukraine war, Israel/ Palestine violence), global uncertainty (cost of living issues, economic downturn, rise of far right in Europe), climate change, migration, instability and conflict with more frequent humanitarian disasters, threats emanating from hostile states, increased communication, and the ever-expanding data environment.

Terrorist attacks not only cause loss of life and economic damage, but they also fuel community tensions, damage public confidence, and community cohesion. International and national incidents impact on inter-community relations locally. 'Normalisation' of extremist discourses and an associated reduction in challenges to these narratives is the most damaging impact. Unless the ideologies and the ideologue are challenged and recruitment to these groups stopped, the cycle of violence, criminality, and hate incidents will continue with significant resource implications across partners and significant impact on communities.

All of this combines to paint a picture of a sustained and high tempo threat with significant impact. Effectively tackling terrorism requires a whole society approach. Partnership between communities, statutory, and voluntary services is crucial to counter terrorism and build resilience.

Key facts

The updated threat picture continues to identify Al-Qaida or Daesh and affiliated ideologies as the primary threat to the UK, extreme-right-wing terrorism drives the remainder of the domestic threat. Threat from self-initiated terrorism (individual/s inspired by groups or causes across various extremist perspectives to carry out attacks) with online pathway remains significant.

Most recent attacks were carried out by self-initiated terrorists, making the threat less predictable and harder to detect. Modern technologies, such as 3D printing, encrypted and alternative communication to evade detection and disruption, and livestreaming attacks were used to expand reach, intensify impact, and advance terrorist 'agenda'.

Accessing violent, hateful, and terrorist content online can play a significant role in drawing susceptible users into terrorism. Increased risks are noted from accessing online materials, forums and influencers, social media, online and gaming platforms from across the spectrum of extremisms and ideologies. Online forums and communities not only provide an environment where it is possible to consume ideology, but they also provide materials or practical enablers of terrorist activity, create networks of like-minded peers, create an 'echo-

chamber', and facilitate offline interactions. Individuals may move from being a consumer of online content to disseminating and producing online content and radicalise others. The movement from online activity and spaces to offline activity/ attack planning and harm to public safety may also result.

A growing number of [minors use internet to support, plan, or undertake terrorist activities](#) and recruit others, blending different forms of racism, misogyny and homophobia, enabled by the extensive online availability of harmful and extreme content.

In the current threat landscape, explicit affiliation with any specific terrorist organisation, and fixed ideological alignment are diminishing. Adherence by terrorists to specific ideologies is in many cases less structured and coherent than in the past, reflecting in part the wide range of material available online from which individuals or small groups may draw. People may view both extreme right wing and AQ/ Daesh extremist instructional material, along with other elements of online hatred, conspiracy theories, and disinformation. Counter-terrorism efforts increasingly encounter a range of personal and ideological motivations to violence, where a traditional terrorist narrative may only be part of a much more complex picture.

Local threats continue to arise from self-initiated terrorists, extreme right-wing terrorism, online influences, online risks of radicalisation including gaming, and Al-Qaida/ Daesh and affiliated or inspired terrorism. Trends noted above were reflected locally. Extreme right-wing groups/ influencers are likely to continue to exploit the issue of local asylum provision, migration, and LGBTQI issues to promote grievances, increase support, and gain purchase in the city.

The risk of support for proscribed organisation in the international context has been evident with three arrests in the city. The impact of terrorism arrests, investigations, and releases on the city communities need to be managed to ensure continued resilience.

Risk diversification is evident in the narratives and beliefs that may be used to motivate and support terrorist violence, including conspiracy theories, anti-establishment narratives, targeting of political leaders/ public servants, concerns related to misogyny, INCEL, and fascination with violence. The city has a high level of single issues groups, with high level of protest activities that causes community tensions, reinforces certain grievances, and provides exposure to certain narratives. Prevent referrals and cases adopted onto Channel have a susceptibility to being drawn into terrorism.

Conspiracy theories can act as gateways to radicalised thinking and sometimes violence, fostering distrust in democratic institutions and encouraging hostility towards government. People's relationships with authority, trust and institutions are likely to remain salient in future. The increasing sophistication and scale of disinformation operations presents real challenges for democratic states, increasing the risk of terrorism, inciting violence between groups with pre-existing tensions, and posing longer term risks for public trust.

Current context

Prevent has faced significant scrutiny following widely reported failures. The government introduced policy and operational reforms, alongside comprehensive programme reviews, to

ensure the UK's systems for preventing radicalisation are effective and address the full spectrum of threats.

Prevent Learning Reviews³⁹ (PLR) of two high-profile attacks - the murder of a Member of Parliament in 2021 and Southport attack in 2024 - were undertaken as both the perpetrators had been referred by their schools to Prevent years before the attacks. The PLRs revealed systemic weaknesses in risk assessment and case management, prompting significant reforms to strengthen multi-agency coordination and follow-through.

Inquests into the Forbury Gardens attack and death of Rhianan Rudd⁴⁰ identified further national learning. These findings have direct implications for Prevent practice and underscore the need for robust, consistent processes to safeguard individuals and reduce terrorism risk.

- 1) The assessment of referrals entering the Prevent system and for the adoption of Channel cases.
- 2) Risk assessment of Prevent susceptibilities and associated terrorism risk for people with multiple and complex needs (such as those presenting mental health issues, unclear or no ideology, neurodivergence).
- 3) Support for complex needs, safeguarding opportunities, and policy gaps.

Key findings included: premature closure of referrals from Prevent process due to an over-emphasis on either the absence of ideology or mental health difficulties, to the detriment of other risk factors. Improvements needed in mental health care and support outcomes and missed opportunities for onward referrals.

Nationally, reforms to the Prevent programme included a review of Prevent thresholds and case management, the introduction of a Prevent Assessment Framework in September 2024 to provide a more tailored, consistent, and professional-judgement-driven tool for assessing individuals at risk of radicalisation.

The Clinical Consultancy Service was introduced with the aim of improving health outcomes for individuals already subject to Counter Terrorism Policing interventions. 'Routes To Intervention' (January 2025) extended Channel support concurrently to those subjected to counter terrorism investigation. A national evaluation of Channel to assess its effectiveness and widening support to include practical mentoring are in place.

In January 2025, Lord David Anderson KC was appointed as the Interim Prevent Commissioner to further examine measures taken to address the failings identified in the PLR, and systems review⁴¹. His recommendations included improvements in information sharing, engagement, enhanced response to online risks, and increased transparency. He also advised that 'violence-fascinated individuals', displaying high-risk behaviours without clear ideological alignment, should continue to be supported within Prevent, and proposed

³⁹ Prevent Learning Reviews are undertaken where a terrorist attack or serious violence offence has been committed by someone with prior involvement in the Prevent programme. The Prevent Learning Review was jointly commissioned by the Home Office and Counter Terrorism Police in the immediate aftermath of the Southport attack. Available from: [Prevent learning review: Southport attack - GOV.UK](#) and [Prevent learning review: Sir David Amess attack - GOV.UK](#)

⁴⁰ Inquest into the deaths from Forbury Gardens terrorist incident reported in April 2024 available at: [Judge-led inquests - Courts and Tribunals Judiciary](#). A 'Prevention of Future Death' report published in May 2024 and Rhianon Rudd inquest reported in June 2025, [UK teenager who killed herself was 'highly affected' by terrorism arrest, inquest finds | UK security and counter-terrorism | The Guardian](#)

⁴¹ Anderson D. Lessons for Prevent [Internet]. 2025 Jul [cited 2025 Aug 18]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lessons-for-prevent>

consideration of embedding Prevent within wider safeguarding and violence reduction structures.

Local efforts to sustain a shared understanding of Prevent with our communities and partners to increase transparency, trust and confidence, and improved communication on Prevent needs to continue.

The role of online disinformation and misinformation in promoting violence was highlighted in the racist, anti-migrant, and anti-Muslim violence that exploited the Southport tragedy. Violence against migrant communities in Ballymena (June 2025) and recent demonstrations outside hotels accommodating asylum seekers (July 2025) similarly exploited 'protecting White children and women' tropes by presenting the migrants as a 'threat' within the context of 'othering'. Terrorist and extremist continue to exploit issues related to migration/ asylum-seekers in the UK. Recent terrorist attacks were motivated by anti-migrant narratives (for instance, [Worcestershire](#) and [Dover](#) attacks). Further risks associated with the exploitation of anti-migrant narratives includes hate incidents/ crimes (for example, spike post Southport), public disorder, violent incidents with protests and counter protests, and community tensions.

Recent arson attack targeting Peacehaven mosque (October 2025) has heightened concerns about Islamophobia, with some suggesting that mainstream visibility of nationalist and extreme right campaigns helped normalise or embolden anti-Muslim behaviour in local contexts.

International and national incidents continue to have local impact. The cumulative impact of the various international (Israel/ Palestine, Kashmir, Syria) and national incidents has given rise to a narrative where communities worry about increased Islamophobia, antisemitism, and anti-migrant views. Following the Hamas attack and the Israel/ Palestine violence, significant increases continue to be reported in both antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents in the UK, significantly impacting communities.

Extremist of various persuasions exploit topical concerns to expand their reach into communities, promote grievances, raise their profile, raise funds, radicalise, and recruit especially within the context of the 'victimisation narrative' they boosted.

The divisive narratives and activities require increased engagement with communities to understand concerns, reassure, prevent escalation, and mitigate risks. 'Reducing permissive environment', requires partnership approach to limit the potential harm and influence of radicalisers and the impact of extremist narratives and content they use to draw people into terrorism.

Prevent delivery in the city since 2009 has been embedded through strong partnership with our communities. The city is no longer a Prevent priority area and delivery now relies on mainstream budgets. The reduction in resources, combined with wider budgetary pressures across partners presents challenges to sustaining best practice.

The cumulative impact of reduced resources and a sustained rise in demand on public services is stretching partnership capacity to respond to an already complex issue, with client groups increasingly presenting with complex, multiple or compound needs. Factors such as cost-of-living crisis, economic downturn, and increasingly complex client needs,

whilst driving demand are also likely to disproportionately impact on minority and disadvantaged communities.

The current landscape of devolution, mayoral elections, and local government reorganisation introduces further uncertainty about resources, the future location of Prevent and Community Safety functions, geographical coverage, both in terms of risk assessment, partnership and community engagement. This uncertainty underscores the need to revisit and redevelop consensus, our shared narrative on Prevent with partners and communities. We will prioritise proactive engagement with stakeholders to reaffirm consensus on Prevent and adapt our strategy to evolving political and organisational contexts, ensuring that delivery remains impactful and inclusive.

We will also invest in community engagement and trust-building to ensure that Prevent remains inclusive, transparent, and resilient in the face of evolving challenges.

Learning from the previous plan delivery

Previous delivery has evidenced that success requires:

- Shared consensus on Prevent between partners and communities,
- Strategic commitment to Prevent mission and approach, including anti-racist, transparent practices, and being accountable,
- Regular effective engagement with our communities that has effective reach and depth, engenders partnership and empowerment,
- Continual effort by the council as place makers/ shapers to improve trust and confidence of our staff and communities, and
- Leveraging national learning locally to improve outcomes and impact for individuals and the city.

Our strengths in partnership working, involvement and partnership with communities, threat & risk assessment, and delivery coordination will be further enhanced by implementing national learning, including:

- Improved referral assessment to prevent premature closure.
- Holistic risk assessment considering overlapping and cumulative risks, including those from non-ideological drivers and posed by the individuals.
- Strengthened support pathways for individuals with complex and compound needs to improve outcomes: in mental health, continuity of care, to identified safeguarding and contextual risks. Improved signposting and onward referrals to support following exit from Channel support.
- Strengthened practice, support, and outcome through multi-agency coordination and better integration between Prevent, safeguarding, and criminal justice processes.
- Embedding trauma-informed, safeguarding-led approaches.

- Improved training and guidance to equip professional and communities to recognise and respond to Prevent concerns, including online radicalisation and creating digital resilience.
- Reducing permissive environments through partnership and shared resources.

We will be better equipped to address the evolving threat landscape, reduce harm, and build resilience across our communities.

Our plans

Prevent delivery will continue to reflect the national changes and align local delivery appropriately to improve effectiveness and impact. Prevent delivery will be aligned with regional and local governance changes, ensuring strong engagement with communities and partners.

We will continue to build on our existing best practice in coordinating Prevent delivery locally, our successful engagement and partnership with diverse communities and partners to improve trust and confidence, and further mainstream Prevent work.

Our annual Prevent action plan remains flexible, and risk based, amended annually in line with the counter terrorism local profile and the Brighton & Hove Prevent Risk Assessment.

Work will continue to support individuals from being drawn into or supporting terrorism, improve partners capacity to understand risk of terrorism and respond to reduce those risks in the city.

We will reinvigorate partnership structures to work with our diverse communities (for example, One Voice Partnership) to create shared understanding on Prevent, deliver trainings, embed changes to Channel, reduce permissive environment, and disrupt radicalising influences.

We will assess the impact of critical incidents on community cohesion and coordinate partnership responses to reduce its impact and reassure communities.

Prevent Strategy supports positive duties of freedom of speech and academic freedom and is promoted within the context of Equality Duty.

The Partnership will expand its focus on online harms - extremist content and the role of social media in escalating conflict or fear. We will strengthen training for professionals, develop partnership protocols with schools, and increase community awareness of online risks and reporting routes.

Prevent delivery has adopted an anti-racist, inclusive, and empowering approach since inception, and we reaffirm this commitment. Prevent is aligned with the council's commitments to be a City of Sanctuary and the 'Anti-racism strategy'.

Empowered individuals and communities are at the heart of effective Prevent delivery. We will continue to ensure democratic oversight and scrutiny of the Prevent work. Through improved partnership work and communications of Prevent work and its impact, we will improve trust and confidence amongst partners and communities.

Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation

Context

The proposed devolution deal and local government reorganisation present significant opportunities and challenges for community safety in Brighton & Hove. The transfer of powers to a directly elected mayor and the potential redrawing of administrative boundaries will reshape the governance, funding, and delivery landscape for crime reduction, public safety, and partnership working.

Strategic Objectives

- Safeguard the integrity and effectiveness of local community safety delivery during and after governance changes.
- Ensure continuity of statutory duties, partnership working, and service provision across new boundaries.
- Maintain local accountability, representation, and responsiveness to community needs.

Key Actions

Governance Alignment: Existing partnership structures and delivery arrangements will be mapped against proposed new boundaries and governance frameworks. Transitional working groups will be established to oversee the adaptation of protocols, data-sharing agreements, and operational plans. It will be a priority to ensure that Brighton & Hove's diverse communities are represented in any new regional boards or decision-making bodies.

Service Continuity: Contingency plans will be developed to mitigate risks of service disruption during transition periods. Clear lines of accountability for statutory duties, safeguarding, and enforcement will be maintained throughout, and partnership agreements will be reviewed and updated to reflect new governance arrangements.

Resource Management: A comprehensive resource impact assessment will be conducted to identify risks and opportunities arising from changes in funding, staffing, and service boundaries. The partnership will advocate for sustained investment in prevention, early intervention, and partnership capacity within new regional funding frameworks. Resource allocation and service demand will be monitored through a partnership dashboard, with regular reporting to the Community Safety Partnership Board.

Community Engagement: Changes will be communicated clearly and proactively to residents, businesses, and community groups. Community voices will be actively sought and reflected in new governance structures, and local engagement mechanisms such as Local Action Teams and community forums will be maintained and strengthened.

Policy and Legislative Compliance: All delivery plans and protocols will be reviewed to ensure compliance with new statutory duties arising from the Crime and Policing Bill and

other relevant legislation. Training and guidance will be provided to staff and partners on new legal requirements and operational changes.

Monitoring and Review:

- Establish a dedicated oversight group to monitor the impact of devolution and reorganisation on community safety delivery.
- Report progress, risks, and mitigation actions to the Community Safety Partnership Board and regional governance bodies.
- Review and update this strategy section annually, or as required by changes in the governance landscape.

Strategy Monitoring and Evaluation

Effective monitoring and evaluation are essential to ensure the successful delivery of the Community Safety Strategy and to support continuous improvement in response to emerging challenges, resource pressures, and governance changes. Our approach to monitoring and evaluation is grounded in the council's learning framework, supporting our ambition to be a learning partnership that is connected, confident, innovative, inclusive, and psychologically safe.

Connected Monitoring: Progress will be reviewed quarterly by the Community Safety Partnership Board and its sub-groups, ensuring all directorates, services, and partners are aligned and working collaboratively towards shared objectives. Staff at all levels will be empowered to contribute insights, with decisions made as close to the front line as possible.

Confident and Agile Evaluation: We will foster a culture of continuous improvement, where learning from experience—including mistakes—is valued. The annual Strategic Assessment update process will provide a structured opportunity to reflect, adapt, and grow, using feedback from partners, communities, and staff to inform future priorities and delivery. Digital tools and dashboards will be used to support confident decision-making and transparency

Innovation and Creativity: Monitoring will be data-driven and experimental, making space to test new approaches and reflect on what works. We will embrace new technologies and analytical methods to improve efficiency and respond to complexity, ensuring our evaluation processes remain forward-looking and impactful.

Diversity and Inclusion: Evaluation will actively seek input from a diverse range of voices, ensuring our monitoring reflects the experiences and needs of all communities and staff. Engagement mechanisms such as Local Action Teams and community forums will be maintained and strengthened, and feedback will be used to drive inclusive growth and leadership

Health and Psychological Safety: We will maintain a trust-based environment where staff and partners feel safe to share honest feedback and challenge assumptions. Monitoring will

include regular partnership health checks, focusing on wellbeing, resilience, and resource capacity, with findings used to support a healthy and sustainable workforce.

Responsive Review: In response to devolution and local government reorganisation, the strategy will be subject to further extensive review, ensuring governance alignment, service continuity, and community engagement remain robust. All delivery areas will regularly review protocols and partnership agreements to ensure compliance with statutory duties, including those arising from the Crime and Policing Bill and other relevant legislation. Training and communications will be updated to reflect new requirements.

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Appendix 1. Learning Recommendations from Delivery of the 2023-26 Strategy

A number of recommendations for the new 2026 – 29 Strategy have been identified and are provided below:

Embed the Learning Framework: Ensure the strategy and its delivery reflect the council’s learning principles-being connected, confident, innovative, inclusive, and psychologically safe. This includes empowering staff, valuing learning from mistakes, and fostering creativity and diversity. Practical actions include:

- Encouraging cross-service collaboration and shared learning forums
- Supporting staff to test new approaches and reflect on outcomes
- Promoting psychological safety so staff and partners can challenge assumptions and share honest feedback

Strengthen Resource and Capacity Monitoring: Introduce a partnership dashboard and regular health checks to monitor resources, staffing, and demand. Use this intelligence to inform decision-making and advocate for sustained investment. Address identified gaps in after-school provision, mentoring, and contextual safeguarding.

Enhance Data-Driven Practice: Invest in systems and skills for real-time data sharing and analysis across partners. Use evidence to inform priorities, measure impact, and adapt interventions quickly. Prioritise closing knowledge gaps on knife carrying, cuckooing, sexual exploitation, and under-reporting.

Deepen Community Engagement and Survivor Voice: Maintain and strengthen mechanisms for community feedback and participation, ensuring diverse voices-including those with lived experience-shape strategy and delivery. Innovate new pathways for reporting, particularly for hate incidents and in the night-time economy. Ensure survivor and community voice is central to learning and improvement.

Plan for Governance Change: Develop contingency plans and transitional working groups to ensure service continuity and partnership effectiveness through devolution and local government reorganisation. Map partnership structures, establish transitional groups, and ensure community representation in new governance arrangements.

Ensure Legislative Compliance and System Learning: Regularly review protocols and provide training to ensure compliance with new statutory duties, including those arising from the Crime and Policing Bill, Domestic Abuse Act, and other relevant legislation. Systematically embed learning from safeguarding reviews, DARDRs, and lived experience into practice.

Continuous Improvement: Use quarterly monitoring and annual strategy assessments to drive ongoing learning and improvement, adapting to emerging risks and opportunities. The strategy will be subject to further extensive review in response to devolution and local government reorganisation.

Appendix 2. About the Partnership

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 specifies that community safety strategies must be delivered by Community Safety Partnerships. The 'responsible authorities' who are required by legislation to participate in our Community Safety Partnership are the local authority, police, probation, health, and fire and rescue services. However, many other partners from the statutory, community/voluntary and business sectors, including the Police and Crime Commissioner are fully involved in the Partnership's work. Local residents also play a key role.

The Community Safety Partnership Board has overall responsibility for the work of the Partnership, while the individual priority areas within this strategy are supported by multi-agency working groups made up of specialists in the relevant area. In some areas there are also dedicated staff to drive forward the work. The Prevent Board is an extension of the Community Safety Partnership to fulfil statutory requirements through effective co-ordination of activities which meet strategic objectives of the Prevent Strategy and Prevent Duty.

Local Action Teams exist across the city and are an important part of the Partnership. LATs involve residents, local businesses and agencies working together and they provide a key route through which community safety issues for local neighbourhoods are taken forward.

Integrated working with the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner is being achieved through having regard to each other's priorities and providing reciprocal support for deliver.

Community Safety & Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029: Summary Feedback from Online Consultation

The draft Community Safety Strategy was open to online consultation from 1 December to 23 January 2026. We received 147 responses - a significant increase compared with the 82 received during the 2023 consultation.

The consultation received a broad range of responses from residents, community groups, statutory partners, and businesses. Across all priority areas, respondents overwhelmingly agreed with the overall aims and plans, but raised concerns about implementation, enforcement, and resourcing. Free-text comments provided rich insights into community priorities, anxieties, and expectations.

1. Serious violence, drugs & exploitation

Agreement levels were high, with over three-quarters supporting the aims and plans. Key themes included:

Top concerns

- Visible drug use and dealing in central centre areas (especially Kemptown, St James' Street, Brighton Station, North Laine)-centre areas (especially Kemptown, St James' Street, Brighton Station, North Laine).
- Lack of visible policing and low confidence in police response.
- Homelessness, begging and hostel locations linked by respondents to safety concerns.
- Need for joined-up safeguarding across police, social care, health and community services.-up safeguarding across police, social care, health and community services.
- Calls for stronger enforcement, targeted raids, and tackling repeat offenders.
- Concerns about young people's vulnerability, lack of youth provision, and links to poverty.

Suggestions

- More place-based, nighttime safety approaches and night-time safety approaches.
- Better reporting mechanisms, including instant reporting tools.
- Expanded harm reduction, safe use spaces, and investment in support services.

2. Domestic abuse, sexual violence & VAWG

Respondents showed very strong support for the aims.

Key themes

- Need for better police training, greater trust, and more consistent responses.
- Better focus on early prevention, including healthy relationships education in schools.
- Increased public / community awareness of VAWG and services available
- More refuge spaces and specialist women-led services.
- Strong emphasis on holding perpetrators to account.
- Repeated calls to ensure trans, non-binary, and intersex survivors are explicitly included.
- Need for support tailored to people with multiple and compound needs.
- Greater consideration of male victims.

3. Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

Agreement remained high but feedback highlighted frustration with current ASB responses.

Top concerns

- ASB is perceived as worsening, especially in:
 - Kemptown
 - Brighton Station
 - St James' Street
 - The Level
 - Hove Lawns
- Repeat offenders and hotspots not being proactively tackled.
- Insufficient visible policing and lack of follow-up when incidents are reported.
- Youth-related ASB linked to lack of spaces, activities, and support.
- Perception that council-run events sometimes increase ASB.

Suggested actions

- Stronger enforcement and clearer thresholds for action.
- Improved communication back to residents after reports.
- More youth services and preventative community work.

4. Hate incidents & hate crime

This section generated the most polarised and high-volume feedback, with over a third of comments relating to tensions between Jewish and Palestinian communities.

Key issues

- Conflicting views on:
 - The nature of local protests
 - Whether criticism of Israel constitutes anti-semitism
 - Whether policing is biased *for or against* particular communities
- Requests for:
 - Clearer definitions of hate crime
 - Address the root causes of hate crime - with greater education for young people and countering of divisive narratives in communities and online
 - A more balanced and transparent approach to community tensions
 - Reinstatement of third-party reporting centres
- Widespread concerns about:
 - Under-reporting due to mistrust of authorities
 - Rising antisemitism, Islamophobia, and hostility toward TNBI and BRM communities
 - Hate speech and intimidation at public protests
- Calls to ensure legitimate protest is not criminalised, alongside concerns that protests can feel intimidating.

5. Prevent

Agreement levels were positive overall, but free-text comments revealed strong polarisation.

Key concerns

- Fear that Prevent could criminalise protest
- Concern from others about extremist activity, radicalisation of young men, and rising islamophobia and antisemitism.
- Calls for greater focus on:
 - Far-right extremism
 - Online radicalisation and misogynistic influencers (“manosphere”)
 - Supporting young, isolated men and boys
- Repeated concerns about Prevent disproportionately impacting BRM and Muslim communities and damaging trust.

Suggestions

- More community engagement, transparency, and balanced narratives.
- Stronger emphasis on education, critical thinking, and youth support.

Cross-cutting themes across the consultation

1. Visible policing & enforcement

Across all priority areas, respondents expressed extremely low confidence in police responsiveness.

Increased place-based work/ tackling geographical city centre hotspots

2. Addressing root causes

Strong calls to invest in:

- Poverty reduction
- Youth provision
- Housing and homelessness support
- Mental health and substance-misuse services

APPENDIX 2

3. Communication and reporting

People want:

- Better ways to report crime/ASB
- Clear feedback loops
- Transparency about thresholds, actions, and outcomes

4. Community tensions around Israel/Palestine

The conflict strongly shaped feedback, with:

- Both Jewish and Palestinian communities expressing fear
- Confusion and disagreement about what constitutes hate crime
- Concerns about protest rights, safety, and bias in policing

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
programme

Brighton & Hove
**Strategic Assessment of
Crime and Community Safety
2025**

Brighton & Hove
Community Safety Partnership



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1. Introduction

Legislative context and purpose of the Strategic Assessment

Since the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 there has been a statutory obligation for Community Safety Partnerships to produce evidence-based strategies. Since 2007 (under the Police and Justice Act 2006) the requirement has been to refresh three-year strategies on an annual basis, informed by annual strategic assessments.

This Strategic Assessment is prepared for Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership to provide an analytical basis to inform the partnership's Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026-2029.

About the report

This Strategic Assessment has been jointly carried out by subject lead officers and analysts / data specialists within the partnership. Following this introduction, Section 2 looks at local social and economic context and the demographic characteristics of people who live in Brighton & Hove. Section 3 and 4 then consider the factors that drive or enable criminal activity, as well as risk factors and vulnerable groups. This is followed in Section 5 by an overview of the crime picture in the city, with Section 6 looking at the impact that crime and disorder has on the city and the people in it.

The thematic analysis in this report begins in Section 7 and concludes at Section 11. Each topic considers the current context, the scale, trends and nature of problems and draws conclusions on what work should be prioritised for the 2026-29 Community Safety Strategy.

While acknowledging the crucial role of individual agencies in providing support so that people can live and work in a safe environment (for example, housing and homelessness services, substance misuse treatment services, children's services, mental health services and road safety), the focus of this strategic assessment and the strategy is on areas where partnership working is fundamental to making progress.

2.Socio-economic context

The city of Brighton & Hove

Brighton & Hove is a city on the Sussex south coast with good transport links to the north to London and Gatwick airport, and east and west along the coast.

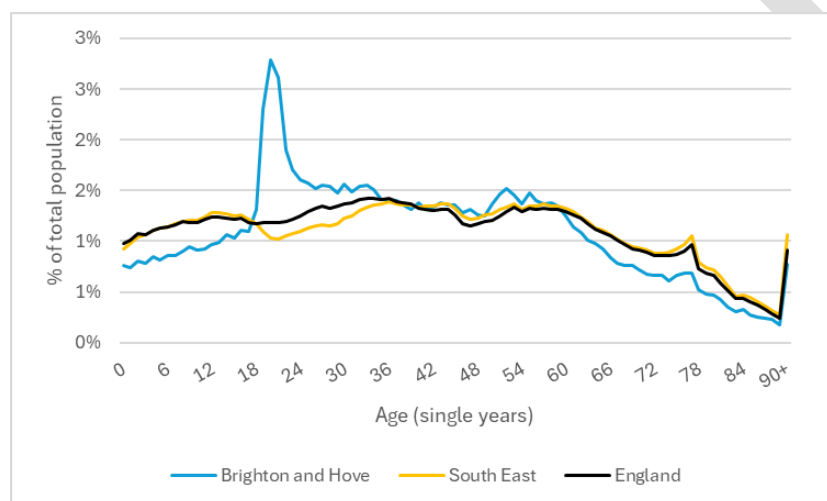
As a popular tourist destination, Brighton & Hove sees large numbers of UK and overseas visitors each year. In 2023, around 10.187 million trips were estimated to have been made to the city by day visitors (up 2% on 2022) with over 5.57 million overnight stays (up 7% on 2022)¹.

The city has two large universities, a number of smaller higher education institutes, many English language schools and it has a reputation for being a welcoming and inclusive place to be.

City demographics

According to the latest (2024) ONS population estimates, there are a total of 283,870 people living in the city, up 1.0% (2,735 people) compared to 2023 (281,135)². In the period from mid-2021 to mid-2024, the population estimate of Brighton and Hove increased by 2.7%.

Figure 1 - Proportion of residents by age (2024 ONS mid-year population estimates).



Sex and age

Compared with England and the South East, Brighton & Hove has fewer children and older people but more younger adults, residents aged 20 to 29 years make up a significant number of residents (51,900 people, 18%)³. According to the latest ONS estimates (mid-2024), Brighton & Hove is estimated to have more female residents (145,400 people, 51%) than male residents (138,470, people, 49%)². Apart from in the age range 19 to 21 years, there is a relatively even distribution of males and females across all ages up until the age of 75 years old. As seen nationally, beyond the age of 75 years, the proportion of female residents increases. There are an estimated 19,500 residents aged 75 or older in the city, of which 57% (11,180 people) are female and 43% (8,320

¹ [Destination Research / Visit Brighton report - Economic Impact of Tourism 2023 - PDF.](#)

² [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) webpage - statistical release - 'Population estimates for England and Wales: mid-2024', released 30 July 2025.](#)

³ [Brighton and Hove City council webpage - JSNA Population in Brighton & Hove Executive Summary.](#)

people) are male. By the age of 90 or older the difference is two to one with 1,470 female (67%) to 730 male (33%) residents.

Population density

Some of Brighton & Hove's neighbourhoods are the most densely populated in England. Brighton & Hove local authority area has a population density of 3,345 residents per square kilometre. Ranking upper tier local authorities by population density shows that Brighton & Hove is ranked the 48th most densely populated out of 152 authorities (second quintile)⁴. Tower Hamlets (15,703 residents per square kilometre) is ranked highest, and Northumberland (64 residents per square kilometre) is ranked lowest.

The most densely populated area of the city is the neighbourhood north of Western Road between Norfolk Square and Palmeira Square (over 30,000 residents per square kilometre). The neighbourhood is in the 100 (out of 33,700) most densely populated neighbourhoods in England. In total seven neighbourhoods in the city are in the 1% most densely populated neighbourhoods in England.

Ethnicity

Brighton & Hove is continuing in becoming a more ethnically diverse city. While the overall number of residents has only increased by 1% between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses, the number of Black and Racially Minoritised residents has increased by 35% or 18,921 people⁵. More than a quarter of residents (26%, 72,272 people) are Black and Racially Minoritised under the definition used by Brighton and Hove City Council, which is, all ethnic groups apart from White UK/British. The proportion of Black and Racially Minoritised residents in Brighton and Hove (26%) is significantly higher than seen in the South East (21%) and similar to what is seen in England (26%).

Arab residents have increased the most since the last Census, increasing by 40% (865 people) to 3,049 residents. Ethnic group Other White remains the largest Black and Racially Minoritised group in the city with 26,812 residents. This ethnic group makes up more than a third of Black and Racially Minoritised residents (37%) and one in ten of all residents (10%). Nearly a fifth of Black and Racially Minoritised residents (18%) and one in twenty of all residents (5%, 13,228 people) are of mixed ethnicity. Residents of mixed ethnicity have increased by more than a quarter (27%, 2,820 people). Nearly a fifth of all Black and Racially Minoritised resident (18%) and one in twenty of all residents (5%, 13,217 people) are Asian or Asian British. Asian or Asian British residents have increased by 17% (1,939 people) since the last Census. Black or Black British residents have increased by nearly a third (30%, 1,370 people). Black or Black British residents make up nearly one in ten (8%) of all Black and Racially Minoritised residents.

Migration

Brighton & Hove continues to be a destination for people born outside of the UK. While the overall population of the city has only grown by 1% between the 2011 and 2021 censuses, the city's international migrant population has increased by 27% or 11,500 people.

⁴ [Office for National Statistics webpage - statistical release - 'Population Density', updated February 2023.](#)

⁵ [Brighton and Hove City Council webpage - Brighton & Hove 2021 Census briefing.](#) Some figures stated in this report may not sum due to rounding.

One in five residents living in Brighton & Hove (20%, 54,343 people) were born outside of the UK. This is significantly higher than both the South East (16%) and England (17%) and the highest seen outside of London, Coventry, Birmingham, Bedford, and Bexley. Two out of five residents (43%, 23,104 people) born outside of the UK were born in the EU, more than seen in both the South East (38%) and England (36%). Among residents born in the EU, nearly two thirds (65%, 15,099 people) were born in countries who have been a member of the EU since before 2004. This is also significantly higher than seen in the South East (47%) and England (44%) and is the highest proportion in England outside of London.

Half of Brighton and Hove residents born outside of the UK were born outside of Europe (51%, 27,670 people), with nearly a half of these residents (45%, 12,517 people) born in the Middle East and Asia, over a quarter (28%, 7,863 people) born in Africa and nearly a fifth (19%, 5,326 people) in the Americas and the Caribbean. Most residents in the city born outside of the UK were born in Italy (2,997 people), followed by Poland (2,484 people), Spain (2,382 people), India (1,956 people), and the USA (1,655 people). Compared to 2011 the number of Italian residents has increased by 110% and the number of Spanish residents by 80%. By contrast, the number of Polish residents has only increased by 10%.

The city also has proportionately higher numbers of short-term international migrants. At the time of the 2021 Census, there were 1,519 non-UK short term residents in the city - residents who plan to stay at least three months but less than 12 months. As a proportion of all non-UK born residents and short-term residents (55,862 people), short-term residents make up 2.7% of the total, double the figure for the South East (1.3%) and England (1.3%).

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

There is no definitive data on the number of Gypsies and Travellers in Brighton & Hove. The 2021 Census recorded 197 Gypsy or Irish Traveller people living in the city. In the 2024 Health Counts survey⁶, 0.2% of adult respondents in the city were Gypsy, Roma, and/or Traveller.

Data from the council's Traveller Liaison Team showed that in October 2025 there were 11 families permanently resident on the council's 12 pitch traveller site at St Michael's Way in Brighton. All households who moved on to the newly opened permanent residential site in 2016 remained on the site, until this year when a small number of families vacated their pitches, which have since been re-allocated. There is also a 21-pitch transit site, adjacent to the permanent residential site, for Travellers passing through the city, and there are 5 families occupying pitches – the licences for the transit pitches are for a maximum stay of 12 weeks.

Brighton and Hove also has families who travel into the city and set up unauthorised encampments on land, where they may stay for a very short time and are often directed to a dedicated transit site. In

⁶ Gilchrist, K., Sherriff, N.S., Huber, J., Galvin, K., Mirandola, M., Murtagh, S., Llewellyn, C., Vass, C., Knight, L., Guzek, J., Aicken, C., Sawyer, A., Davidson, S., & Gray, C (2024). [Health Counts 2024: Summary of Results](#). Brighton, Brighton and Hove City Council.

Health Counts is a health and wellbeing survey of Brighton and Hove adult residents conducted around once a decade. There were 16,729 respondents, results were weighted for age, gender and deprivation to account for differences in response rate. The 2024 Health Counts survey was conducted by researchers at the University of Brighton, in collaboration with Brighton & Hove Medical School, NHS Sussex, Healthwatch Brighton & Hove, Brighton & Hove Federation and Brighton & Hove City Council Public Health Intelligence team. It was funded by the Public Health Department at Brighton & Hove City Council.

2025, up to October, there were a total of 71 Traveller families on 6 unauthorised encampments, and a further 11 households who had come directly to a transit site.

Students

For the academic year 2023/24, there were a total of 35,885 students enrolled at the University of Sussex and the University of Brighton, a 5.3% decrease (2,020 students) from 2022/23. In England, there has been a 0.6% decrease in the number of students over the same period⁷. At the University of Sussex and University of Brighton in 2023/24, 58% of students were female (20,725 people) and 42% male (14,720 people).

LGBTQ+ residents

For the first time ever, the 2021 Census asked questions about sexual orientation and gender identity. The sexual orientation and gender identity questions were voluntary and only asked of residents aged 16 or older. More than nine out of ten residents chose to answer the sexuality questions (91%), and the gender identity questions (93%). Brighton & Hove has the highest proportion of residents identifying as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB+) in England. More than one in ten residents aged 16 or over (10.6%, 25,375 people) identify with an LGB+ sexual orientation. This is three times the percentage found in both the South East (3.1%) and England (3.1%) and the highest percentage of any upper tier local authority in England.

Health Counts is a health and wellbeing survey of Brighton and Hove adult residents taken around once every ten years. Over one in four respondents of the 2024 survey (28%) were lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, queer or prefer another term to describe their sexual orientation but not heterosexual (LGBQ+)⁶. The Health Counts question differs slightly to the 2021 Census, where 11% of adults in the city identified as LGB+. This was a voluntary question in the 2021 Census.

The 2021 Census recorded at least 2,341 residents (1.0%) in Brighton & Hove who identified with a gender different from their sex registered at birth. This is double the proportion seen in the South East (0.5%) and England (0.5%)⁸. The proportion of residents aged 16 and over in Brighton & Hove identifying with a gender different from their sex registered at birth (1.0%) is the highest seen outside of London, Luton, Manchester, and Leicester. More than a third of residents who identify with a gender different from their sex identified at birth (36%, 835 people) in the city identify specifically as non-binary. This is 0.4% of the city's population and five times higher than seen in the South East (0.1%) and England (0.1%). The proportion of residents aged 16 and over in Brighton & Hove identifying as non-binary is the highest seen in any upper tier local authority in England.

In the 2024 Health Counts survey, 5% of adults were trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI). This is considerably higher than the 2021 Census, however we know this was likely to be an underestimate and that the Census figures for gender identity are no longer accredited official statistics⁶.

⁷ [Higher Education Statistics Agency webpage - statistical release - 'Who's studying in HE?', released April 2025.](#)

⁸ [Office for National Statistics webpage – statistical report – Sexual orientation and gender identity quality information for Census 2021, released April 2025.](#) Gender identity estimates from Census 2021 are official statistics in development, reflecting their innovative nature and the evolving understanding of measuring gender identity, along with the uncertainty associated with these estimates.

Disabilities and wellbeing

Brighton & Hove residents are significantly more likely to be disabled than people living across the rest of the South East and England. At the time of the 2021 Census, nearly one in five residents (19%, 51,797 people) were disabled as defined by the Equalities Act. This is significantly higher than seen in both the South East (16%) and England (17%).

For two out of five disabled residents (20,351 people, 39%) their day-to-day activities are limited a lot, with the remaining 61% (31,446 people) having their activities limited a little. A further 20,804 residents have a long-term physical or mental health condition that does not affect their day-to-day activity.

Based on national prevalence rates of health needs among adults in the city aged 18 to 64⁹ and among those aged over 65¹⁰, in 2025:

- Nearly one in ten residents aged 65 or older (9.0%, 3,653 people) were predicted to have a moderate or severe visual impairment, while around one in fifteen residents aged 75 or older (6.5%, 1,267 people) have a 'registrable' eye condition.
- One in 40 residents aged 18 to 64 (2.5%, estimated 4,971 people) and around in 50 residents aged 65 and older (2.1%, estimated 857 people) were predicted to have some form of learning disability.
- One in 20 residents aged 18 to 64 (5%, an estimated 9,780 people) and nearly one in five residents aged 65 and over (19%, an estimated 7,548 people) had impaired mobility.
- Around one in 200 residents aged 18 to 64 (0.5%, estimated 1,048 people) and one in 12 people aged 65 and over (7.9%, estimated 3,199 people) were predicted to have severe hearing loss.

In the 2024 Health Counts survey, over a third of adults responded that their day-to-day activities are limited by a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness (37%), with 16% reporting their activities are limited a lot and 23% a little. This is much higher than the figures from the 2021 Census (19%)⁶.

Brighton & Hove also has significant mental health needs. The proportion of adults with common mental disorders, such as anxiety or depression are estimated to be 1 in 5 in the city (38,600 people aged 18 - 64 years old). This is higher than the England estimate of 1 in 6 and considered an underestimate¹¹. In the 2024 Health Counts Survey of Brighton and Hove adult residents, 24% of respondents reported low levels of happiness, and 38% reported high levels of anxiety⁶.

Carers

At the time of the 2021 Census, one in thirteen residents (7.8% of residents aged over 5, 20,804 people) provided at least one hour of unpaid care to someone with a disability or problems relating to age, lower than the South East (8.4%) and England (8.8%). The proportion providing unpaid care fell one percentage point from 8.8% recorded in the 2011 Census.

⁹ [Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information System \(PANSI\).](#)

¹⁰ [Projecting Older People Population Information System \(POPPI\).](#)

¹¹ [Brighton & Hove City Council report. Mental Health & Wellbeing Assessment 2022 - PDF.](#)

Nearly one in 25 residents (3.6%, 9,470 people) provide 20 or more hours of unpaid care, lower than seen in the South East (3.9%) and England (4.4%), but one percentage point higher than recorded in the 2011 Census (2.6%).

Armed Forces

One in forty residents aged 16 years old or older (5,618 people, 2.4%) have previously served in the UK armed forces. This is significantly lower than in the South East (4.2%) and England (3.8%). Among the 5,618 veterans, 3,948 were in the regular UK armed forces, 1,423 in the reserves and 246 in both the regular and reserve armed forces.

Housing and homelessness

At the time of the 2021 Census, the average household size in the city was 2.2 people, compared with 2.4 in the South East and in England.

More than a third of households (35%, 42,101 homes) in Brighton & Hove are single person households, higher than seen in the South East (28%) and England (30%). A third of these single person households (13,875 homes), or one in ten of all households in the city (11%), are households with a single person aged 66 or older living there. This proportion is lower than in the South East (13%) and England (12%).

Nearly a quarter of households (24%, 28,687 homes) contains a dependent child aged under 16, lower than seen in the South East (29%) and England (28%). However, we have a similar proportion on lone parent households (6%, 7,229 homes) as the South East (6%) and England (7%). Compared to the 2011 Census, the number of lone parent families has fallen by 16% (1,408 homes).

Brighton & Hove has a high proportion of households who rent privately. Nearly a third of households (33%, 39,684 households) in the city rent privately. This is significantly higher than both the South East (19%) and England (20%) and is the highest proportion in England outside of London and the Isles of Scilly. Between 2011 and 2021 the number of households in the city renting privately increased by 10%, equating to 3,725 additional households. Meanwhile homeownership in Brighton & Hove is falling; just over a half of households in the city (51%) own their own home, significantly lower than seen in the South East (66%) and England (61%). Between 2011 and 2021 the number of households owning their own home fell by 4% (2,373 households). However, the number of households who own their home with a mortgage or loan fell by 12% (4,420 households), while the number of households owning their home outright increased by 7% (2,047 households). This changing pattern of home ownership is also reflected nationally.

According to data collected by the city's Street Outreach Service¹², in 2024/25 there were 716 people who had been found sleeping rough across Brighton & Hove, lower than the 785 seen in the previous year. This team highlights the substantial positive work it has done with the network of related support agencies across the city to reduce the number of individuals rough sleeping in the city throughout the year.

A rough sleeping count is conducted nationally on a single night in the autumn each year. Since Covid-related support for rough sleepers ended in 2022, the count of rough sleepers has increased steadily with 37 rough sleepers in 2021, 41 in 2022, 52 in 2023 and 76 in 2024,

¹² [Change Grow Live webpage - Street Outreach Service, Brighton and Hove.](#)

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although this remains below the 88 rough sleepers recorded pre-Covid in November 2019¹³. The count in the city in 2024 included those who had been placed in SWEPP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol), put in place due to adverse weather conditions on the night of the 2024 count to prevent loss of life. Brighton & Hove had the 6th highest per-capita rate of people counted as rough sleeping across all local authorities in England in 2024, however it is not clear from Government figures which other local authorities had accounted for SWEPP in their figures. Over-the-month bedded down figures tend to be used by services as these are more reflective of an accurate picture of those experiencing rough sleeping within the city.

The draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025 – 2030¹⁴ states that structural inequalities and system wide challenges such as unemployment, disability, ill health, mental health needs, substance use, domestic abuse, and family breakdown create pathways into homelessness for many in the city. The current cost of living crisis has intensified these pressures, while a chronic shortage of genuinely affordable housing means that even those in work can struggle. A private renter on an average income in Brighton & Hove can expect to spend 45% of their household income on rent; the 'affordability threshold' is 30%¹⁵. The Strategy has three main priority areas: increase effectiveness in preventing homelessness and rough sleeping; improve temporary accommodation pathways and experiences; and provide joined-up support with partners to people who most need help.

¹³ Homelessness statistics from the [DLUHC Ending Rough Sleeping Framework](#).

¹⁴ [Brighton & Hove City Council webpage. Homelessness and rough sleeping strategy 2025 to 2030](#).

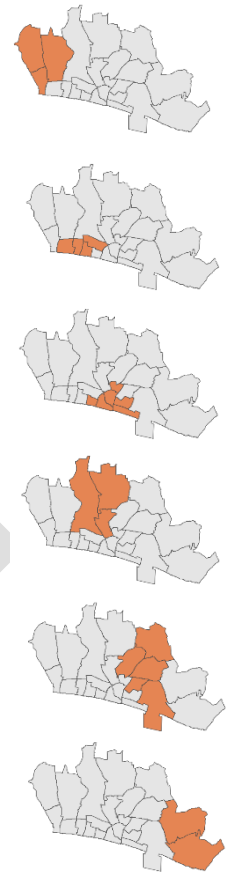
Please note: The Brighton and Hove Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025-30 is currently in draft form and out to consultation.

¹⁵ [Office for National Statistics webpage - statistical report - Private rental affordability, England, Wales and Northern Ireland, released August 2025](#).

Demographic variation across the city

The socio-demographic characteristics of Brighton & Hove vary across the city. For example, based on the number of residents in the area:

- The area to the **far west of the city** has the highest rates of children under 16 years old and working age adults with a health problem or disability that affects their activity.
- The **coastal area of Hove** has the highest rates of commuters travelling over 10km to work, as well as people 65 or older with a health problem or disability that affects their activity.
- The **city centre** has the highest rates of residents of working age (16-64), single person households, single parent households and Black and Racially Minoritised (non-White) residents.
- Areas to the **north of the city** have the second highest rate of commuters travelling over 10km to work.
- Areas **adjacent to the Lewes Road and East Brighton** have the highest rate of full-time students and people living in social housing.
- Areas to the **far east of the city (the 'Deans')** have the highest rate of residents over the age of 65.



The above data is derived from the 2021 Census and ONS 2022 mid-year population estimates.

3. Drivers and enablers of crime and disorder

Drivers of crime

The Home Office report, 'Modern Crime Prevention Strategy'¹⁶ talks about six 'key drivers of crime', with some crime problems involving a combination of drivers. It argues that measures to prevent crime need to address these issues:

Opportunity – prevention by removing opportunities where crime can take place.

Character – early interventions to circumvent exposure to risk factors.

The criminal justice system – this should act as an effective deterrent.

Profit – making it harder for criminals to benefit financially from crime.

Drugs – restrict supply through tackling organised crime, prevent drugs misuse and help people to resist getting involved in drugs, and support people through treatment and recovery.

Alcohol – having a night-time economy where people consume alcohol safely.

These last two drivers have specific relevance for Brighton & Hove:

In 2019/20, the last year for which health data was published, it was estimated that 14.4 residents per 1,000 in Brighton and Hove used an opiate and/or crack cocaine, significantly higher than the South East (6.6 per 1,000) and England (9.5 per 1,000)¹⁷. The 2024 Health Counts survey⁶ found that one in five adults in the city (20%) have taken drugs not prescribed for them and not available at a chemist or pharmacy in the last 12 months. Various measures of drug-related deaths had, until recently, shown an increasing trend (see **Section 7**), suggesting that drug-taking may have intensified in the city in recent years. This is an important concern for the city not only from the point of view of the health of users, but also as it leads to people being drawn into crime and exploitation.

The last Health Survey for England for which local authority level data was available (2015-2018) showed Brighton & Hove residents were also found to consume considerably more alcohol than other areas. During this period, 41% of residents aged 18 or older were estimated to drink over 14 units of alcohol a week, higher than the South East (23%), England (23%) and all its statistical neighbours¹⁸. The last published Health Survey (2022) showed 25% of people in the South East and 24% of people across England drink more than 14 units of alcohol a week.

The vibrant night-time economy and hospitality sector in Brighton & Hove attracts many visitors to the city, as well as its own residents. While good for the local economy, this can also have knock-on effects on violent crime as well as having other negative outcomes. Mitigation of these negative aspects of the night-time economy is sought through the Brighton & Hove [Licensing Policy](#) and the [Public Health Framework for Assessing Alcohol Licensing](#), which form the basis of decisions around licensing applications.

¹⁶ [Home Office Report, 2016 - Modern Crime Prevention Strategy - PDF.](#)

¹⁷ [Office for Health Improvement and Disparities webpage, opiate and crack cocaine use prevalence estimates.](#)

¹⁸ [Public Health England webpage, Fingertips profile - Brighton and Hove alcohol consumption.](#)

Internet enabled crime and safety issues

As the use of banking apps, online purchasing and digital payments continues to increase¹⁹, new and more sophisticated opportunities for online fraud (such as the misuse of cards, fraudulent online purchasing) and cybercrimes (account hacking, phishing and malware) have developed similarly. In the last few years, cryptocurrency scams have also emerged as a vehicle for cybercrime, which has been especially difficult for authorities to combat due to the perceived low level of police knowledge on the technology's legality and technical details²⁰.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) in 2024/25 estimated that 692,000 people aged 16 or over in the year ending March 2024/25 had experienced computer-misuse crimes, including computer-virus crimes and hacking crimes. The CSEW also noted that only around one in 25 people ever reported being a victim of this crime group to Action Fraud or to the police. Across the Sussex Police force area there were 9,140 crimes recorded by Action Fraud to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) in 2023/24, 21% more than in 2018/19^{21,22,23}.

Increased online communication at both direct and public level also allows potential messages of hate or perceived hate to spread across a broader range of audiences with greater speed and saturating a greater portion of users' time spent on social media platforms. The impacts on communities and individuals are discussed further in **Section 10**.

Social media has also played a significant part in enabling extremist organisations to target and engage vulnerable individuals. This is one of the challenges for those working on the Prevent agenda, discussed in **Section 11**.

Inequality, poverty and multiple disadvantage

People affected by crime can often be living with multiple risks or disadvantage, and in combination these can make living safer lives more difficult to achieve.

Victimisation by demographic group (England & Wales)

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) asked its respondents whether they had been a victim of personal crime in the year ending March 2025²⁴. The proportion of people aged over 16 responding that they had been a victim is broken down below by reported personal characteristics, in some cases showing significant inequalities in victimisation:

- Those from a Mixed ethnic background 15.3% (Black or Black British 12.1%, White 10.9%, Other ethnic group 9.1%, Asian or Asian British 8.8%).

¹⁹ [Payment Systems Regulator Strategy report, January 2025 - PDF.](#)

²⁰ [Home Office web report - Understanding the cyber crime and fraud victim journey, January 2025.](#)

²¹ [Office for National Statistics webpage, cybercrime levels 2019 to 2024 FOI request, August 2024.](#)

²² [Action Fraud UK webpage, performance measurement and cybercrime trends.](#)

²³ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Nature of fraud and computer misuse in England and Wales appendix tables.](#)

²⁴ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Crime in England and Wales data, year ending March 2025.](#)

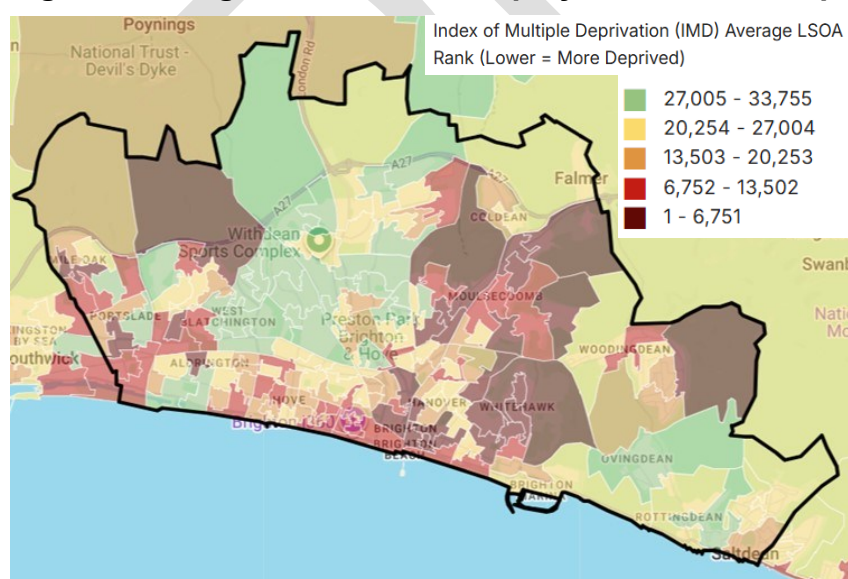
Personal crime includes violence, robbery, theft from the person, other theft of personal property, and fraud and computer misuse.

- Disabled people 13.6% (Not disabled 10.2%).
- People subscribing to an Other religion 22.0% (Jewish 12.4%, No religion 11.4%, Christian 10.5%, Buddhist 10.1%, Muslim 9.5%, Hindu 7.0%, Sikh 6.6%).
- People reporting their sexual orientation as Bisexual (16.7%), Gay/Lesbian 16.1%; Other sexual orientation 11.3% (Heterosexual/Straight 10.8%).
- Respondents whose gender identity is different from sex registered at birth 11.9% (Gender identity same as sex registered at birth 11.3%).
- People who have experience of Local Authority care as a child 20.3% (those who have not experienced such care as a child 10.7%).
- People who have experienced homelessness in the last 12 months 22.8% (those who have not experienced homelessness in the last 12 months 10.7%).
- Single-parent households with children under-16 13.0% (households with no children 10.5%).
- Women 11.1% (Men 10.5%).

Index of Multiple Deprivation

The 2025 Index of Multiple Deprivation²⁵ (IMD) is an overall ranking of deprivation combining measures of income, education, employment, health, crime, housing and living environment. Brighton and Hove is ranked the 96th most deprived upper tier local authority in England (out of 153). Brighton and Hove has an IMD rank of 17,375. This means that Brighton and Hove has lower levels of overall deprivation compared to England (16,746) but higher levels of overall deprivation compared to the South East (20,605). Looking at the crime domain, the IMD shows that Brighton & Hove has higher levels of crime deprivation (16,652) than either England (16,699) or the South East (18,666). The map in **Figure 2** shows the level of deprivation varies widely across the city - with some of the most deprived areas in the east and central parts of the city. Smaller areas of deprivation are also found in the west of the city. Click on the map below to view in more detail (**Section 12**).

Figure 2 - Brighton and Hove Map by Indices of Multiple Deprivation rank, IMD 2025.



²⁵ [MHCLG webpage - English indices of deprivation 2025 statistical release.](#)

Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate is an important indicator as it highlights unused available labour, which impacts on the economic growth of the city. Between April 2024 to March 2025, there were estimated to be 8,000 unemployed people in the city. This is 4.7% of those who are economically active, larger than the 3.9% estimated in Great Britain and 3.3% in the South East²⁶.

In the 2024 Health Counts survey⁶, the majority of adult respondents were in work/employment (60%). Followed by retired (17%), in education or training (14%), long term sick or disabled (7%), unemployed or not in work (6%), or looking after home or family (6%), with 3% other.

Cost of living

Data from the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT)²⁷ showed that as of September 2025, there were 22,360 low-income households in the city, with 8,527 children living in them. Of these low-income households, 5,939 households - with 3,720 children living in them - were below the poverty line, defined by LIFT as living in a household in which their total household equivalised income is below 60% of the median UK household income. This was an increase of 201 households in the city compared with November 2024. In addition, 2,215 households in the city were estimated to have a cash shortfall and 553 households were in food poverty. The LIFT cannot provide any insight into the financial circumstances for households living just above the benefit threshold, in work and still unable to afford basic needs, commonly known as Just About Managing households.

Health Counts 2024⁶ asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including a question around the cost of living. Health Counts asked respondents if they were taking any of a select group of measures because of the increases in the cost of living²⁸. This found that 86% of respondents were doing at least one of these things. The most commonly reported measures being taken were reducing leisure activities (45%), shopping around more (43%), spending less on food (40%), and using less fuel at home (38%). Respondents in younger age groups, females, Black and Racially Minoritised respondents, trans, non-binary and intersex (TNBI), LGBQ+, and disabled respondents, as well as respondents who are unpaid carers, have experience of the care system as a child / young person, live in the most deprived parts of the city, or who live in temporary or emergency accommodation, were all significantly more likely than all respondents to be taking any of these measures because of the increase in the cost of living.

²⁶ [NOMIS webpage - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics.](#)

'Unemployed' refers to people who were actively seeking work or who had found work and were waiting for it to commence. 'Economically active' refers to those who are either employed or who are unemployed according to the above definition.

²⁷ [LIFT](#) data is produced using council data on Housing Benefit claimants and DWP data relating to Universal Credit-Council Tax Reduction claimants in the city. These are combined with data on council tax arrears, Housing Benefit overpayments and rent arrears (where BHCC is landlord). This information for each household is then calculated against average spend by household type. The result is a snapshot of financial vulnerability for each of these households in the city. Please note this data is indicative but does not include all low income, benefit recipient households, such as those who are in receipt of Universal Credit but are not claiming Council Tax Reduction.

²⁸ This included reducing leisure activities, shopping around more, spending less on food, using less fuel at home, reducing non-essential journeys, using savings, making energy efficient improvements, using credit cards, loans or overdrafts, using support from charities, or any other things.

4. Risks factors and vulnerable groups

Young people

Risk and protective factors associated with offending by young people

There are a number of potential risk and protective factors for young people offending, which exist at an individual, family, school and peer group, and community level.^{29,30,31} These factors often occur in clusters and interact with each other.

| Level | Risk factors | Protective factors |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Individual | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early malnutrition• Behavioural risk factors• Alcohol or drug misuse• Traumatic brain injury• Language difficulties• Isolation• Exposure to extreme narratives or violent content (especially online) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health problem solving• Being ready for school• Healthy social relationships• Learning language• Self-esteem and strong personal and social identity |
| Family | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abuse• Emotional or physical neglect• Household alcohol or drug misuse• Household mental illness• Family violence• Household offending | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stable home environment• Nurturing relationships• Shared activities with parents• Good, consistent parenting skills |
| School and peer group | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poor educational attainment• Truancy• Gang membership• Low expectations from teachers• School bullying | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commitment to school• Positive teacher relationships• Positive social interactions |
| Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deprivation• Poor housing• Unsafe areas• Poor social mobility• High crime rate• High unemployment• Racism | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities for sport and hobbies• Community cohesion• Safe environment• Inclusion• Opportunity for volunteering• Resilient communities that challenge extreme narratives. |

²⁹ [Public Health England web report - Collaborative approaches to preventing offending and re-offending by children \(CAPRICORN\) summary](#). Please note this guidance was subsequently withdrawn by His Majesty's Government in June 2024.

³⁰ [Commission for Countering Extremism webpage - Independent Report by Dr D Holbrook, 2025. 'Sacred violence: the enduring role of ideology in terrorism and radicalisation'](#).

³¹ [Journal of Youth and Adolescence webpage – research report – Gubbels, Assink and van der Put, 2023 - Protective Factors for Antisocial Behaviour in Youth: What is the Meta-Analytic Evidence?](#)

A review which focused on the impact of health on criminal justice involvement³² highlighted how child and adolescent health and developmental difficulties are important determinants of involvement in the criminal justice system. These included neurodevelopmental disabilities, traumatic brain injury, mental health difficulties, and childhood experiences of trauma and adversity, all of which were shown to be higher in incarcerated young people than in the general population. It also noted that risk is enhanced by societal marginalisation, structural disadvantage and inequality. The review concluded that early identification and assessment is required, with responsive interventions taking account of the particular needs and circumstances of individuals.

Children at risk

This section provides data for Brighton & Hove on children who may be experiencing disadvantage in their home or school setting.

Children in Need (CIN)

Evidence suggests children and young people who are looked after are more likely to become unemployed, involved in crime and be identified as having a substance misuse problem³³.

There were 2,922 Children in Need assessments carried out in the city in the year ending 2024/25³⁴, 53 higher than in the previous year. This was slightly lower than in 2022/23, when 3,144 were completed, but remains higher than in any other year since 2016/17. This equated to 627 assessments per 10,000 children aged under 18, slightly lower than across the South East (633 per 10,000) but higher than across England (533 per 10,000) in 2024/25.

Where factors were identified at the end of these assessments, the most prevalent were concerns about the mental health of a parent (1,124 episodes), concerns about the domestic abuse of a parent (734) and concerns about emotional abuse (514 episodes). More than one form of need can be noted in each assessment.

At the end of March 2025 there were 2,005 Children in Need in the city, 3.2% more than the 1,991 recorded at the same time in 2024 but lower than the 2,180 recorded at the same time in 2023. This remains slightly lower than the longer-term average for the city – except for 2020/21 and 2021/22, where figures were likely affected by Covid-19. The number of Children in Need recorded at the end of March each year has been consistently between 2,000 and 2,500 since 2015.

The 2,005 Children in Need in the city in March 2025 equated to 408 per 10,000 children aged under 18, considerably higher than across the South East (297 per 10,000) and England (313 per 10,000).

Children receiving support

At the end of March 2024 there were 759 individuals open to Family Hubs, and 695 supported at the end of March 2025.

There continues to be a steady increase in the number of cases open to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) over the last eight years. At the end of March 2025 there were

³² The [Lancet research article. Hughes et al, 2020. Health determinants of adolescent criminalisation.](#)

³³ [NICE web report - Looked After Children and Young People, October 2021.](#)

³⁴ [Gov.uk webpage: Explore Education Statistics - Children in Need, reporting year 2025.](#)

3,211 open cases, 60% more than at the same time in March 2022 and more than treble the 906 open in March 2018.

At the end of March 2025, 260 children in the city were subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP). This equates to 52 per 10,000 children aged under 18, higher than both the South East (36 per 10,000 children) and England (38 per 10,000)³⁵.

For children in the city on a CPP at the end of March 2025, 61% had initially been assessed as having been subjected to emotional abuse, higher than the South East (34% of children) and England (37% of children). A further 30% of children were initially assessed as abused through neglect in the city, less than in the South East (56%) and England (50%), while 6% were subject to physical abuse and 3% to sexual abuse.

School exclusions

In academic year 2023/24 - the latest for which data is available - there were 376 suspensions or permanent exclusions from state primary schools in the city (99 more than in the previous year), 1,602 from state funded secondary schools (358 more than in 2022/23) and 45 from special schools (39 fewer than in 2022/23). Among these exclusions, fewer than 5 were made permanent.³⁶ The number and rate of suspensions in both state-funded primary school and state-funded secondary schools in academic year 2023/24 were the highest since at least 2012/13.

Examining the reasons for these suspensions (for which up to 3 can be recorded per suspension), persistent disruptive behaviour was the most recorded across state-funded primary and secondary schools, as well as in special schools. In state-funded primary schools this was noted in 151 suspensions (40% of total suspensions), followed in prevalence by physical assault against adults (39% of suspensions) and physical assault against pupils (85, 23% of suspensions). In state-funded secondary schools, verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against an adult was the next most recorded reason for suspension (425, noted in 27% of suspensions) followed by physical assault against a pupil (281, 18% of suspensions); using offensive weapons, drugs/alcohol use, inappropriate social media use, theft and discriminatory bullying also became more prevalent.

Bullying

The 2023 version of the Safe and Well at School Survey highlighted that 20% of pupils at Key Stage 2, 20% at Key Stage 3 and 15% at Key Stage 4 reported being bullied during the current term. For all Key Stages, as shown in **Figure 3**, the rate at which pupils reported being bullied had remained relatively consistent between 2014 and 2021 but increased significantly in the 2023 version. The proportion of Key Stage 2 children reporting being bullied had increased by 5 percentage points in 2023 compared with the previous survey, followed by a 4-percentage point increase for Key Stage 3 pupils and a 6-percentage point increase among Key Stage 4 pupils.

³⁵ [Gov.uk Explore Education Statistics webpage - Child Protection Plans as at 31 March 2025 dataset, Reporting year 2025.](#)

³⁶ [Gov.uk Explore Education Statistics webpage - Suspensions and permanent exclusions in England, academic year 2023/24.](#)

Figure 3 – percentage of pupils reporting having been bullied in the last term, as reported in the Safe and Well at Schools Survey (SAWSS), 2007 to 2023.

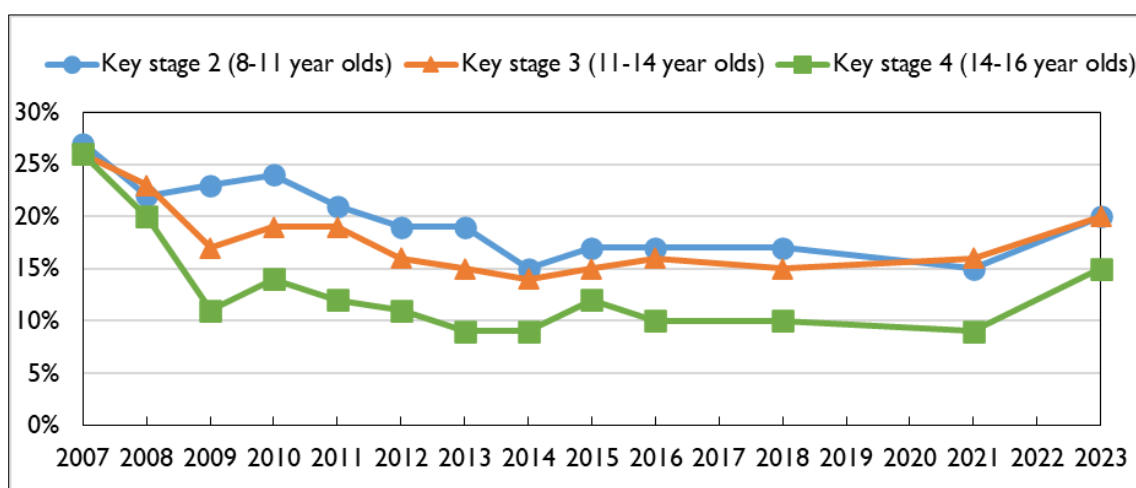
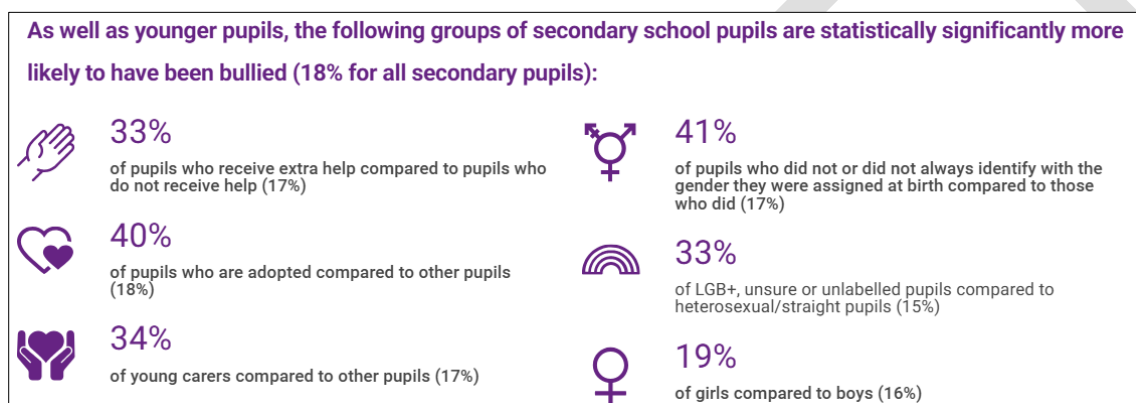


Figure 4 – presentation board of assorted Safe and Well at School survey statistics concerning secondary school pupils.



Participation in education, training and employment

Not being in education, training and employment, as noted earlier in this section, is a risk factor for offending and perpetrating anti-social behaviour. In academic year 2024/25, 6.7% of 16 to 17-year-olds in the city (382 young people) were classified as NEET (not in education, employment or training) or where their activity was not known, compared with 7.0% in the South East and 5.6% in England.³⁷

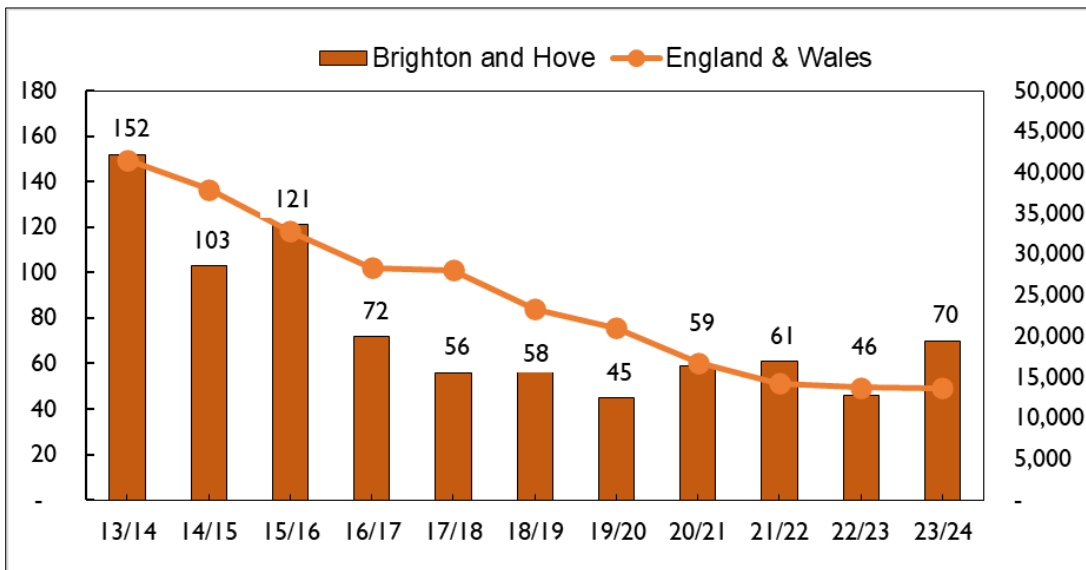
Offending and reoffending in children and young people

According to Ministry of Justice³⁸ figures, 70 children in the city were cautioned or sentenced in 2023/24, significantly more than the 46 recorded the previous year. Numbers had previously fluctuated between 45 and 60 per year, following a decrease from 152 in 2013/14 to 56 in 2016/17, as seen in **Figure 5**.

³⁷ [Department for Education webpage, NEET data by local authority.](#)

³⁸ [Youth justice statistics: 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK](#) – local level pivot tables. Offenders' ages were recorded at the time of the caution or sentence, excluding people who commit an offence before they turn 18, but sentenced after they turn 18.

Figure 5 - number of children cautioned or sentenced by the Youth Justice Service in Brighton & Hove and in England and Wales, by year.

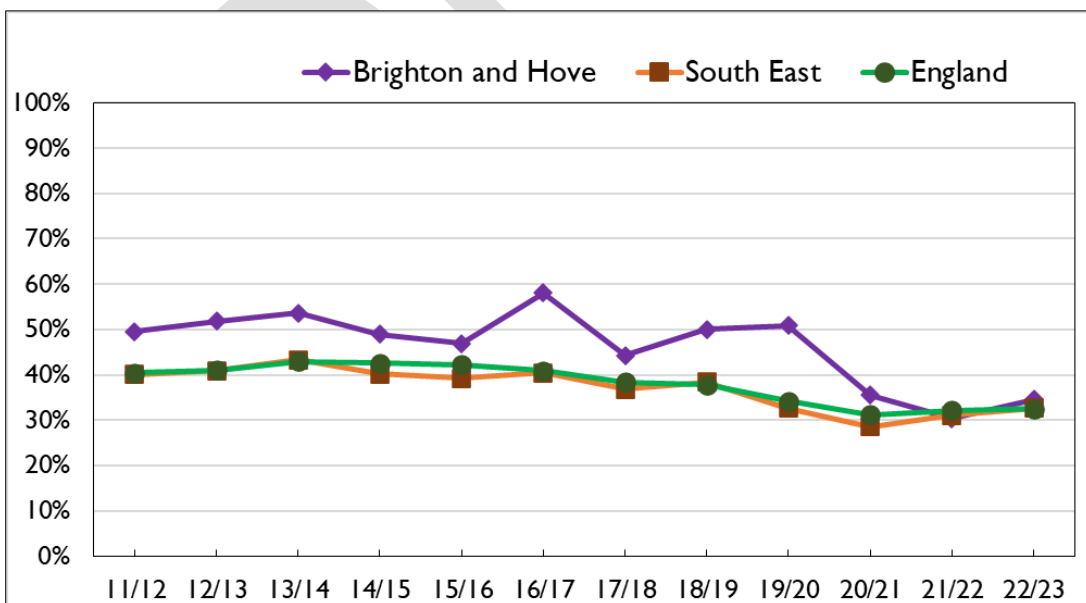


Looking at the demographic characteristics of the 70 young people cautioned or sentenced in 2023/24³⁹:

- 52 (74%) were Boys while 18 (26%) were Girls.
- 55 (79%) were White, and 15 (21%) were of another ethnicity or unknown ethnicity.
- 47 (67%) were young people aged 15 to 17, 23 (33%) were aged between 10 and 14.

In 2022/23, the latest financial year for which data is available, 34.5% of all children who had offended that year had since reoffended. This rate is consistent with the rates of reoffending in the South East and across England and Wales, having previously been consistently higher than the regional and national average, as seen in **Figure 6**.

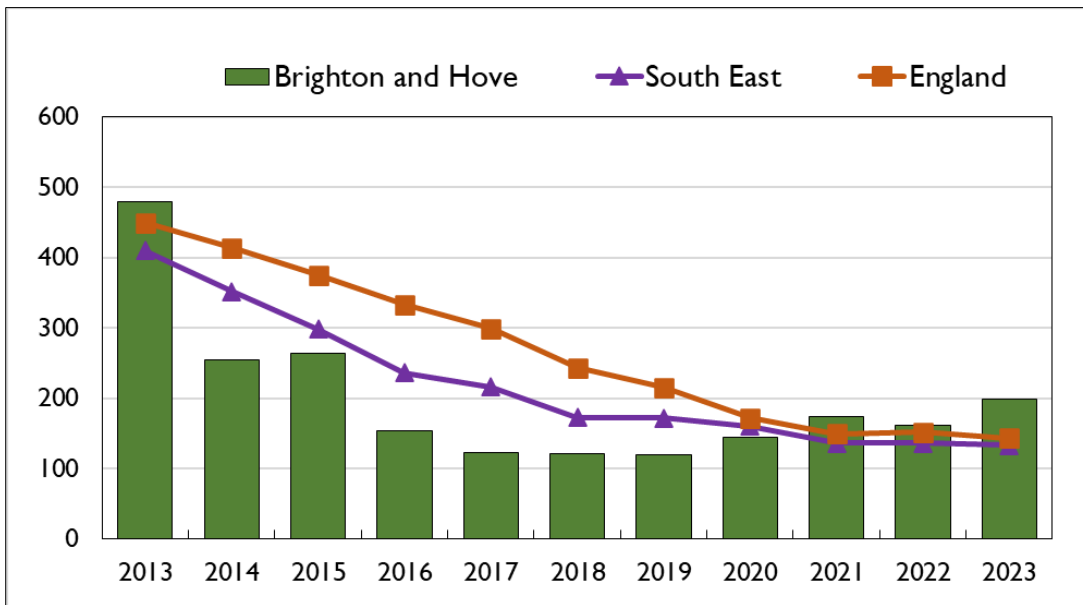
Figure 6- percentage of reoffending among children aged 10-17, by area and by year.



³⁹ [Youth Justice Board for England and Wales statistics webpage: 2023 to 2024.](#)

Ministry of Justice⁴⁰ statistics show 45 children aged between 10 and 17 were recorded as first time entrants to the justice system in calendar year 2023, a rate of 199 per 100,000 children – greater than the average rate of 134 children per 100,000 across the South East and 143 per 100,000 in England, as seen in **Figure 7**. This was higher than the 36 children recorded in 2022, and part of upward trend seen since 2020, following what was a longer-term decline in the number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system.

Figure 7 - rate of first-time entrants (FTEs) to the criminal justice system per 100,000 children aged 10 to 17, by area.



Adults

Risk factors associated with offending in adults

HM Prison and Probation Service listed the following factors which increase the risk that individuals will offend⁴¹.

- unstable accommodation
- a lack of employment
- no positive activities
- poor personal relationships or anti-social peers
- alcohol or drugs misuse
- impulsivity and poor emotional control
- attitudes that support crime

⁴⁰ [Youth justice statistics: 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK](#)

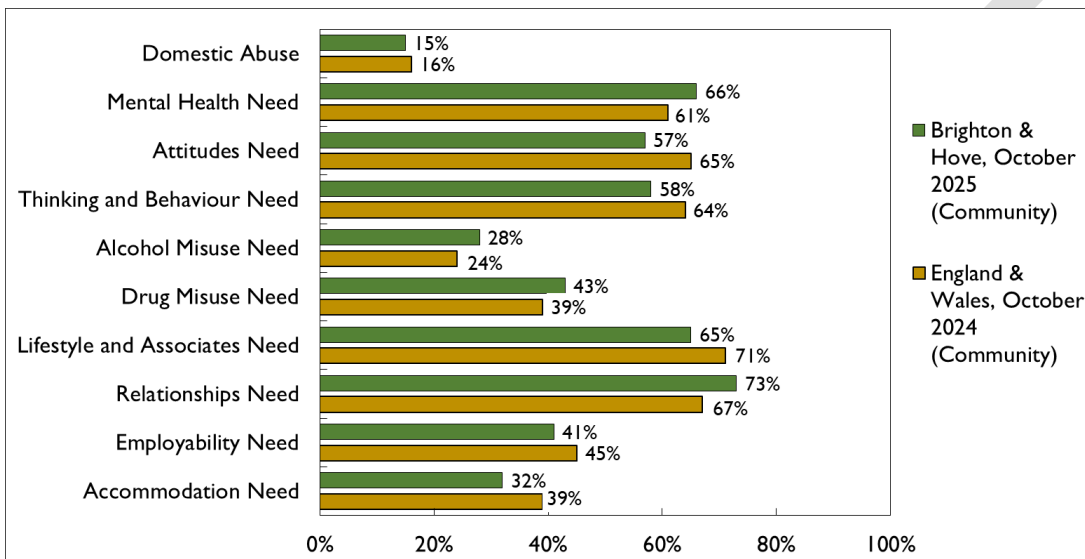
⁴¹ [Ministry of Justice and HM Prison and Probation Service guidance webpage. Offending behaviour programmes and interventions - published 2018, updated 2022.](#)

Identified needs for Brighton & Hove probation caseload

Risk factors which influence behaviour of offenders – known as criminogenic needs - are assessed when anyone enters the probation caseload.

Figure 8 highlights a snapshot taken on 31 October 2024⁴² of the identified needs of offenders. In England and Wales, when identifying the criminogenic needs of offenders in the community, Lifestyle and Associate needs – relationships with criminal peers, risk-taking behaviours and activities which encourage or link to criminal behaviour – was the most common identified need, followed by Attitude needs, Relationships needs and Thinking & Behaviour needs.

Figure 8 - percentage of offenders with assessed criminogenic needs in Brighton & Hove and England & Wales.



Brighton & Hove level data has been obtained locally as of October 2025. The most commonly identified needs for offenders in the community with a Brighton & Hove address were around Relationships, Mental Health and Lifestyle and Associates, with around two-thirds or more of assessed offenders having needs in each of these areas.

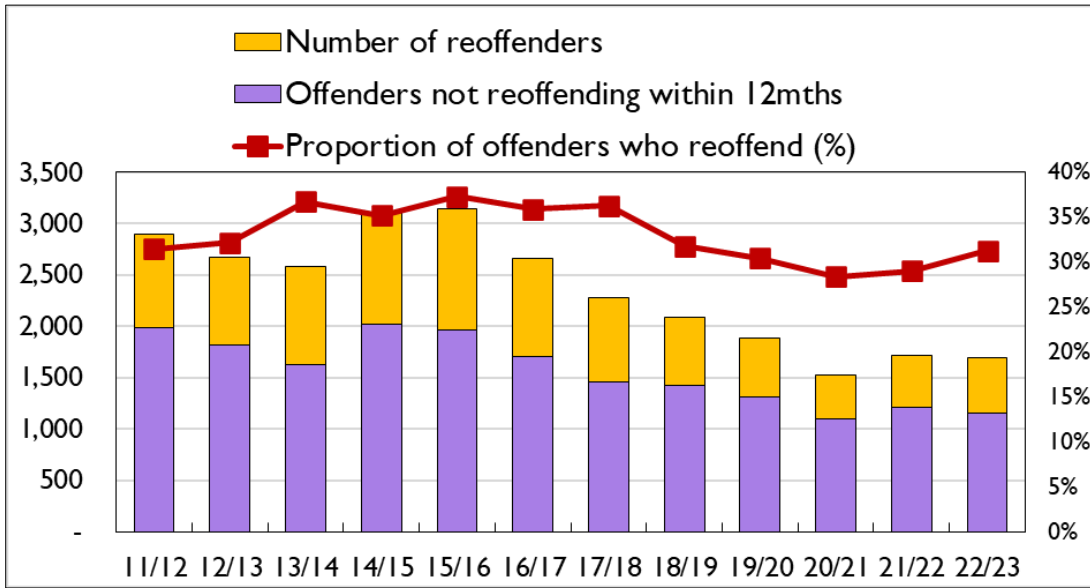
Offenders and reoffending in adults

Ministry of Justice statistics showed there were 1,690 adult offenders in the city in total in 2022/23, 1.4% fewer than in the previous year. In the previous 10 years, the number of adult offenders had increased to 3,143 by 2015/16, before decreasing steadily to 1,532 in 2020/21.

As shown in **Figure 9**, the proportion of offenders in the city who went on to reoffend within 12 months had increased to 37% of all offenders in 2015/16, decreasing to 28% by 2020/21 but increasing to 31% in 2022/23. This remained higher than the reoffending rate for the South East (23.3% in 2022/23) and England and Wales (26% in 2022/23), having remained consistently higher than both since 2012/13.

⁴² [Ministry of Justice webpage - Official Statistics: identified needs of offenders in custody and the community from OASys, published June 2025.](#)

Figure 9 - offenders and offending rates by adults in Brighton and Hove.



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5. Crime and disorder data and trends

Interpreting police recorded crime data – reporting and recording

The extent to which crimes are reported to the police varies greatly, while people's propensity to report may change over time. Under-reporting is particularly relevant for hate crimes, domestic abuse and sexual violence, but also affects many other crime types to varying extents. Data from the Crime Survey of England and Wales for the year ending March 2025 found that 96% of thefts of motor vehicles and 78% of domestic burglaries with loss were reported to the police. Meanwhile, 64% of violent offences with wounding were reported, but only 38% of violence without injury offences and 37% of domestic violence offences were reported. Other crime types that were particularly less likely to be reported to the police include criminal damage offences (40%), theft from person offences (38%) and theft from vehicles offences (35%).⁴³

Additionally, the interpretation of crime trends can be complicated by changes to police recording over time. This can be due to the definitions of crime changing, or to changes to the practice of police recording. Following a national audit in 2013⁴⁴ of data integrity in police recorded crime, many police forces, including Sussex Police, improved their recording processes. This led to increased numbers of crimes being recorded, particularly in violent crime types. However, a 2021/22 inspection rated Sussex Police as inadequate at recording crime. The most recent inspection in July 2025 acknowledged improvements made over this time period and rated the force as adequate in this area, whilst identifying that further work is needed on the recording of anti-social behaviour incidents and rape offences⁴⁵.

Volume

There were 30,342 crimes recorded by the police in Brighton & Hove in 2024/25. This was 4.2% higher than in the previous year and the fourth consecutive year in which total crimes increased in the city, following the sharp decrease in recorded crime in 2020/21 during the Covid-19 pandemic.

As **Figure 10** shows, the trend in recorded crime since 2012/13 in the city largely mirrored the trends in recorded crime across England and Wales as a whole (both including and excluding computer offences and fraud) up until 2022/23. However, in the past two years, total crime in Brighton & Hove has increased by 6.2%, compared with a decrease of 4.8% in England and Wales (excluding fraud and computer misuse). Total crimes recorded in the city in 2024/25 were the highest seen over this period.

⁴³ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Crime Survey for England and Wales supplementary tables, year ending March 2025.](#)

⁴⁴ [Crime data integrity force reports - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.](#)

⁴⁵ [Sussex PEEL Assessment 2023–2025 - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.](#)

Figure 10 - police-recorded crime in Brighton & Hove and England & Wales, 2013/14 to 2024/25.

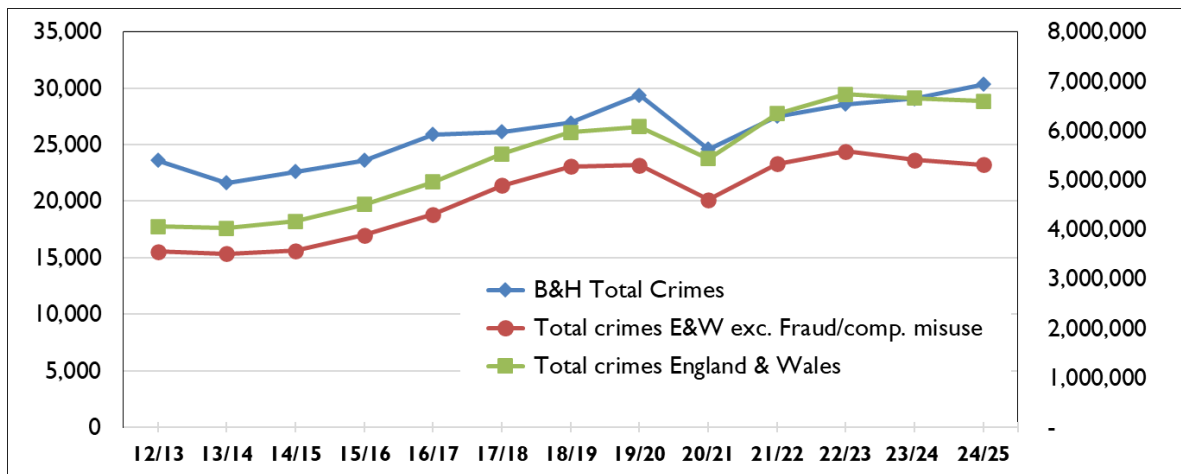
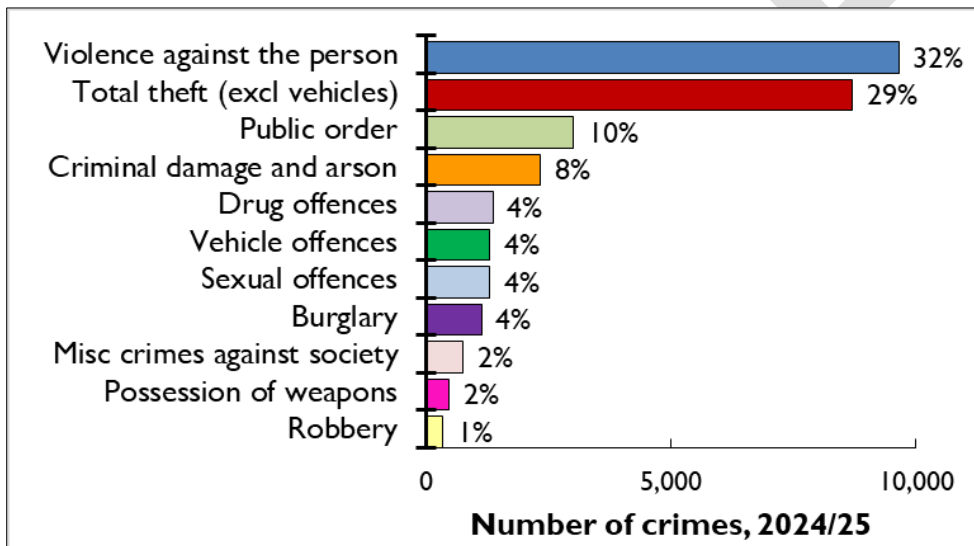


Figure 11 shows the different crime groups making up the total crime recorded in the city in 2024/25. Over the year, 32% of recorded crimes can be classified as violence against the person crimes, 29% total theft offences, 10% public order offences and 8% criminal damage/arson.

Figure 11 – police-recorded crime in Brighton & Hove by crime group, 2024/25.

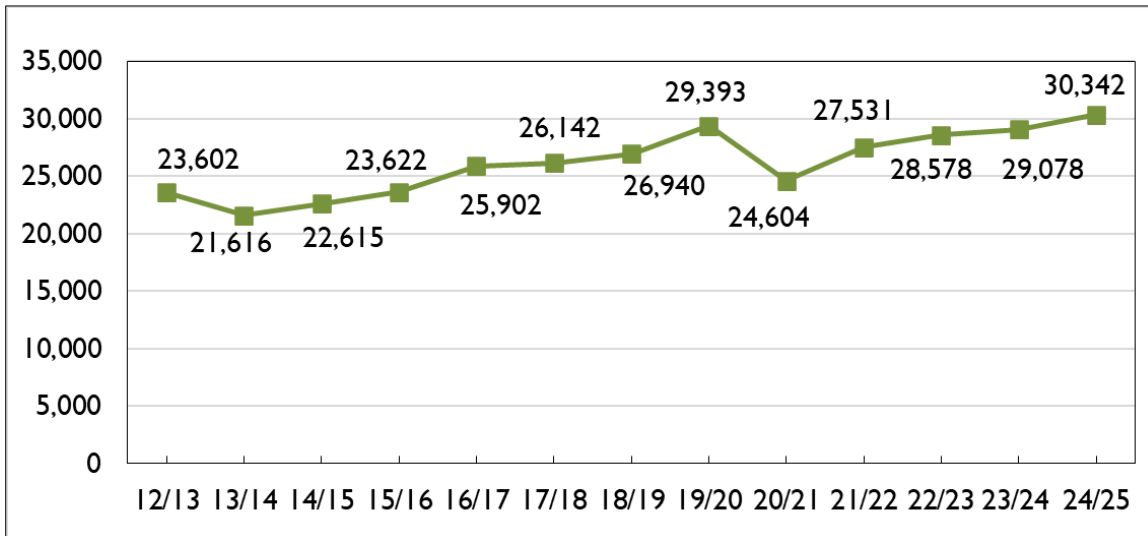


Compared with the previous two years, theft offences made up a larger proportion of total crimes in the city in 2024/25 (28.7% of crimes in 2024/25, 24.5% in 2022/23), as did drug offences (4.5% of crimes in 2024/25, 3.2% in 2022/23). **Appendix C: Crime statistics** provides more detail on the numbers of each crime type recorded by the police in 2024/25 and how this compares with the previous year.

Trends to 2024/25

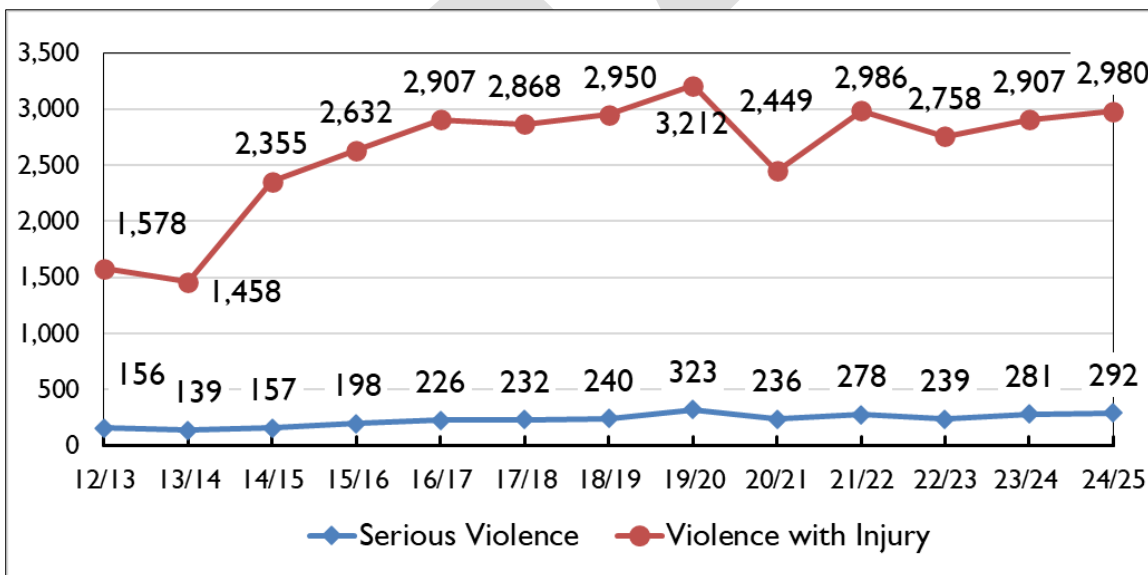
Figure 12 shows the long-term trend in police recorded crime data in Brighton & Hove between 2012/13 and 2024/25, sorted by various crime groups.

Figure 12 - trends in police recorded crimes in Brighton and Hove from 2012/13 to 2024/25.



Total crimes in the city since 2013/14 had seen a steadily increasing trend before dropping sharply in 2020/21, following restrictions put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic. Since 2021/22, recorded total crimes rose steadily – in 2024/25, the 30,342 crimes recorded were greater than the previous high in 2019/20 and a 4.2% increase since 2023/24.

Figure 13 – trends in violent crimes in Brighton and Hove between 2012/13 and 2024/25.

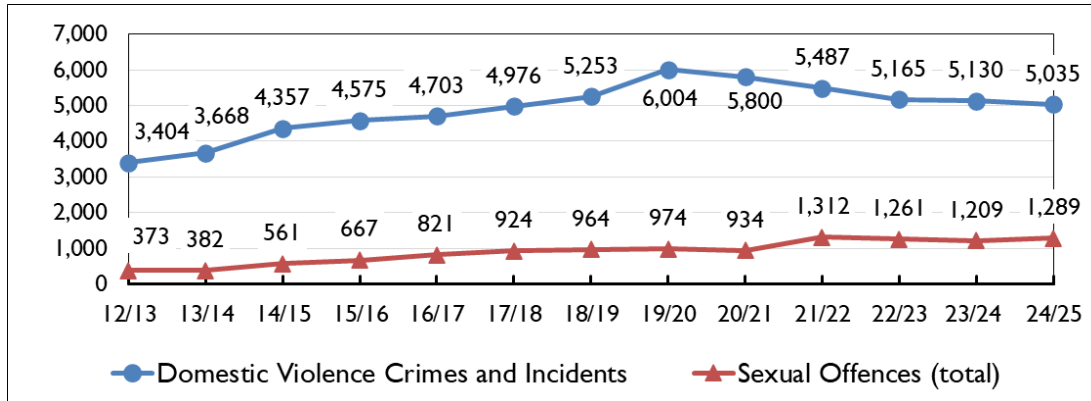


Trends in recorded violent crime in the city, as seen in **Figure 13**, have been similar to that of total crime. Since 2016/17, changes to recording practices were influenced by the Sussex Police response to an audit by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (now the HMICFRS)⁴⁶ and

⁴⁶ [His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire & Rescue Services \(HMICFRS\) webpage - Sussex Police Crime Data Integrity inspection 2016 Report.](#)

an updated assessment in 2023⁴⁷. Accident and Emergency data on the number of patients attending hospital in Brighton & Hove due to assault, however, has not seen such an increase since the lifting of Covid-19 related restrictions. Following a sharp increase in 2021/22, the number of patients attending due to assault have decreased in each following year.

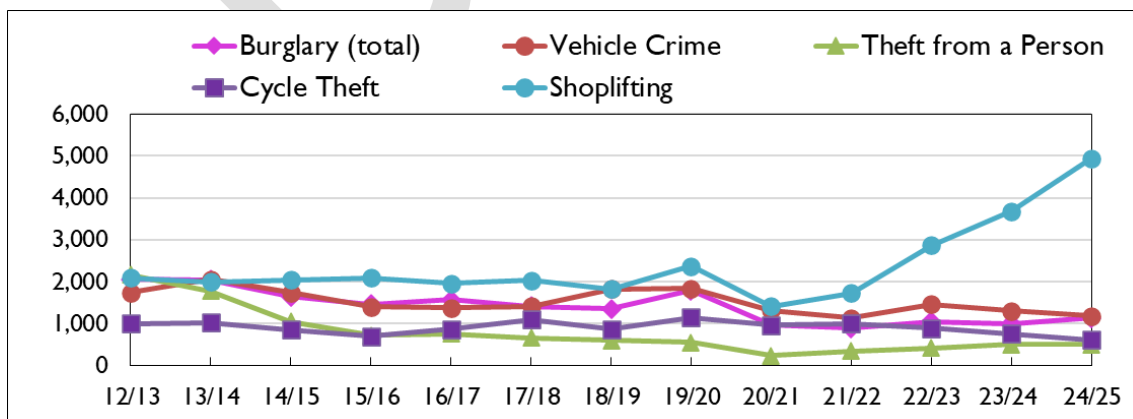
Figure 14 – trends in domestic violence and sexual offences in Brighton and Hove between 2012/13 and 2024/25.



Domestic violence and abuse crimes and incidents have continued to follow the trend seen in violent crimes, given domestic violence crimes and incidents are often recorded by police as violent in nature. Following a long-term high in recorded offences in 2019/20, domestic crimes and incidents decreased by a lesser degree than other crime groups but have continued to either decrease or remain stable since 2020/21, as seen in **Figure 14**. More information about changes to police recording of domestic violence and abuse crimes can be found in **Section 8**.

By contrast, sexual offences did not experience a decrease similar in magnitude to other crimes during 2020/21 and have remained consistently higher than the long-term average since 2021/22. Contributing to the steady longer-term increasing trend have been changes to police recording practices⁴⁸, alongside a change in public readiness to report these crimes. Despite this, both domestic and sexual violence offences continue to be under-reported crime types and remain far more prevalent than recorded crime figures suggest. Agencies from across the Community Safety Partnership continue to highlight that fear of not being believed is a key barrier to survivors reporting or seeking help.

Figure 15 - trends in assorted acquisitive crimes in Brighton and Hove, 2012/13 to 2024/25.



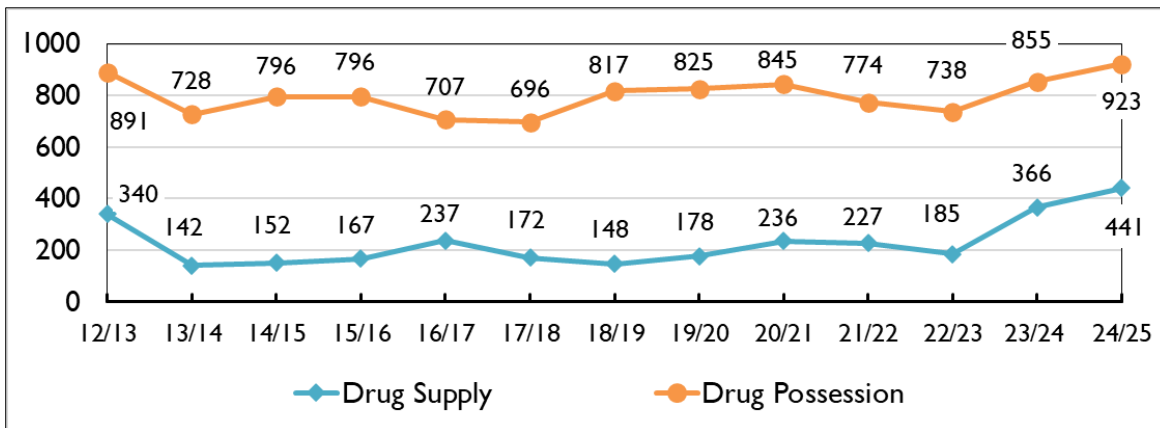
⁴⁷ [HMICFRS webpage - PEEL report for Sussex Police 2021/22.](#)

⁴⁸ [HMICFRS Report 2014 - Making the Victim Count - PDF.](#)

Police recorded acquisitive crimes had generally seen a downward trend in the city until around 2015/16, as seen in **Figure 15**. From then - excluding theft from the person crimes - most acquisitive crime groups began increasing until 2019/20, before falling sharply in 2020/21 during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

Since 2020/21, most categories of acquisitive crime such as burglary and cycle theft have either remained at significantly lower levels or have increased slowly, remaining at recorded numbers well below those immediately before the pandemic. One notable exception to this is recorded shoplifting, which has increased by 187% since 2021/22 and by 34% in the last year.

Figure 16 - trends in drug offences in Brighton and Hove between 2012/13 and 2024/25.



Police recorded drug possession and drug supply offences had fluctuated since 2012/13 with no clear patterns or trends until 2023/24, from which time both crimes have increased significantly. This is seen in more detail in **Figure 16**. The number of police recorded drug offences are often influenced by specific police operations in this area.

Police recorded criminal damage and arson offences had remained stable in number – including during the pandemic-related lockdowns in 2020/21 – and have since decreased steadily in number in each following year, as seen in **Figure 17**.

Figure 17 - trends in criminal damage and arson offences in Brighton and Hove between 2012/13 and 2024/25.

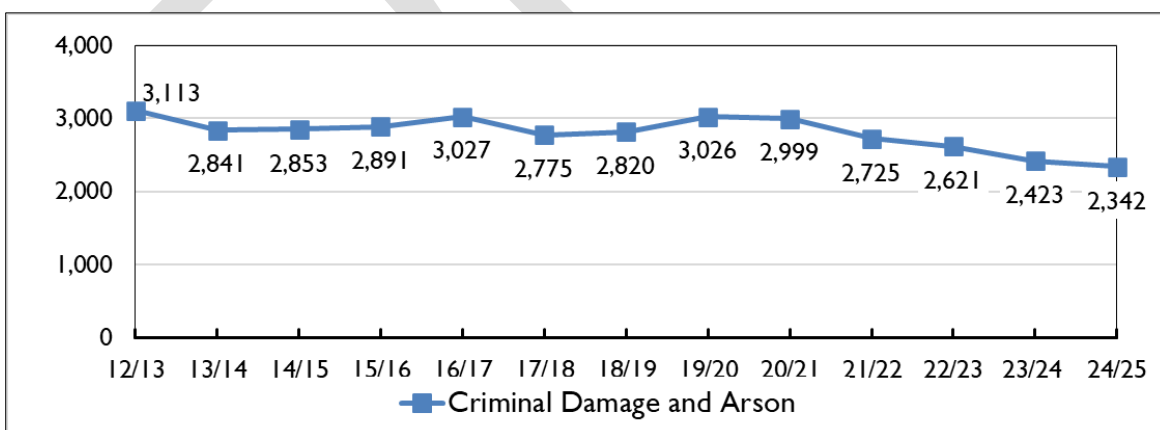


Figure 18 compares police recorded crimes in 2019/20 – the full year immediately before restrictions were placed on residents due to the Covid-19 pandemic - and 2024/25, the latest full year. Total recorded crimes were 3.2% higher in 2024/25, a long-term high; previously, 2019/20 had seen the most crimes recorded in recent history. Some crimes have decreased noticeably since 2019/20, including recorded burglaries (37% fewer), vehicle-related thefts and interference

(35% fewer) and robbery (27% fewer). However, compared with 2019/20, drug offences were higher (36% greater), as were recorded sexual offences (32% greater) and non-vehicle-related theft (19% greater).

Figure 18 - percentage changes in key crime types between 2019/20 and 2024/25.

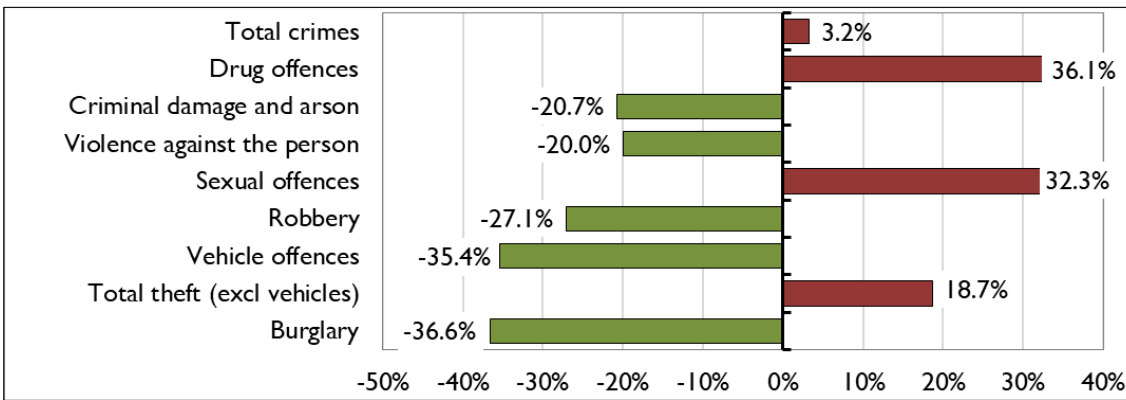
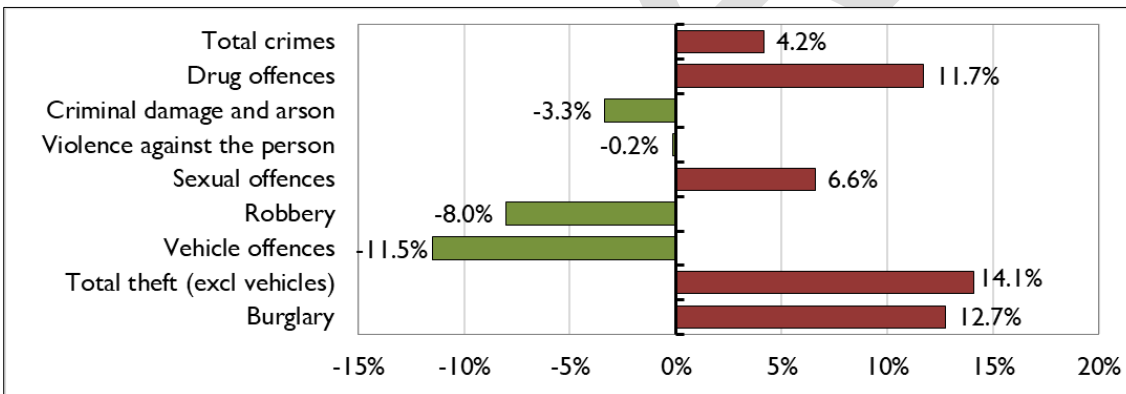


Figure 19 shows the percentage changes in the last year for the same major crime types, between 2023/24 and 2024/25. This shows a 4.2% increase in total crime, a 14% increase in non-vehicle-related theft, as well as increases in burglary (13%) and drug offences (12%). There were reductions seen in other crime types such as vehicle-related theft or interference offences (12% fewer), robbery (8% fewer) and criminal damage and arson (3% fewer). It is important to note that changes in recording practices and targeted campaigns and operations are likely to affect the number of recorded crimes and therefore trends should be interpreted with continued caution.

Figure 19 - percentage changes in key crime types between 2023/24 and 2024/25.



Police recorded crime data on different topics is discussed further in the thematic sections of this report, starting at **Section 7**.

6. Impact of crime and disorder

Feeling safe

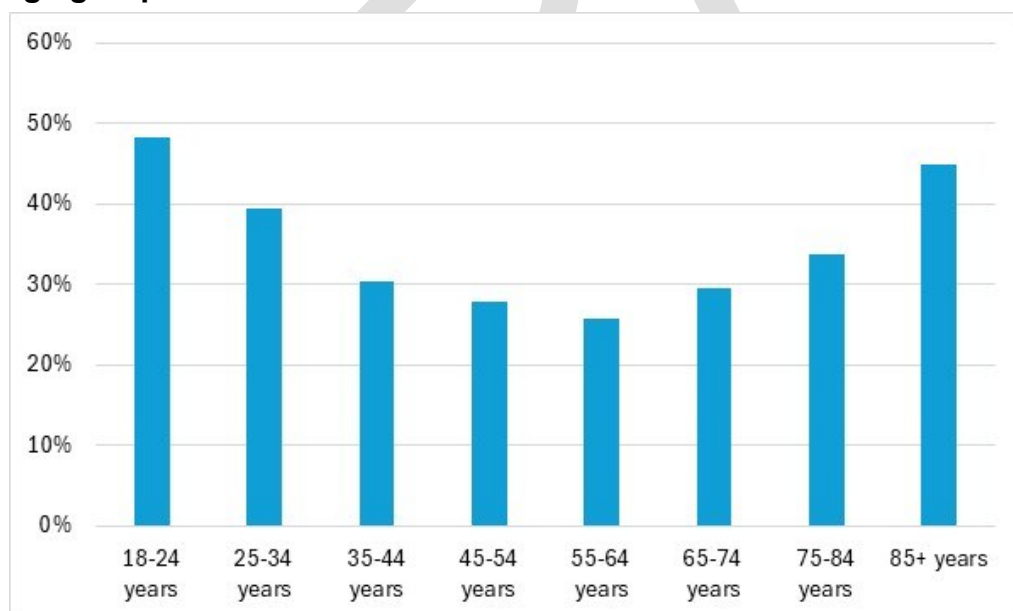
Adults

Health Counts⁶ is a health and wellbeing survey of Brighton and Hove adult residents conducted around once a decade. Health Counts 2024 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including around feelings of safety. It provides important evidence of inequalities in parts of the city and faced by particular groups. There were 16,729 respondents and results were weighted for age, gender and deprivation to account for differences in response rate.

Health Counts asked how safe respondents feel walking alone in their local area within approximately 15 minutes from their home, both during the day and at night. During the day, 96% of respondents report feeling safe in their local area (71% felt very safe, 25% felt fairly safe), with 4% reporting feeling unsafe (3% felt a bit unsafe, 1% felt very unsafe). At night, this drops to 65% of respondents who report feeling safe walking alone in their local area (21% felt very safe, 44% felt fairly safe) with 34% feeling unsafe (26% a bit unsafe, 8% very unsafe).

This question changed in Health Counts 2024 compared to the Brighton & Hove City Tracker survey 2018. The option for "neither safe nor unsafe" was removed, and the option for "fairly unsafe" was replaced with "a bit unsafe" to match the ONS survey. Feelings of safety during the daytime have changed little since 2018 but fewer respondents feel very safe at night in 2024 compared to 2018 (A fall from 36% to 21%) and more very unsafe (an increase from 3% to 8%).

Figure 20 - percentage of people feeling unsafe walking alone in their local area at night, by age group.



However, some groups within the local population feel less safe than others. Around a third of all respondents felt very or a bit unsafe walking alone at night. The following groups were more likely to feel unsafe:

- Younger adults (aged 18-24 years and 25-34 years), as well as respondents aged 85 years and over (see **Figure 20**).

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- Women (48%), Trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI) (41%) respondents compared with 19% of men.
- Disabled adults (48%); However, this difference was particularly marked amongst some groups with long-term physical or mental health conditions, such as respondents with speech and language conditions (78%), developmental conditions (67%), a visible difference with a disabling and/or discriminatory impact (62%), or a learning disability (61%).
- There was no significant difference in feelings of safety for most ethnic groups, however Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller respondents were significantly more likely to feel very or a bit unsafe at night (61%).
- Those living in temporary or emergency accommodation (60%).
- Those with experience of the care system as a child/ young person (45%).
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer and other non-heterosexual sexual orientation (LGBQ+) adults (40%).
- Respondents who live in the most deprived areas of the city are significantly more likely to report feeling very or a bit unsafe walking alone in their local area at night compared with all respondents (48% living in the most deprived quintile according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation).

The maps in **Figure 21** and **Figure 22** show that those living in Moulsecoomb and Bevendean, Queen's Park, Kemptown, and Whitehawk and Marina wards were all significantly more likely to feel unsafe walking alone in their local area both during the day and at night, compared with respondents as a whole.

Figure 21 – proportion of respondents to the 2024 Health Counts Survey feeling unsafe walking in their local area during the day, by ward.

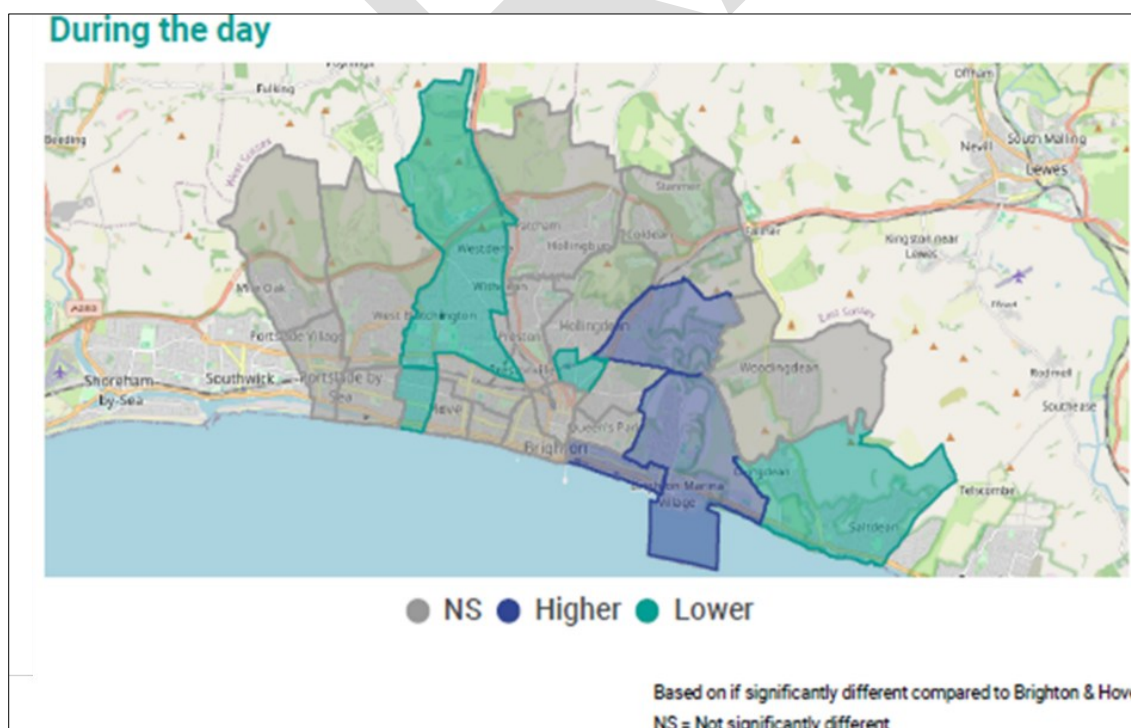
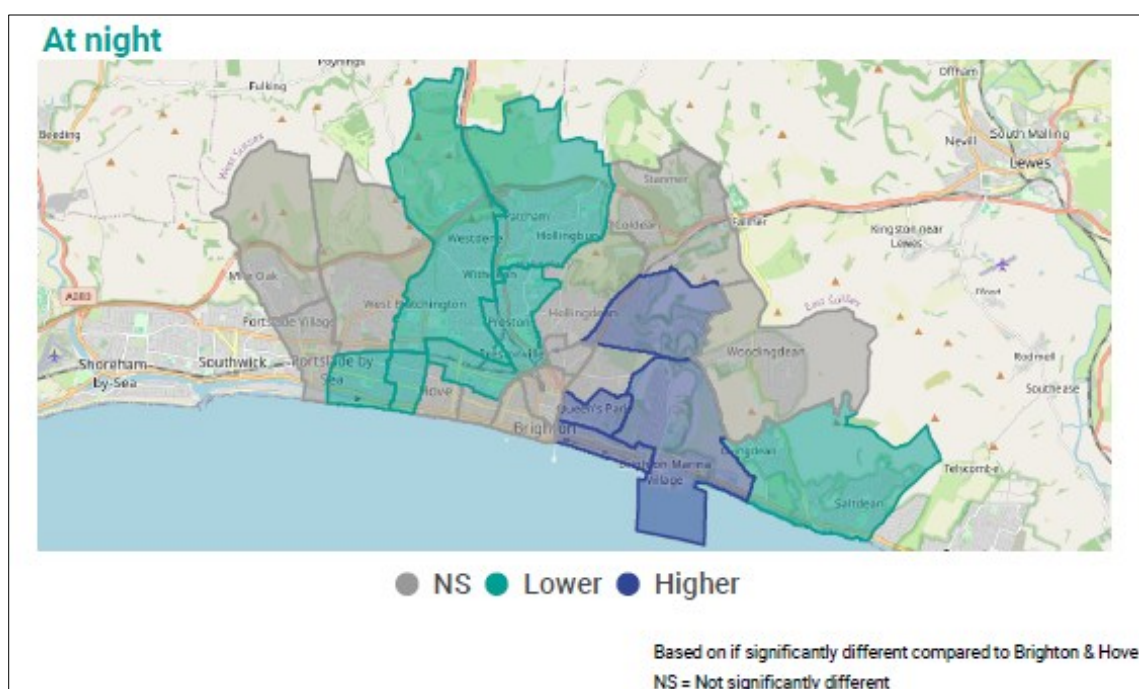


Figure 22 - proportion of respondents to the 2024 Health Counts Survey feeling unsafe walking in their local area at night, by ward.



Children

Data around how safe school pupils felt at school continues to be collected in the city’s Safe and Well at School Survey (SAWSS)⁴⁹. When at school, 90% of children in Key Stage 2 (ages 8 to 11) agreed that they felt safe at school, compared with 70% of children in Key Stage 3 (ages 11 to 14), and 71% in Key Stage 4 (ages 15 to 16).

The proportion of children in the city saying they felt safe at school has followed a downward trend since 2014. For children in Key Stage 2, this proportion has remained relatively consistent around 90% since 2015, having decreased from 94% in 2014. However, in Key Stage 3 this proportion has fallen steadily in each survey since 2014 (91%), including an especially significant decrease between the 2021 survey (78%) and the 2023 survey (70%). A similar pattern followed for children in Key Stage 4, falling in each iteration of the survey from 91% feeling safe at school in 2014 to 2021 (77%) and 2023 (71%).

| % who strongly agree or agree with the statement “I feel safe at school” | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2018 | 2021 | 2023 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------|
| KS2 ages 8 to 11 years | 94% | 94% | 94% | 91% | 90% | 89% | 92% | 90% |
| KS3 ages 11 to 14 years | 88% | 89% | 91% | 88% | 84% | 82% | 78% | 70% |
| KS4 ages 14 to 16 years | 88% | 89% | 90% | 86% | 82% | 82% | 76% | 71% |
| All secondary – ages 11 to 16 years | 88% | 89% | 91% | 87% | 84% | 82% | 77% | 71% |

⁴⁹ [Infogram webpage - Brighton & Hove City Council - Safe & Well at School Survey 2023.](#)

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In 2023, the following groups of secondary school pupils (Key Stages 3 and 4) were statistically significantly less likely to agree or strongly agree with the statement “I feel safe at school” (compared with 71% for all pupils):

- Black and racially minoritised students (68%) compared with White British students (72%).
- Students who were LGB+, unlabelled or unsure of their sexuality (58%) compared with heterosexual / straight students (74%).
- Students who did not or did not always identify with the gender they were given at birth (50%) compared with those who always did (72%).
- Girls (68%) compared with boys (75%).
- Young carers (52%) compared with those who are not young carers (72%).
- Students experiencing the highest levels of financial hardship (65%) compared with those in the middle and lower financial hardship groups (72%).
- Students who are care-experienced or living with Kinship Carers (60%) compared with those not care-experienced (71%).
- Students receiving extra help in school (57%) compared with those not receiving extra help (72%).

The survey also asks pupils whether they felt safe when travelling to and from school, as well as when they were in their own neighbourhood alone or with friends. In the 2023 survey, 86% of Key Stage 2 pupils and 91% of secondary aged children strongly agreed or agreed that they felt safe travelling to school and back, both similar to the 2021 survey.

These proportions decreased slightly when asking whether children felt safe when alone or with friends in their own neighbourhood, with 79% of Key Stage 2 pupils and 87% of secondary school aged children reported feeling safe, the same as in the 2021 version of the survey.

| % who strongly agree or agree with the statement “I feel safe travelling to school and back alone or with friends” | 2023 |
|---|-------------|
| KS2 – ages 8-11 years | 86% |
| KS3 – ages 11-14 years | 91% |
| KS4 – ages 14-16 years | 90% |
| All secondary – ages 11-16 years | 91% |

| % who strongly agree or agree with the statement “I feel safe in my neighbourhood alone or with friends” | 2023 |
|---|-------------|
| KS2 – ages 8-11 years | 79% |
| KS3 – ages 11-14 years | 89% |
| KS4 – ages 14-16 years | 85% |
| All secondary – ages 11-16 years | 87% |

Sussex-wide consultation (adults and children)

The Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (SPCC) ran its annual Talk Sussex survey between September and October 2024, asking residents about their main concerns around crime and anti-social behaviour. The most common concerns raised were anti-social behaviour (31% of respondents), violence against women and girls (21%) and county lines-related crime (12%). When asked what would assure them that crime was being effectively tackled in Sussex, 36% of Brighton & Hove residents rated having visible police officers and PCSOs as the most important

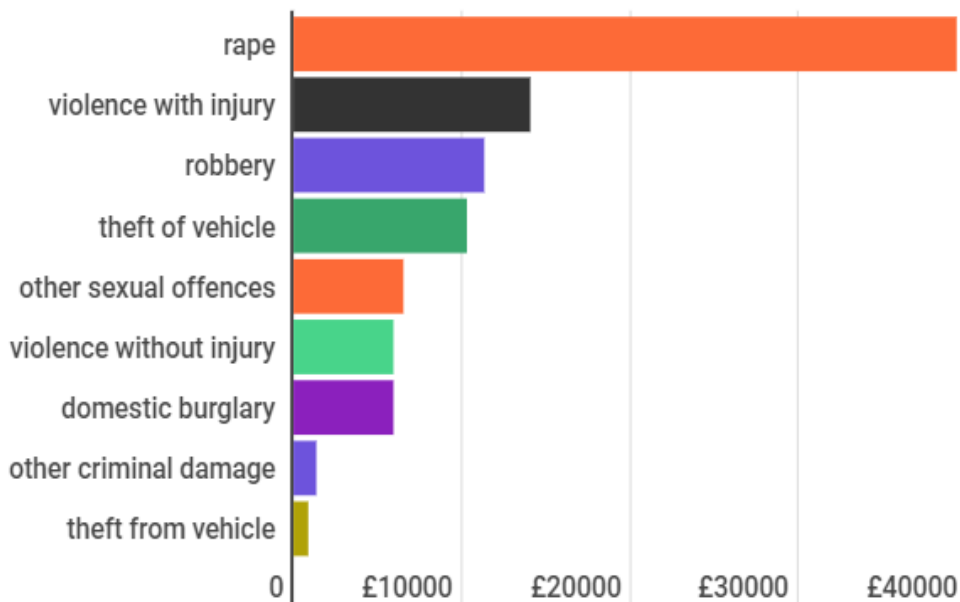
action, followed by improved police engagement (18%) and a stronger focus on the safety of women and girls (17%).

Community feedback collated by the SPCC from residents of Brighton and Hove throughout 2024 highlighted shoplifting as an important issue, including noting the reluctance of businesses to report crimes due to concern that crimes would not be solved. Further common concerns raised by city residents included fear around walking or being alone at night in some public spaces and on public transport – especially for women and girls – due to street drinking, drugs, antisocial behaviour and other safety concerns. Frequently raised suggestions included improvements to street lighting, CCTV and dedicated safe spaces as a way of improving safety for children and young people.

Cost of crime

The financial impact of crime is significant to both victims and to society as a whole. A Home Office report estimated the financial costs attributable to crimes both to individual people or households and to businesses⁵⁰. **Figure 23** provides estimates of the ‘whole system’ costs of personal/domestic crimes - recognising that estimated costs of a crime to businesses are often higher - which take into account direct costs of loss from the crime itself, costs of anticipating crime and costs of responding to crime. The latest available estimate (2015/16) of the cost of a single homicide was £3.2m, and the next most costly was rape at £39,000, followed by violence with injury at £14,000. Whilst more up to date estimates are not available, we can anticipate that these costs will now be even greater, accounting for inflation.

Figure 23 - Estimated cost of a single ‘personal/domestic’ crime, 2015/16, £.



⁵⁰ [Home Office webpage - 'Research Report 2018 - The Economic Costs of Crime.'](#) Based on costs in 2015/16.

7. Serious violence, drugs and exploitation

Introduction

Serious violence, drugs and exploitation pose a significant threat to public safety through the harm experienced by individuals, families and communities. Violence is often linked to the criminal exploitation of vulnerable individuals by organised networks involved in the drug trade. Homicide, while a relatively low-volume offence, disproportionately affects people of Black ethnicity, and teenage victims are far more likely than victims of all ages to be killed by a knife or a sharp instrument⁵¹.

Factors that contribute to or drive violence are complex and multi-faceted. Repeat offending, in both adults and young people, can be characterised by multiple risk factors, which include school non-attendance, susceptibility to criminal influence, a history of childhood behavioural problems, substance use and accommodation issues^{52,53}. Perpetrators of violent crime are also disproportionately concentrated in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

Online platforms introduce further complexity to these crimes, with an independent review highlighting significant vulnerabilities in the sale and delivery of knives, such as weak age verification. These vulnerabilities also include the rise of a grey market on social media and challenges in policing imports from abroad⁵⁴. Additionally, the systems meant to protect children and young people from violence are complex and hard to access, influencing how effective they can be^{55,56}.

Schools play an important role in safeguarding children at risk of involvement in serious violence and exploitation, but safeguarding leads report challenges in accessing timely support for those at risk⁵⁷. Referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for the criminal exploitation of children and young people have increased by 45% since 2021 nationally⁵⁸. To highlight the challenges faced by systems, the Jay Review states that exploited children are often treated as criminals rather than victims.

Protective factors against exploitation, drugs and involvement in violence centre on strong, supportive systems and relationships. Effective, trusted key workers can act as a crucial bridge

⁵¹ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Homicide in England and Wales, year ending March 2024.](#)

⁵² [Ministry of Justice webpage - Research Report, 2025 - A Profile of Repeat Offending by Children and Young People in England and Wales.](#)

⁵³ [Ministry of Justice webpage - Research Report, 2025, Criminogenic needs of prolific offenders.](#)

⁵⁴ [Home Office webpage - Independent Report, 2025 - Independent end-to-end review of online knife sales.](#)

⁵⁵ [Youth Endowment Fund webpage - Research Report - Tindle et al, 2023. Serious Violence - foundational system mapping.](#)

⁵⁶ [Department for Education webpage - Open Innovation Team research and analysis report 2023 - The role of systems of support in serious youth violence: evidence and gaps](#)

⁵⁷ [Youth Endowment Fund Report. Griffiths et al, 2025. Safeguarding, Education and Serious Youth Violence in England and Wales - PDF.](#)

⁵⁸ [Action for Children webpage. Policy report, 2024. Shattered lives, stolen futures: The Jay Review of Criminally Exploited Children.](#)

between young people and complex support systems, empowering them to shape their own journey away from violence⁵⁹. A public health approach to tackling violence looks at violence not as isolated incidents or solely a police enforcement problem, but instead as a preventable consequence of a range of factors, such as adverse childhood experiences or harmful social or community experiences and influences⁶⁰. A multi-agency approach that brings together statutory services, the criminal justice system and community and voluntary resources, is vital to addressing violence, exploitation and drug-related harm holistically.

Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) aim to prevent and reduce serious violence, particularly among young people aged 24 and under, by adopting a whole-systems approach⁶¹. The new Young Futures programme seeks to identify and support young people most at risk of being drawn in to violence crime, with Prevention Panels and Young Futures Hubs which will be implemented during the lifetime of this strategy.

National and local context

The 2018 Home Office Serious Violence Strategy introduced Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) in the areas most impacted by serious violent crime and aimed to promote a public health approach to addressing serious violence. Sussex's version of a VRU is the Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership, under which sit 'spokes' for Brighton & Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex. The Brighton & Hove 'spoke' (BHVRP) is responsible for commissioning interventions that best tackle the serious violent crime risks, vulnerabilities and indicators set out in the Sussex VRP's Strategic Needs Assessment for Serious Violent Crime.

The BHVRP has been in operation since 2019 and funds a range of interventions including detached youthwork, a navigator programme at the Children's A&E department and sports-based diversion and mentoring. The BHVRP has also undertaken work to elevate the voices of young people and communities most impacted by serious violence.

The Serious Violence Duty came into force in early 2023. This conferred further responsibilities on certain public sector 'specified authorities' (including Local Authorities) to work together to reduce serious violent crime. This came along with some transitional funding to support the implementation of the duty, which in Brighton & Hove was used to support improvements to community engagement with children and young people locally.

The upcoming Crime and Policing Bill (expected to come in to force in 2026) will focus on tackling serious violence, child sexual abuse and violence against women and girls, as well as protecting the public and town centres from antisocial behaviour, retail crime and shop theft. The bill is anticipated to introduce new offences relating to assaults on retail workers, child criminal exploitation and cuckooing, as well as legal penalties for online platforms that sell knives without sufficient safeguards. The partnership is monitoring the bill as it progresses to understand what impacts or opportunities this will present to the local provision.

⁵⁹ [Department for Education publication, PDF. Crest Advisory - The role of key workers in supporting children and young people with experience of serious youth violence, February 2025.](#)

⁶⁰ [Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Strategy Document, PDF. Violence Reduction Partnership: Serious Violence Strategy 2023.](#)

⁶¹ [Home office webpage - Research and analysis: Violence Reduction Unit, year ending March 2024 evaluation report.](#)

The Government has announced a Young Futures Programme to address the needs of vulnerable young people who are at risk of being drawn into gangs, violence or knife crime. This will involve Young Futures Prevention Partnerships, that will operate over Police Force area level and will sit within the existing structure of the Sussex VRP locally. This programme is introducing Prevention Panels aimed at identifying and supporting children and young people with indicators of risk, operating at Local Authority area level. West Sussex are piloting a Prevention Panel for the Sussex VRP and will be operational from October 2025. This pilot will run until April 2027, though it is anticipated that Brighton & Hove City Council and East Sussex may be required to implement their own local panels before then. The government has also announced Young Futures Hubs to help create opportunity for all and keep our streets safe. They will bring together vital local services in the local community, providing support ranging from well-being and mental health to careers advice.

The governments' 'From Harm to Hope' 10-year drug strategy has been in place since 2021, with strategic priorities on breaking drug supply chains, delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system, and achieving a generational shift in demand for drugs⁶². Where appropriate these priorities are aligned actions, set out in our current Violence and Exploitation Reduction Action Plan (VERAP), particularly those focused on preventing exploitation and supporting those who have been exploited.

Brighton & Hove City Council published a [Complex Adolescent Strategy](#) in 2020 which was refreshed for April 2023. This is overseen by the city's Strategic Adolescent Partnership Board. This and the Brighton & Hove Youth Justice which it underpins, are aligned with this strategy area and the relevant action plans.

Sussex Police continues to develop their response to all forms of exploitation including an internal strategy with action plans related to child exploitation, county lines, modern slavery, human trafficking, organised immigration crime and serious violence with a key focus on recognising vulnerability before criminality. A specialist Exploitation Team has been in place since 2022 to support this area of work.

Following a successful joint bid to the Home Office along with colleagues in East Sussex, Brighton and Hove City Council has since early 2023 had a local decision-making panel for potential child victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking who have entered the National Referral Mechanism. This is a pilot scheme which is anticipated to eventually become a statutory requirement. The local meeting is chaired by the Head of Adolescent Services and has led to swifter and more robust decision making.

The Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Operation Cuckoo meeting continues to develop its local practice in identifying and supporting victims and disrupting perpetrators. The meeting is developing a process to address repeat enablers and perpetrators of cuckooing. Work is underway by Sussex Police's Exploitation Team to map the tools and powers available, and what terms could be imposed with them to disrupt perpetrators.

Following recommendations from a number of Adult Safeguarding Reviews, Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) has been developing its approach to key transitional moments for vulnerable young people, to better ensure continuity of care and early identification and intervention of

⁶² [HM Government webpage. Policy paper - From harm to hope: a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives, published December 2021.](#)

potential risks. This work has been led at Director level within Adult Social Care under the Transitions to Adulthood programme, with multiagency input and buy-in. As part of this work a Multi-Agency Risk Management (MARM) meeting has been operational since early 2025, which provides a forum to discuss individuals with Multiple and Compound Needs (MCN) for whom the existing multi-agency arrangements are struggling to appropriately address their complexity of risk and needs. A wider Transitions Strategy that will underpin this area of work is due to be published by Brighton and Hove City Council in 2026, including a dedicated Transitional Safeguarding Protocol that will establish the agreed local pathways and thresholds for meeting the needs of children and young people nearing adulthood, who may require support over this transition point and beyond.

Digital platforms increasingly shape how individuals and communities communicate but can also impact the way in which individuals are targeted, exploited, or harmed. Image-based abuse, fraud, exposure to violent content and the role of social media in escalating conflict have the capacity to cause significant real-world harm and impact perceptions of safety.

Overview of scale and trends

Violence

Violence with injury offences and serious violent crime

- In 2024/25 there were 2,980 **violence with injury offences** recorded by police in the city. This was 2.5% higher than in the previous year, but around 2% lower than the long-term peak in 2019/20 where 3,044 crimes were recorded.
- There were 292 **serious violent crimes** recorded in 2024/25, continuing a recent increasing trend; this was 3.9% higher than in the previous year. The trend in serious violent crimes remains similar to that of **violence with injury**, with a long-term peak in 2019/20, followed by a substantial decrease during 2020/21 during the Covid-19 pandemic, and a steady increase toward the 2019/20 high since.
- A seasonal pattern continues to exist, with the highest number of recorded violence with injury offences taking place in the summer months, decreasing substantially in the autumn and winter before increasing again the following spring.

Figure 24 - Violence with injury crimes, April 2019 to March 2025.

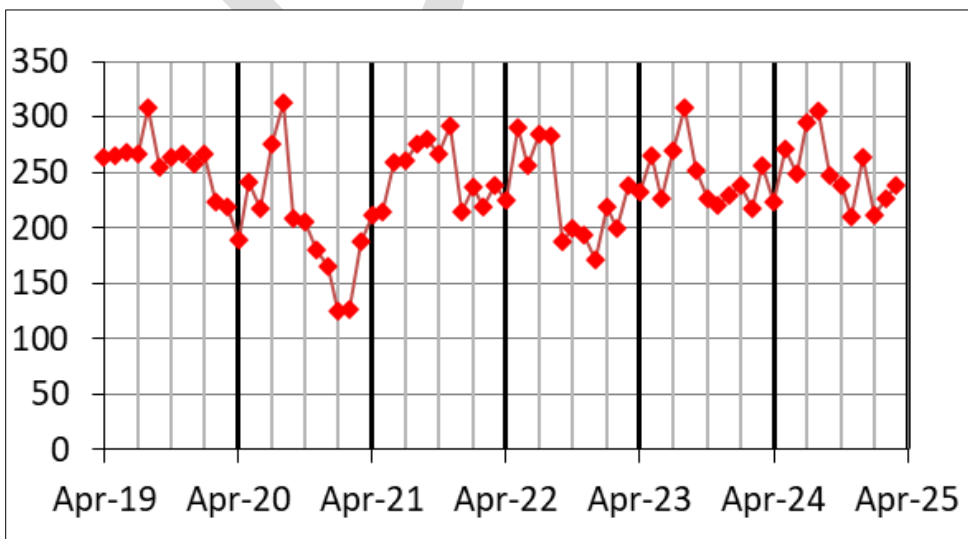
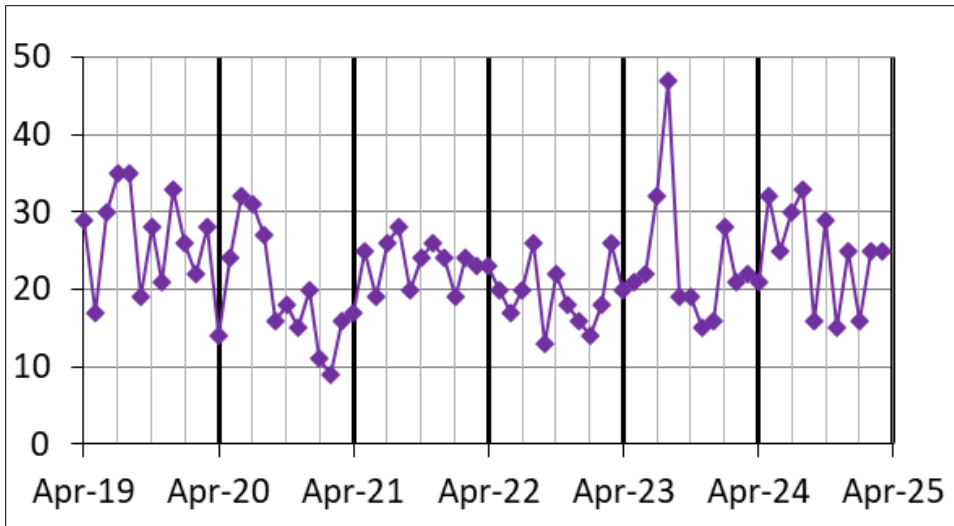


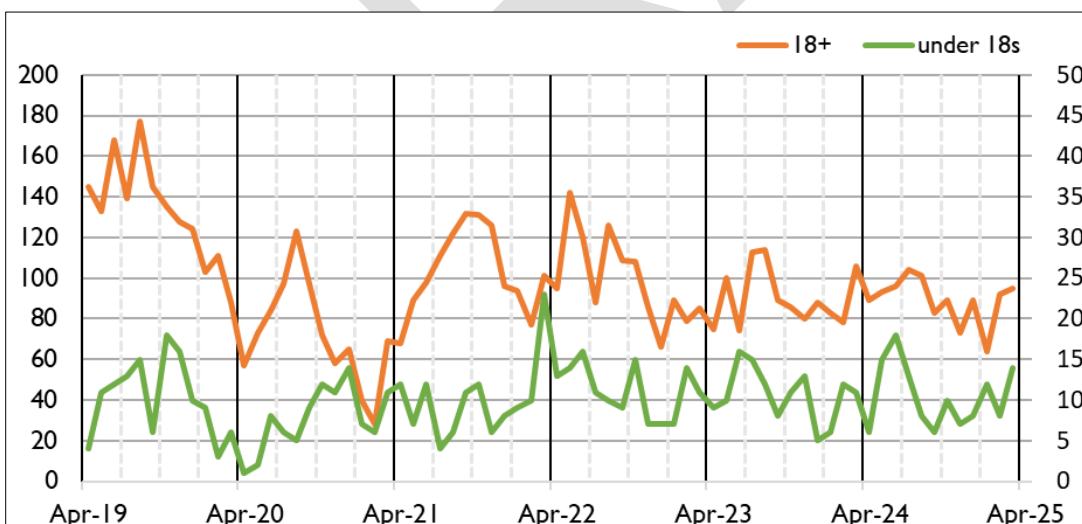
Figure 25 - Serious violence crimes, April 2019 to March 2025.



A&E Attendances

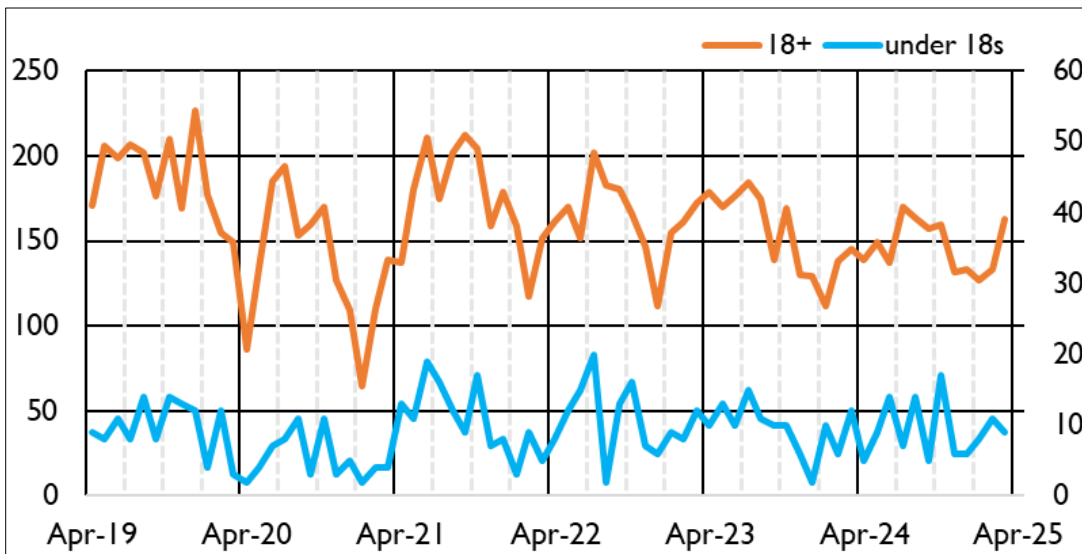
- In 2024/25 there were 3,035 attendances at A&E in Brighton & Hove hospitals⁶³ due to alcohol and/or assault, continuing a gradual decreasing trend in attendances for both reasons since 2021/22 when 3,535 were recorded. Among these, 1,193 were attendances due to assault, also part of a steady decreasing trend since 2021/22.
- Among the 1,193 attendances at A&E due to assault in 2024/25, 10.5% were for patients aged under 18; patients aged under 18 also made up of 5.9% of the 1,875 total attendances to A&E which had a flag for alcohol. Since 2022/23, the proportion of attendances due to assault and due to alcohol being related to people aged under 18 has remained consistent.

Figure 26 – attendances at Accident and Emergency departments in Brighton & Hove due to assault, April 2019 to March 2025 (Symphony data).



⁶³ These figures include people not resident of Brighton & Hove attending A&E at a hospital in the city and does not include residents attending A&E elsewhere.

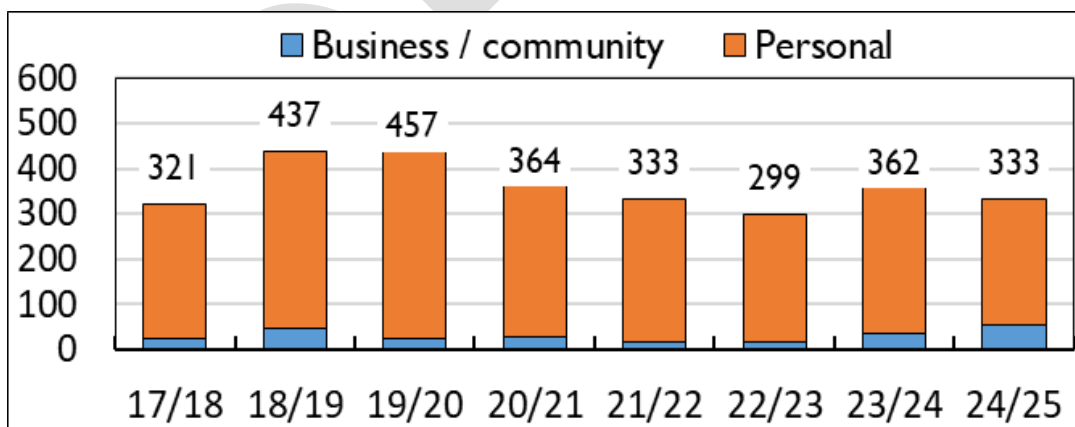
Figure 27 - at Accident and Emergency departments in Brighton & Hove due to alcohol, April 2019 to March 2025 (Symphony data).



Robberies

- There were 333 total robberies recorded by police in 2024/25, 281 of which were perpetrated against the person and 52 against businesses. This was 8% lower than in 2023/24 and around 27% lower than the long-term peak of 457 recorded in 2019/20. Total robberies had been in general decline from that point until 2023/24, as shown in **Figure 28**.
- The number of personal robberies recorded in the city decreased by 6% in 2024/25, with 281 recorded. However, robberies recorded against businesses increased in 2024/25; the 52 crimes recorded was 53% higher than in the previous year, and higher than the previous long-term peak of 45 in 2019/20 - between 15 and 27 business robberies per year had been recorded in the previous 10 years.

Figure 28. Personal and Business Robbery Crimes, April 2019 to March 2025.

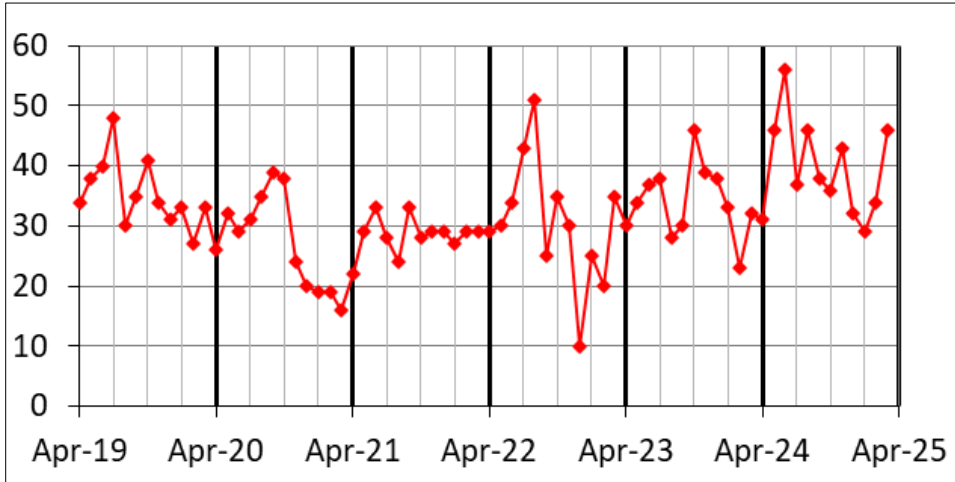


- Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) data showed a significant increase in robberies reported to it since 2021; following the 11 robberies reported to them in 2021, 38 were reported in 2022 and 59 in 2023, decreasing to 34 in 2024.

Carrying and use of weapons

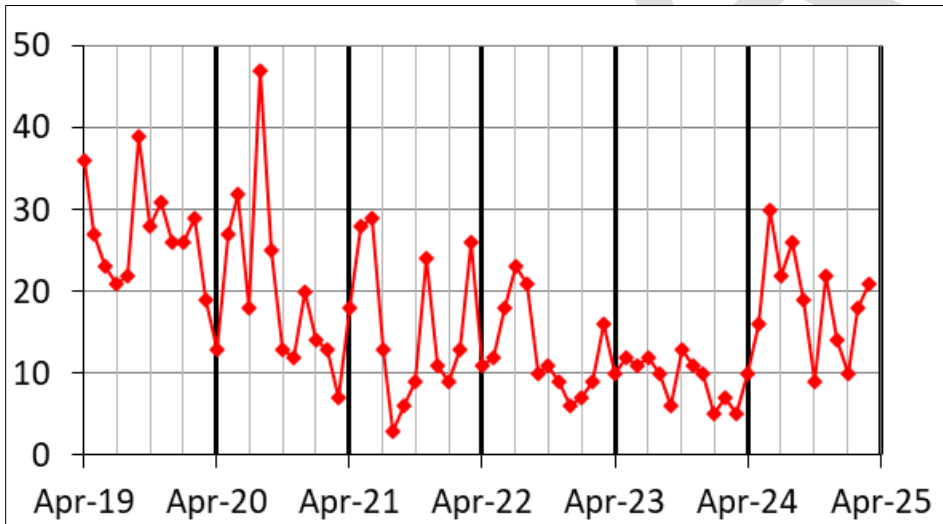
- There were 474 weapons possession crimes in 2024/25, 15% higher than the 411 recorded the previous year. This number is also 12% greater than the previous long-term high, when 424 were recorded in 2019/20.

Figure 29 – Possession of weapons crimes, April 2019 to March 2025.



- Sussex Police recorded 217 crimes where a knife or sharp instrument was flagged as being used, 90% higher than in the previous year and markedly the highest in the last three years, having previously been in a downwards trend since 2019/20 when 326 were recorded.

Figure 30 – Knife or sharp instrument crimes, April 2019 to March 2025.

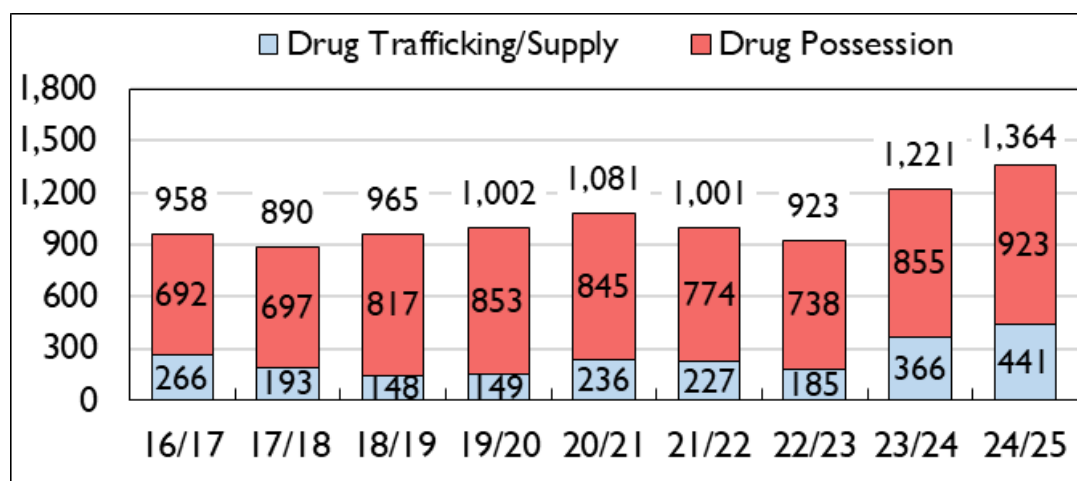


Drugs

Drug offences

- Sussex Police recorded 441 drugs trafficking / supply crimes in 2024/25, a long-term high, alongside 923 drug possession crimes recorded, also a long-term high.

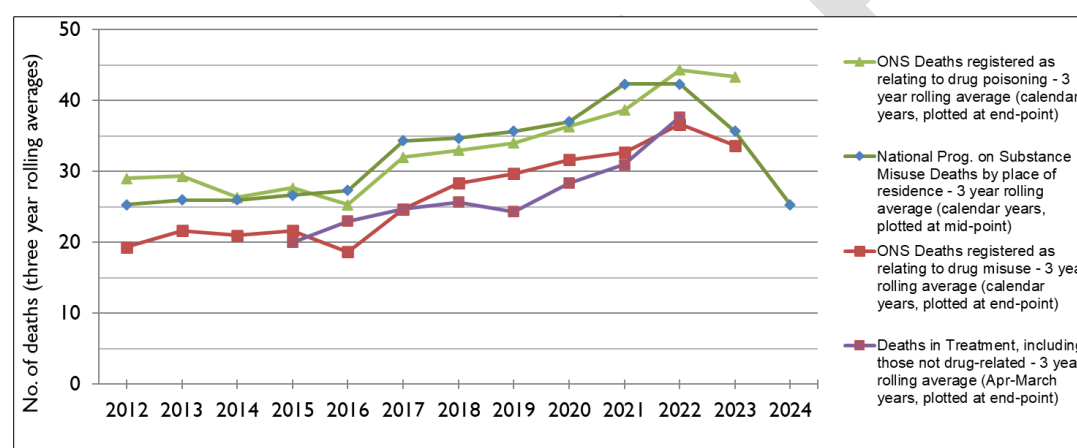
Figure 31 – police recorded drugs supply and drugs possession offences, 2014/15 to 2024/25.



Drug-related deaths

- There are several different ways in which the number of drug-related deaths can be measured, some of which are presented in **Figure 32**.

Figure 32 - Drug related deaths in Brighton and Hove, 2012 to 2014 using various methods and data sources.



- Following a consistent increasing trend seen since 2016 until 2021, most measures for calendar year 2023 indicated a levelling or a slight decrease in drug-related deaths – though it is important to note that figures continue to be updated retrospectively following coroners’ inquests and other investigations.
- Brighton & Hove has continued to have disproportionately more drug-related deaths than England as a whole, and this difference has been increasingly stark since the three-year period 2014-16⁶⁴. In 2014-16 the death rates were still notably higher (6.5 per 100,000 people in Brighton & Hove, 4.2 per 100,000 across England) and the gap has grown in each comparison period since (11.8 people per 100,000 in Brighton & Hove in 2021-23, 5.5 per 100,000 across England).

⁶⁴ Deaths from [drug misuse statistics provided by NHS Fingertips](#), Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. Accessed August 2025. © Crown copyright 2025.

- Data from NHS Digital's Primary Care Mortality dataset on Substance Abuse Deaths between 2021 and 2023 recorded 155 registered deaths, of whom 66% were males and 55% were between the ages of 35 and 54. Heroin / morphine was the most commonly implicated drug in each of these years.

Drug litter found by council services

- Data on drug litter can be found in the Anti- Social Behaviour section in **Section 9**.

Exploitation

Modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT)

- In the city, Sussex Police recorded 27 Modern Slavery crimes in 2024/25, considerably fewer than the 50 recorded in 2023/24 and 52 in 2020/21, but similar to the numbers recorded in other recent years.
- In 2024/25, holding a person in slavery or servitude was the most frequently recorded modern slavery offence (14 crimes), followed by requiring a person to perform forced or compulsory labour (9 crimes). Arranging or facilitating travel of another person with a view to exploitation had fewer than five offences recorded in this time period. Data on victim age and sex were available for a majority, but not all offences. Victims were predominantly male (18 of 24 offences where victim information was recorded) and in the 10-19 age group (17 out of 24 offences where victim age information was available). Further information regarding the nature of these offences was not sufficiently recorded to analyse.
- Brighton & Hove City Council raised 6 Section 42 safeguarding enquiries in 2024/25 regarding modern slavery, the same as during the previous year and higher than the one in 2022/23 and 4 in 2021/22. The Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Adults Board⁶⁵ noted an increasing trend in reported concerns around care workers within care homes and in the community, even if some instances were not ultimately taken forward as a safeguarding enquiry.
- Neither University Hospitals Sussex Foundation Trust (UH Sussex) or Sussex Community Foundation Trust (SCFT) raised any safeguarding concerns due to modern slavery in 2024/25 – UH Sussex recorded between 1 and 5 such concerns annually between 2020/21 and 2023/24, while SCFT very rarely records any modern slavery-related safeguarding concerns.

National Referral Mechanism statistics on potential victims of trafficking

- In 2024/25 there were 624 referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) across Sussex where Sussex Police received the referral for investigation, slightly lower than in the previous year. Referral numbers reached a long-term high of 864 in 2022/23 following a rapid increase in overall referrals from 2019/20.
- There were 72 referrals in 2024/25 to the NRM where Sussex Police were the first responder to a suspected instance of modern slavery, fewer than the 101 referrals in the previous year but similar in number to 2021/22 and 2022/23.

⁶⁵ [Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Adults Board 2024-25 Annual Report, PDF.](#)

Children and young people

- In 2024/25 there were an average of around 12 children going missing from social care each quarter, significantly greater than the average of 3 per quarter the previous year, but smaller than in the previous three years where between 20 and 30 children were going missing each quarter. Conversely, an average of 13 children were recorded as missing from placements each quarter in 2024/25, significantly higher than the average of 5 per quarter in 2023/24 and one per quarter in 2022/23.
- An average of 65 children were recorded by social care as going missing each quarter, slightly more than the average of 55 per quarter recorded in 2023/24 but similar to the long-term average in the city.
- As at the end of March 2025, there were 27 children who were open to social care identified as being at risk or involved in criminal exploitation - having decreased steadily from 43 children at the same time in 2023 - but higher than the 16 children identified as being at such a risk by the end of March 2023.
- At the end of March 2025 there were also 5 children recorded as identified at risk or being involved in sexual exploitation, significantly fewer than the 26 children open to social care for this reason at the same time in 2024 and 16 by the end of March 2023. Four additional children were identified as being at risk of both criminal and sexual exploitation in March 2025, similar to numbers in previous years.
- In 2024/25, Adolescent Vulnerability Risk Meetings (AVRM) identified an average of 20 young people per meeting with a red rating - meaning information existed to suggest imminent risk of exploitation – slightly higher than the average of 17 identified per quarter in 2023/24. During 2024/25, the quarterly number of red-rated at-risk young people decreased steadily from 29 in 2024/25 Q1 to 14 in the Q4 meeting that year.

Nature of the problem

Violence with injury

- Offences occurring in a dwelling or in a public/ open space made up the majority of police recorded violence with injury offences in 2024/25 – with 39% respectively occurring in both location types. A further 10% occurred in a hospitality venue, 4% occurred in a shop, 3% in a medical setting, and 2% in an education setting. The remaining offences occurred in commercial or financial buildings, leisure spaces, public buildings or on public transport.
- In 2024/25, one in four (25%) police recorded injury violence offences had a flag for domestic abuse.
- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Of those **violence with injury offences occurring outside the home** in 2024/25 (where victim sex or gender identity was

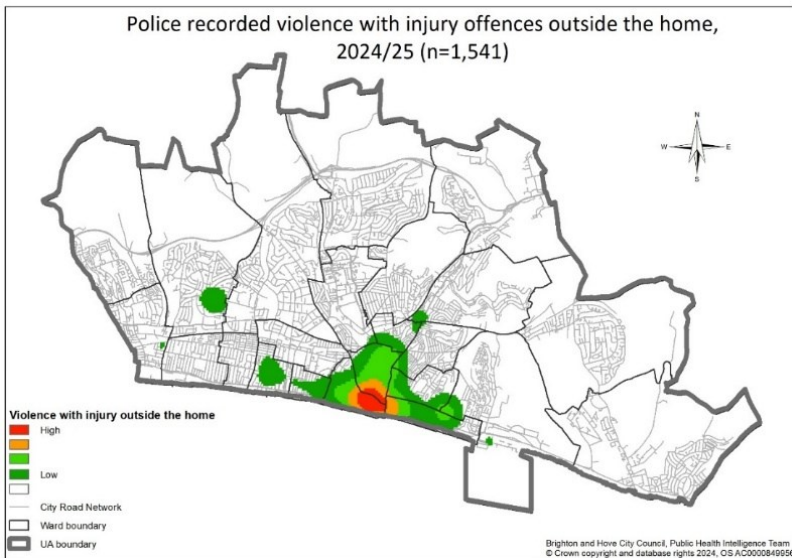
recorded), 67% of victims were male, 32% were female, 0.5% were transgender, and less than 0.5% had a victim sex or gender identity recorded as 'other' or 'indeterminate'⁶⁶.

- For female victims of violence with injury offences occurring outside the home, the peak rate of victimisation occurs in the 10-19 age group (5.8 per 1,000 population) and decreases in subsequent age groups. For male victims, there was an older peak in victimisation rates, with those in the 20-29 age group most likely to be victimised (9.8 per 1,000 population) and rates remaining high in the 30-39 age group (9.5 per 1,000 population)⁶⁷.
- Over half (53%) of victims of violence with injury offences which had occurred outside the home did not have ethnicity recorded, meaning analysis of victim ethnicity is not possible.
- Of those victims of violence with injury offences occurring outside the home, 66% were recorded as residents of Brighton & Hove, 30% were residents outside of the city, and 5% had no fixed address.
- Sussex Police currently record offender sex and gender identity in a combined field and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Of those violence with injury offences which occurred outside the home in 2024/25 with known offender information recorded, 74% of offenders were male, 25% were female, and 1% were transgender⁶⁶. The offending rate was highest amongst the 10-19 age group, followed by the 30-39 age group, although caution should be used as overall numbers were low.
- Over two thirds (69%) of violence with injury offences in 2024/25 which occurred outside of the home were committed by someone who was a stranger to the victim, and a further 21% were committed by an acquaintance; 2% respectively were committed by a spouse or partner, ex-partner or an intimate, 1% were committed by a family member and less than 1% respectively were committed by a parent/ guardian or child.
- The hotspot for violence with injury offences occurring outside of the home, as shown in **Figure 33**, is located in the city centre in an area bounded by Church Street to the North, Old Steine to the East, Churchill Square to the West, and the seafront to the South. Locations are often closely linked to the night-time economy, with clusters of offences in areas with a high number of licensed premises. An elevated number of offences extend both east and west of the city centre, as well as northwards following main arterial routes. There is also a smaller cluster of offences to the east of the city centre recorded at Royal Sussex County Hospital.

⁶⁶ Sussex Police record victim and offender sex and gender identity in a single combined field, with the categories: Male, Female, Transgender Male, Non-binary, Transgender Female, Other, Indeterminate, Not Recorded, and Restricted. This means the figures may reflect how a person identifies rather than the sex they were assigned at birth. It is not possible to determine, from this dataset, whether those recorded as male or female include individuals who are transgender, or whether all those recorded as transgender have been classified according to gender identity or recorded sex. As a result, these figures should be interpreted with an understanding that they may not align with definitions of sex used in other contexts.

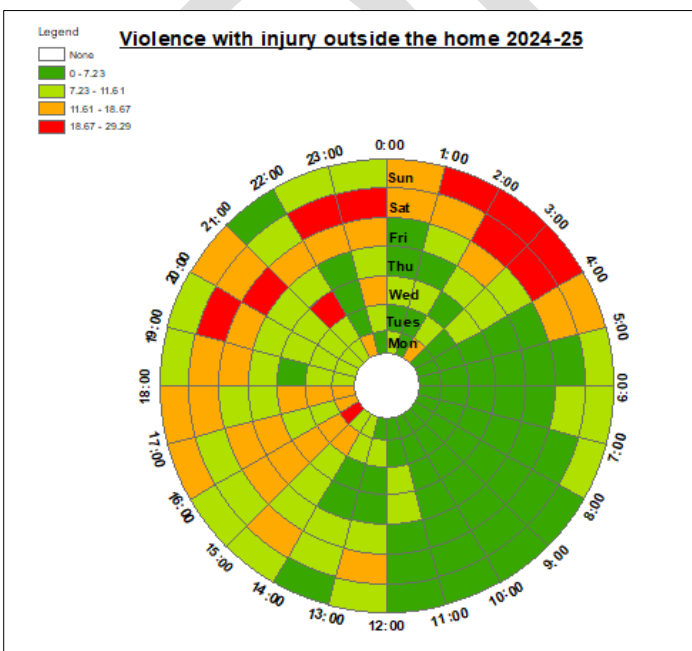
⁶⁷ Analysis counts victims rather than offences and will not include those who have been a repeat victim of this crime type within this 12 month period.

Figure 33 – Hotspot of police recorded violence with injury crimes having taken place outside the home in 2024/25.



- The temporal pattern of violence with injury offences which have occurred outside of a dwelling also demonstrates a link to the night-time economy, as shown in **Figure 34**, with elevated numbers of offences occurring on both Friday and Saturday nights. Friday night/ Saturday morning shows a peak in offences between 20.00hrs and 21:00hrs and again between 02.00hrs and 04.00hrs on a Saturday morning. Saturday night/ Sunday morning shows several peaks in offences occurring between 19.00hrs and 04.00hrs, with elevated numbers of offences throughout this time.
- The data clock also shows an elevated number of offences occurring on weekdays between 15.00hrs and 16.00hrs, coinciding with the end of the school day, with a particularly high number of offences occurring on a Monday.

Figure 34 – Data clock of violence with injury crimes having taken place outside the home in 2024/25.



A&E assault data

- For A&E attendances due to assault in 2024/25, the location of where the incident took place was recorded in 62% of cases; where recorded, the greatest proportion took place on the street (42%) followed by at home (17%); similar proportions took place in or around licensed premises and in recreational areas (both 11%).
- In 2024/25, males made up 73% of A&E assault-related attendances (865 of 1,193) and females 27%. A greater proportion of assaults on males occurred on the street (48%, compared with 23% for females). Meanwhile, 31% of assaults on women occurred at home compared with 13% of assaults on males.
- For both male and female patients attending A&E due to assault in 2024/25, those aged between 20 and 25 years were the most represented five-year age group; for both males and females there were significant numbers of patients aged 15 to 19, peaking in the 20 to 25 age group then decreasing gradually. There were proportionally more attendances among females aged between 20 and 35 than for males in the same age range, while proportionally more males aged between 40 and 55 presented at A&E due to assault in 2024/25 than females in the same age group.
- The proportion of A&E assault patients in 2024/25 whose ethnicity was recorded as being not White British was around 36%. No further breakdown of ethnicity was available.
- In 2024/25, 64% of assault patients where a home postcode was available⁶⁸ lived in Brighton & Hove (BN2 32%; BN1 15%; BN3 and BN41 17%), which has remained consistent in the last three years.
- In 2024/25, the greatest proportion of attendances occurred between 10pm and 4am, making up 44% of attendances where time was recorded.

Nature of assault presenting at A&E

- A&E attendance data – where intent was mentioned in notes – showed that showed 70% of assault-related attendances involved a single assailant, 17% involved multiple assailants and the remainder assigned as non-intentional injury (11%), self-inflicted injury (1%) or undetermined (1%).

⁶⁸ There was no postcode provided for 3% of patients, which may be because they were of no fixed address, lived overseas, or it was unavailable for another reason.

Figure 35 - Accident and Emergency Attendances at hospitals in Brighton & Hove due to assault, by mechanism of injury, 2021/22 to 2024/25.

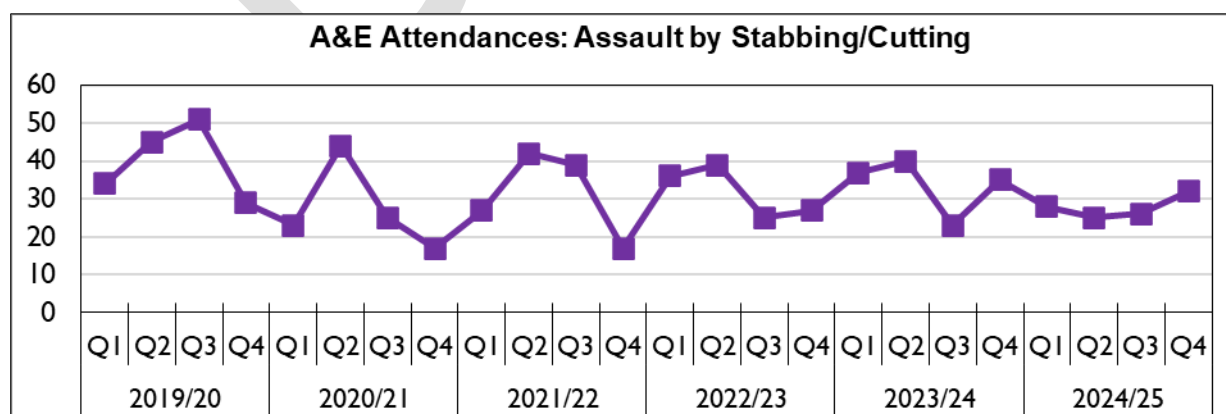
| Mechanism | 2024/25 | 2024/25 % | 2023/24 | 2023/24 % | 2022/23 | 2022/23 % |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Blow from blunt object | 67 | 9% | 70 | 9% | 68 | 8% |
| Blunt force / pushed | 141 | 19% | 146 | 19% | 159 | 19% |
| Kicked with foot | 41 | 6% | 32 | 4% | 62 | 7% |
| Punched with fist | 282 | 38% | 266 | 35% | 309 | 36% |
| Stabbed | 111 | 15% | 135 | 18% | 128 | 15% |
| Other | 97 | 13% | 101 | 13% | 120 | 14% |
| Refused to disclose | 2 | 0% | 9 | 1% | 12 | 1% |
| Blank | 452 | 0 | 455 | 0 | 469 | 0 |
| Grand total | 1193 | | 1214 | | 1327 | |

- In 2024/25, 38% of assault patients were punched, 19% were pushed, 15% were stabbed and 9% had been hit by a blunt object. These proportions remain similar to those in previous years, as shown in **Figure 35**.
- When examining mechanisms of injury assault in 2024/25, a greater proportion of males attend A&E due to assault by being punched (41%) than females (28%) and due to stabbing (15% of males compared with 10% of females). In contrast, a greater proportion of females attended A&E due to assault by pushing or blunt force (28%) compared with males (17%).

A&E attendances due to stabbing

- There were 111 attendances at Accident and Emergency due to stabbing in 2024/25, somewhat lower than the 135 recorded the previous year and the lowest since the 109 recorded in 2020/21. A seasonal trend is clear, with increases in attendances during the spring and summer months, though this was seen to a smaller extent in 2024/25 than previous years. Figures for the last three years can be seen in **Figure 36**.

Figure 36 - Accident and Emergency Attendances: Assault by Stabbing / Cutting, by quarter, 2019/20 to 2024/25.



- Among the 111 A&E patients assaulted by stabbing in 2024/25:
 - 40% were aged 18 to 29; 24% were aged between 30 and 39, 14% aged between 40 and 49 and 11% aged under 18.
 - 90% of patients were male and 9% were female; this has remained consistent over the last three years.
 - 45% were recorded as having been stabbed in the street, 18 while in their (or someone else's) home, and 11% while in or outside a licensed premises.

Robberies

- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Of victims of police recorded personal robbery offences in 2024/25, 83% were male, 15% were female, 1% were recorded as 'indeterminate', and less than 1% as 'other'⁶⁶.
- The rate of victimisation for personal robbery offences was highest amongst the 10-19 age group (2.6 per 1,000 pop), and over twice the rate seen in any subsequent age group. 32% of victims of personal robbery offences were age 10-19 years. The average age of victims in the 10-19 age group was 16.
- The hotspot for personal robbery offences in 2024-25 is located in the city centre and includes part of North Laine and the Lanes, stretching as far as Preston Street to the West, and part of Kemptown to the East. Western Road, Kings Road Arches, the Royal Pavilion Gardens and St. James's Street are all repeat locations, with clusters of offences in these locations. Outside of the main hotspot area, there is also a cluster of offences occurring at the Level.
- Personal robbery offences in 2024-25 continue to be dispersed across all days of the week, rather than peaking on Friday and Saturday nights and typically associated with the night-time economy. Personal robbery offences are also occurring over a longer timeframe, typically from early evening through to 05.00hrs.
- Of those personal robbery offences where information on the use of a weapon was recorded, 66% did not involve the use of a weapon, 23% involved the use of a bladed or sharp implement, a further 5% involved the threat of a bladed or sharp implement (where this was not seen or verified), 6% involved the use of an 'other' weapon, and less than 1% involved the use of a firearm.

Fear of violence

- The Health Counts Survey in 2024⁶ asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence.
- One in four respondents (24%) reported that they were very or fairly worried about physical violence against a family member, whilst around one in five (22%) were very or fairly worried about physical violence against themselves.
- Those in younger age groups had significantly higher levels of worry about physical violence against themselves compared with respondents as a whole, with 35% of 18-24 year olds reporting they were very or fairly worried. The proportion of respondents who were very or fairly worried generally decreased in subsequent age groups.

- Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller communities had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves, with 61% reporting that they were very or fairly worried about this. Respondents from mixed or multiple ethnic groups as well as respondents who described their ethnicity as 'Other'⁶⁹ were also significantly more likely to report feeling very or fairly worried about physical violence against themselves (32% and 30% respectively).
- Respondents who were female, Trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI), LGBTQ+, disabled, unpaid carers, or who have experience of the care system as a child or young person all had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents. This was also true of respondents living in temporary or emergency accommodation, as well as respondents living in the most deprived areas of the city.

Drugs

- There were 441 drugs supply / trafficking offences in the city in 2024/25.
- 96% of offenders for drug trafficking offences in 2024/25 were male, and 4% were female⁶⁶. Overall numbers were low, but the offending rate was highest amongst those aged 20-29 years, and over twice the rate seen in the 10-19 age group, which had the next highest offending rate. There was insufficient information recorded in relation to offender ethnicity to analyse this.
- Where the town of the offender was recorded, 38% of offenders for drug trafficking offences in 2024/25 resided in Brighton and Hove, a further 32% resided outside of the city, and 30% had no fixed address.
- The hotspot area for all drugs offences, including trafficking offences, possession offences and other drugs offences in 2024/25 is located in the city centre, in an area bounded by London Road and The Level to the north, the seafront to the south, Preston Street to the west and Lower Rock Gardens to the east. This is a larger hotspot, covering a more dispersed city centre area than seen in previous years analysis.
- In 2024/25 there were 2,092 people in structured drug treatment in Brighton & Hove. Over half (53%) of those in treatment were aged 35 to 54. However, looking at the age breakdown, among younger people there are a higher proportion of females in treatment (aged 18 to 25; 46% females) and this proportion reduced with each age group, until the 45-54 age group. In the 55 and over age groups, 76% of those in drug treatment are males. 70% of those in treatment are White British, and 30% were from Black or Racially Minoritised groups.

Drug use in adults

- The Health Counts survey⁶ in 2024 also asked respondents about drug use. One in five adults had taken drugs not prescribed for them and not available at a chemist or pharmacy in the last 12 months (20%). Another 3% preferred not to say. The question was slightly different in the 2012 Health Counts survey, when 17% of adults had taken these drugs in the last 12 months.
- In the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2023, 9.5% of people aged 16-59 years and 18% of people aged 16-24 years had used drugs in the past 12 months. The Health Counts survey was

⁶⁹ Ethnic groups included Asian or Asian British; Black, Black British, Caribbean or African; Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups; Arab; Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller; White British; White Irish or other White; or Other ethnic group.

for adults aged 18 years or over, so the age bands are slightly different, but 35% (1 in 3) 18 to 24-year-olds in the city had used drugs in the last year, almost double the England and Wales survey figure.

- The most commonly used drugs were cannabis (66% of those who have used drugs in the last 12 months or 13% of all adults), followed by cocaine (35% of those who have used drugs in the last 12 months or 7% of all adults), and other non-opiates for example ecstasy or spice (21% of those who have used drugs in the last 12 months or 4% of all adults). It should be noted, that estimates for some types of drugs, like heroin and crack cocaine are very low, and likely to be underestimates of the prevalence in the city.
- People in the following groups/areas of the city are more likely, compared to Brighton & Hove as a whole, to have used drugs that were not prescribed for them and were not available at a chemist/pharmacy in the last year (Brighton & Hove 20%):
 - Those living in the 20-40% most deprived areas: 25% of those in the second most deprived 20% of areas, compared to 14% of those in the least deprived 20% of areas.
 - Those aged 18-24, 25-34 and 35-44 years (35%, 29% and 24% respectively).
 - Adults from Mixed/multiple ethnic groups (25%), Gypsy, Roma, and/or Traveller adults (38%).
 - Males (24%).
 - Trans, non-binary or intersex adults (TNBI) (42%).
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer or other non-heterosexual orientation (LGBQ+) adults (33%).
 - Disabled adults (24%).
 - Autistic adults (36%), neurodivergent adults (excluding Autistic adults without a learning difference) (38%), adults with a developmental condition (39%), mental health difference / condition (33%), visible difference with a disabling and/or discriminatory impact (32%).
 - Those living in temporary or emergency accommodation (35%).
 - Those with experience of the care system as a child/young person (29%).
 - Areas from Central Hove to Kemptown, West Hill and North Laine, Round Hill and Hanover and Elm Grove, and Coldean and Stanmer (see Figure 37)⁶.

****DRAFT****

Treatment Services. Brighton and Hove City Council also house or co-host a range of services and meetings supporting vulnerable or potentially vulnerable people:

- Housing Team.
- Children and Family Services, including Adolescent Services and its Youth Justice Team.
- Adult Social Care.
- the Brighton & Hove Joint Action Group (JAG).
- the Early Intervention Youth ASB Meeting, identifying children and young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system and discussing methods of effective intervention and diversion.
- the Brighton & Hove Partnership Tactical Tasking & Coordination Group (PTTCG).
- Alongside these are services utilising a mixture of public sector and voluntary sector funding, including the Reboot early intervention youth programme – which operates in the city across Sussex with financial support from budget from Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund for children aged 10 to 17 – as well as drug and alcohol treatment services offered by Change Grow Live (CGL). The RU-OK service also provides drug and alcohol treatment for under-18s in the city.
- The city is also host to a wide range of community assets supporting vulnerable people, offering early intervention and education and supporting victims and survivors. The city has a network of Local Action Teams, which bring together local residents, businesses and community groups to address local issues. The Brighton & Hove Violence Reduction Partnership is a spoke of the wider Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership, coordinated by Sussex Police and Brighton & Hove City Council. This partnership provides funding towards interventions in the city such as dispersed youthwork and Hospital Youth Worker Projects via Trust for Developing Communities (TDC), as well as the WBC Cares Brighton and Hove Boxing Gym programme.
- Other important community assets supporting work in this area include, but are not limited to:
 - Cranstoun – domestic violence & abuse service.
 - Survivors Network.
 - St Mungo's Street Outreach Service.
 - RISE.
 - Fresh Youth Perspectives.
 - AudioActive.
 - Brighton Voices In Exile.

Gaps in resource

- There is a perceived under-resourcing of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) structures at the partnership level, including police representation.
- The partnership lacks a systemic approach to addressing risks of sex-work and chemsex, particularly among young people.

- The paucity of after-school services and activities, particularly in central areas of the city, increases contextual safeguarding risks for children and young people out in the community.
- The partnership could develop broader community asset involvement in its approach to contextual safeguarding, particularly following a serious incident.
- There is a lack of access to intensive mentoring for children and young people at highest risk of harm due to involvement with criminal exploitation and associated serious violence.
- Access to supported housing for children and young people involved in drugs and serious violence remains challenging in the city. Adolescent Services report delays in sourcing appropriate accommodation for those with high needs, with some left in overcrowded situations or sofa-surfing (sometimes in inappropriate settings) which is driver of further risks to their offending and involvement with drug supply and violence.
- Crime and offending does not respect cross jurisdictional local authority or county boundaries. There is scope for greater coordination and cooperation both pan-Sussex and regionally, to ensure that those involved in or at risk of criminal exploitation are safeguarded.

Gaps in knowledge

- Modern Slavery Act reporting for adult potential victims remains low across the city for all 'first responder agencies'.
- There is a lack of knowledge and data of both the prevalence of and motivations for knife carrying in the city. A local risk profile of weapons carrying and usage would allow us to better challenge narratives in the community.
- Data for 'cuckooing' remains limited.
- Sexual exploitation is likely to be underreported for all age groups.
- Community assets report inconsistent awareness of missing children and unclear what formal processes there are around this.

Summary of key issues

- A lack of resources affecting local authority and partner agencies continues to impact the scope and effectiveness of partnership work.
- Violence with injury and serious violence offences have risen slightly year-on-year but remain less prevalent than their pre-pandemic peaks. Violence offences continue to be more frequent during periods of warmer weather with central areas in the night-time economy (NTE) as a particular risk factor.
- For violent offences that occurred outside of the home, men were 2:1 more likely than women to be victims, with men aged 20-29 and women aged 10-19 the most likely to experience violence. Perpetrators were significantly more likely to be strangers than known to the victim.
- Weapon possession offences rose in 2024/25 and are higher than the pre-pandemic peak, but this may be attributable in part to changes to the identification and policing of hot-spot areas, leading to better detection and confiscation of knives and other weapons.

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- Hospital attendances for assault have steadily decreased over the lifetime of the 2023-26 strategy, and weapon-enabled injuries have effectively remained static as a proportion of assaults (approx. 24% sharp or blunt weapon enabled injuries / 65% punch, kick, pushing injuries).
- Patients who attended following an assault whose ethnicity was not recorded as White British were over-represented in comparison to ethnicity data for Brighton & Hove in the 2021 census. 36% of the overall assault attendances gave an address that was outside of the city.
- Drug trafficking and supply offences and drug possession offences are higher than pre-pandemic peaks. Trafficking and supply offenders are overwhelmingly likely to be male, with those aged 20-29 most prevalent, followed by those aged 10-19. Around a third of all offenders were not resident in the city.
- Drug use within the city remains more prevalent than national averages, especially for young people who use drugs are nearly double that seen nationally. Those living within more deprived areas and those across a breadth of protected characteristics, experience a higher likelihood of using drugs.
- Boys and young men (aged 10-19) are most likely to be identified as the victim of Modern Slavery offences. These are primarily local boys who have experienced criminal exploitation, having been coerced to deal drugs, commit drug related violence or steal to order.
- Those with multiple complex needs are more vulnerable to all forms of exploitation.
- Brighton & Hove has a comparatively high level of homelessness and rough sleeping. Those seeking to exploit vulnerable people are known to have preyed upon members of the local street community with offers of work, accommodation and sometimes access to alcohol, which can later lead to situations of labour exploitation.
- The city's care sector is vulnerable to labour exploitation, particularly care workers from abroad on Skilled Worker Visas, whose right to work in the UK is dependent on sponsorship by their employer.
- Total robberies in 2024/25 were lower than the previous year and significantly lower than the long-term peak prior to the pandemic. This figure is likely to rise in subsequent years due to Home Office changes to the way in which some shoplifting offences are counted by police forces. Roughly a third of all robberies (both against the person and business robberies) are enabled by either the use or threat of a weapon.
- The data clock for violence with injury offences shows a trend of increased violence in the hours after school on weekdays, compared to the previous CSP Strategic Assessment. This indicates an increasing risk of violence to and from children and young people during these periods.

Recommendations for partnership work

- Use of Partnership Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group (PTTCG) and Joint Action Group (JAG) to identify areas of concern and task responses ensuring that relevant partners are participating in identifying issues and delivering solutions.
- The partnership will continue its multiagency approach to addressing risks and vulnerabilities associated with cuckooing.

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- Effective partnership working to improve and increase the use of ASB tools and powers to disrupt perpetrators of exploitation and cuckooing.
- Maintain a preventative approach to serious violence and knife-carrying through a multiagency response, overseen by the Brighton & Hove Violence Reduction Partnership. Community and third-sector groups, such as those funded by the VRP, to play a key role in developing and delivering interventions.
- Effective partnership work between Police, Licensing, and local business community assets to addressing ongoing risks of violence (including violence against women and girls) within the night-time economy.
- Continue to develop a contextual approach to safeguarding across internal and third sector partners, to ensure people involved or affected by local crime groups are supported; and vulnerable people prevented from becoming involved in violence and criminal exploitation.
- Partnership data developed, analysed and shared via the Violence Reduction Partnership to inform needs assessments and problem profiles. Use data to further identify and form responses to inequalities.
- Use data and experiences of key partners to improve understanding of areas and cohorts at highest risk of perpetrating or becoming victims of violence and use this to influence service delivery and deployment of existing resources.
- Continue to develop Transitional Safeguarding arrangements and further embed systemic understanding and partnership approach to addressing Multiple and Compound Need.
- The Community Safety Partnership Board members to effectively contribute to the Combating Drugs Partnership to support the objective of breaking drug supply chains and reducing drug harm within the city; understanding and addressing inequalities in drug use across vulnerable demographics.
- Improve capacity across the partnership to identify and support victims of all forms of exploitation and encourage more consistent reporting under the Modern Slavery Act.
- Address the fear of violent crime in the city by being candid about the challenges, amplifying interventions, promoting successes and encouraging further community involvement in developing and delivering responses. Continue to improve partnership communications with residents to improve trust and confidence in reporting and subsequent responses.
- Develop cross-county coordination and information sharing with regional counterparts and relevant partner services.
- Expand the partnership focus on online harms - including the exposure of young people to violent content, and the role of social media in escalating conflict. Strengthen training for professionals, develop partnership protocols with the educational sector, and increase community awareness of online risks and reporting routes.

8. Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls

Introduction

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) includes a range of crimes that include domestic abuse and sexual violence and so-called 'honour-based' abuse, which disproportionately impact women and girls^{70,71}. The impacts are profound and long-lasting, causing severe physical and psychological trauma, and in the most extreme cases, death. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated 1.6 million women aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse in the last year, a prevalence rate of approximately 6.6% of women.

The CSEW shows that women, those in younger age groups, and people who are disabled are more likely to have experienced domestic abuse in the last year⁷². While violence against women and girls affects all demographics, evidence shows prevalence is higher among females including groups experiencing intersecting inequalities such as disability, limited education, decision-making power, mental health challenges or those living in poverty⁷³.

Digital media has emerged as a significant risk factor and introduces the threat of technology-facilitated crimes, such as intimate image abuse, exacerbated by the rise of generative AI⁷⁴. The widespread availability of violent adult content online, including content depicting acts such as strangulation, perpetuates harmful behaviours and normalises violence against women^{75,76}.

Protective factors are less documented but centre on robust support systems which seek to minimise risk. The implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, particularly the duty to provide support in safe accommodation, aims to create protective infrastructure for victims⁷⁷.

Risk factors for VAWG include a history of prior abuse experienced by both victims and perpetrators, coercive and controlling behaviour by perpetrators, and escalation in the frequency or severity of incidents. The national review into child sexual abuse within the family environment emphasises that child victims are often exposed to a cluster of these risk factors⁷⁸. A strategic approach that prioritises prevention, focuses on addressing perpetrator behaviour and builds an

⁷⁰ [ONS webpage, Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2024.](#)

⁷¹ [Home Office webpage - statistics on so called 'honour-based' abuse offences, England and Wales, year ending March 2024.](#)

⁷² [Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics.](#)

⁷³ [Brito Jiménez IT, Rodríguez Ávila N. Factors associated with domestic violence in women: systematic ecological review. Revista Cuidarte. 2025;16\(1\):e3857.](#)

⁷⁴ [Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office webpage - Report: Digital violence, real world harm: evaluating survivor-centric tools for intimate image abuse in the age of generative AI.](#)

⁷⁵ [Department for Science, Innovation and Technology webpage - Independent Report: Bertin B. Creating a safer world: the challenge of regulating online pornography.](#)

⁷⁶ [MOJ webpage - press release: Strangulation in pornography to be made illegal, June 2025.](#)

⁷⁷ [MHCLG webpage - Research Report: Domestic Abuse Duty for Support in Safe Accommodation: Evaluation, July 2025.](#)

⁷⁸ [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel webpage - National review into child sexual abuse within the family environment, November 2024.](#)

accountable community response is vital in addressing violence against women and girls and preventing harm.

National and local context

Violence Against Women and Girls was officially categorised as a national threat in February 2023 by the then Home Secretary. This status remains current and brought the threat from VAWG to society on par with terrorism.

In 2024, the incoming government committed to halving VAWG within a decade. The publication of a new national strategy is expected in the autumn of 2025. Early indications suggest there will be a focus on early prevention and a strengthened approach to tackling perpetrators. This ambition is underscored by the raft of legislation that has been passed in recent years including the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Online Safety Act 2023, the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, and the forthcoming introduction of Domestic Abuse Protection Orders, as well as funding for national support helplines.

Brighton and Hove City (BHCC) recognise that VAWG is a widespread and escalating problem for the city with significant impacts on individuals and our communities. Due to the cross-cutting nature of VAWG and with its links to anti-social behaviour, health inequality, substance use, chronic deprivation, economic disadvantage, education attainment, homicide and suicide, we acknowledge that we must continue to work alongside our communities, statutory and voluntary sector partners to decrease the harm caused by VAWG. Going forward we will engage directly with our communities via the Family Hubs and revision of Health provision aligned to HM Government's 10 Year Plan for Health and alignment with the Council's strategic intentions.

In January 2025, the Cabinet agreed our Preventing and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2025-2028. The strategy incorporates a "One Council" approach to ensure that all council services play their part to contribute to the overall response to preventing and tackling VAWG. The strategy has four priorities, these are: strengthening the coordinated response to VAWG, prioritising prevention, supporting survivors and building an accountable community by changing perpetrator behaviour. The governance and implementation of the strategy is coordinated by the multi-agency VAWG Oversight Board and four thematic subgroups delivering on the four priorities. We continue to work with our partners in the community, statutory and voluntary sector to collectively reduce the harm caused by VAWG.

Local crime data for Brighton and Hove reveals a stark picture with high levels of domestic abuse. This is also reflected in the prevalence of sexual violence, with a significant proportion of those assaults linked to the nighttime economy. To tackle this trend, the forthcoming Licensing Policy has put in specific measures to curtail and disrupt VAWG. Sussex Police continue to deliver Operation Shield.

The introduction of Operation Soteria nationally has seen a significant improvement in the Police response to sexual violence, and this is evident with the improvement on criminal justice outcomes. Sussex Police have a relatively high number of Stalking Protection Orders achieved which reflects well compared with the national average. However, there is still more to do to reduce the harm from all forms of VAWG, particularly in relation to serial perpetrators of such assaults.

It is also important to acknowledge that some forms of VAWG are less likely to be reported. This includes all forms of Harmful Practices, child to parent abuse, economic abuse, elder abuse and

sexual exploitation. To address this challenge, the Council's VAWG Unit has aligned its work on VAWG with the Anti Racism Strategy, Rough sleeper Strategy, Alcohol Strategy and Safeguarding Adults Board. This approach has seen improved levels of "help seeking action" from racially minoritised communities now reflected in our data. In addition, through extending our work at a grassroots level in the community in partnership with Bramber Bakehouse, the International Women's Network and the BME Capacity Building Programme delivered by Stonewater, we have been able to ensure information about "rights and support" is directly available to those who may require support.

We have also commissioned support for young people using abuse in their behaviours via the Cranston Level Up Programme and worked tirelessly with the Adult Safeguarding Board to deliver training and improved policies and procedures. This system change has seen domestic abuse enter into the top five reasons for referral to Adult Social Care, highlighting an improved recognition of elder abuse and multiple compound needs. We continue to scope our response to sexual exploitation and Technologically Enabled Abuse, and work with our partners to incorporate the learning from national best practice.

BHCC continues to deliver on its statutory duty under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews, now termed Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRS), as enacted in the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024. This change highlighted that the previous term "homicide" did not fully encompass the scope of reviews, which extends to death by suicide. This change has seen a significant increase in the level of reviews nationally and this trend is reflected in Brighton & Hove. Suicide is the leading cause of death in domestic abuse cases in England and Wales⁷⁹.

Clearly the work we do to prevent VAWG is aligned with suicide prevention. In collaboration with our MARAC practitioners, we are working to utilise the MARAC pathway to decrease the risk for survivors with suicidal ideation. This work is in its scoping stage but will be developed and delivered with the MARAC practitioners and overseen by the MARAC Steering Group. In addition, Public Health have commissioned awareness training for domestic and sexual abuse practitioners working in the city. Brighton Women's Centre, RISE and Victim Support are currently participating in a University of Sussex led multi-site evaluation on mindfulness for survivors with post-traumatic stress.

There has been ongoing continuous improvement of the weekly Brighton and Hove MARAC for those at the highest risk which reflects our work to embed national standards and adhere to the Safelives¹⁰ Principles of an Effective MARAC⁸⁰. This has resulted in a significant reduction in repeat cases; however, the Brighton and Hove MARAC has continued to receive high levels of referrals showing we need to continue to uphold our response to those identified as high risk whilst developing a robust approach to prevention. A national review of MARAC is underway and when completed the MARAC Steering Group will incorporate these recommendations into our local MARAC Operating Protocol when published.

In preparation for the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the council commissioned Stonewater, the current refuge provider, to conduct research into support for survivors. The findings and

⁷⁹ [Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme \(VKPP\) Domestic Homicides and Suspected Victim Suicide 2020-2024 Year 4 Report, Hoeger et al, 2024 - PDF.](#)

⁸⁰ [Safelives report. 10 Principles of an Effective MARAC - PDF.](#)

recommendations are contained within the Safehaven by the Sea Report⁸¹. This report notes the work the council has undertaken to deliver its new statutory duty, under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act⁸² to provide support in safe accommodation for survivors and their children. The duty was accompanied by additional funding which enabled the council to develop an Enhanced Housing Pathway. During 2024/25, some 594 survivors were supported via the pathway. There has been a notable increase in the number of survivors from BME and from LGBTQ+ communities, as well as evidence of communities seeking support at an earlier stage of harm through this pathway.

Brighton & Hove City Council continues to support the work of regional work to combat domestic abuse and sexual violence via a Pan Sussex Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. The refresh of its Pan Sussex Domestic Abuse Strategy has now completed⁸³. Its subgroup structure aligns with pan Sussex workstreams including the High Harm Perpetrator Programme, Stalking Clinic and Victims of Lived Experience Board. Funding via the Police and Crime Commissioner has increased provision of services locally, including the Pan Sussex Multi Crime Service and the RISE Young persons domestic abuse worker.

Overview of scale and trends

Domestic Violence and Abuse

Police recorded crimes and incidents

- In 2024/25 there were 3,068 domestic violence crimes recorded in the city, 4.3% lower than in the previous year. This continued a general downward trend in recorded crimes since 2019/20, as seen in **Figure 38**, having risen towards a long-term high in that year. Separately, 1,967 domestic violence incidents were recorded in 2024/25, 2.2% higher than in 2023/24 but still part of a long-term decrease in the number of recorded incidents in the last ten years.
- Long-term trends in domestic violence crimes and incidents should continue to be placed in context with the changes made to recording practices by Sussex Police. In June 2023 changes were made to the way in which domestic abuse crimes and incidents were recorded by police nationwide. This is likely to have contributed to fewer crimes being recorded by the police, where multiple offences were previously recorded⁸⁴. Interpreting changes in police recorded domestic violence crimes and incidents must also recognise that domestic violence remains profoundly under-reported by victims to police.

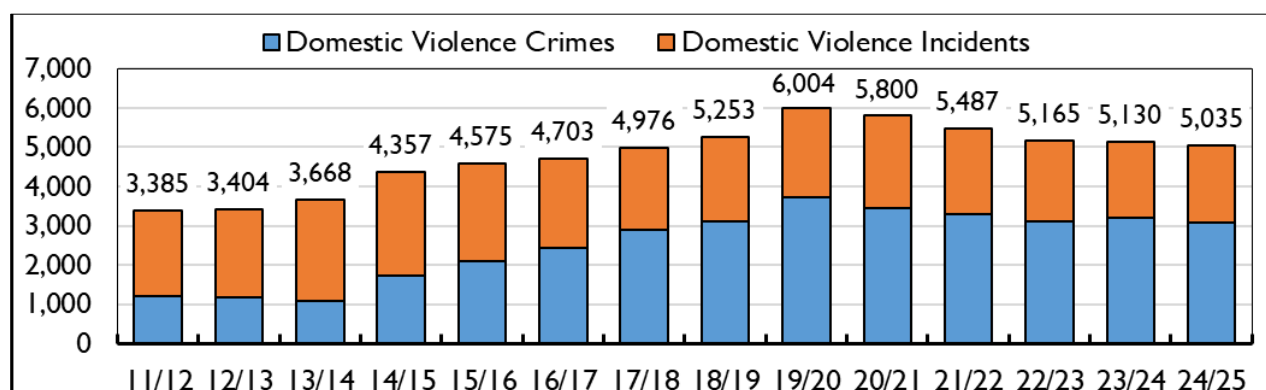
⁸¹ [Brighton & Hove City Council webpage - Strategy and Action Plan - Preventing and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, 2025 to 2028.](#)

⁸² [Gov.uk Legislation webpage - Domestic Abuse Act 2021.](#)

⁸³ [Sussex Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board document, Word. Pan Sussex Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028 Accessible Format.](#)

⁸⁴ [Domestic Abuse Commissioner - Report about Home Office Counting Rules, April 2024 - PDF.](#)

Figure 38 - Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents, 2011/12 to 2024/25.



- The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) annually asks respondents about experiences of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking. It estimated that 9.1% of women and 6.5% of men across England and Wales had experienced some form of domestic abuse during the year ending March 2025⁸⁵. Using mid-2024 population estimates, in Brighton & Hove this would equate to 11,425 women and 7,668 men in the city who had experienced domestic abuse in the last year, and 37,162 women and 25,718 men having been a victim of domestic abuse at least once since the age of 16.

Protection Orders and Right to Ask / Right to Know applications

Domestic Violence Protection Orders

- In 2024/25 there were 62 applications for Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) in the city's courts in 2024/25, of which 60 were granted; this was lower than the 72 granted applications made the previous year, but consistent with the number of orders granted in the years immediately before and after the Covid-19 pandemic. The number of DVPOs breached followed a similar trend.

Right to Ask / Right to Know applications

- Right to Know applications – those made by Police to the courts seeking to disclose information to individuals about concerns over risk of domestic abuse – increased markedly in 2024/25, with 142 applications made and 96 disclosures granted, more than three times the 43 applications and 30 disclosures the year before. This was shaped by a prominent increase in the last quarter of 2024/25, continuing a general increase in applications since late-2023.
- Right to Ask applications – those made to Courts by prospective partners or third parties – also increased substantially with 301 applications and 145 disclosures in 2024/25, each the highest since recording began.

Safeguarding Adults

Safeguarding referrals from health agencies⁸⁶

- University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust recorded 24 safeguarding concerns in 2024/25 related to domestic abuse for people attending its hospitals who are residents of

⁸⁵ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Crime Survey for England and Wales supplementary tables, year ending March 2025.](#)

⁸⁶ [Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 24-25, PDF.](#)

Brighton & Hove. This was higher than the 17 in 2023/24, but significantly lower than in 2021/22 (41) and 2020/21 (67 recorded). From the 24 concerns raised, 16 recorded psychological abuse as a factor while neglect and physical abuse were mentioned in 8 instances.

- Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT), which provides adult mental health services, recorded 34 domestic abuse-related adult safeguarding concerns in the city, fewer than the 45 in 2023/24 but higher than the 24 recorded in 2022/23.

Safeguarding enquiries opened by Adult Social Care

- In 2024/25 there were 138 concluded Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries by Brighton & Hove City Council⁸⁶ where the risk of domestic abuse was mentioned, a continued increase following 129 recorded in 2023/24 and 112 in 2022/23.

Experiences of Children and Young People

Children in Need

- In 2024/25, there were 141 Children in Need assessments in which domestic abuse concerns against the child were recorded as a factor, making up 6.9% of the 2,039 total assessments completed. This was higher than the 131 in 2023/24 (6.6% of all assessments) and 120 in 2022/23 (4.8% of assessments). The proportion of all assessments in which domestic abuse against a child was a concern was also lower than across England in 2024/25 (11.3% of assessments) and compared with its statistical neighbours (13.6% of assessments). In contrast, there were 734 assessments (36% of all assessments) where a parent being a victim of domestic abuse was recorded as a concern, also higher than in 2022/23 (32.7%) and 2023/24 (35%), higher than its statistical neighbours (27.1%) and England (31.7% of assessments).

Safe and Well at Schools Survey (SAWSS)

- Data from the Safe and Well at Schools Survey (SAWSS), carried out with pupils aged 7 to 18 across the city in November / December 2023⁸⁷, highlighted that 40% of Key Stage 3 students (aged 11-14) had experienced at least one problematic behaviour in their relationship(s), increasing to 45% of students in Key Stage 4 (aged 15-16)⁸⁸.
- Students more likely than average⁸⁹ to report having experienced at least one problematic relationship behaviour were those who need extra help in school (53%), young carers (55%), students who do not ever or always identify with their gender assigned at birth (50%), students who are currently or previously been in care or living with Kinship Carers (57%), students who are LGB+, and those who are in the most financial hardship (48% respectively).
- There was no significant difference between boys and girls being more likely to report experiencing at least one problematic relationship behaviour. However, boys were more likely to have ever been hit while in a relationship (19%) than girls (14%), while girls were more likely to have ever been humiliated or put down (26%) than boys (18%).

⁸⁷ [Brighton & Hove City Council webpage – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) - Safe and Well at Schools Survey.](#)

⁸⁸ Problem behaviours include being yelled at, being put down and/or humiliated, being hit, kicked, pushed or slapped, and being constantly checked up on.

⁸⁹ Statistically significant at the 95% ($p = .05$) level.

Support for victims

Domestic Abuse Specialist Service - Victim Support

- In 2024/25, The Domestic Abuse Specialist Service (DASS) at Victim Support received 1,282 total referrals to the service relating to survivors from Brighton & Hove; 122 survivors were already in support, 629 referrals were accepted into service, and 96 referrals were provided with indirect support. Indirect support included professional advice and consultancy, attendance at multi-disciplinary meetings and MARAC representation to reduce identified risks and increase a survivor's safety. The most common support activities offered by the DASS included giving time for listening and validation of victims' experiences, safety planning, external referrals for other agencies' services and advocacy support for speaking with police and housing authorities. For clients not identified as high-risk, risk assessments are still completed and other services still provided like advice and advocacy, signposting, safety plans and discussion at MARAC and multidisciplinary meetings where appropriate.
- Victim Support's **Children and Young People's Housing Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)** supports young survivors of domestic abuse impacted by housing insecurity through homelessness, tenancy breakdown or insecure accommodation. In 2024/25, this service received referrals for people aged 16 to 25 alongside a small number of referrals for people aged over 25. Across the year, 59% of clients had multiple compound needs affecting their ability to obtain or keep stable accommodation, including but not limited to a history of substance/alcohol misuse, a history of offending and mental ill-health. In each quarter of 2024/25, more than 50% of clients referred to the service had a history of poor mental health, likely reflecting the impact of housing insecurity, economic hardship and surviving domestic abuse on the young people seeking support.
- Victim Support's **Health IDVA**, based at the Royal Sussex County Hospital (RSCH), provides support to survivors of domestic abuse including patients and staff via referrals from health services like GPs, RSCH departments and sexual health services. The service provides signposting and listening services, as well as making referrals to other services, safety planning and advocacy support for contact with social services and police. In 2024/25, this IDVA received 82 referrals and accepted 64 clients seeking support aged over 18 – the most common age groups referred to the service were those aged 35 to 44 (31%) and aged 25 to 34 (18%). This IDVA worked with clients across a range of ethnic backgrounds, including attempting to locate services support survivors with visa issues, immigration concerns or with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). This service highlighted the high proportion of mental health needs being disclosed by clients, while also noting that BME survivors were often presenting to the service after finding no other support elsewhere.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) cases

- Across 2024/25 there were 732 high-risk domestic violence cases discussed at the weekly MARACs in Brighton & Hove. This was slightly lower than in the previous two years but consistent with the number of cases discussed in most years since 2018/19. Among these, 38.1% were repeat cases, similar to the previous year and lower than the 55% and 50% of cases in 2020/21 and 2021/22 respectively. It also sits just inside the range of 28 to 40% of

cases recommended by SafeLives⁹⁰, but higher than the average of 30% of MARAC cases across the UK.

- The number of MARAC cases discussed in the city in the five quarters to the end of 2024/25 (from January 2024 to March 2025) equated to 76 cases per 10,000 adult female population, higher than the UK-wide average of 48 per 10,000 and the expected level of 40 per 10,000.

Specialist support

- **Switchboard** provide a specialist LGBTQ+ Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) who can help housing and accessing refuge services, financial issues and benefits, navigating the criminal justice system, and assisting with mental and physical health needs. In 2024/25, the IDVA service supported 117 new victims of domestic abuse – of which 87 were Brighton & Hove residents - as well as 287 existing victims, across Sussex. Of the 117 new referrals received, 68 were recorded as having disability and 43 were from a BME ethnic background.
- Switchboard also provide support for LGBTQ+ people through its **Polari Programme**, a 12-week recovery program for survivors of domestic abuse part of a trauma-informed 'psychosocial' group. Among the 17 people to have completed the two sets of 12-week sessions during 2024/25, 10 were members of the TNBI community with ages ranging from 18 to 64; 8 participants were aged 25 to 34.
- The Change+ programme⁹¹ run by **Cranstoun** is a behaviour change programme tailored for LGBTQ+ people aged over 18 who have become aware that their relationships have become distressing or damaged by their behaviour. The Change + programme worked with 5 of the 8 people referred to its service in its first 8 months and has a focus on providing wraparound, personalised support.
- **The Network of International Women for Brighton and Hove (NIWBH⁹²)** provides trauma-informed 1 to 1 casework support for vulnerable women in racially minoritised communities. The service shares educational resources around domestic abuse and sexual violence to help improve awareness among racially minoritised women in the city and organisations supporting them. Since 2022, its casework service supported 84 women who were victims of a range of forms of domestic abuse and sexual violence. In 2024/25, referrals from professional services like domestic abuse support organisations and NHS / mental health services increased by more than 100%.
- **NIWBH** works alongside the nationwide charity **Surviving Economic Abuse** to provide one-to-one advocacy as well as group workshops for racially minoritised women to improve understanding of economic abuse in their relationships. In 2024/25 the service worked with 10 women who had disclosed that they had possibly been a victim of economic abuse, including post-separation economic exploitation or threats.

⁹⁰ [SafeLives webpage on reviewing MARAC data.](#)

⁹¹ [Change+ programme webpage, run by Cranstoun.](#)

⁹² [The Network of International Women for Brighton & Hove webpage.](#)

- **Equinox**⁹³ provides temporary accommodation alongside a range of outreach / advocacy support for women and TNBI people experiencing homelessness, domestic abuse and other forms of disadvantage like substance misuse and contact with the criminal justice system. Between April 2024 and August 2025, Equinox supported 24 people needing accommodation after experiencing domestic abuse including physical abuse (17 people), controlling or coercive behaviour (14) and psychological abuse (12 people). Abuse occurred by claiming control of survivors' benefits or earnings, controlling their time and property and/or physical or sexual abuse including coercion into sex work. Many Equinox clients had experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) including neglect, sexual or physical abuse and unstable family dynamics which were then complicated or exacerbated as an adult, often in circumstances where they had struggled to receive formal support from police or other professionals.

Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs), Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

- In the tragic event of a domestic homicide being recorded, Sussex Police informs the Community Safety Partnership who then become responsible for establishing whether a death is to be the subject of a Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR), formerly known as a Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR).
- With the Royal Assent of the Victims and Prisoner Act 2024, the scope of such reviews has been widened to include deaths by suicide where domestic abuse was a feature of the relationship. At the time of writing, 6 such reviews were being undertaken, of which 3 due to homicide and 3 due to suicide. The results of previous reviews are published to help educate professionals and the public around the underlying causes of and responses to the chains of events leading to these deaths. The partnership also publishes its common learnings from these reviews, identifying and clarifying where local practice could be improved and services could be strengthened to support victims and work with perpetrators to reduce the likelihood of such homicides happening again.

Suicide risk

- There is increasing evidence of a link between domestic abuse, poor mental health and suicide. The study of women in the UK who died by suicide between 2015 and 2021 having had contact with mental health services in the past 12 months showed that 26% had experienced domestic abuse. Many of these women also experienced unemployment and adverse life events (including financial problems and/ or loss of job, benefits, or housing), alongside Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, self-harm, violence as a perpetrator, and substance misuse⁹⁴.
- In Brighton and Hove a suicide audit in 2024/25, that covered the period April 2021 to March 2024, found that the percentage of women who died by suicide who had experienced domestic abuse was similar to the national prevalence seen in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (2023). However, we would expect the prevalence to be higher given the increased risk of suicide in victims of domestic abuse. This suggests that domestic abuse is under recorded

⁹³ [Equinox Brighton Women's Service webpage.](#)

⁹⁴ [The Lancet Regional Health: Europe research article, PDF. Turnbull et al., 2025 - Domestic violence and suicide in women under the care of mental health services in the UK, 2015–2021: a national observational study.](#)

across the system (including mental health, primary care, drug and alcohol services, and Police).

- An analysis of the near to real-time suspected suicide surveillance (nRTSSS), which provides information based on deaths by suspected suicide reported by local police, found a lower proportion of deaths with domestic abuse recorded. Between July 2021 and March 2024, 12% (13 out of 110 deaths) were recorded as being a victim of domestic abuse. Almost all were women, which suggests that there is a significant under-recording on police systems. Over the same period, 13% (14 out of 110 deaths) were recorded as a suspected or convicted perpetrator of domestic abuse.

Housing and homelessness data

Homelessness applications

- In 2023/24, Brighton and Hove City Council assessed 169 homeless applications as owed a duty (either prevention or relief) where the reason for the loss of a settled home was related to domestic abuse⁹⁵. This accounted for 10% of all homelessness applications which have been assessed as being owed a duty, a similar proportion as seen in 2022/23. Overall numbers of homelessness applications owed a duty by the local authority for reasons of domestic abuse have risen slightly since 2022/23, where 156 were recorded.
- The acceptance rate for main duty decisions made where the reason for the loss of settled home at the time of assessment was related to domestic abuse was 100% (36 of 36) in both 2022/23 and in 2023/24 (38 of 38)⁹⁶. Main duty decisions relating to domestic abuse are comparatively lower than assessments relating to domestic abuse, as interventions may have been made at an earlier stage (such as providing prevention or relief duty), before a main duty decision was required.

Domestic abuse-related anti-social behaviour reported to council housing

- Brighton & Hove City Council's Housing Team recorded 155 ASB incidents involving domestic violence or abuse in 2024/25, 60% more than the 96 recorded the previous year and considerably greater than the historical range of 60 to 80 incidents annually.

Stonewater

- There continue to be 15 places in the Brighton Refuge providing accommodation and support for women and their children fleeing domestic abuse. During 2024/25 a total of 35 individual women, along with 38 children were accommodated - similar to figures seen in previous years. The service ran at 93% capacity throughout the year, giving 5,082 total occupied days to clients needing refuge. A wide range of support needs were identified during the referral assessment process, particularly diagnosed mental health needs (49 of 105 referrals received in 2024/25), contact with the criminal justice system due to the perpetrator of abuse (23), substance misuse difficulties (18) and physical health issues (18 instances).

⁹⁵ [GOV.UK webpage - Tables on homelessness](#). Statutory homelessness: Detailed local authority-level tables, April 2023 – March 2024.

⁹⁶ Data extracted from [Home Connections database webpage](#), November 2024.

- In 2024/25 the Stonewater Capacity Building Programme⁹⁷ received 26 referrals, most of whom were assessed as at a high risk of abuse or exploitation, with a range of needs including mental health, abuse prevention, language/interpreter support and immigration-related housing issues⁹⁸.

Commissioned Services in the Brighton & Hove Enhanced Domestic Abuse Housing Pathway

- Several services were commissioned to enable the Council to deliver its statutory duty to provide support in safe accommodation under Part 5 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Cumulatively, these services provide an Enhanced Housing Pathway for those affected by domestic abuse. The range of work delivered is detailed below.
- A total of 90 clients aged 16-25 were supported in 2024/25 by the Children and Young Person's Domestic Abuse and Housing Caseworker, employed by **Victim Support**. In 2024/25, the key mental health needs identified were depression, suicidal ideation and anxiety, with the main forms of abuse being recorded as the reason for referral being physical violence (27 of 39 new referrals in 2024/25), coercive control (18), emotional/psychological abuse (16) and stalking/harassment (12).
- A specialist Housing Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (HIDVA) operated by **RISE** saw 53 referrals in 2024/25 for people seeking a range of support owing to homelessness caused by domestic violence or the need to seek emergency accommodation/refuge. Referrals came mostly from council services such as Homelessness Prevention Officers and the Housing Needs Team. In total 105 clients were supported in 2024/25– key needs identified were emotional (26 of 53 referrals), coercive control (23), physical violence (21) and stalking/harassment (16), while the service also worked with people with an offending history. Poor mental health was the most identified disability.
- **RISE's Floating Support (Housing Outreach) Service** works with those who are moving due to domestic violence or abuse, including providing equipment and adaptations to prevent further perpetration of abuse. The service – aimed primarily at women, children and LGBT survivors - received 72 referrals and worked with 148 clients in 2024/25 – mental health disabilities were reported for around 50% (72 or 148) of clients with 32 physical, 19 long-term conditions and 11 reports of learning disabilities were also recorded.
- **RISE's Sanctuary Scheme** aims to give survivors of domestic abuse options to remain at home through providing safety and security measures. Throughout 2024/25, 190 people were referred to the service, with 209 clients open on caseloads across the four quarters of the year, including a large number who were referred to both the Sanctuary Scheme and for Housing Outreach support. The most recorded needs or disabilities were mental health issues (noted in 94

⁹⁷ The programme supports survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, sexual exploitation and other harmful practices from across Black and Minority Ethnic, minoritised, and marginalised communities in the city. Its IDVA provides tailored, culturally sensitive interventions and planning for personal safety, signposting, workshops and advocacy alongside support finding accommodation.

⁹⁸ This service aims to provide improved support to people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), using its knowledge of legal aid processes and relationship building to guide clients towards appropriate legal support.

referrals), physical disabilities (30 clients), learning disabilities (19 clients) and other long-term health conditions (26 clients). Other frequently cited additional needs included having dual or multiple diagnoses, pregnancy or accessibility requirements.

- **RISE's Rising Stars** programme provides community-based support for young people impacted by domestic abuse, alongside support in finding safer and more suitable housing. The service is aimed at 6- to 11-year-olds and their parents/carers, as well as a **Mini Stars** programme for children aged 0 to 5. Over 2024/25, the service received referrals for 29 children and 23 of their parents/carers. Needs and disabilities identified in these referrals included undiagnosed trauma, speech disorders and diagnosed and undiagnosed autism and ADHD.
- **Switchboard** provides housing support for LGBTQ+ survivors of domestic abuse through a specialist caseworker, helping to navigate clients out of homelessness, insecure tenancy or domestic-abuse related housing breakdown to stable accommodation. In 2024/25 the service worked with 85 clients aged 16+, most of whom presented as homeless or in need of support to maintain their current tenancy. A large proportion of clients identified as living with mental ill-health, neurodiversity and/or chronic illness or physical disability.
- The Level Up Program offered by **Cranstoun**⁹⁹ aims to reduce harm and minimise trauma at home where young people have been using harmful behaviour. In 2024/25 the programme received 22 referrals and worked with 20 young people aged 12 to 18, many of whom showed a history of anti-social behaviour, familial domestic violence and neurodiversity and/or anxiety. Feedback received from the programme's client and families showed improved emotional regulation and coping mechanisms. The Brighton & Hove Flexible Fund is a last-resort fund for survivors of domestic abuse living in the city, from which agencies supporting survivors of domestic or sexual abuse can apply for money for goods and services to make a positive difference to their housing situation as well as for other emergency expenditure. In 2024/25, there were 23 successful applications to the Flexible Fund, totalling around £5,200. These funds were used for a variety of supporting purchases like replacing passports and essential documents, white goods, emergency clothing/toiletries, smart doorbells and security cameras.

Work with perpetrators

- Cranstoun also run its Men and Masculinity Programme¹⁰⁰, a 24-week programme aimed at men who have recognised that their own behaviour has damaged their relationships. Cranstoun received 53 referrals in 2024/25 from a combination of social care sources and from self-referral, from which 47 were accepted into the programme, covering a wide set of ages between 18 and 60. The logged needs of perpetrators worked with include substance misuse histories and poor mental health, as well as, increasingly, for neurodiversity including ADHD. The primary nature of abuse was coercive and emotional abuse in all cases, and physical violence in nearly half of cases among those accepted into the programme in 2024/25.

⁹⁹ [Cranstoun webpage on the Level Up Programme.](#)

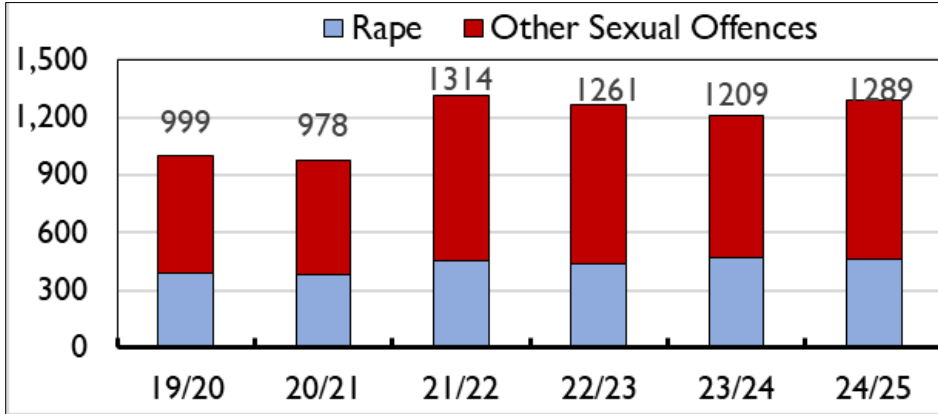
¹⁰⁰ [Cranstoun - Men & Masculinity programme webpage.](#)

Sexual Violence and Abuse

Police recorded sexual offences

- There were 1,289 sexual offences recorded in the city in 2024/25. Sexual offences recorded by the police remain historically high in the city, being 6.6% higher than in the previous year and remaining above 1,200 for the last four years, as seen in **Figure 39**.

Figure 39 - Sexual Offences by type, 2019/20 to 2024/25.

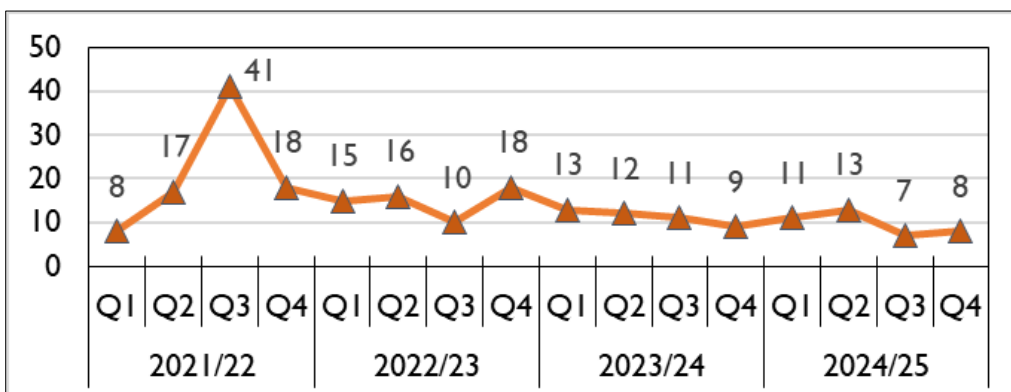


- The Crime Survey for England and Wales in 2024/25 estimated that 3% of women and 0.7% of men across England and Wales had experienced some form of sexual assault during the year ending March 2025. Using mid-2024 population estimates, this would equate to 3,766 women and 826 men in the city in 2024/25. Using total prevalence estimates from the CSEW would also suggest that 32,140 women and 6,960 men in the city have been a victim of sexual assault – including any perpetrated or attempted rape, penetration, indecent exposure or unwanted sexual touching - at least once since the age of 16.

Spiking incidents and recorded sexual assaults at Accident and Emergency

- In 2024/25 there were 39 attendances logged at Accident and Emergency departments relating to alcohol or assault in the city where spiking was also mentioned in notes, as seen in **Figure 40**. This is slightly less than the 45 recorded in the previous year and has not followed a seasonal pattern. Among the 39 attendances logged due to spiking in the city in 2024/25, 25 related to female patients and 14 to males. Patients' ages ranged from 18 to 55, more than half (29, 59%) related to patients aged 18 to 25.

Figure 40 - Accident and Emergency Attendances at Princess Royal Hospital, Royal Sussex County Hospital and Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital where free complaints fields contain the text 'spiking' or 'spiked', 2021/22 to 2024/25.



Safeguarding Adults

Safeguarding referrals from health agencies

- In 2024/25 there were 94 concluded Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries by Brighton & Hove City Council where sexual abuse or sexual exploitation was noted, from 915 total enquiries. This has remained consistent, with 94 enquiries the previous year and 101 recorded in 2022/23.
- Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT) recorded 19 sexual abuse-related adult safeguarding concerns in the city in 2024/25, fewer than the 32 recorded in 2023/24 but more than the 17 recorded in 2022/23.
- In 2024/25, University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust recorded 7 sexual abuse-related adult safeguarding concerns for people attending its hospitals who are residents of Brighton & Hove, more than the 4 recorded in 2023/24 but lower than in any of the prior three years.

Safeguarding enquiries opened by Adult Social Care

- Brighton & Hove City Council raised 94 Section 42 adult safeguarding enquiries with sexual abuse or sexual exploitation as a factor in 2024/25, identical to the number raised the previous year – there were 101 recorded in 2022/23, a significant increase from the 58 recorded in 2021/22.

Specialist services

- **Survivors Network** supports people who have experienced sexual violence through therapy services, practical support from Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA), workshops and groupwork. In 2024/25, its Welcome Team received 578 referrals, alongside 118 referrals to its Adult Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA). Overall, 280 adults and 40 children were supported through counselling. Other services required clients to be added to waiting lists, such as its Adults' Peer Group Groups (161 added) and its Children and Young People's ISVAs (14 added).
- When including clients already on waiting lists before 2024/25, Survivors Network gave support to 976 people, some of whom were supported by multiple services. Of referred clients, 39% (378 instances) had reported rape, a further 28% experienced some other form of sexual violence, and around 20% had historical child sexual abuse as the primary incident.
- The most common alleged perpetrators, when disclosed, were ex-partners (25%), acquaintances (21%), family members (14%) current partners (5%), or strangers (12%). Overall, 66% of clients self-reported having a disability, including mental health issues (71% of all clients supported), neurodivergence (17%), long-term illness (14%) as well as those reporting physical, learning and/or sensory disabilities. The key impacts of the abuse experienced by clients included mental health issues, sleep issues, nightmares/flashbacks, suicidal thoughts, relationship problems and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress.

Survey data

Health Counts

- The Health Counts survey 2024⁶ asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including questions around feelings of safety, worry about rape and sexual assault, and experiences of sexual harassment.
- Nearly half of all female respondents (48%) reported feeling very or a bit unsafe walking alone within approximately 15 minutes from their home at night, compared with 19% of male respondents, and 34% of Health Counts respondents overall. Respondents aged 18 to 24 and 25 to 34 were significantly more likely than the city average to report feeling a bit or very unsafe at night, as well as people aged 85 years or over.
- Health Counts 2024 asked respondents how worried they were about being sexually assaulted or raped. Over one in five respondents (21%) reported that they were very or fairly worried. This was significantly higher for females than males, with 34% of females reporting that they were very or fairly worried about being sexually assaulted/raped, compared to 7% of males.
- Respondents in younger age groups had significantly higher levels of worry about sexual assault or rape compared with respondents as a whole, with 40% of respondents aged 18-24 years, and 30% aged 25-34 years reporting they were very or fairly worried about being sexually assaulted or raped.
- Respondents from mixed/ multiple ethnic groups, or who described their ethnicity as 'Other'¹⁰¹, are Trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI), LGBTQ+, disabled, or live in temporary/ emergency accommodation, as well as respondents who live in the most deprived areas of the city were all significantly more likely to report feeling very or fairly worried about being sexually assaulted/raped.
- Health Counts also asked about experiences of sexual harassment. Of Health Counts respondents, 16% had experienced catcalls, whistles, unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger in a public space in the last 12 months. This compared to 8% for Great Britain in 2022 from the ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey. Younger respondents had significantly higher levels of experience of sexual harassment than all respondents; 42% of 18 to 24 year olds, and 27% of 25-34 year olds reported experiencing catcalls, whistles, unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger in a public space in the last 12 months.
- Over one in four (26%) female respondents, compared to one in twenty (5%) male respondents reported experiencing catcalls, whistles, unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger in a public space in the last 12 months.
- Respondents from mixed/ multiple ethnic groups, or of Arab ethnicity, are TNBI, LGBTQ+, disabled, or live in temporary/ emergency accommodation all had significantly higher levels of experience of catcalls, whistles, unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger in a public space in the last 12 months, compared with all respondents.

¹⁰¹ Ethnic groups included Asian or Asian British; Black, Black British, Caribbean or African; Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups; Arab; Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller; White British; White Irish or other White; or Other ethnic group.

- In addition, 13% of Health Counts respondents reported having experienced feeling as though they were being followed in the past 12 months. This compared to 7% for Great Britain in 2022 from the ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey. Again, younger respondents were significantly more likely to report having experienced this; 34% aged 18-24 years, and 21% aged 25-34 years reported having experienced feeling as though they were being followed in the past 12 months.
- TNBI, LGBTQ+, female, and disabled respondents, as well as respondents from mixed/ multiple ethnic groups, or who are living in temporary/ emergency accommodation, or who have experience of the care system as a child/ young person all showed significantly higher levels of experience of feeling as though they were being followed in the past 12 months, compared with all respondents.

Safe and Well at School Survey 2023

- The Safe and Well at Schools Survey 2023 asked students whether they had seen a selection of harmful sexual behaviours in school at some point in the last year. Among all secondary school pupils responding to this question:
 - 18% reported that sexual harassment (unwanted sexual behaviour towards a person making them scared, upset, offended or humiliated) occurred at school at least once in the last year.
 - 54% had heard rumours about someone else's sexual activity.
 - 47% had heard sexist name calling.
 - 16% knew about someone sending or receiving nude images/videos.
 - 20% reported seeing sexual images/videos being shared without consent.

Stalking and harassment

- In 2024/25 there were 2,014 stalking and harassment offences – including the crimes of control/coercive behaviour and threatening communications - recorded in the city, 14% fewer than in the previous year. This crime type has decreased steadily since 2021/22, mostly due to decreases in recorded malicious communications crimes.
- The Crime Survey for England and Wales in 2024/25 estimated that 4.0% of women and 1.8% of men across England and Wales had experienced stalking during the year ending March 2025. Using mid-2024 population estimates, this would equate to 5,022 women and 2,123 men in the city in 2024/25.
- **Veritas**¹⁰² provides specialist advice and advocacy support across Sussex to victims of stalking. In 2024/25, Veritas received 384 unique referrals from residents of Brighton & Hove, from which 137 people became clients. This resulted in a 36% uptake rate, lower than in the previous year (65%) and in 2022/23 (48%). In 71% instances the perpetrator was identified as an ex-intimate partner, while in 22% of cases it was a non-intimate acquaintance and in 6.5% of cases the perpetrator was a colleague. Thirty-nine percent of clients expressed a mental health need

¹⁰² [Veritas Justice main webpage.](#)

while 14 (10%) had a physical health need, while a further 13 (9%) had needs around alcohol or substance use.

Harmful practices: HBV; FGM, Forced Marriage

- In 2024/25 there were 3 police recorded crimes of honour-based violence, compared with 8 in 2023/24.
- There were no police recorded crimes of forced marriage or female genital mutilation (FGM) in 2024/25 in the city.
- Healthcare providers in Brighton & Hove identified 15 newly identified individuals with FGM in 2023/24¹⁰³.

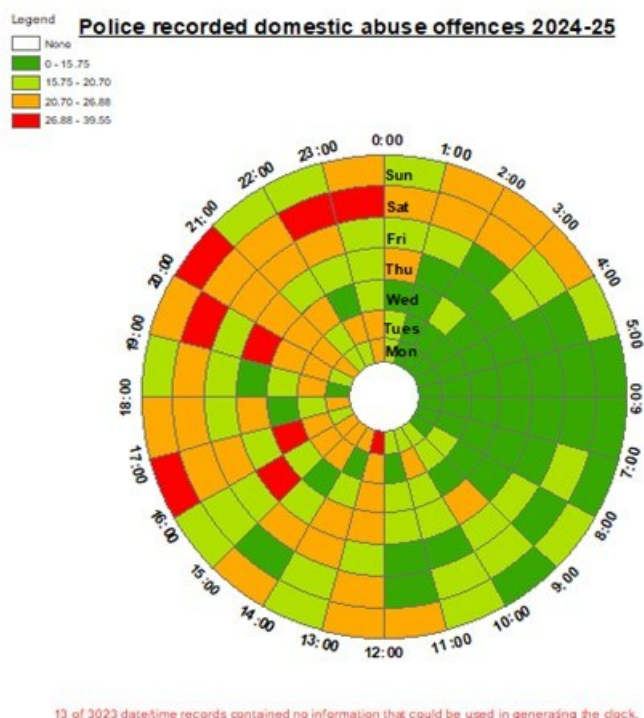
Nature of the problem

Domestic Violence and Abuse

- Of 3,023 police recorded domestic abuse offences in 2024/25, 78% were violence against the person offences, 7% were sexual offences, 5% were arson and criminal damage offences, 4% were theft offences, 3% were public order offences and the remaining 3% of offences were made up of small numbers of other and miscellaneous offences.
- 79% of police recorded domestic abuse offences where location type was recorded occurred in a dwelling. A further 14% of offences occurred in a public or open place (the most frequent of which was on the street), and 4% occurred in a hospitality venue. The remaining offences occurred in shops, moving vehicles, commercial venues, educational facilities, medical facilities, and other public buildings.
- Overall, the data clock of police recorded domestic abuse offences in 2024-25, seen in **Figure 41**, shows a less pronounced late-night weekend peak than seen in previous years analysis, and offences which are more evenly distributed across the afternoon and evening on most days of the week. However, there remains an elevated number of offences over the weekends, where there are a higher proportion of offences occurring later into Saturday and Sunday morning. Saturday evening shows a peak in offences between 19.00hrs and 20.00hrs and again between 22:00 and 00:00hrs.

¹⁰³ [NHS Digital webpage - FGM data, 2023/24.](#)

Figure 41 - data clock of police recorded domestic abuse crimes in 2024/25.



About the victims/survivors

- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Of those domestic abuse offences in 2024/25 (where victim sex or gender identity was recorded) 68% of victims were female, 31% were male, 0.5% were transgender, and less than 0.5% were recorded as either 'indeterminate' or other⁶⁶.
- The rate of victimisation for domestic violence peaks in the 30-39 age group (21.6 offences per 1,000 people for women, compared with 9.5 offences per 1,000 people for men) and declines in each subsequent age group after this. This is in contrast with data from the Crime Survey England & Wales (CSEW) in 2024 which found that the age group experiencing the highest prevalence of domestic abuse were aged 16-19 years, with prevalence broadly dropping with age. This was the case for both women and men¹⁰⁴.
- Due to low overall numbers, it is not possible to analyse by age group those police recorded victims of domestic abuse who were recorded as transgender, indeterminate or other⁶⁶.

Data from MARAC

- Demographic data from the city's MARAC cases highlighted that around 2% of victims discussed in 2024/25 were from the LGBT community, 43% of victims had a disability, and around 19% were from the Black and Minority Ethnic community – it should be noted that the clients in nearly a half of cases would be counted more than once. There were also a small number of cases (under 10) where victims were aged under 18, including cases where the perpetrator was under 18.

¹⁰⁴ [ONS, 'Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2024', 2024](#)

Multiple Complex / Compound Needs

- The Changing Futures¹⁰⁵ programme is a programme operating throughout Sussex for people experiencing multiple compound needs, which seeks to improve outcomes for people facing at least three of either homelessness, domestic abuse, mental ill-health, substance misuse and having a history of offending.
- During the quarter to the end of March 2025, 378 people were identified as experiencing multiple compound needs in the city, at least one of which needs was homelessness – from which 60 were also affected by domestic violence. Of those affected by domestic abuse, 56 (93%) were also experiencing mental health issues, 50 (83%) by substance misuse and 29 (48%) had a history of offending behaviour. As a result, 21 were engaging in treatment for substance misuse and 15 were known to be entrenched rough sleepers.
- Of those affected by domestic abuse in Q4 2024/25, 65% were female, 32% male and 3% from the TNBI community. Nearly half of clients (29 of 60) were aged 25 to 40, 24 were aged between 41 and 60 and 5 were aged 18 to 24. These proportions were very similar across all recorded quarters in 2024/25.

About the perpetrators

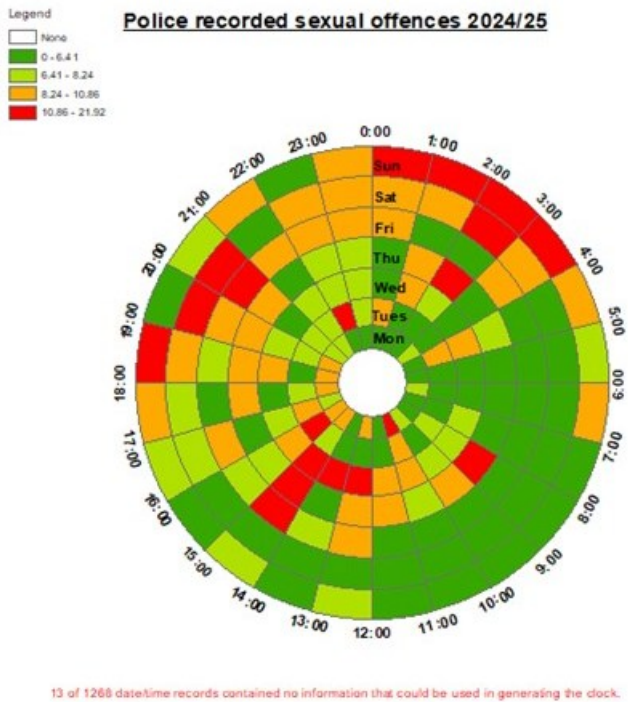
- Police data shows that perpetrators of domestic abuse locally, as nationally, are overwhelmingly male. Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. 79% of offenders charged locally with an offence flagged as domestic violence in 2024/25 were male, 20% were female, and 1% were transgender or non-binary⁶⁶.
- Offenders of domestic abuse are predominantly young, with the highest rate of offending in the 20-29 age group for both males and females, remaining high in the 30-39 age group and declining in subsequent age groups after this.
- Analysis of the relationship between victim and perpetrator of police recorded domestic abuse offences in 2024/25 showed that 40% of domestic abuse offences had a perpetrator, followed by 17% which had a perpetrator who was a current spouse or partner, 16% where the perpetrator was recorded as an intimate, 10% respectively who were a family member or child, 4% who were a parent or guardian and 2% each which were recorded as a stranger or acquaintance.

Sexual Violence & Abuse

- The data clock for police recorded sexual offences in 2024/25, shown in **Figure 42**, shows an elevated number of police recorded sexual offences over the evenings and night-time, which is particularly evident over the weekends, with an elevated number of offences on a Friday night/ Saturday morning and again on a Saturday night/ Sunday morning, where there is a particular peak in offences until 04.00hrs. On weekdays there are also smaller peaks in offences earlier in the afternoons, particularly between 14.00hrs and 15.00hrs.

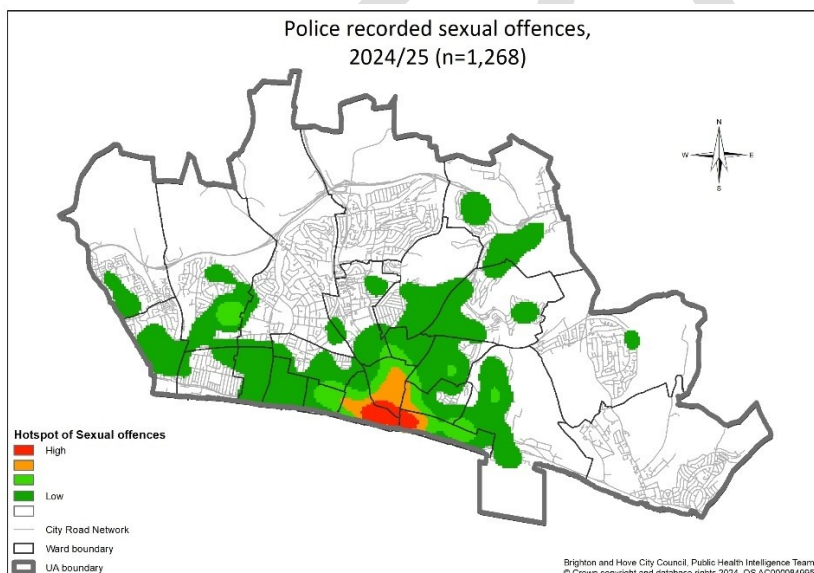
¹⁰⁵ [Changing Futures Sussex webpage.](#)

Figure 42 - data clock of police recorded sexual offences in 2024/25.



- As shown in **Figure 43**, the hotspot for police recorded sexual offences in 2024/25 is located in the city centre, covering an area including part of North Laine (between North Street and Church Street), the lanes and adjacent seafront, as well as the Old Steine and part of Kemptown. There are also clusters of offences following main arterial routes out of the city centre both to the west and north.

Figure 43 - hotspot map of police recorded sexual offences in Brighton and Hove, 2024/25.



- Over half (55%) of sexual offences in this time period occurred in a dwelling, with a further 19% of offences taking place in a public/ open space, the most common of which was the street, followed by the beach. 14% of sexual offences occurred in a hospitality venue such as a club, pub or restaurant. However, the location of the offence may be different to the location where the victim first meets a perpetrator.

About the victims/survivors

- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. In 2024/25, 78% of victims of sexual offences where sex or gender was recorded were female, 20% were male, and 2% were recorded as transgender, 'indeterminate', or other⁶⁶.
- The highest rate of victimisation for both males and females was in the 10-19 age group (16.6 per 1,000 population for females, and 3.9 per 1,000 population for males). For both male and female victims, the rate of victimisation for this age group is nearly twice that of those aged 20-29 (the next highest victim age group) and declines in subsequent age groups.
- Due to low overall numbers, it is not possible to analyse by age group those police recorded victims of sexual offences who were recorded as transgender, indeterminate or other⁶⁶.
- Victim ethnicity was unrecorded in over half of police recorded sexual offences in 2024/25, and therefore analysis is not possible.

About the perpetrators

- Of police recorded sexual offences in 2024/25, 18% were flagged as domestic abuse.
- Of police recorded sexual offences where the relationship between the victim and perpetrator was known, 41% were committed by a stranger, 30% were committed by an acquaintance, 10% were committed by an ex-partner, 7% by an intimate, and 4% respectively by a family member or current spouse/ partner. The remaining offences were committed by a parent/ guardian, child or work colleague.
- Sussex Police currently record offender sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. In 2024/25, 95% (n=71) of those charged with a sexual offence were male and 5% were female. There were no offenders whose gender identity was recorded as transgender, other or indeterminate in this time period⁶⁶.
- Numbers are low and therefore caution must be used, but offending was clustered in the 20-29, 30-39 and 40-49 age groups.
- There was not sufficient information on offender ethnicity to analyse.
- Over half (57%) of offenders charged with a sexual offence in 2024/25 lived in Brighton & Hove, 38% were from outside the city, and 5% had no fixed address.

Stalking and harassment

Police data

- Of those stalking and harassment offences in 2024/25 where victim sex or gender identity was recorded, 65% of victims were female, and 33% were male. Less than 1% of victims respectively were transgender (with a similar male/ female ratio), recorded as 'indeterminate', or other⁶⁶.
- Of those stalking and harassment offences where the location type was recorded, 74% occurred inside a dwelling, and 26% occurred outside of a dwelling. 15% of stalking and harassment offences occurred in a public or open place, the most common of which was on the

street. Stalking and harassment offences which took place outside of a dwelling also occurred in a wide range of other public spaces, including hospitality venues, shops, workplaces, educational and medical settings.

- Over a third (36%) of police recorded stalking and harassment offences in 2024/25 were flagged as domestic abuse.
- In 2024/25, Sussex Police¹⁰⁶ secured 43 Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) and 28 interim orders.

Business Crime Reduction Partnership data

- The Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) routinely collect data from registered businesses concerning violence against women and girls during the night-time economy (NTE). They report that safeguarding interventions were required in multiple instances where females, intoxicated or otherwise vulnerable, were seen alone and then followed or harassed by men acting alone or in groups. These instances tended to occur around night-time economy venues or near transport hubs in the city.
- Hotspots identified by the BCRP for such issues during the NTE included West Street – where incidents of (attempted) forced isolation and vulnerability of women were frequently noted. Further hotspots included the area around Queens Road, south towards East Street and onto Marine Parade, where concerning male behaviour around lone or intoxicated women was frequently spotted by businesses.

Resources and gaps

- Brighton and Hove City Council commission a wide range of services for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence and for those using abusive behaviour. These are referenced in the data section of this strategy. In addition, several services are commissioned by the PCC. However, services are not securely funded due to the public sector funding situation. VAWG is an entrenched issue, and more consideration must be given to secure funding. This should be addressed at a national level.
- The high level of DARDs will have resource implications should areas for improvement be identified.
- Feedback from our recent VAWG Focus Group in July 2025 and MARAC Away Day in September 2025 has enabled us as a partnership to identify the unmet needs/gaps and areas for development. These are noted below:
 - Participants clearly identified a need for a nuanced response to perpetrators to reduce harm and increase victim safety. This included tailored perpetrator behaviour change interventions and in-reach into communities to change attitudes.
 - Another key area of focus is the need to strengthen our prevention and early identification response. Participants felt that education institutions and the health

¹⁰⁶ [Sussex Performance & Accountability Meeting - 17 July - Thursday 17 July 2025, 1:00pm - Sussex PCC Webcasting.](#)

sector were key to achieving this due to their unique access to people in clinics or education settings.

- The theme of our recent MARAC Away day reflected on the performance of the MARAC since we reverted to the SAFELIVES 10 Principles of an Effective MARAC, which is national best practice. There has however been a significant reduction in repeats. In addition, we agreed to utilise the MARAC's professional judgement category to refer those DA survivors identified/disclosing suicidal ideation.
- There is a lack of local data on violence against women and girls facilitated by technology or occurring in online spaces. There is an ongoing challenge to understand fully the impact of online harms locally, and how changes to methods of offending intersect with domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of violence against women and girls that occur in the physical space.
- There continues to be an underreporting/under recording of harmful practices/ sexual exploitation. This is an area for focus going forward.

Summary of key issues

- Data confirms that all forms of VAWG continue to be a significant issue in Brighton and Hove with high levels of harm occurring daily. Often, survivors experience multiple forms of VAWG coterminously and are often victims of DA/Stalking/SV and Honour crimes all at the same time.
- Since the last Community Safety Strategy, the most significant emerging trend which must influence how we model our response to VAWG is that of “harm from oneself” (as a consequence of experiencing VAWG) rather than harm from “another” (seen in DA/SV/Stalking) or “community” (seen in exploitation/female genital mutilation/ forced marriage/honour crimes). This change is reflected in the high levels of domestic abuse related suicide deaths locally and nationally. Therefore, it is imperative that we see VAWG prevention as suicide prevention as well.
- The startling number of DARDs (domestic abuse related death review) with 6 active reviews at the time of writing (with 3 suicide deaths) highlights that an approach dominated by a criminal justice lens does not lend itself to harm reduction. Going forward, there is a need to consider how we consider how prevention of VAWG is also suicide prevention. Therefore, going forward, the challenge for Commissioners working across programmes including housing, mental health, substance misuse, children's services could be to integrate a VAWG and suicide prevention lens into the services' they commissioned. These services must then ensure routine enquires are conducted, and ensure staff are able to identify indicators of risk and know how to signpost appropriately to specialist services or the MARAC.
- The level of high-risk cases to MARAC with a recent reduction in repeat cases highlights improved timely responses in order to decrease risk. However, the volume of MARAC cases, which is higher than the UK average locally, highlights a need to improve how we tackle perpetrators.
- There is an ongoing need for specialist services for perpetrators and victims of VAWG which require sustainable funding.

- There is an ongoing need to strengthen the system to ensure harm reduction and prevention initiatives are accessible particularly for those who may find it more difficult to access services. This includes those with disabilities or mental wellbeing issues, those with multiple compound needs, those with substance use issues, those with insecure immigration status, BME communities and since the Supreme Court Ruling - Trans people and women.
- Our focus groups confirmed what the data tells us that perpetrators are the key problem and feedback indicates that a more robust approach to tackling perpetrators must be developed. This should include exploring how we ensure survivors and their children do not have to leave their home.
- Support for children affected by VAWG is a significant gap. Our focus group highlighted recommendations for future work referenced in the next section.
- National research¹⁰⁷ and feedback from our focus groups agreed that one size does not fit all, whilst some partners felt a model with all services under one provider was a more useful service model.

Recommendations for partnership work

It is imperative that VAWG is recognised as a safeguarding issue irrespective of the risk level and that those affected are provided with an appropriate response to their risk and intersecting needs. Going forward, it is proposed that as a partnership we will:

- Address the gap in resources for the management of perpetrators which was identified from our focus groups and ensure that there are consequences for abusive behaviour.
- Acknowledge that there is a need for a more nuanced approach to VAWG which includes effective management of perpetrators which must include community level awareness raising action to ensure that all residents know they are also part of the solution in preventing and tackling VAWG. There is an ongoing need to effectively manage perpetrators and serial perpetrators.
- Implement the recommendations from DARDRs through the DARDR Oversight Panel.
- Continue to develop our response to suicidal ideation for survivors of VAWG including referrals to MARAC.
- Acknowledge that VAWG prevention is also suicide prevention.
- Develop a robust response to dual allegations to enable front line practitioners to make informed decisions about appropriate referrals.
- Consider how to improve the response to those with substance use issues who experience DA and to ensure they are signposted to specialist support and aware of their rights.
- Develop a Community of Practice to improve the response to VAWG by front line workers.

¹⁰⁷ [Domestic Abuse Commissioner Report, PDF. A Patchwork of Provision How to meet the needs of victims and survivors across England and Wales, Summary Report, 2022.](#)

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- Continue to work with Licensing and the Police to address VAWG linked to the nighttime economy.
- Incorporate the finding of the national MARAC Review into the BHCC MARAC.
- Develop an enhanced pathway for those affected by sexual exploitation with clear exit routes. This will be developed in conjunction with specialist services.
- Review the Enhanced Housing pathway.
- Review the progress of the Safehaven by the Sea Report recommendations.
- Scope an enhanced response to children and young people affected by VAWG within the Family Centres.
- Develop prevention and early intervention in partnership with the Health and Education sector.
- Utilise any opportunities under the new 10 Year Plan for Health to improve access to VAWG support.
- Continue to ensure that services working with marginalised survivors are part of the partnership.
- Continue to centre survivor voice in future commissioning decisions.
- Consider how to address those areas where we have limited data. This includes scoping the link between coercive control and girls in gangs
- Continue to support the wider voluntary sector to understand how to refer into support services.
- In partnership with the Business Crime Reduction Partnership, work to improve safety in public spaces and in the business sector.

9. Anti-social behaviour

Introduction

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is often mischaracterised as low level, yet its cumulative impact on victims and communities can have devastating consequences¹⁰⁸. Research commissioned by the Home Office identified that ASB negatively impacted on the quality of life of nearly all victims. The most common emotional impacts are annoyance and anger, while more severe effects like fear, anxiety, loss of confidence and difficulty sleeping are experienced by around a quarter of victims, often with longer lasting consequences such as behaviour change and loss of sense of safety or freedom¹⁰⁹.

The national response currently includes the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which provides flexible powers, including Civil Injunctions, Criminal Behaviour Orders and Community Protection Notices, and centres on the principle of putting victims first¹¹⁰. The Anti-social Behaviour Principles which accompany this Act describe a multi-agency approach and emphasise that victims must be taken seriously, kept informed and provided with support, and that perpetrators should have opportunities to take responsibility for their actions¹¹¹. Recent changes under the Crime and Policing Bill 2025 strengthen Police and local agency powers under the 2014 Act to tackle ASB by introducing the Respect Order, extending enforcement timeframes, increasing penalties, and broadening authority to issue closure notices and fines¹¹².

Understanding and addressing the underlying contributory factors or drivers of ASB, such as substance use, mental health issues and neighbourhood deprivation is necessary for long term resolution, in order to solve rather than merely displace problematic behaviour¹¹³.

A review of evidence on youth ASB highlighted a range of risk and protective factors. Risk factors for becoming involved in ASB include substance use, criminal history, mental ill health, adverse childhood experiences, abuse or neglect, poor parental supervision, and school bullying¹¹⁴. Peer pressure and lack of a supportive school environment also contribute. On the protective side, a separate meta-analysis identified 50 domains with significant negative associations with ASB; these included traits like agreeableness, prosocial values, life satisfaction, strong peer and intimate relationships, parental control, self-esteem and general resilience¹¹⁵.

¹⁰⁸ [Home office webpage - Guidance - Anti-social behaviour case review, 2020.](#)

¹⁰⁹ [Home Office webpage - Research and analysis report, 2023 - Impacts of anti-social behaviour on individuals and communities.](#)

¹¹⁰ [Home office webpage - Statutory guidance, accessed August 2025 - Anti-social behaviour powers: statutory guidance for frontline professionals.](#)

¹¹¹ [Home office webpage - Guidance report, accessed August 2025 - Anti-social behaviour principles.](#)

¹¹² [Home office webpage - Policy Paper, 2025 - Crime and Policing Bill 2025: factsheets.](#)

¹¹³ [Home office webpage - Research and analysis report, 2023. Anti-social behaviour: incident journey, from reporting to resolution.](#)

¹¹⁴ [Clinical Psychology Review publication. Ayano, G et al, 2024. Risk and protective factors of youth crime: An umbrella review of systematic reviews and meta-analyses.](#)

¹¹⁵ [Journal of Youth and Adolescence publication. Gubbels, Assink and van der Put, 2023. Protective Factors for Antisocial Behavior in Youth: What is the Meta-Analytic Evidence?](#)

National and local context

National

Having decided not to take forward the ASB action plan that the previous government published in March 2023, the current government has indicated that alongside the delivery of its Safer Streets mission, better tackling of ASB will be one of the priorities in its forthcoming Crime and Policing Bill.

It aims to achieve this by:

- Giving the police and others stronger powers to tackle antisocial behaviour by introducing Respect Orders, removing the need for police to issue a warning before seizing vehicles being used antisocially, and strengthening the use of existing antisocial behaviour powers.
- Introducing new offences of arranging or facilitating begging for gain and trespassing with intent to commit a criminal offence will ensure that police have the powers they need following the upcoming repeal of the Vagrancy Act 1824.
- Better protecting retail workers by introducing a new offence of assaulting a retail worker and repealing section 176 of the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, which downgraded the police response to so-called “low-value shop theft”.
- Better protecting emergency workers by introducing new offences for racially or religiously aggravated behaviour perpetrated against them.

Local

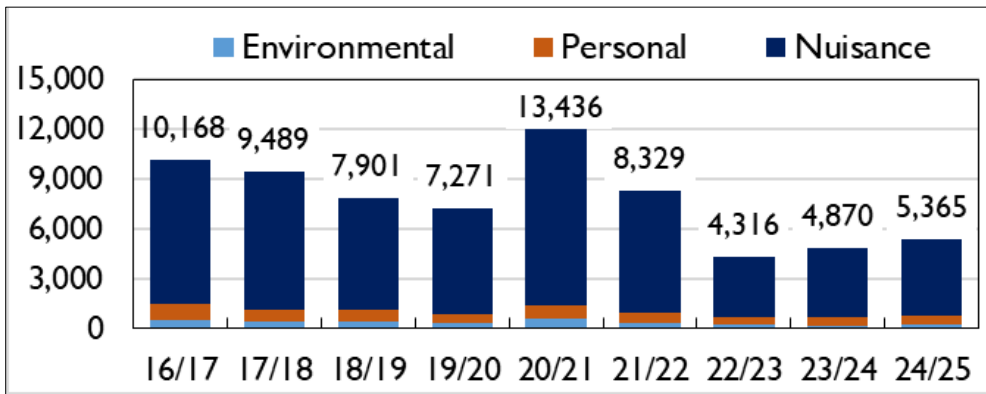
- The Community Safety Team moved into the new Families, Children and Wellbeing directorate on 1st January 2025 as part of the new Community Cohesion Team; the re-organisation resulted in a short-term constriction on capacity to respond to reported ASB.
- We have continued to see an increase in overt drug use and associated ASB in some central areas of the city and continue to work with those affected and key partners to find both short and long-term solutions.
- Policing Priorities and High Harm hot spot teams continue to conduct both covert and overt activity in identified geographical areas of the city and to co-ordinate multi-agency days of action in these locations to address ASB, overseen by the Joint Action Group.

Overview of scale and trends

Police recorded ASB incidents

- In 2024/25 there were 5,365 ASB incidents recorded by police, 10% higher than in the previous year, following the long-term peak in ASB incidents recorded in 2020/21 during the Covid-19 pandemic, as shown in **Figure 44**. ASB incidents fell to around 4,300 in 2022/23 – recorded numbers increased by around 10% in both of the following years.

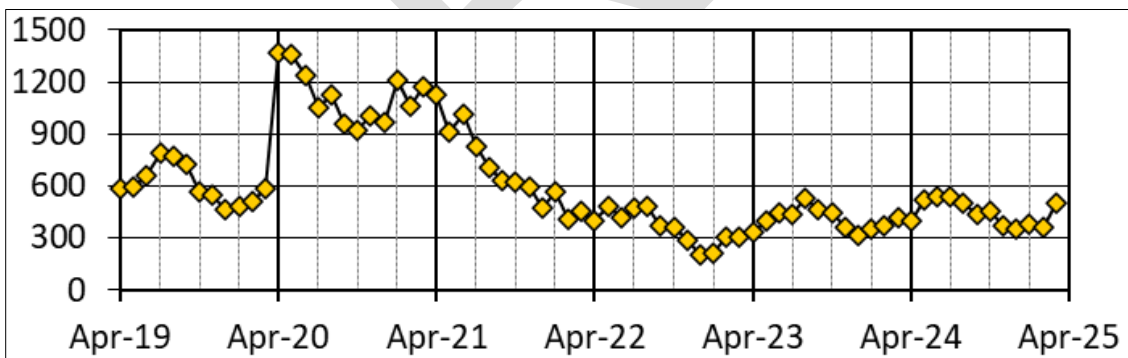
Figure 44 - ASB incidents recorded by Sussex Police, by type, 2016/17 to 2024/25.



- Among the three types of ASB incidents recorded by police – Personal, Nuisance and Environmental – Nuisance continued to be the most recorded, making up between 85% and 88% of incidents annually; all types of incident increased in 2024/25. Since 2022/23, Personal ASB has made up around 10% of incidents and Environmental ASB the remainder.

- **ASB Nuisance** – includes reports of noise, street drinking, aggressive begging, alcohol - related incidents and public drug dealing.
- **ASB Personal** – includes reports of neighbourly issues, harassment or threats, drug use and hate incidents not recorded by Sussex Police as a hate crime / incident.
- **ASB Environmental** – includes reports of littering, fly-tipping, drug litter and other evidence of drug use, graffiti, tent encampments etc.
- These lists are not exhaustive or mutually exclusive. Within each category there is a wide range in geographical impact, harms caused, and severity.

Figure 45 - ASB incidents recorded by Sussex Police, April 2019 to March 2025.



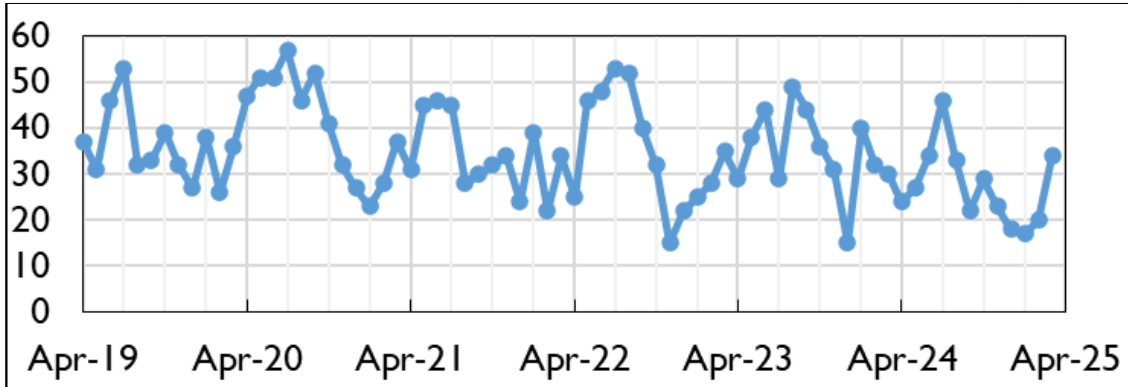
Police recorded criminal damage and arson

- In 2024/25 there were 2,342 criminal damage and arson offences in the city, 3.3% fewer than recorded in the previous year and continuing a gradual decrease in recorded offences since 2019/20, when 2,934 were recorded.
- Compared with the previous year, criminal damage recorded against dwellings increased by 5.7%, with 631 crimes recorded. Conversely, recorded criminal damage against businesses or community buildings decreased by 4% in 2024/25, with 562 crimes recorded.

Community Safety Casework Team Data

- In 2024/25 there were 327 incidents of ASB recorded by the Brighton & Hove City Council's Community Safety Casework Team (CSCWT), 22% fewer than the 417 the previous year. In the previous three years the number of recorded ASB incidents remained consistently between 410 and 420; the 327 cases recorded in 2024/25 were a long-term low. From these reported instances, 54% were referred to another service, 39% resolved by the Casework Team itself and the remaining taken up by the team, similar to previous years.

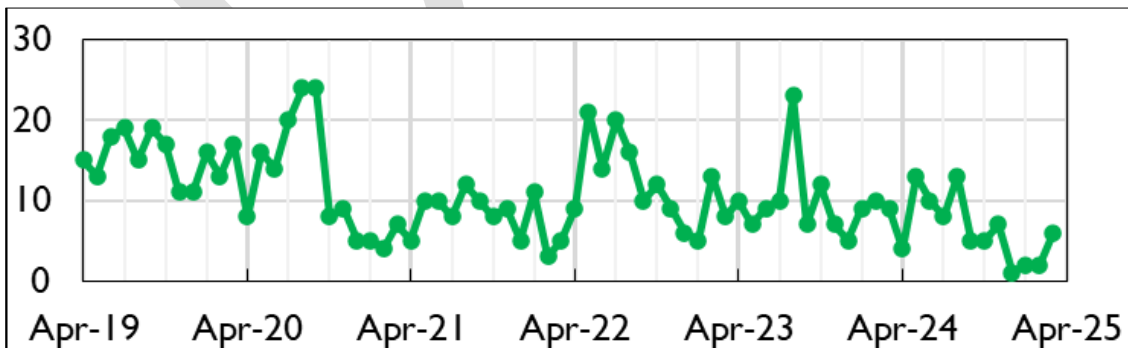
Figure 46 - total reports of ASB to the Community Safety Casework Team, April 2019 to March 2025.



Rough sleepers and the street community

- The Casework Team record whether incidents they receive are related to anyone from the street community. In 2024/25, 76 incidents (out of 461 incidents across ASB, Hate and Other incidents; 16% of all cases) related to someone from the street community; this is lower in number and proportion of street community-related incidents recorded in the previous two years (143 in 2022/23, 23% of all incidents; 118 in 2023/24, 19%). As with other forms of reported ASB incidents, these tend to show a seasonal pattern, with higher numbers in the summer months.

Figure 47 - Incidents reported to the Community Safety Casework Team, linked to the street community, Apr 2019 to March 2025.

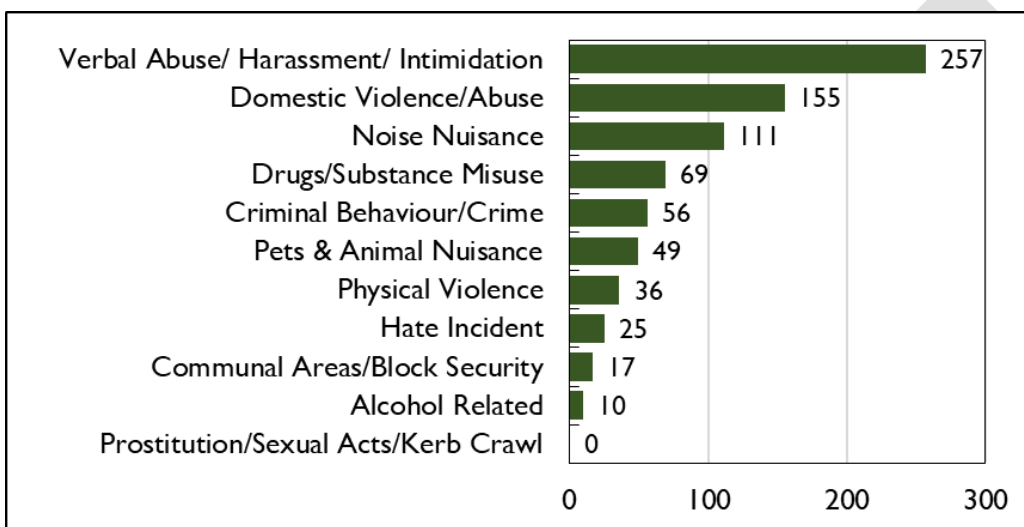


- The Business Crime Reduction Partnership recorded 169 reports of begging affecting businesses in 2024/25, of which 143 were recorded as persistent in nature.

Council Housing data

- There were 785 incidents of ASB recorded by Brighton & Hove City Council’s Housing Team in 2024/25, 16% more than in the previous year and the most recorded since the 822 recorded in 2020/21.
- Among the reports made to council housing around ASB, as shown in **Figure 48**, 33% (257 in total) related to verbal abuse, harassment or intimidation, with a further 20% being related to domestic violence or abuse and 14% due to noise nuisance. Compared with previous years, reports of ASB concerning domestic violence/abuse and noise nuisance increased in number and proportion in 2024/25.

Figure 48 - Anti-social behaviour victim or witness reports to Council Housing Team, 2024/25.



- Whitehawk & Marina (145), Coldean & Stanmer (87) and Moulsecoomb & Bevendean (84) wards had the highest number of ASB incidents recorded by Council Housing.

Environmental ASB

- The City Environment Team reports on the number of cases of reported fly-tipping¹¹⁶. There were 1,486 total reported instances of fly-tipping during 2024/25, similar to the 1,481 recorded the previous year but 7.5% more than the 1,382 recorded in 2022/23.
- Graffiti and Environmental Enforcement Teams at Brighton & Hove City Council also recorded 196 instances of graffiti in the period between 1 October and 31 March 2025¹¹⁷. The volume of reports related to offensive graffiti are discussed in **Section 10**.

¹¹⁶ The data shown represented only fly-tipping reports that had an outcome of being found and removed by the BHCC’s Streets Team or asbestos removal contractors. Cases that had an outcome of “not found”, “inaccessible” or being passed on to other teams in the council (or outside of it) were not included.

¹¹⁷ These figures are based on reports to the BHCC City Clean team via the online Report A Problem facility. Those cases observed and cleared by its graffiti team or other relevant council team independently of any prior reports will not be included, and this is therefore likely to be an under-estimate of overall graffiti occurrences.

Nature of the problem

Location of ASB

- Police data for April 2024 to March 2025 shows the most frequent hotspots for police recorded ASB incidents were all located in the city centre and include New Road, St. James's Street, Queens Road, Western Road, and West Street.
- Looking at data from the Community Safety Casework Team, across the two-year period from April 2023 to March 2025, Kemptown and Regency wards have been the areas with the greatest number of incidents recorded by the Casework Team, followed by Central Hove and Queen's Park wards.

Nature of ASB

- Police data for April 2024 to March 2025 shows that 44% of ASB incidents were recorded as 'rowdy nuisance – inconsiderate', 22% were 'rowdy nuisance – neighbour' related, and 13% were 'vehicle related nuisance' incidents. A further 5% were related to solvent misuse, and 4% recorded as street drinking incidents. The remaining smaller numbers of incidents were related to issues such as trespass, noise, begging, malicious communications, abandoned vehicles, and animal related issues.

Impact of ASB on businesses

- As of March 2025, there were 529 members of the Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP), including 228 with day-time membership, 224 with night-time membership, and 63 with both day and night-time membership.
- The BCRP highlighted that most reports from businesses were around public intoxication, from refusals from customers or trespassers to leave premises, and generally aggressive behaviour.
- In summer months, the BCRP records a greater quantity of ASB relating to children and young people, while aggressive begging and reports of repeated nuisance individuals also affect businesses throughout the year. The BCRP report that in places like fast food areas and queues there were more reports of ASB escalating into physical violence.
- The partnership highlights hotspots of ASB around youth-related ASB on London Road, around Churchill Square / Western Road and in Pool Valley, the last of which is also a noted hotspot for intimidation of members of the public by groups of people. In London Road there were repeat reports in 2024/25 of large groups of people committing ASB, as well as vehicle-related disturbances.

Council tenants involved in ASB

- Taking a snapshot of council tenants involved in ASB as at the end of August 2025, 339 properties were linked to ASB with tenants as victims, and 46 properties were linked to ASB with tenants as perpetrators.
- Compared with the proportion of council housing residents in the city and with households in the 2021 Census, tenants connected to ASB as victims were more likely to be living in flats, living in one-bedroom properties, living in one-person households, aged under 18, have one or more disabilities, or to be LGBTQ+. This is outlined in **Table 1**.

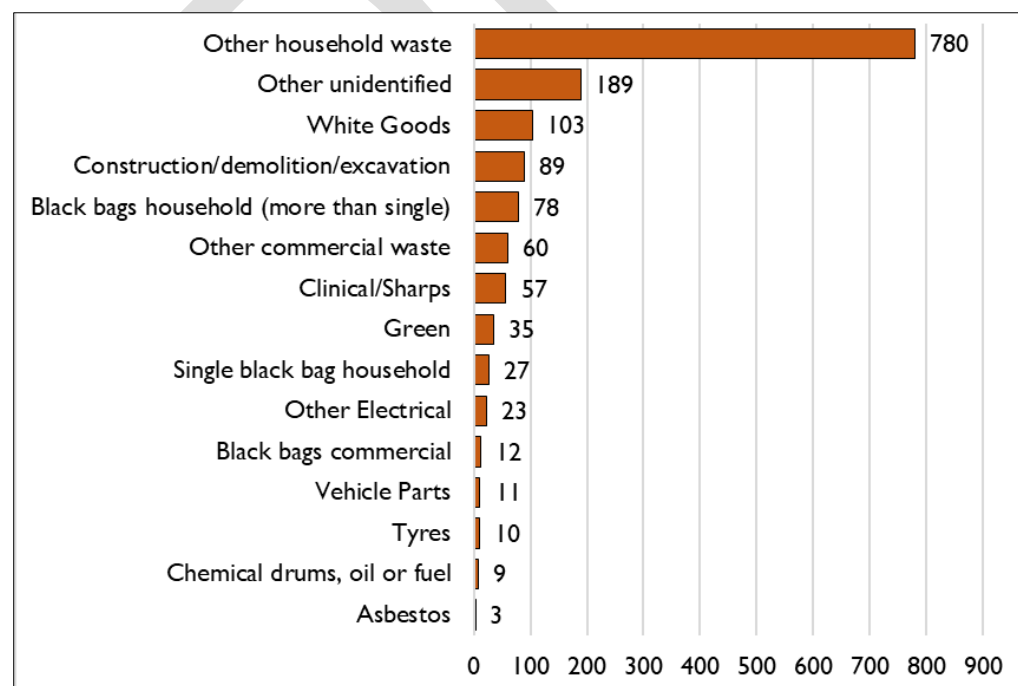
Table 1 - selected characteristics of Council Housing tenants involved in ASB as of August 2025, compared with all council housing residents and households in the 2021 Census.

| Tenant Characteristic | % residents linked to ASB reporters | % council housing residents in Brighton & Hove | B&H Census 2021 |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Living in a flat, bedsit or maisonette | 75% | 64% | 50% |
| 0 or 1 bedroom property | 54% | 35% | 25% |
| 1 resident in the household | 60% | 48% | 35% |
| Aged under 18 | 24% | 16% | 17% |
| Recorded as having least one disability | 31% | 22% | 19% |
| From a Black and Racially Minoritised background | 20% | 20% | 26% |
| Sex: Female | 53% | 51% | 51% |
| Sex: Male | 47% | 49% | 49% |
| Bisexual | 4% | 2% | 4% |
| Gay or Lesbian | 7% | 4% | 6% |

Fly-tipping

- Of the 1,486 recorded incidents of fly-tipping recorded by the council’s City Environment Team¹¹⁶ in 2024/25, those classified as ‘other household waste’ (the broadest category encompassing any non-specified waste likely to come from home such as abandoned furniture or toys), was the most frequently recorded, with 780 in 2024/25. ‘Other unidentified’ (189), white goods (103), Construction/demolition/excavation waste (89) and groups of household black bags (78) were the next most common form of fly-tipping recorded. Other forms of fly-tipping are outlined in **Figure 49**.

Figure 49 - number of instances of fly-tipping recorded by City Environment Team by type, 2024/25.



- The 1,486 incidents recorded in 2024/25 were very similar in number to the 1,481 recorded in 2023/24 but increased 7.5% since 2022/23, where there were 1,382 incidents recorded. As a proportion of all instances of fly-tipping recorded in each year, each type of event remained consistent between 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- By number, construction/demolition/excavation waste increased the most between 2022/23 and 2024/25, from 65 to 89 instances, increasing from 5% to 6% of all recorded fly-tipping. Instances classified as 'other commercial waste' increased from 46 in 2022/23 to 60 in 2024/25. Those designated 'clinical / sharps' decreased in prevalence from 71 in 2023/24 and 87 in 2023/24 to 57 in 2024/25, making up around 4% of instances.
- When considered by size, the greatest number of fly-tipping incidents were recorded as of being a single item (587 in 2024/25, 40% of instances), followed by instances where rubbish would fit into a small van (500, 34%) and those which would fit inside a standard car boot (260, 17%). In 2024/25, 112 fly-tipping incidents were large enough in size to need a transit van or larger vehicle (112, 8% of instances) to remove.
- The highway (the public network of pavements and roads) is consistently the most likely place where fly-tipping is recorded, as shown in **Table 2**. These finds made up around 71% of all instances recorded by the City Environment Team.

Table 2 - Location of finds of fly-tipping, 2022/23 to 2024/25.

| Year | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Highway | 950 | 1,052 | 1,051 |
| Footpath/bridleway | 303 | 261 | 214 |
| Back alleyway | 82 | 56 | 72 |
| Council Land | 33 | 88 | 135 |
| Private residential | 14 | 24 | 14 |
| Yearly totals | 1,382 | 1,481 | 1,486 |

- The number and proportion of instances of fly-tipping on council land have increased substantially in the last two years increasing from 33 in 2022/23 to 88 in 2023/24 and 135 in 2024/25 and making up 9% of instances. Meanwhile, instances on footpaths or bridleways decreased to a similar degree, decreasing from 303 in 2022/23 to 214 (14% of total instances) in 2024/25. During this time, the team noted that they have received increasing numbers of requests from council teams maintaining parks and recreation areas for help removing large fly-tips.

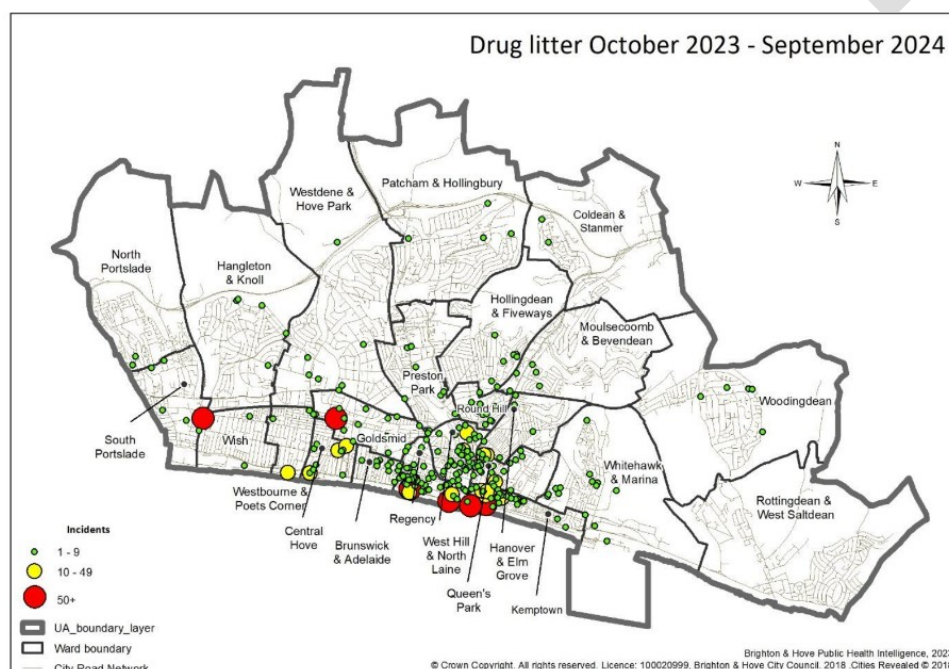
Drug litter found by council services

- Brighton & Hove City Council records drug litter incidents found by its services, including City Parks, City Clean, and Estates teams as well as its car parks and public toilets teams. Data is not currently available for full year 2024/25.
- In the year to September 2024, more than 1,150 separate incidents where drug paraphernalia was found with a similar number of needles found across the city. These incidents frequently relate to multiple forms of drug paraphernalia including needles, syringes, nitrous oxide containers, spoons and pans. This figure is considered similar to the number that would have

been recorded in the year to July 2023, if not for issues with data reporting in 2022/23. The summer of 2024 saw an especially high number of incidents of drug litter found in public toilets, with more than 200 separate recorded instances in July and August 2024 reported by contractors across the city.

- Regency and Kemptown wards are highlighted as the areas where the most incidents of drug litter have been logged, as shown in **Figure 50**). Hotspots across the city include Shelter Hall - where the greatest number of needles has been found of any location in the city in this period - as well as toilets on Madeira Drive, West Pier arches, in Goldstone Villas and in Station Road, Portslade. The teams reporting on these finds also reported a number of significant one-off incidents throughout the year, including large finds of nitrous oxide canisters near Queen's Park and bags of drug paraphernalia found in Prince's Place.

Figure 50 - drug litter locations recorded in Brighton and Hove, October 2023 to September 2024



Resources and gaps

- The early intervention youth ASB multi-agency meeting implemented last year continues to operate. It aims to at the earliest opportunity identify and address the behaviour of young people coming to the attention of services and businesses through being involved in ASB.
- The Community Safety Team, alongside our police partners, continues to work with supported accommodation providers, their commissioners and the Business Crime Reduction Partnership to address reported ASB associated with such premises.
- Services continue to utilise Community Protection Warnings and Notices to address persistent behaviour that is detrimental to communities.
- The Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) continues to meet monthly to discuss complex cases with the highest levels of risk and assessed vulnerabilities.
- The Joint Action Group continues to meet monthly to oversee and co-ordinate operational responses to emerging ASB geographical hotspots. This includes locations frequented by

members of the street community, where a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed to give clarity to the role each partner plays in addressing these concerns, and the partnership is enforcing the Public Spaces Protection Order (alcohol).

- A round table problem solving group has been established to address the specific ASB challenges in the New Road area and to manage how the Pavillion Gardens redevelopment shapes developing issues in the area.

Summary of key issues

- Budgetary pressures will likely threaten further cuts to non-statutory services, many of whom either specialise in addressing ASB or significantly contribute to partnership working to address individuals underlying vulnerabilities or needs that drive their ASB.
- The full consequences of the re-organisation that moved Community Safety into the new Community Cohesion Team are still being worked through with Community Safety now in a different directorate to some of the services, such as regulatory control and environmental health, that it necessarily needs close working relationships with to deliver a comprehensive Community Safety function. New relationships and partnership working practises continue to be forged across these new structures.
- The immediate Community Safety challenge in relation to ASB is how to re-assert this partnership working both across directorates and agencies when all are facing constraints on resourcing and being challenged to identify savings.
- Police recorded ASB remains below the pre-Covid baseline but has shown a rising trend over the last 3 years, whilst ASB reported to council housing has seen a 16% increase in the last year. Hotspots for ASB remain in the city-centre with impacts on residents, businesses and visitors to the city.
- There is a further risk specifically in relation to substance misuse related ASB of public confidence in agencies to comprehensively address this being eroded, as a result of insufficient resources to respond both by comprehensively tackling this behaviour and to address the underlying multiple compound needs of those involved in this behaviour.
- There is a similar risk that the effective redress of ASB perpetrated by those with Multiple Compound Needs, especially in relation to mental health, is compromised if there is insufficient integration between enforcement activity and the support offer provided to these individuals.

Recommendations for partnership work

- The focus of the Community Safety Partnership will remain to ensure that it is doing all that it reasonably can to address ASB in priority geographical areas and by priority individuals, supporting those individuals and communities harmed by the reported behaviour.
- The Joint Action Group (JAG) will continue to identify and respond to emerging concerns in geographical locations in the city, including ASB linked to the street community, whilst the Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) will assess our high risk and complex cases, ensuring a multi-agency plan is in place to address the ASB and reduce the harm caused.

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- We will ensure that work undertaken to address Drug and Alcohol related ASB aligns with the council's 2024-30 Drugs & Alcohol Strategy. We will continue to work with supported accommodation providers to ensure that ASB in and around supported accommodation environments is appropriately addressed and the surrounding communities supported.
- We will ensure that enforcement activity in relation to those with Multiple Compound Needs aligns and integrates with the work of the council's Multiple Compound Needs programme to integrate the support provided by the different agencies that engage with this cohort.
- We will continue to implement the established Youth ASB Early Intervention protocol where necessary, working with the business community to ensure continued successful implementation.
- Brighton & Hove City Council will continue to implement its graffiti reduction strategy, targeting repeat offenders.
- We will continue to offer training and briefings to ASB practitioners across the city, encouraging a harm led approach making the best use of tools and powers available, whilst also promoting the ASB Case Review procedure.
- We will consider and assess any further information from HM Government regarding their crime and disorder priorities and any relevant legislation introduced with the Crime and Policing Bill 2025: factsheets and integrate them, as required, into the ASB action plan.

10. Hate Crimes and Incidents

Introduction

Hate crimes motivated by prejudice against a person's race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity are crimes that cause significant emotional and behavioural harm to victims and create fear and intimidation across entire communities. The emotional impact is complex; research with LGBTQ+ and Muslim communities, for example, shows that indirect experiences of hate crime heightened their perceptions of threat, which in turn elicited mixed emotional reactions of anger, anxiety and shame. This led to behavioural changes ranging from avoidance and increased security to retaliation¹¹⁸.

National data indicates that while overall police-recorded hate crime decreased by 5% in the year ending March 2024, religious hate crimes saw a sharp 25% increase, driven primarily by a rise in offences against Jewish and Muslim people. This was following the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas conflict¹¹⁹.

Local deprivation is identified as a key driver of hate crime, with evidence showing that higher levels of deprivation are a significant predictor of right-wing hate crime in England¹²⁰. In this case, economic marginalisation and alienation can create conditions conducive to radicalisation and extremist ideologies¹²¹.

Risk factors for victimisation are linked to visibility and identity. Evidence highlights ethnic and religious identities, and other characteristics like gender identity and disability as risk factors that are commonly measured in research¹²². Protective factors involve strong cohesive communities and institutional trust. However, this trust is often affected by hate crime and rebuilding it requires a consistent, victim-centred response from authorities and a clear legislative framework that is consistently applied.

National and local context

National and International

- The continued and in many ways escalating divisive narratives, especially online, continue to impact community cohesion and increase both the risk and actual prevalence of associated hate incidents and disorder, as first witnessed in the aftermath of the attacks in Southport in July 2024.
- The national phenomenon of large numbers of Union Jack and St. Georges flags being erected/hung from lamp posts and other street furniture in the public domain has further fuelled

¹¹⁸ [Journal of Interpersonal Violence publication. Paterson et al, 2025. Angry and Afraid: Exploring the Impact of Mixed Emotional Reactions to Hate Crimes With LGBTQ+ and Muslim Communities.](#)

¹¹⁹ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Hate Crime, England and Wales, year ending March 2025.](#)

¹²⁰ [PLoS ONE publication. Belgioioso, Dworschak and Gleditsch, 2023. Local deprivation predicts right-wing hate crime in England.](#)

¹²¹ [UK Parliament horizon-scanning report. Romanowski and Low, 2024. Extremism and hate crime.](#)

¹²² [Campbell Systematic Reviews publication. Vergani et al, 2024. Mapping the scientific knowledge and approaches to defining and measuring hate crime, hate speech, and hate incidents: A systematic review.](#)

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these divisive narratives and associated community tensions, heightening the fears and anxieties of the minority groups targeted in hate incidents.

- The Supreme Court April 2025 ruling and impending Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) guidance on Trans, Non-Binary and Intersex (TNBI) services present a further challenge to community cohesion fuelling both the fear and actual commission of transphobic hate incidents.
- The continued Israel and Palestine violence is having an ever-increasing impact on community cohesion, contributing to an increase in the volume and severity of hate incidents.
- There have recently been two particularly serious incidents; the fatal Manchester Synagogue stabbings on 2 October 2025 and more locally the arson attack on the Peacehaven mosque on 4 October.

Local

- The Community Safety Team moved into the new Families, Children and Wellbeing directorate on 1 January 2025 as part of the new Community Cohesion Team; the re-organisation resulted in a short-term constriction on capacity to respond to hate incidents and community tensions.
- The council continue to receive reports from local community and voluntary sector (CVS) organisations who support migrants that their clients and volunteers are experiencing hostility and aggression when outside the home, for example on buses and in the streets and neighbourhoods where they live. The CVS organisations report that this situation has worsened and they believe that this is due to the divisive narratives at a national level, which focus on migrants and in particular those arriving across the channel. Some of these incidents have not been formally reported to the authorities by victims. Barriers to reporting may include fear of contact with the authorities amongst newcomer communities.
- As has been the case nationally, Brighton & Hove has experienced a concerted campaign of Union Jack and St. Georges flags being erected/hung from lamp posts and other street furniture, raising fears and concerns about rising racism and anti-migrant sentiment. It's notable that the overwhelming majority of complaints the council has received in relation to this are in favour of the flags being removed and concern that this has not been done quickly enough.
- There have been multiple complaints to the council in relation to evangelical preachers, both in relation to the volume of noise of their amplified preaching and its homophobic content.
- Following the Supreme Court's April 2025 ruling, and in anticipation of the forthcoming EHRC guidance on TNBI-inclusive services, tensions within the city have increased, affecting a range of groups and events. TNBI and gender diverse communities have reported heightened experiences of fear, exclusion, and vulnerability during this period, which remains a significant concern given the extent and intensity of the impact on this community. Some individuals and groups holding differing views on sex-based and gender-identity-based rights have also expressed concerns about their perspectives being heard and their own safety. These polarised viewpoints - and the emotions they generate - continue to create challenges for community cohesion in the city.
- The continued Israel and Palestine violence continues to impact local community cohesion and to lead to an increase in reported hate incidents.

- There was an arson attack on the Peacehaven mosque on the 4 October 2025, which is both close to the city and has close ties with its Muslim community.
- In order to find necessary savings to achieve a balanced budget Brighton & Hove City Council was forced to withdraw funding for third party reporting in 2024/25, resulting in a persisting reduction in third party reporting capacity across the city.

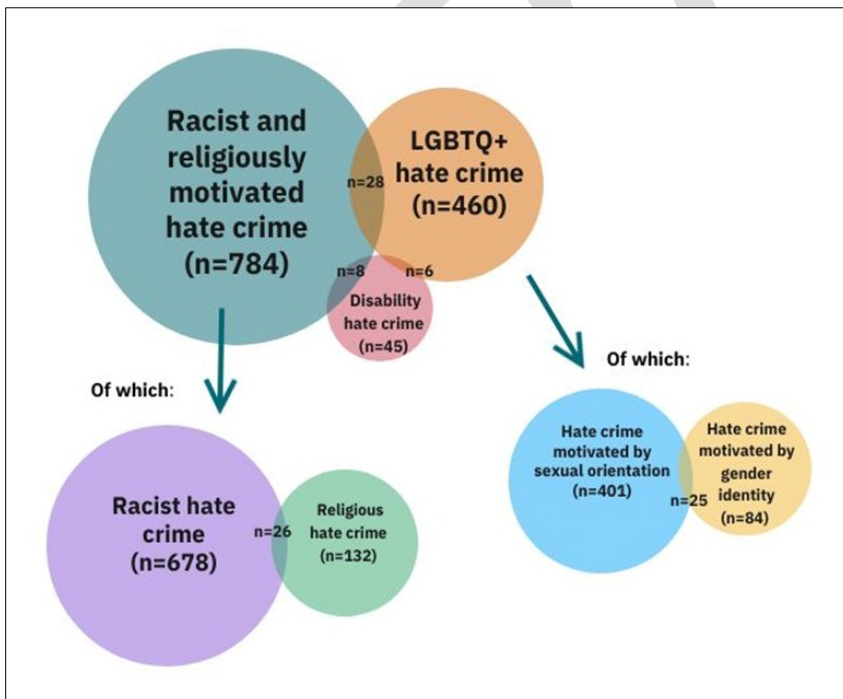
Overview of scale and trends

- Across Brighton and Hove, as nationally, it remains difficult to effectively evaluate the prevalence, variety and impact of hate incidents and crimes. The Partnership recognises, based on our engagement with communities, that the number of hate-motivated instances experienced far outnumber those reported to advocacy agencies or statutory authorities.
- Police statistics offer useful insights but will only ever be reflective of the incidents/crimes reported to them. Across the city, campaigns are held to raise awareness and to encourage reporting; changes in reporting statistics will continue to reflect these changes in propensity and confidence in reporting as much as it will the actual number of incidents and crimes taking place.

Intersectionality in police recorded hate crime

- **Figure 51** shows where police recorded hate crimes in 2024/25 have been recorded as having more than one motivation, for example, those which are both racist and religiously motivated. In 2024/25, there were 93 hate crimes which had multiple motivations.

Figure 51 - Venn diagram showing hate crimes recorded in Brighton and Hove by type, 2024/25.

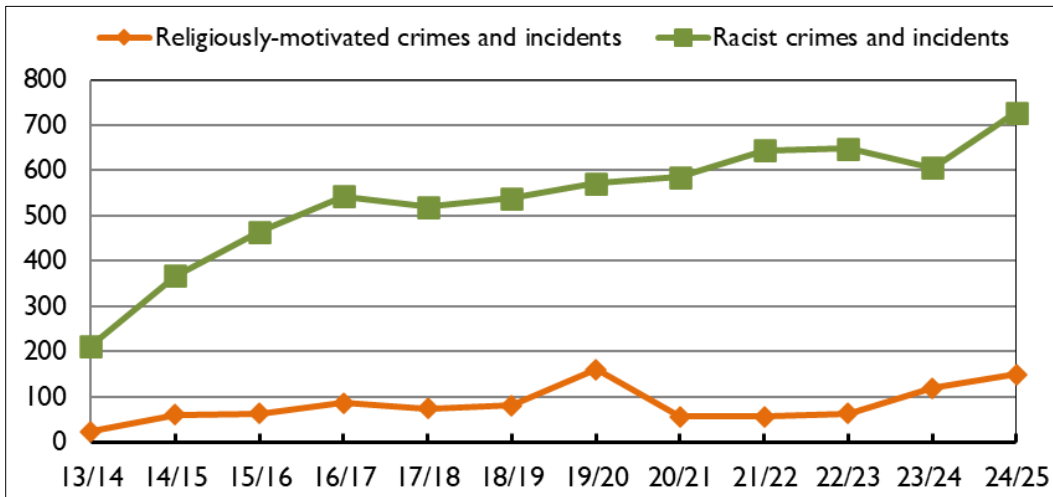


Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents

Police data

- In 2024/25 there were 728 racially motivated crimes and incidents recorded by Sussex Police, 20% higher than in the previous year and continuing a long-term increase.
- There were also 150 crimes and incidents recorded as being religiously motivated in 2024/25, 26% higher than in the previous year and continuing a long-term increase.

Figure 52 – Racist and religiously motivated crimes and incidents, 2012/13 to 2024/25.



Community Safety Casework Team and Council Housing Data

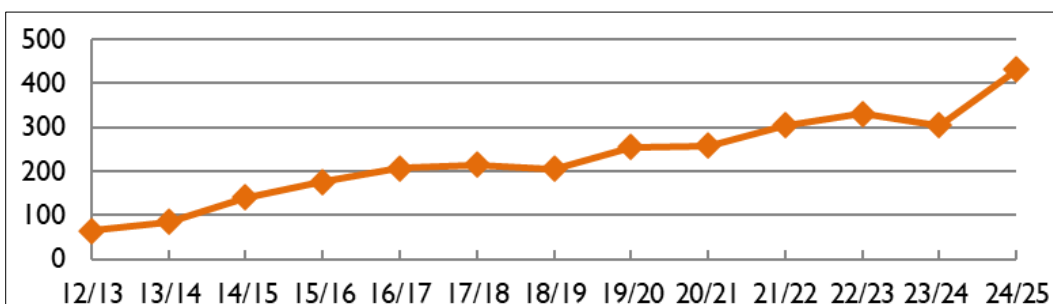
- In 2024/25 the Casework Team recorded 22 incidents of hate due to race, significantly fewer than the 43 recorded the previous year and 55 incidents in 2022/23. In most previous years, between 40 and 60 such incidents had been recorded.
- The Casework Team also recorded 5 incidents due to religion or belief, more than in the previous year. In most years, between 2 and 7 incidents are logged by the team.
- The Council's Housing Team recorded 18 racially or religiously motivated hate incidents in 2024/25, lower than the 25 recorded the previous year and 19 in 2022/23.

LGBTQ+ Hate Crimes and Incidents

Police Data

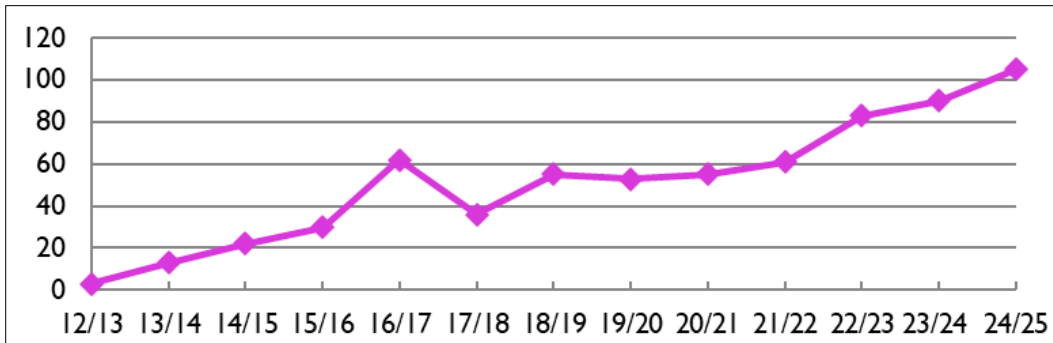
- There were 431 sexuality-motivated crimes and incidents in 2024/25, more than 40% higher than the 305 recorded in the previous year and continuing a longer-term increasing trend.

Figure 53 - Sexuality-motivated crimes and incidents, 2012/13 to 2024/25.



- Separately, there were 105 crimes and incidents recorded which were motivated by gender identity, 17% higher than in the previous year and continuing its own long-term substantial increase, especially in recent years.

Figure 54 - Gender identity-motivated crimes and incidents, 2012/13 to 2024/25.



Community Safety Casework Team and Council Housing Data

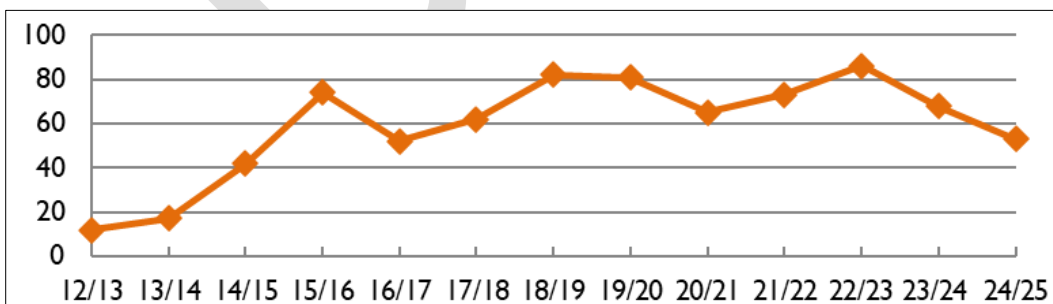
- In 2024/25, the Casework Team recorded 12 hate incidents motivated by sexual orientation, similar to the 14 incidents in the previous year and the 10 recorded in 2022/23. Since 2020/21, numbers of recorded incidents motivated by sexual orientation have fluctuated between 10 and 15 in number.
- The Casework Team also recorded 7 hate incidents motivated by gender identity in 2024/25. This was fewer than the 14 recorded the previous year and 15 in 2022/23 – in most years before 2022/23 fewer than 5 had been recorded, with the exception of 12 in 2018/19.
- The Council Housing Team recorded 6 incidents of hate motivated by homophobia, biphobia or transphobia, similar to numbers recorded in recent years.

Disability Hate crimes and incidents

Police Data

- Sussex Police recorded 53 disability - motivated hate crimes and incidents in 2024/25. This is 22% fewer than in the last year and is the lowest number recorded in 10 years, following a similar decrease in the previous year from a long-term high.

Figure 55 - Disability-motivated crimes and incidents, 2012/13 to 2024/25.



Community Safety Casework Team and Council Housing Data

- The Casework Team recorded 8 disability-motivated hate incidents in 2024/25. Until 2020/21 the number of incidents fluctuated between 12 and 25 but has remained under 10 since 2021/22.

- The Council Housing Team recorded 3 incidents of hate motivated by disability, the same as in the previous two years.

Data from other agencies

Offensive graffiti

- Offensive graffiti data collated by Brighton and Hove City Council's City Environment Team¹²³ showed 116 instances of explicitly offensive graffiti were reported to the team in 2024/25, which the team recognise is likely to be a significant underestimate of the true extent of offensive graffiti or stickering in the city.
- Anti-faith graffiti was the most common type of offensive graffiti recorded; 39 instances were recorded by council teams in 2024/25, followed by 30 instances of generally offensive imagery/writing (30), political graffiti (21) and racist (10) graffiti.
- The City Environment Team noted a marked increase during 2024/25 of anti-faith and politically themed graffiti, of which the former was mostly antisemitic in nature and therefore likely influenced by the events of the armed conflict in Gaza and other parts of the Middle East. There was a noted increase in anti-faith graffiti recorded from autumn 2024 onwards, which was also true for racist graffiti.
- There were 10 incidents of identified offensive graffiti relating to race in 2024/25, similar to the 9 recorded in the previous year. Incidents relating specifically to religion, as noted above, increased from 9 in 2023/24 to 39 in 2024/25.
- There were fewer than 5 examples of identified homophobic graffiti in 2023/24, slightly fewer than the 7 recorded the previous year. This was also true for transphobic graffiti, which were fewer in number in 2024/25 and remained lower than 5 annually.
- There were no reports of offensive graffiti relating to disability recorded by the city's environment teams in the previous two years.

Hate incidents against University of Sussex students and staff

- The University of Sussex collect data around the number of hate incidents reported to them by students and staff/visitors. In 2024/25, 24 reports were received from students, similar to the 27 reported the previous year but more than the 9 reported in 2022/23. While numbers were too small to complete any analysis of victim demographics, the 24 reports made in 2024/25 highlighted the wide range of demographic characteristics of reporters across gender identity, sexual identity, disability or health condition and religion/faith.
- In 2024/25 there were also 7 reports made to the university from either staff or visitors, slightly lower than the 10 reported the previous year and higher than the 4 received in 2022/23.

¹²³ These figures are based upon counting each instance of "offensive" graffiti once, with a predominating category of offence; in practise, graffiti can often be deemed offensive for more than one reason, influenced by individual perceptions of offensiveness. The number of offensive graffiti reports recorded are those reported to City Clean via the local authority's 'Report A Problem' facility.

Those cases observed and cleared by the council's Graffiti Team, the seafront office or environmental enforcement teams independently of any prior reports were not included in these figures.

Survey data

Health Counts

- The Health Counts survey in 2024⁶ asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about hate crime. The survey provides important evidence of inequalities in parts of the city and faced by vulnerable groups.
- Of Black and racially minoritised respondents, 23% overall felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their ethnic heritage or religion, or perceived ethnic heritage or religion, compared to 4% of White British respondents. All ethnic groups had significantly higher proportions of respondents who felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by this type of hate crime compared to all respondents, but this was highest amongst Arab (40% who felt very or fairly worried), followed by Black, Black British, Caribbean or African respondents (36%).
- For refugees or asylum seekers, 44% were very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their ethnic heritage or religion, or perceived ethnic heritage or religion, compared with 8% of respondents who were not a refugee or asylum seeker. All religious respondents had significantly higher proportions who felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by this type of hate crime compared with all respondents, but this was highest amongst Sikh (69% who felt very or fairly worried), followed by Muslim (45%) and Jewish (43%) respondents. Respondents with no religion had significantly lower proportions who felt very or fairly worried about this type of hate crime compared with all respondents (5%).
- Of LGBTQ+ respondents, 30% felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, compared to 3% of heterosexual or straight respondents. All LGBTQ+ groups had significantly higher proportions who felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by this type of hate crime compared with all respondents. This difference was particularly high amongst respondents who described their sexual orientation as queer; 50% of queer respondents felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation. For gay or lesbian respondents, 38% felt very or fairly worried.
- Of trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI) respondents overall, 67% felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because they were trans, non-binary or present as gender divergent, compared to 2% of respondents who are not TNBI. This was significantly higher for trans respondents (74% felt very or fairly worried), and non-binary respondents (67%), as well as respondents who prefer to self-describe their gender (46%). Data for intersex respondents has been suppressed due to low numbers of respondents.
- Of disabled respondents, 11% felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their disability or perceived disability, compared with 2% of respondents without a disability. This difference was significantly higher amongst all types of disability and conditions but was particularly pronounced amongst respondents who had a speech and language disability (50% felt very or fairly worried), a developmental disability (49%), a learning disability (45%), a visible difference with a disabling and/or discriminatory impact (42%), or autism/ autistic spectrum disorder or condition (24%).

Safe and Well at School Survey

- In 2023 the latest version of Brighton and Hove City Council’s Safe and Well at Schools Survey (SAWSS) was carried out with pupils aged 7 to 18 across the city in November and December 2023. One question asked by the survey related to whether children felt they had been bullied, and for what reasons.
- The table below shows the proportion of respondents to the 2023 Safe and Well at Schools Survey who have reported being bullied in the last term, split by the type of bullying.

Table 3 - Safe and Well at Schools Survey 2023 results on types of bullying, by Key Stage.

| Type of bullying | Key Stage 2 (ages 8-11) | Key Stage 3 (ages 11-14) | Key Stage 4 (ages 15-16) |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Racist | 1.3% | 2.1% | 1.8% |
| Religious | 0.9% | 0.8% | 0.7% |
| Sexual Orientation | 1.4% | 2.6% | 2.3% |
| Transphobic | 1.1% | 1.1% | 1.4% |
| Disability-Related | 1.1% | 1.9% | 1.6% |
| Total respondents | 5,807 | 4,942 | 2,860 |

- Compared to the previous 2021 version of the survey, all types of bullying at Key Stage 2 increased, while at Key Stage 3 most types of bullying also increased substantially, except for sexual orientation which decreased from 2.9% to 2.6%. In Key Stage 4, all the above forms of bullying increased significantly.

Figure 56 - percentage of SAWSS respondents reporting sexual orientation-related bullying, by survey year and Key Stage.

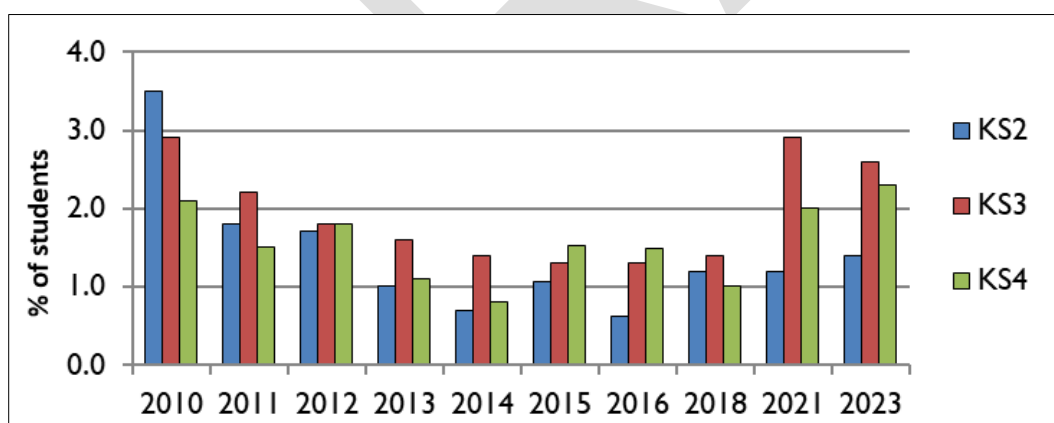
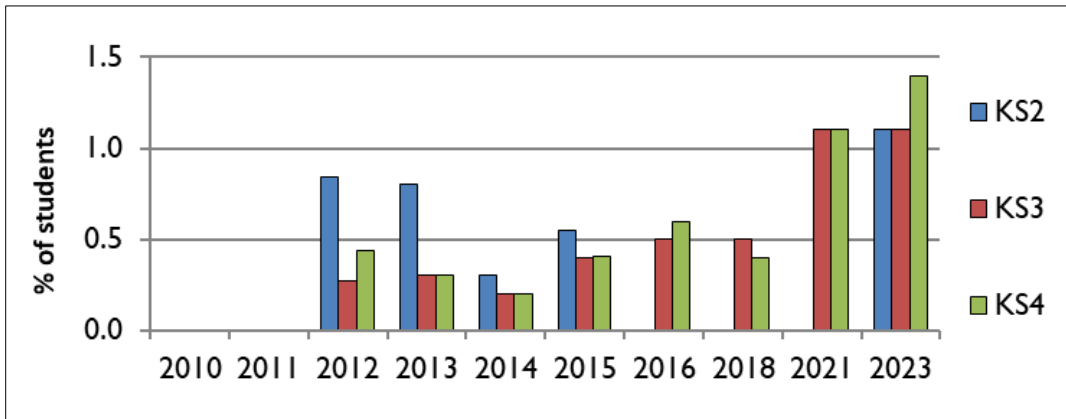


Figure 57 - percentage of SAWSS respondents reporting transphobic bullying by year, by survey year and Key Stage.



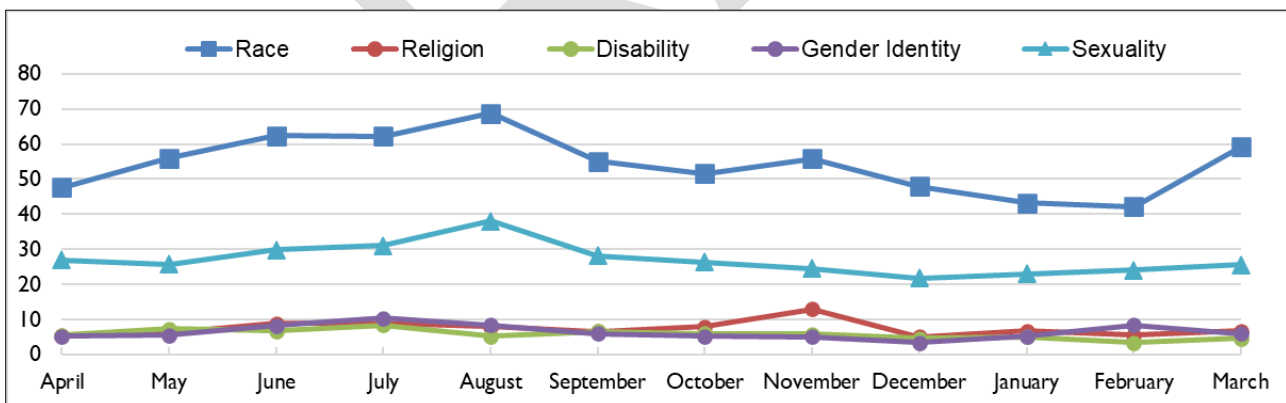
- Particularly in relation to sexual orientation and transphobic bullying, the latest two editions of the survey (2021 and 2023) have seen significant increases in the proportion of pupils reporting being bullied, shown in
- **Figure 56** and **Figure 57** respectively. These followed gradual decreases between 2010 and 2015 and slower increases in the 2016 and 2018 editions of the survey.

Nature of the problem

Police data

- Across most forms of police-recorded hate crime and incident, a seasonal pattern can generally be observed – as shown in **Figure 58** – with more crimes and incidents reported in the late-spring and summer months.

Figure 58 - monthly average pattern graph for hate crimes, by type, 2020/21 to 2024/25.



- Looking at hate incidents recorded by the Community Safety Casework Team, in 2024/25 the greatest number of hate incidents of all kinds took place in West Hill & North Laine, Kemptown and Moulsecoomb and Bevendean wards.

Hate crime motivated by race

- In 2024/25, 60% of police recorded racist hate crimes were public order offences, 34% were violence against the person offences and 3% were arson and criminal damage offences. The remaining 3% of offences were made up of various other crime types such as robbery or theft offences.

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- Data for 2024/25 shows a city-centre hotspot for police recorded racist crimes, located in an area including part of North Laine, the south lanes and Churchill Square, as well as Old Steine and part of Kemptown. This remains largely unchanged since previous analysis.
- The most common location types for police recorded racist offences were in a public/open place (40%), the most common of which was on the street, followed by inside a dwelling (18%) and at a shop (12%).
- There is no clear temporal pattern in police recorded racist offences, with offences distributed on all days of the week and throughout the afternoon and evening. There is a peak in offences between 15:00hrs and 16:00hrs on most weekdays, coinciding with the end of the school day. However overall, Saturday is the day with the highest peak in offences.
- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Of those racist hate crimes in 2024/25 (where victim sex or gender identity was recorded) 68% of victims were male, 31% were female, and fewer than 1% were recorded as 'indeterminate'⁶⁶.
- The rate of victimisation for police recorded racist offences is highest for males aged 40-49 (4.0 per 1,000 pop), whilst for females the highest rate of victimisation is in the 30-39 age group (1.7 per 1,000).
- Victim ethnicity was unrecorded in nearly half of all police recorded racist offences in 2024/25 and therefore analysis of victim ethnicity is not possible.
- Of those offences where the relationship between victim and perpetrator was known, 75% were committed by a stranger to the victim, 23% were committed by an acquaintance, and fewer than 1% respectively were committed by an ex-partner, a work colleague, a current partner or spouse, or other family member.
- Sussex Police currently record offender sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Of those racist hate crimes in 2024/25 (where offender sex or gender identity was recorded) 81% of victims were male, 17% were female, and 1% were transgender⁶⁶. Overall numbers are low, but the rate of offending is highest in the 40-49 year age group.
- Where information was recorded on offender residence, 59% of offenders charged with a hate crime motivated by race in 2024/25 were residents of Brighton & Hove, 23% had no fixed address, and 18% were resident outside of the city. However, overall numbers are low and caution should be used.

Hate crime motivated by religion or belief

- Of those police recorded hate crimes which were motivated by religion or belief in 2024/25, 66% were recorded as anti-Jewish, 20% as anti-Muslim, and 4% respectively as anti-Christian, 'anti-other' or where the religion was unknown. A further 2% were recorded as anti-Hindu. Some offences had multiple motivations against more than one religion or belief.
- Nearly two thirds (62%) of hate crimes motivated by religion or belief in this period were violence against the person offences, a further 30% were criminal damage offences, and the remainder were made up of a small number of other theft and handling offences, burglary, sexual offences and other offences.

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- Repeat locations for police recorded hate crimes motivated by religion or belief in 2024/25 include Queens Road, as well as Palmeira Square in Hove.
- Where location type was recorded, over half of offences took place in a public/ open place (54%), a further 22% occurred in a dwelling, 6% occurred in hospitality settings, and 5% respectively occurred in education settings, public buildings, or shops. Offences in commercial buildings or on moving transport made up the small remainder of offences.
- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. 51% (n=49) of victims were male, 49% (n=48) were female, however overall numbers are low, and caution should be used⁶⁶. Numbers are too low to analyse by victim age group or ethnicity.
- Of those police recorded hate crimes motivated by religion or belief in this time period where victim and perpetrator relationship was recorded, the majority were recorded by a stranger (79%) with a further 9% committed by an acquaintance.
- Due to low overall numbers, there is insufficient offender data to provide analysis on offender characteristics.

Hate crime motivated by sexual orientation

- In 2024/25, 65% of police recorded hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation were public order offences, and a further 33% were violence against the person offences, with the remaining offences a mixture of arson and criminal damage, robbery, sexual or other offences.
- The hotspot for police recorded hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation in 2024/25 is located in the city centre, in an area covering part of North Laine (as far north as North Road), the south lanes and Churchill Square, Old Steine, St. James's Street and adjacent Kemptown streets.
- Peaks in police recorded hate crime motivated by sexual orientation show some association with the night-time economy, with a higher number of offences overall over the weekend, and an elevated risk of offences on a Saturday night between 19.00hrs and 21.00hrs and again on a Sunday morning between 00.00hrs and 03.00hrs. There is also an elevated number of offences throughout Sunday evening.
- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Of those hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation in 2024/25 (where victim sex or gender identity was recorded) 72% of victims were male, 25% were female, 2% were recorded as 'other', and 1% were transgender⁶⁶.
- Overall numbers when split by age and recorded sex or gender identity are low, but the rate of victimisation for men was highest in the 30-39 age group, and for women was highest in the 20-29 age group.
- Sussex Police currently also record offender sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. Overall numbers are low, but of those charged with a hate crime motivated by sexual orientation in 2024-25, 87% (n=73) are male, and 13% (n=11) were female. Offender numbers were too low for meaningful analysis of age or ethnicity⁶⁶.

- Where information was recorded on offender residence, 48% of offenders charged with a hate crime motivated by sexual orientation in 2024/25 were residents of Brighton & Hove, 30% were resident outside of the city, and 22% had no fixed address. However, overall numbers are low and caution should be used.

Hate crime motivated by gender identity

- Of those hate crimes motivated by gender identity in 2024/25, 52% (n=44) were public order offences, 44% (n=37) were violence against the person offences, and the remaining were either arson and criminal damage, or theft offences.
- Over half (52%) of hate crimes motivated by gender identity in this time period occurred in a public or open place, the most common of which was on the street. A further 21% of offences occurred in a dwelling.
- Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate victim sex from gender identity in analysis. Of those hate crimes motivated by gender identity in 2024/25 (where victim sex or gender identity was recorded) 26 had a female victim, 19 had a male victim, 18 had a transgender female victim, 7 had a transgender male victim, and 7 were described as either 'other', or 'indeterminate' ⁶⁶.
- 74% (n= 61) of all police recorded gender identity motivated hate crimes in 2024/25 were committed by a stranger, and 24% (n=20) were committed by an acquaintance.
- Numbers are too low to analyse by victim age group or ethnicity or to provide analysis of offender data.

Hate crime motivated by disability

- Disability motivated hate crimes follow a similar pattern to other types of hate crime, with a majority being either public order or violence against the person offences.
- Overall numbers are low and so caution should be used, but there were 22 male victims of disability motivated hate crimes in 2024/25, 14 female victims and fewer than 5 transgender victims. Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate victim sex from gender identity in analysis⁶⁶. Numbers are too low for this crime type to analyse by victim age group or ethnicity.
- Disability motivated hate crimes during this period were more likely than other types of hate crime to be perpetrated by someone who was an acquaintance to the victim (53%), than by a stranger (40%).
- Numbers are too low to provide analysis of perpetrator demographics.

Data from other agencies

Business Crime Reduction Partnership

- Analysis from the Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) highlighted that most incidents of hate reported by businesses took place during high-footfall periods specifically linked to the night-time economy, much of which was in the context of wider disorder. The BCRP noted that numbers of direct reports by businesses were low, suggesting significant

under-reporting; racial and homophobic abuse was most common, most often aimed at lone, vulnerable individuals and/or door staff at licensed premises.

- During the daytime, workers in fast food outlets — often younger, or female — frequently reported verbal abuse and hate speech to the partnership. More broadly, the BCRP notes its concern over an increase rise in hate-related language and abuse from young people — some as young as 10 — particularly toward retail staff, including racist and homophobic insults.

Brighton and Hove LGBT Switchboard

- Brighton and Hove LGBT Switchboard recorded 18 hate crimes from April 2024 to March 2025 from those accessing their support services.¹²⁴ Where the motivation for the incident was recorded, 5 were specifically recorded as motivated by sexual identity, and the remaining hate incidents were recorded as either motivated by gender identity, disability, or ethnicity – all recorded fewer than five times.
- There remains significant under-reporting of hate crime, and based on service user feedback and wider engagement, Switchboard report that barriers to reporting include:
 - Fear of being outed when reporting to statutory services or the police.
 - Mistrust of institutions, especially among trans and non-binary individuals who have experienced poor treatment or dismissal in the past.
 - Normalisation of abuse, particularly among younger or intersectional individuals who do not recognise hate incidents as reportable.
 - Concerns about escalation or being disbelieved.
 - Lack of visible pathways to report in safe and identity-affirming spaces.
- Over the past three years, Switchboard report they have observed the following amongst their service users:
 - Increasing fear among TNBI individuals about being seen accessing services.
 - A rise in online hate, including doxxing and targeted abuse following visibility campaigns or Pride events.
 - A shift from isolated incidents to cumulative low-level harassment, particularly affecting trans women and non-binary people in public spaces.
- Switchboard also express concern that wider societal and legal developments in recent years, such as the UK Supreme Court ruling, and increasing media rhetoric and political discourse targeting LGBTQ+ communities have compounded these barriers to reporting.

The Clare Project

- The Clare Project, who work with trans, non-binary, gender-variant and gender-questioning people in Brighton and Hove report that incidents reported to them by service users range from verbal abuse, misgendering, being excluded from spaces (for example changing rooms or

¹²⁴ This includes helpline calls, one-to-one sessions, and reports from their domestic abuse, trans and non-binary (TNBI), and older persons services.

sports teams), physical attacks, online harassment, offensive stickering/posters/graffiti, and incitement of hatred towards TNBI people.

- Barriers to reporting to statutory services for The Clare Project service users include: mistrust of the police or council; fear of being misgendered; fear of not being believed or being accused of provoking an incident; fear of jeopardising other council support (for example housing or social care); fear of being referred to mental health services/being sectioned; a belief that hate crime is just 'something you have to put up with'; fear of wasting police/council time; fear of having to come out as TNBI in order to explain the reason for the report; lack of confidence that reporting will achieve anything; confusion around the pathways for reporting; and a lack of understanding of what counts as a hate incident.
- The Clare Project report that particularly since the recent Supreme Court ruling and EHRC guidance that the fear and impact of hate incidents has increased, as well as the confidence of perpetrators to commit hate incidents against TNBI communities.

Resources and gaps

- The Community Safety Partnership continues to monitor relevant intelligence and community tensions given national and international conflicts and coordinates a partnership operational response.
- The Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) continues to meet monthly to discuss complex cases with the highest levels of risk and assessed vulnerabilities.
- We continue to signpost and publicise reporting mechanism for reporting hate incidents and to encourage reporting of all hate incidents.
- Established specialist LGBTQ+ support agencies, including Brighton and Hove LGBT Switchboard and The Clare Project continue to provide vital reporting pathways, advocacy and support services. Allsorts Youth Project's dedicated support for LGBTQ+ young people under 26, provides crucial support for a particularly vulnerable demographic. These organisations safe, affirming services encourage greater disclosure and reporting of hate incidents compared to statutory routes.
- Despite the best efforts of these services the withdrawal of council funding to support third party reporting has resulted in reduced support for the reporting of hate incidents, with a support for the reporting of transphobic hate crimes being identified as a particular gap in provision.
- Partners also report heightened fear in the Trans and Non-Binary communities of further escalation in transphobic hate crimes as a consequence of the Supreme Court ruling and impending revised EHRC guidance on TNBI services.

Summary of key issues

- Budgetary pressures will likely cause further cuts to non-statutory services, many of whom significantly contribute to partnership working to address hate incidents.
- Continued and escalating divisive narratives and international conflict continue to impact locally on community cohesion and community tensions. With specific areas of concern being the targeting of migrants, especially those accommodated in Home Office accommodation.

- Against this backdrop, Brighton and Hove has experienced rising levels of hate incidents and crime motivated by race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity. The only area that hasn't seen an increase in reported hate incidents and crimes are those motivated by disability, but as these are low in number this may not be statistically significant so is no grounds for complacency.
- The city has seen significant rises in the levels of antisemitism and islamophobia. With the recent arson attack on the Peacehaven mosque, which is not within the city borders but is immediately adjacent, there is reason to be concerned about rising severity of these incidents.
- The city has also experienced more public, more frequent and more aggressive expressions of homophobia and transphobia.
- With the TNBI and wider LGBTQ+ communities already feeling targeted and put at greater risk by the Supreme Court ruling, the council will need to balance how it responds to and implements revised EHRC guidance on TNBI services to both meet its statutory obligations while simultaneously maintaining the trust of and providing support to these communities. Failure to achieve this balance risks breaching relationships with these communities, compromising the council's ability to extend to them the support it would wish to and undermining their confidence to report hate incidents.
- The reduction in third party reporting capacity makes the council more dependent on the reporting of hate crime to the Police to gauge both trends in and prevalence of hate crime and incidents. However, the threshold for an incident to become a crime is higher than that of a reportable incident, which still causes harm and fear to the victim. This risks an under estimation in the volume of hate crimes and incidents and an under appreciation of the harm and fear caused to affected communities.
- It is important to recognise that Brighton & Hove attracts significant numbers of visitors from outside of the city, some of whom will perpetrate hate crime or incidents. Local analysis suggests that approximately 20-30% of those charged with a hate crime motivated by the sexual orientation or race of their victim reside outside of Brighton & Hove.
- The core challenge going forward will likely be how the council and partners best meet the dual challenge of this rising tide of hate incidents and crime, in many ways fuelled by influences beyond the boundaries of the city and local influence, while having to contend with reduced resources for doing so. This will require innovations in practise and community partnership that are able to harness resources beyond those the council is able to directly provide.

Recommendations for partnership work

- The focus of the Community Safety Partnership will be to continue to ensure that it is doing all that it reasonably can to:
 - address hate incidents.
 - encourage reporting of hate incidents.
 - provide alternatives to reporting hate incidents to statutory agencies.
 - challenge divisive narratives.
 - improve community cohesion.

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- The Community Safety Partnership will continue focused work to strengthen links between diverse communities and reduce tensions.
- The Community Safety Partnership will seek to better engage with businesses to promote inclusion and cohesion by better identifying and challenging hate incidents, especially those perpetrated by non-resident visitors to the city.
- The Community Safety Partnership will, within available resources, explore new and innovative ways to encourage and support third party reporting of hate incidents, with a particular focus on how to encourage reporting in the night time economy, the potential development of third party reporting ambassadors to support and encourage reporting and developing mechanisms for third party reporting through community services such libraries, GP surgeries and community centres.
- The Community Safety Partnership will further encourage the reporting of hate incidents by promoting a better understanding of what constitutes a hate incident and recognition that an incident doesn't have to cross the threshold of becoming a crime to be usefully and legitimately reported.
- Brighton & Hove City Council will continue implementation of the Brighton and Hove Anti-Racism strategy.
- Brighton & Hove City Council will continue to offer training and briefings to hate incident practitioners across the city, encouraging a harm led approach making the best use of tools and powers available, whilst also promoting the ASB/Hate Incident Case Review procedure.
- Brighton & Hove City Council Community Safety Team will continue to work closely with colleagues in International Migration Services as part of the recently established Community Cohesion Service regarding placement of asylum seekers in hotels and the Homes 4 Ukraine Scheme, to ensure that potential community tension is monitored and responded to when necessary.
- The Joint Action Group (JAG) will continue to identify and respond to emerging hate incident concerns in geographical locations in the city, whilst the Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) will assess our high-risk and complex hate incident cases, ensuring a multiagency plan is in place to address and reduce the harm caused.
- Brighton & Hove City Council will continue to implement its graffiti reduction strategy, prioritising the removing of offensive graffiti and targeting Hate graffiti offenders for enforcement.

11. Prevent

Introduction

The Prevent programme is a UK Government initiative focused on stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent aims to tackle the ideological causes of terrorism, by working in partnership to disrupt and reduce the influence of radicalisers on susceptible audiences and to reduce the availability of, and access to, terrorist content.

Prevent seeks to intervene early and ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation to terrorism are supported as they would be under safeguarding processes. Channel is a voluntary support programme where multi-agency panels assess the extent of an individual's susceptibility to radicalisation and whether a tailored package of support is necessary and proportionate to address the risk.

The third aim of Prevent is to enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate. Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism.

Terrorism threat: national

- The UK terrorism threat level¹²⁵ remains unchanged at 'Substantial' – meaning 'an attack is likely' since 9 February 2022.
- In December 2024, the Home Secretary¹²⁶ updated that Al-Qaida (AQ) or Daesh and affiliated ideologies continue to be identified as the primary threat to the UK, accounting for approximately 67% of attacks since 2018, about three quarters of MI5 caseload¹²⁷, and 61% of those in custody for terrorism-connected offences. Extreme-right-wing terrorism (ERWT) drives the remainder of the threat to the UK, accounting for approximately 22% of attacks since 2018, about a quarter of MI5 caseload and 30% of those in custody for terrorism-connected offences.
- The threat from self-initiated terrorism with online pathway continues to be significant.
- In October 2025, the Director General¹²⁸ of the security services in his annual update enunciated on the profound change in covert threats, with a 35% increase in the number of individuals under investigation for involvement in state threat activity in one year. A rapid growth in threat from hostile states present the most complex threat picture. Autocratic regimes are increasingly extending their repression at home to aggression overseas, using proxies, including private intelligence operatives and criminals from both the UK and third countries.
- The UK faces a varied and persistent terror threat. Presently, terrorism remains one of the most direct and immediate risks to the UK's national security. In a step change in terrorist threat, five terrorist incidents took place in the UK in 2017, and the terrorism threat level was twice raised to 'Critical' (highest level, meaning an attack is imminent). Since 2017, thirteen further terrorist incidents have occurred, the most recent in October 2025 in Crumpsall, Manchester.

¹²⁵ [Security Service MI5 webpage - terrorism threat levels](#). Threat levels are subject to change as new information becomes available.

¹²⁶ [UK Parliament webpage - statement on Preventing Radicalisation, 17 December 2024](#).

¹²⁷ [Security Service MI5 webpage - latest threat update, 8 October 2024](#).

¹²⁸ [Security Service MI5 webpage - latest threat update, 16 October 2025](#).

- On 2 October 2025, Jihad al-Shamie, a 35-year-old British man of Syrian descent killed one person when he drove his car towards the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation before exiting his vehicle and attacking civilians with knives. Targeting a synagogue on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year in the Jewish calendar, with a high number of Jewish worshippers heightened the impact of the terrorist incident and community concerns about rising antisemitism.
- The threat picture is complex, evolving, and enduring, with terrorists choosing to attack a broad range of locations.
- Additionally, nineteen late-stage terrorist plots¹²⁸ were successfully disrupted by the police, security, and intelligence agencies in the UK since the start of 2020. MI5 and Counter Terrorism Police are working on more than 800 live investigations currently.
- The Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) works to identify, and investigate, those responsible for the proliferation of terrorist content online. CTIRU works with platforms to stop harmful material being posted, remove it when it appears, and divert people away. Over 11,000 referrals were made to the CTIRU in 2024 and over 1,800 referrals by 12 February 2025.
- Three organisations - 'Russian Imperial Movement' (RIM), 'Maniacs Murder Cult' (MMC), and 'Palestine Action'¹²⁹ – were proscribed in 2025, effectively from 5 July 2025, bringing the total number of proscribed organisations in the UK¹³⁰ to 84. Members of the proscribed groups or those who invite support for proscribed groups could be jailed for up to 14 years and/or face an unlimited fine.

Terrorism threat: local

- The threat from self-initiated terrorists continues from various extremist perspectives, with Daesh, Al-Qaida and right-wing propaganda continuing to inspire attacks. A couple of residents from the city were successfully prosecuted for failed terrorist plots in 2022 (an AQ inspired terrorist plot to kill a Christian preacher at Hyde Park Corner) and in 2023 (an ERW motivated plot to target a local synagogue). Concerns around online influences drawing individuals to all forms of terrorism continue, with the movement from online activity and spaces to offline activity and harm to public safety seen in both the Self-Initiated Terrorists failed plots.
- The risk of support for proscribed organisations in the international context (Israel/ Palestine violence that expanded to other areas in the middle east) has been evident with three arrests¹³¹ in the city for allegedly supporting ' Hamas', and a further allegation of a ' Hamas' supporter visiting the university encampment in 2024.
- With the number of terrorist arrests and convictions in the city, community release of terrorist offenders continues to be likely and will need to be managed. The impact of terrorism arrests,

¹²⁹ The proscribed group 'Palestine Action' had challenged the proscription in the High Court. In February 2026, the High Court ruled in favour of the group, however, at the time of writing, the group is still proscribed until further legal processes are concluded.

¹³⁰ According to the Home Office data, 84 organisations are currently proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000 (including all those mentioned in this document) as at the time of writing, plus 14 organisations in Northern Ireland that were proscribed under previous legislation.

¹³¹ [BBC News webpage, 29 November 2024. Terrorism charge over man's online comments.](#) and [Sussex Express webpage, 23 April 2025. Sussex man charged in connection with terrorism and criminal offences.](#)

investigations, and releases on communities in the city need to be managed to ensure continued resilience.

- Extreme-right activity in the city is noted from the full spectrum of extreme-right groups ('cultural nationalism', 'white nationalism', and 'white supremacism'). Unsolicited leafleting, posters, and graffiti were reported, particularly during the racist and anti-migrant violence exploiting the Southport tragedy. Some cultural nationalist actors and media have continued to use disinformation, and conspiracy theories to promote their anti-migrant, anti-Muslim, and anti-minorities agenda. Targeting of establishment/ authorities to promote distrust in authorities is noted locally. Migration, asylum, and LGBTQ+ issues as topical issues continue to be exploited by the ERW. Antisemitic graffiti by extreme-right groups were also reported in the city. Antisemitic tropes form part of the core narratives of some terrorist ideologies, for example, White Supremacist narratives.
- Increased risks are noted from accessing online materials, forums and influencers, social media, online and gaming platforms from across the spectrum of extremisms and ideologies. Online forums and communities not only provide an environment where it is possible to consume ideology, but they also provide materials or practical enablers of terrorist activity, create networks of like-minded peers, create an echo-chamber and facilitate offline interactions. Individuals may also move from being a consumer of online content to disseminating and producing online content. Violent online content and games are reportedly desensitising individuals to violence.
- All of this combines to paint a picture of a sustained and high tempo threat, and a whole society approach is required to effectively tackle terrorism. Cooperation and partnership working between communities, councils, police, and statutory and voluntary services is crucial in countering terrorism and building resilience.

National and local context

- Several macro/structural factors are likely to impact, increase demand, complexities, and potentially drive people into extremism and terrorism: growing multipolarity and intensifying strategic competition between states—and with non-state actors—for political, military, economic, and technological power; geopolitics (for example Russia/ Ukraine war, Israel/ Palestine violence), global uncertainty (cost of living issues, economic downturn, rise of the far right in Europe), climate change, migration, instability and conflict with more frequent humanitarian disasters, threats emanating from hostile states, increased communication, and the ever-expanding data environment.
- Following the Hamas attack in Southern Israel (7 October 2023) and escalating Israel/ Palestine violence, significant increases continue to be reported in both antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents in the UK, both online and in communities, with significant impact on the communities both locally and nationally. Different extremist groups continue to exploit Israel/ Palestine violence, Israeli military actions, and the scale of death and destruction in Gaza, to amplify grievances, and this may increase exposure to narratives that can be used to radicalise. The divisive narratives and activities seen in increased community tensions require increased engagement and work with communities to understand concerns, reassure, prevent escalation, and mitigate risks. Increased polarisation of views/positions and politicisation also increases

complexity with competing interests and demands on statutory partners with an impact on trust and confidence in our local communities.

- The risk that international events could directly trigger terrorist action in the UK were seen in the knife attack and murder in Hartlepool in 2023¹³², motivated by Israel/ Palestine violence. The case highlighted unpredictable ways in which existing views and grievances, online/ media influences, and potential impact of international events/ violence may interact.
- Anti- asylum/ anti-migrant sentiments are exploited by extreme-right wing actors and groups to promote a range of narratives directly related to their core doctrine: that the presence of asylum accommodation is evidence of the 'Great Replacement' conspiracy taking place, that asylum accommodation residents present a 'risk' to the public through 'terrorism', 'sexual offending', and general criminality, thus promoting distrust in government/ democracy (for example, failure of policy and multi-culturalism).
- The role of online disinformation and misinformation in promoting violence was highlighted in the racist, anti-migrant, and anti-Muslim violence that exploited the Southport attack. Violence against migrant communities in Ballymena (June 2025) and recent demonstrations outside hotels accommodating asylum seekers (July 2025) similarly exploited 'protecting White children and women' tropes by presenting migrants as a 'threat' within the context of 'othering'. Normalisation of anti-migrant and racist discourses within politics and media is leveraged to exploit local issues by national actors, to raise their profile, funds, increase support base, radicalise and recruit.
- The anti-migrant and anti-Muslim activities (protests, discourses, social media) nationally and the impact these have on local communities are likely to see an upward trend. This is also within the context of community concerns that asylum issues are 'politicised', and asylum seekers are increasingly becoming targets of hate crimes and incidents in general and direct action by the extreme right.
- On 4 October 2025, Peacehaven mosque was targeted whilst a couple of worshippers were inside. Two individuals were arrested for arson with intent to endanger life, and the attack heightened concerns about Islamophobia in the communities. The mosque was previously targeted following the Southport attack. Nationally 25 Mosques were attacked in 27 incidents at 23 locations between July to October 2025¹³³, with some suggesting that mainstream visibility of nationalist and extreme right campaigns helped normalise or embolden anti-Muslim behaviour in local contexts.
- The city has a high level of single issues groups, with high level of protest activities. Their membership or protest activity causes tension within certain communities and provides a fertile ground for exposure to particular narratives and engagement factors.
- International and national incidents continue to have local impact and affect inter-community relations. Anti-Muslims, antisemitic, anti-migrant, anti-LGBQ+ and TNBI, anti-minorities, and anti-establishment narratives are also being seen in referrals, in community sentiments following incidents, some media and social media. The cumulative impact of the various

¹³² [BBC News webpage, 17 May 2024. Street killing of pensioner 'terrorist act' - judge.](#)

¹³³ [British Muslim Trust webpage. Research Report - A Summer of Division, October 2025.](#)

international and national conflicts has given rise to a narrative where communities are worried about increased Islamophobia, antisemitism, and anti-migrant views. This may contribute to grievances that could be exploited to radicalise, recruit, and raise funds, especially within the context of the pre-existing 'victimisation narratives'.

National Policy

- Prevent Learning Reviews¹³⁴ (PLR) of two high-profile attacks, the murder of a sitting Member of Parliament in 2021 and a mass casualty incident in Southport in 2024, have highlighted both the programme's importance and its challenges. Several years before their respective attacks, both the perpetrators had been referred by their schools to Prevent. PLR into these cases revealed systemic gaps in risk assessment and case management, prompting significant reforms to strengthen multi-agency coordination and follow-through.
- Nationally, reforms to the Prevent programme included a review of Prevent thresholds and case management, the introduction of a Prevent Assessment Framework (PAF) in September 2024 to provide a more tailored, consistent, and professional-judgement-driven tool for assessing individuals at risk of radicalisation and a Clinical Consultancy Service (April 2024 after 6 year pilot) to improve health outcomes for people who are already subject to Counter Terrorism Policing interventions. Formal evaluation of PAF is expected to continue throughout 2025-26.
- On 21st January 2025, Lord David Anderson KC was appointed as the Interim Prevent Commissioner and was asked by the Home Secretary to examine the interactions of both attackers with Prevent, review the measures already taken to address the failings that their cases exposed/ recommendations from the PLR, and suggest any further improvements¹³⁵.
- The Home Office reviewed Prevent thresholds in 2025, conclusions are yet to be published. The William Shawcross Review (February 2023) had queried whether a disparity exists in the way ERW and AQ/ Daesh affiliated referrals are handled. The Home Office review in 2025 to establish if such a disparity exists had varying findings. Quantitative analysis found that AQ/ Daesh affiliated cases were more likely to be triaged out of Channel, including escalation to police managed space or Pursue. However, qualitative analysis found no evidence of different thresholds being applied to cases at the Channel Panel stage, and no evidence that AQ/Daesh type referrals discussed at Panel present a more active risk than ERW cases.
- Lord Anderson reported on lower consent rates for Channel support for AQ/ Daesh type of referrals. This may offer partial explanation for the above findings. The disparity review and consent issues will require further work.
- The perpetrator of the Southport incident was referred three times to Prevent, on each occasion, the referral was assessed by Counter Terrorism Policing, but in each instance, there was no onward referral to specialist Channel support. The 'Prevent Learning Review' during the summer of 2024, concluded that the referrals should not have been closed, and that cases such as these, given his age and complex needs, should be referred to Channel. In assessing risk,

¹³⁴ Prevent Learning Reviews are undertaken where a terrorist attack or serious violence offence has been committed by someone with prior involvement in the Prevent programme. The [Prevent Learning Review](#) was jointly commissioned by the Home Office and Counter Terrorism Police in the immediate aftermath of the Southport attack.

¹³⁵ [Home Office webpage. Independent report from Lord Anderson - Lessons for Prevent, November 2025.](#)

too much emphasis was placed on the absence of an ideology, without recognising the significance of fascination with violence, and cumulative impact of three repeat referrals. Learning from these reviews has prompted several policy and operational initiatives.

- Following national learning about management of repeat referrals (Inquest into Forbury Gardens and the PLR) and referrals categorised as ‘fascination with extreme violence or mass casualty attacks’, in March 2025 counter terrorism police updated policy to strengthen oversight and decision making of repeat referrals, risk management, and assurance.
- ‘Routes To Intervention’ is a new national project, launched in January 2025 to extend the support from ‘Channel’, Prevent, to those eligible recipients who are also the subject of an overt counter terrorism (Pursue) investigation concurrently. Previous guidance advised that access to Channel support would ordinarily stop or be closed to people who are subject of an investigation under UK terrorism legislation. The policy change has been agreed in response to the changing profile of those coming through the counter terrorism system requiring support and allows a key gap in available provision to be closed (for example, more minors are now being investigated, refer to Rhiannon Rudd Inquest below).
- In April 2025, the Home Office commissioned a national evaluation of Channel. The key objective of this evaluation is to assess whether Channel is effective at reducing individuals’ susceptibility to radicalisation. It will also explore how well Channel interventions are delivered and how the programme could be improved. Additionally, work is being done to widen the interventions available to Channel, practical mentoring and support is introduced in 2025.
- Addressing the broader question about ‘violence-fascinated individuals’, including those displaying high-risk behaviours without clear ideological alignment, the Interim Prevent Commissioners recommended that these should continue to be accommodated within the Prevent programme. The future permanent Prevent Commissioner may investigate whether Prevent should ultimately be embedded in a more general safeguarding and violence reduction strategy which is also recommended. Improvements in information sharing, engagement, responding to online risks, and public transparency are other recommendations by Lord Anderson.
- In March 2025, Jonathan Hall KC published his report, commissioned to review whether terrorism legislation is equipped to deal with acts of extreme violence. This concluded that the definition of terrorism does not need to be widened any further and recommended that the government should consider a new offence, adapted from terrorism legislation, to deal with non-terrorist mass casualty attack-planning.
- In April 2025, Justice Adrian Fulford was appointed as the commissioner into the public inquiry for the Southport murders. In the two phased inquiry that began immediately, the first will look at policing, criminal justice system, and agencies that were involved with Axel Rudakubana. The second phase will focus on wider issues of young people being drawn into extreme violence.
- In June 2025, an inquest¹³⁶ into the death of 16-year-old Rhianan Rudd who was groomed before being charged with terrorism offences, found that there were missed opportunities by CT Police, Prevent, County Council, and several mental health bodies in the period leading up to

¹³⁶ [Guardian webpage, 9 June 2025. UK teenager who killed herself was ‘highly affected’ by terrorism arrest, inquest finds.](#)

her death. At age 15, Rhianan Rudd was the youngest girl charged with terrorism offences in 2020 in the UK; Prevent support ceased with the charges for terrorism offences in line with the policy at the time. The charges were dropped in 2021 after the Home Office concluded she was a victim of exploitation. She took her own life at a children's home in May 2022. However, the inquest also found that no organisation bore the blame for Rudd's death, describing the teenager's investigation and prosecution for suspected terrorism offences as 'necessary and appropriate'. Early referral to the National Referral Mechanism, the body responsible for identifying potential victims of modern slavery, and mental health services for appropriate support were key aspects of findings.

Local policy

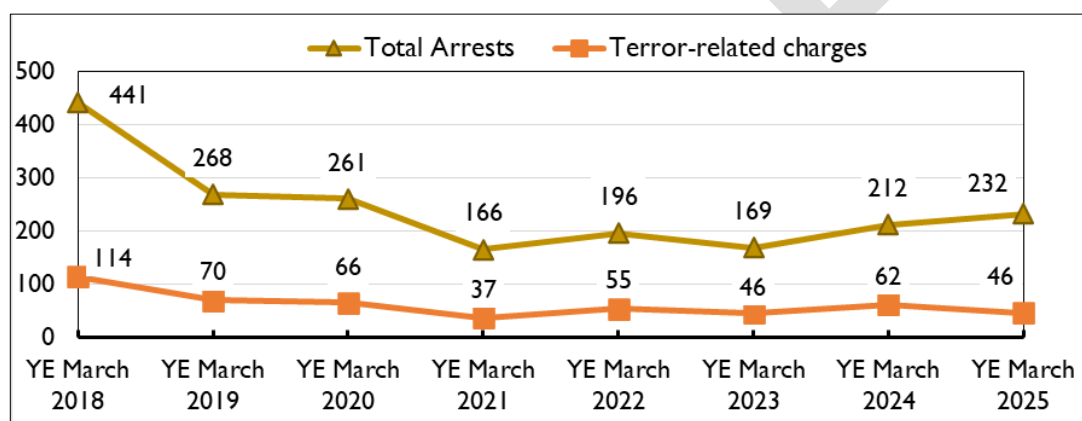
- The city is not a Prevent priority area, and mainstream budget continues to be identified for Prevent delivery to manage strategic risks for the city within reduced resources. Since 2009, the Community Safety team continues to deliver on Prevent in partnership with our communities.
- As part of the re-organisation to tackle financial constraints, Prevent and Community Safety functions have moved into a new structure. Prevent and Community Safety actions are referenced in the new Council Plan, and we continue to deliver services in line with the council's commitment through its 'Anti-racism strategy' and further work through 'Sanctuary Accreditation Plan' for the council to continue its commitment to be a City of Sanctuary. We continue to prioritise investment in the third sector with opportunities to create shared narrative and consensus on Prevent and community safety.
- The asylum provision in the city now has a couple of strands: the city is part of national asylum dispersal scheme, and since 2021 the Home Office have commissioned 'Contingency provisions' for single adults and families seeking asylum. Extreme right-wing groups/ influencers are likely to exploit the issue of asylum seekers and migrants in the city to promote grievances, increase support and gain purchase in the city.
- Budgetary challenges for the council and all public bodies create a cumulative impact in statutory partners abilities to resource and respond to community needs, staffing, and service delivery in the immediate future and long term. The picture is further complicated by the cost-of-living crisis, the growing economic difficulties that many people will likely face in future, specifically its disproportionate impact on minority and marginalised communities, and increased vulnerabilities and demands from communities on public resources. Overall economic inequality continues to shape attitudes and creates openings for division and offer the extreme right and other extremist groups their best hope to expand.
- In January 2025, following an expression of interest in the priority programme for devolution, the new Mayoral Strategic Authority for Sussex and Brighton is likely within the start of the strategy cycle, informed by the findings of the government-led consultation that concluded in March 2025.

Overview of scale and trends

Operation of police powers under 2000 Terrorism Act

- Home Office data¹³⁷ confirmed that 232 arrests were made across Great Britain for terrorism-related activity in 2024/25, 9% greater than the 212 arrests made in 2023/24. This continues to slowly reverse the previous long-term downward trend in terrorism arrests since 2017/18, as shown in **Figure 59**.
- From these arrests, 71 people were charged with an offence, of which 46 were terrorism related¹³⁸. The number charged for terrorism-related offences was fewer than the 62 the previous year, despite the increase in overall arrests in 2024/25. The most common charges were for preparation of terrorist acts (9 charges), dissemination of terrorist publications (8 charges) and collecting information useful for an act of terrorism (7 charges).
- A total of 109 (47%) of those arrested were bailed to return and released under investigation – as a proportion of all arrests, this is much higher than in any previous year, owing to recording changes by the Home Office, meaning the recorded number released without any charge (45, 19%) decreased significantly.

Figure 59 - Arrests made in Great Britain for terrorism-related activity, 2017/18 to 2024/25.



- Among the 232 arrests made in 2024/25:
 - 194 were male (84%) and 37 were female (16%) and 1 unknown (<1%). In 2024/25 there was a larger proportion of arrests of males than in the previous year (185 of 212 arrests, 87%), and proportionally fewer females (27 arrests, 13%).
 - 108 (47%) were aged over 30, consistently the most common age-group among those arrested and similar by proportion to arrests made in the previous year. Forty-three (19%) were aged 17 or under, continuing an increasing trend in the number and proportion of children being arrested for such offences. A further 12% of people arrested were aged 18 to 20 and another 12% aged 21 to 24.

¹³⁷ [Home office webpage - Arrests, outcomes, and stop and search outcomes under Terrorism Act 2000 and following legislation, 2024/25.](#)

¹³⁸ Terrorism-related charges and convictions include some charges and convictions under non-terrorism legislation, where the offence is considered to be terrorism-related.

- 113 (49%) were recorded as having White ethnicity, 61 (26%) recorded as Asian, 39 (17%) were of Other ethnicity and 7 (3%) recorded as Black, with the remainder unknown. Over the long-term, a greater proportion of arrests continue to be made of White suspects, proportionally fewer of Asian suspects and an increasing proportion of those considered of Other ethnic origin.

Terrorist prisoners

- As of 31 March 2025, there were 266 persons in custody for terrorism and terrorism-connected offences in Great Britain, the highest number since comparable records began (30 September 2020).
- Of those in custody, the majority (61%) were categorised as holding Islamist-extremist views; a further 30% were categorised as holding Extreme Right-Wing ideologies and 9% were categorised as holding other ideologies¹³⁷.

National referrals to Prevent

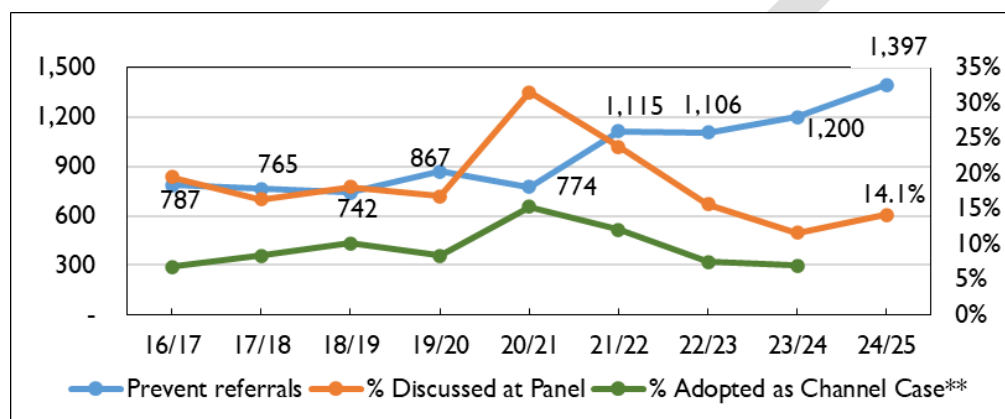
- Since the introduction of the Prevent duty in 2015, just under 6,000 people have been supported to move away from violent ideologies that could have resulted in harm to themselves, or others, or taken them down a pathway to terrorist offending.
- In the year to March 2025 there were 8,778 referrals to the Prevent programme¹³⁹, 27% more than in the previous year and the highest recorded since data collection began in 2015. From these, 1,727 (19.7%) were discussed at a Channel Panel and 1,472 (16.8%) were adopted as a Channel case, both also significantly higher than in previous years¹⁴⁰.
- Across Great Britain in 2024/25, the greatest proportion of referrals continue to come from Education (36%) and Police (30%) – Education made up a slightly smaller proportion of referrals compared with the previous year (40%), but with significantly higher numbers of referrals made. Local Authorities (10.2% in 2024/25) were a more common source for referrals than in the previous year (8.4% in 2023/24), while Health made up 989, or around 11%, of referrals to the Prevent programme in 2024/25.
- In 2024/25, 34% of Prevent referrals nationally related to people for whom a vulnerability is present, but with no identified ideology or counter-terrorism risk – the most common type of concern; 20% related to Extreme Right-Wing ideologies, and 18% related to people with no ideology but with some other susceptibility to radicalisation identified. Although not directly attributable to the Southport tragedy on 29 July 2024, an increased rate of referrals was noted following the Southport attack. Where there are ideological concerns, a reported increase in ERW threat and referrals is noted, and a decrease in referrals related to AQ/ Daesh and affiliated ideologies.

¹³⁹ [Prevent programme webpage - individuals referred to and supported by the programme, year ending March 2025.](#)

¹⁴⁰ In the 2024/25 data release, 'adoption' to Channel was defined as all those whom the Channel panel deemed suitable for Channel intervention, whether or not they later consent to participate. This means that Adoption figures for the latest release are not comparable to Adoption figures in previous releases.

- A greater proportion of women and minors were referred to Prevent in the year to March 2025 than in previous years, whilst the average age of those referred is lower than in past years.
- Among all cases discussed at a Channel Panel – irrespective of whether they were then considered suitable for adopting by the Channel programme - 39% related to a concern over Extreme Right-Wing ideology, 15% related to Islamist Extremism and 15% related to those with no ideology but other susceptibility to radicalisation identified.
- In the immediate aftermath of the 7 October 2023 Hamas terrorist attack in Israel, analysis of referrals to the Prevent programme in the remainder of 2023/24 showed only a marginal increase (under 1%) in cases being referred to the programme in the period 7 October 2023 to 31 March 2024 compared with the same period the previous year¹⁴¹. While the numbers of cases referred to the programme were substantially higher between 7 October and 31 December 2023 (1,926) compared with the same period in 2022 (1,691) and 2021 (1,756), the number of referrals this period as a proportion of each financial year remained very similar.

Figure 60 - Prevent Referrals and the proportion discussed at Channel Panels, or taken up as cases, in the South East, 2017/18 to 2024/25.



- In the South East, 1,397 referrals were made in 2024/25 - 16% more than in the previous year, as seen in **Figure 60** - from which 240 (17.2%) were discussed at a Channel Panel, and 197 (14.1%) formally adopted as a Channel case, with or without the consent of the referred person. All of these figures were higher than in the previous year.
- Among the 1,397 referrals made within the South East region:
 - 506 (36%) related to young people aged 11 to 15, the most common age group; in total, 771 (55%) of referrals were in relation to a person aged under 18, slightly lower than the 57% of referrals made the previous year. Among those discussed at a Channel Panel, 131 referrals (55%) were for people aged under 18, irrespective of whether they were taken up as a case suitable for Channel, while 109 (55%) of cases adopted as a Channel case were for those aged under 18, regardless of whether they consented.
 - Eighty-five percent of referrals referred to males and 9% to females (the remainder recorded as Other or Unspecified); among those adopted as Channel cases, regardless of their consent, 91% of referrals related to males, 4% to females and the remainder recorded as Other or Unspecified.

¹⁴¹ Home Office analysts cannot directly attribute any change in the trends to conflict-related factors.

- 587 referrals (42%) relate to people for whom no ideology but with some other susceptibility to radicalisation was identified; 368 (26%) related to people with no ideology identified, and 269 (19%) related to Extreme Right-Wing ideologies.
- Mental health and/or neurodiversity conditions were also recorded in 2024/25 for Prevent referrals¹⁴²; these conditions can be confirmed or unconfirmed. From the 1,397 Prevent referrals made in the South East, the most common mental health and/or neurodiversity condition recorded was Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (present in 194 referrals), followed by suicide risk (153 referrals) and self-harm (79 referrals). A further 134 referrals had an Other condition, meaning additional information was added as free text to a referral.
- The ethnicity of the person was specified in 366 (26%) of Prevent referrals in the South East. For those referrals where ethnicity was specified, 73% of referrals were recorded as 'White', 15% as 'Asian', 6% as 'Other' and 5% as 'Black'.
- Among the cases discussed at a Channel Panel in the South East region, irrespective of whether they were taken up as a case suitable for Channel, 36% related to those with an Extreme Right-Wing ideology, 32% related to people for whom no ideology but with some other susceptibility to radicalisation was identified and 13% related to people with no ideology identified.

Prevent Data for Higher Education

- In June 2025, new Office for Students (OfS) data¹⁴³ found the number of events or external speakers approved by universities and colleges increased from 39,475 in 2022/23 to 42,440 in 2023/24, with an accompanying rise in the number of events approved with conditions in place.
- The number of events or external speakers approved with conditions due to a Prevent-related risk increased from 15 in 2022-23 to 30 in 2023-24. These conditions include measures such as putting increased security in place, requiring tickets for attendance, and ensuring discussions are led by a chair. Conditions were placed on 1,410 external speakers and events in 2023-24 for non-Prevent reasons, up from 1,285 in 2022-23.
- The data includes information about their management of individual radicalisation cases and any underpinning ideology for each case. 'Mixed, unclear and unstable ideologies' accounted for the highest number of potential radicalisation cases that were escalated internally within an institution (90), followed by 'other' (70) and 'Islamist' (70), and 'extreme right-wing' (30). Of all the cases, 65 were subject to formal referral to external Prevent agencies.

¹⁴² Each referral could have more than one condition recorded, thereby the total does not equate to the total number of individual referrals. If someone has been referred multiple times and has a condition for one or more of the mental health / neurodiversity categories, each of the categories will be counted the same number of times that person has been referred. For example, if someone has been referred twice and has the conditions 'Anxiety Disorder – Confirmed' and 'Autistic Spectrum Disorder – Unconfirmed', they will each be counted twice.

¹⁴³ [Office for Students article, webpage. OfS publishes new data on Prevent, 2025.](#)

Nature of the problem

- Most of the thirteen attacks since 2017 can be described as 'inspired terrorism' (attack/attackers inspired by groups/ ideology rather than directed by terrorist groups in a command and control structure), all were carried out by 'self-initiated terrorists' or smaller cells, using low sophisticated methodology such as bladed weapons, vehicle borne attacks, mainly in public or crowded places, some committed by ex-terrorist^{144/} offenders, use of fake suicide vests or emulating elements of previous terrorist attacks. Targeting of public servants or those representing the State/ establishment, use of Improvised Explosive Devices, and an unclear motivation were noted in some recent terrorist incidents. Targeting of public, crowded, or iconic places to maximise impact, has been further inflected to targeting a place of worship (for example a synagogue), on a religiously significant day (in this instance Yom Kippur), and targeting a specific section of society such as Jewish community as seen in the Manchester terrorist incident.
- The self-initiated terrorism threat is evolving, exploiting modern technologies such as 3D printing, and evading detection and disruption using alternative communication methods, including encryption services and livestreaming. 3-D printing has been noted as a feature of several ERW investigations¹⁴⁵ nationally in recent years and Daesh inspired/ affiliated case in December 2023¹⁴⁶. Livestreaming of attacks has been well documented since the Christchurch (a mosque & an Islamic Centre) shooting in March 2019 and is used as a 'performative' act to expand reach, intensify impact, and advance the 'supposed cause/ agenda'.
- 'Leakage' is an important indicator of self-initiated terrorist attacks and can range from admitting a desire to inflict violence more generally (for example the Dover attack perpetrator¹⁴⁷), to specific details involving a location, target, or weapon of attack. Individuals may leak their plans for several reasons: as a cry for help, or as a way of seeking increased media attention, or fame for their cause, or to inspire further attacks. The perpetrator of the Worcestershire attack was previously active online, espousing anti-immigrant rhetoric, and following the incident, arrested whilst posting his 'manifesto'¹⁴⁸ on X thus preventing further harm.
- Following the Synagogue attack in Manchester, disinformation in the form of antisemitic narratives and conspiracy theories were prominent, flexibly deployed by different types of ERW groups, and transcended across ideological boundaries for example AQ/ Daesh and affiliated ideologies. Furthermore, ERW groups and online audiences exploited the Heaton Park Synagogue incident to promote and reinforce anti-Muslim, anti-migrant, and anti-establishment narratives. Extremists from across the spectrum used the incident in pursuance of their own agenda, to reinforce grievances and promote victimisation narratives; for example, to criticise

¹⁴⁴ The attacks by prisoners inside HMP Whitemoor, the 2019 Fishmongers' Hall, and 2020 Streatham and Reading attacks by those on probation, demonstrate the significant threat that offenders may continue to pose both in custody and on release' (Contest 2023).

¹⁴⁵ [Avon and Somerset Constabulary and Counter Terrorism Policing South East press release, PDF.](#)

¹⁴⁶ [BBC News webpage, 22 December 2023. Mohamed Al Bared: Student jailed for life for building IS drone.](#)

¹⁴⁷ [Tell MAMA UK report, PDF. The Tangled Web of Far Right and Anti-Muslim Hate.](#)

¹⁴⁸ [Counter Terror Policing webpage, January 2025. Man jailed for life at Worcestershire terrorist attack.](#)

state and foster conspiracies of an establishment withholding information about violent attackers or putting migrants above 'White natives'. Fears were expressed that the incident may be used to suppress freedoms such as protests in the UK to highlight the Palestinian cause, or to target Muslims and minorities; concerns about media bias in reporting a series of Islamophobic incidents that occurred in early October in the UK were also seen in this context. These provide fertile ground for exploitation by terrorist and extremists to radicalise and recruit.

- Terrorists and extremists continue to exploit issues related to migration and asylum seekers in the UK. Migration in some of these discourses is solely referred to as Muslim or South Asian, thus promoting an anti-Muslim position that simultaneously creates distrust in political elites/ democracy. ERW actors exploit 'citizen journalism' to generate social media and online content, to get more media exposure to advance their 'agenda', including through misinformation, propaganda &/or activities often focused on hotels/ contingency accommodation or 'channel crossing', promoting conspiracy theories such as the 'great replacement', anti-establishment narratives, and a 'call for action'. A few recent terrorist incidents in the UK were motivated by anti-migration and anti-asylum narratives; for example, the Dover immigration centre attack in 2022 and the Worcestershire attack in 2024.
- The threat from Extreme-Right Wing Terrorism is growing and evolving, particularly through the radicalisation of increasingly younger individuals from dangerous online content.
- A growing number of minors are using the internet to plot terror attacks and recruit others to their cause. Potential young extremists have adopted a pick-and-mix approach to extremism, blending different forms of racism, misogyny and homophobia - gaining access to a wide variety of harmful and extreme content that would have previously been inaccessible¹⁴⁹.
- The pathways to terrorism are complex, and each person's journey is influenced by a unique combination of factors. There is no single profile of a terrorist.
- Ideology remains a crucial factor in radicalisation, as evidenced by analysis of material consumed by convicted terrorists. Extremist narratives consistently frame violence as a justified means of community defence or revival. The role of ideology remains varied, often intersecting with personal grievances, online echo chambers or psychological vulnerabilities. For example, research examining 6,000 individual items of 'mindset material' found in the possession of 100 convicted terrorists in the UK found that terrorists selectively engaged with ideological content to contextualise and legitimise their actions, rather than as a sole trigger¹⁵⁰.
- The risk factors for radicalisation can include personal vulnerabilities (for example, mental health issues, isolation), identity conflicts and exposure to extreme narratives, often online. Protective factors often include strong, positive personal and social identity and a resilient community that can challenge extreme narratives.
- Explicit affiliation with any specific terrorist organisation and fixed ideological alignment are diminishing. Adherence by terrorists to specific ideologies is in many cases less structured and coherent than in the past, reflecting in part the wide range of material available online from

¹⁴⁹ [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

¹⁵⁰ [Commission for Countering Extremism report webpage. Holbrook D, 2025. Sacred violence: the enduring role of ideology in terrorism and radicalisation.](#)

which individuals or small groups may draw. People may view both extreme right wing and AQ/ Daesh extremist instructional material, along with other bits of online hatred, conspiracy theories, and disinformation. Counter-terrorism efforts increasingly encounter a range of personal and ideological motivations to violence, where a traditional terrorist narrative may only be part of a much more complex picture.

- Conspiracy theories can act as gateways to radicalised thinking and sometimes violence. The conspiracy theories pose potential threat when they and those who propagate them engender distrust in their audiences and encourage violence towards the government. Governments / establishments themselves are increasingly the focus of conspiracies. This antipathy or hostility towards the government's policies, representatives and officials, and democratic institutions in some instances can translate into violence or incitement to violence against the authorities including any institutions or individuals that comply with or implement the government's policies. The increasing sophistication and scale of disinformation operations presents real challenges for democratic states, increasing the risk of terrorism, inciting violence between groups with pre-existing tensions and posing longer term risks for public trust. People's relationships with authority, trust and institutions are likely to remain salient in future.

Resources and gaps

- Reduction in resources and budgetary pressures across partners and the public sector, within which mainstream funding must be found to deliver Prevent work and sustain best practice continues to present challenges. The cumulative impact of a sustained increase in demand on services across the public sector, as well as efficiencies made, has impacted partnership resources and the response to communities and client's needs. A combination of factors such as cost-of-living crisis, economic downturn, and client groups presenting with complex, multiple or compound needs are simultaneously driving demand and disproportionately impacting minority and marginalised communities.
- With devolution, mayoral elections, and local government reorganisation across Sussex, the level of flux and uncertainty has increased which may impact strategy development and action planning. In addition to the question of resources, location of Prevent and Community Safety functions, geographical boundaries/coverage in terms of risk assessment and development of partnership and community relations are indeterminate. The consensus on Prevent and our approach to delivery along with the shared narrative on Prevent with partners and communities will likely need revisiting and redeveloping to enable effective and impactful delivery.
- Work needs to address the issues of low referrals from communities and the third sector and to improve quality of referrals from partners. It is unclear if concerns with respect to all kinds of extremism are being understood across the partnership as these are not reflected in referrals.
- We also need to further develop models of productive partnership with communities and statutory partners to develop supportive interventions, particularly to improve support to individuals susceptible for example, due to their neurodevelopmental needs (for example on Autistic spectrum), and mental health issues.
- Online influences and technology are noted as key enablers and keeping pace with the fast-changing online risks and threats, ensuring staff awareness of those risks, and risk reduction work presents challenges.

- We have continued to support the educational sector across all key stages and continued to work with Outside of School Settings (OOSS) in the city. We will continue to support English Language Schools and supplementary schools/ faith institutions in future.
- Engagement of student unions with Prevent has been challenging nationally and this is also reflected locally in the city.
- Local reporting does not reflect some of the national trends in terms of higher levels of reported religiously motivated incidents collected by Tell MAMA and the Community Security Trust. The local landscape needs to be better understood, communities better engaged and empowered to improve Prevent delivery.

Summary of key issues

- Terrorism threat is developing and becoming more complex and diverse in the UK. Presently, terrorism remains one of the most direct and immediate risks to the UK's national security. There have been eighteen terrorist incidents since March 2017 in the UK, with nineteen further terrorist plots successfully disrupted by the police, security, and intelligence agencies in the UK since the start of 2020, with over 800 live counter terrorism investigations. Three organisations have been proscribed in the UK in 2025 with an increased number of arrests for proscription offenses nationally. Threats from hostile states have increased rapidly over the year.
- There were 232 arrests for terrorist-related activity in Great Britain in the year 2024/25, 20 more than the previous 12-month period (an increase of 9%).
- There were 8,778 referrals to the Prevent programme in 2024/25, highest numbers recorded in a single year, denoting 27% increase compared to the year ending March 2024 (6,922). 1,727 individuals (20% of referrals) were discussed at a Channel panel, and 1,472 individuals (17% of referrals) were adopted as a Channel case, the numbers are higher due to change in recording methodology (includes individuals who did not give consent). Although not directly attributable to the Southport tragedy, an increased rate of referral is noted following Southport attack.
- Key threats continue to arise from the self-initiated terrorists (individual/s who may be inspired by the rhetoric of groups or causes across all extremist perspectives to carry out attacks), extreme right-wing terrorism, Al-Qaida/ Daesh and affiliated or inspired terrorism, and online influences and online risks of radicalisation including gaming and gaming adjacent platforms. Technology is a key enabler of most modern threat.
- The risk from Self-Initiated Terrorists (S-IT) acting on their own or in smaller cells continues from various extremist perspectives, with Daesh, Al-Qaida (AQ) and extreme right-wing propaganda continuing to inspire attacks. The unpredictable and unconstrained operation of S-ITs make prevention more difficult and especially in view of the rise in referrals with no clear or coherent ideology, or no ideology in the city where fascination with violence, mass casualty attacks, and/or weapons is often reported.
- The extreme right-wing terrorism threat has grown with the online space providing a major platform for this growth. Increased reach of the ERW to young people is evidenced in prosecutions as well as Prevent referrals.
- Migration, asylum, and LGBTQ+ and TNBI identities as topical issues, continue to be exploited by the extreme-right. Anti-Muslim, antisemitic, and anti-establishment tropes continue to be

deployed by the ERW within the current fractious national politics. Following racist and anti-Muslim violence exploiting the Southport tragedy, and racist protests targeting asylum accommodations, the ERW are likely to exploit the normalisation of grievances aligned to their agenda, combined with conspiracy theories to enhance support for their cause, radicalise, recruit and inspire violent acts.

- People's relationships with authority, trust and institutions are likely to remain salient in future. The role and influence of social media and disinformation and misinformation have emerged prominently in people's perception of and trust in the government or authorities. Conspiracy theories pose a potential threat when they and those who propagate them engender distrust in their audiences and encourage violence towards the government, public or political figures.
- Al-Qaida (AQ), Daesh and associated terrorism concerns and referrals are likely to see an upward trend in view of their capitalisation of the Israel/ Palestine violence to their own ends and geo-political developments.
- Conspiracy theories and anti-establishment narratives may be used by all extremist perspectives to motivate and support terrorist violence. Partners continue to report concerns related to misogyny, and other INCEL content and report an increase in young men accessing this content. Young men on the Autistic spectrum are reported to be particularly vulnerable to this content. Fascination with violence, weapon and mass casualty are other emerging risks.
- International and national incidents continue to have local impact and affect inter-community relations.
- The city has a high level of single issues groups, with high level of protest activities. Their membership or protest activity causes tension within certain communities and provides a fertile ground for exposure to particular narratives and engagement factors.
- There is high value on communication to maintain professionals and communities trust and confidence in Prevent and to ensure that community referrals are appropriately made. With continuation of the anti-Prevent lobby, and Prevent in public debates and media, perception of public and communities, especially within some minority communities about Prevent fluctuates and needs to be continually engaged with.
- Prevent work has been delivered in the city since 2009 in partnership with our communities. The city was identified as a Prevent priority area and supported by the Home Office with dedicated posts and projects to mitigate strategic risks from April 2015 until March 2022. The city is no longer a Prevent priority area and Prevent delivery is being mainstreamed with reduced resources.

Recommendations for partnership work

- Based on the strategic assessment, there are no proposed changes to the outcomes for the Prevent local strategy over 2026-29.
- The Prevent landscape has seen rapid changes over the last strategy period, with continued national learning from inquiries (for example Southport) and inquests (for example Reading), Prevent learning reviews, ongoing Prevent programme reviews, Channel evaluation, and appointment to a permanent Prevent Commissioner's role in future. We will continue to reflect

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the national changes and align local delivery appropriately. We will continue to learn from the national best practice and focus on improving effectiveness and impact of Prevent delivery.

- We will continue to build on existing best practice in coordinating Prevent delivery locally, our successful engagement with diverse communities and partners, and mainstream Prevent work.
- We will continue work to understand threat, risks, and susceptibilities to being drawn into terrorism for the city in partnership with our communities and statutory partners and coordinate a partnership response to manage those risks. The Prevent action plan has been responsive to the emerging risks and trends and our delivery has been flexible, and risk based. The action plan will be amended annually in line with the strategic risks outlined in the counter terrorism local profile (CTLP) and the Brighton and Hove Prevent Risk Assessment. The terrorism threat picture drives high level decision making in all Prevent activity, and our response is proportionate to the threat picture in line with 'Security Threat Check' considerations.
- Since its inception, Prevent strategy and delivery has been embedded in strong partnership with communities and has adopted an anti-racist approach. Due to historical concerns about Prevent disproportionately impacting Black and Racially Minoritised and Muslim communities and damaging trust, the strategy re-commits to this approach. Since the start, local Prevent delivery has adopted an anti-racist approach and the Prevent Action Plan continues to be guided by the principles of proportionality, flexibility, and inclusivity. Empowered individuals and communities are at the heart of effective Prevent delivery. We will continue to have an effective dialogue with our communities on Prevent and improve partnership work and communications with communities to increase trust and confidence.
- We will continue to facilitate the Prevent Board to have oversight of risks and threats, assess impact of work, and monitor compliance with Prevent Duty. We will continue to ensure democratic oversight and scrutiny of the Prevent work, and work to improve transparency.
- We will continue work to safeguard and support individuals from being drawn into or supporting terrorism, support monthly Channel Panel meetings and ensure appropriate and effective support for individuals.
- We will continue to improve understanding amongst professionals of risks in the city, susceptibility to radicalisation, referral pathways and support available, and countering extremist and terrorist narratives through Prevent training and briefings, disseminating headline risks and factsheets on key local threats.
- We need to continually be aware of the international, national, and local critical incidents and assess their impact on community cohesion: polarisation of communities and creating fissures. We will work to understand community sentiments to prevent escalation of any community tensions, coordinate partnership responses to reduce its impact, and reassure communities around critical incidents in the UK and internationally. We will continue to facilitate the [One Voice Partnership](#) and work in partnership with our faith, Black and Racially Minoritised, refugee, and minority communities.
- With devolution and likely Mayoral elections in May 2026, continued political buy-in for Prevent across parties and communities, and shared understanding will need to be developed through Members engagement plan, as well as through the 'One Voice Partnership'.

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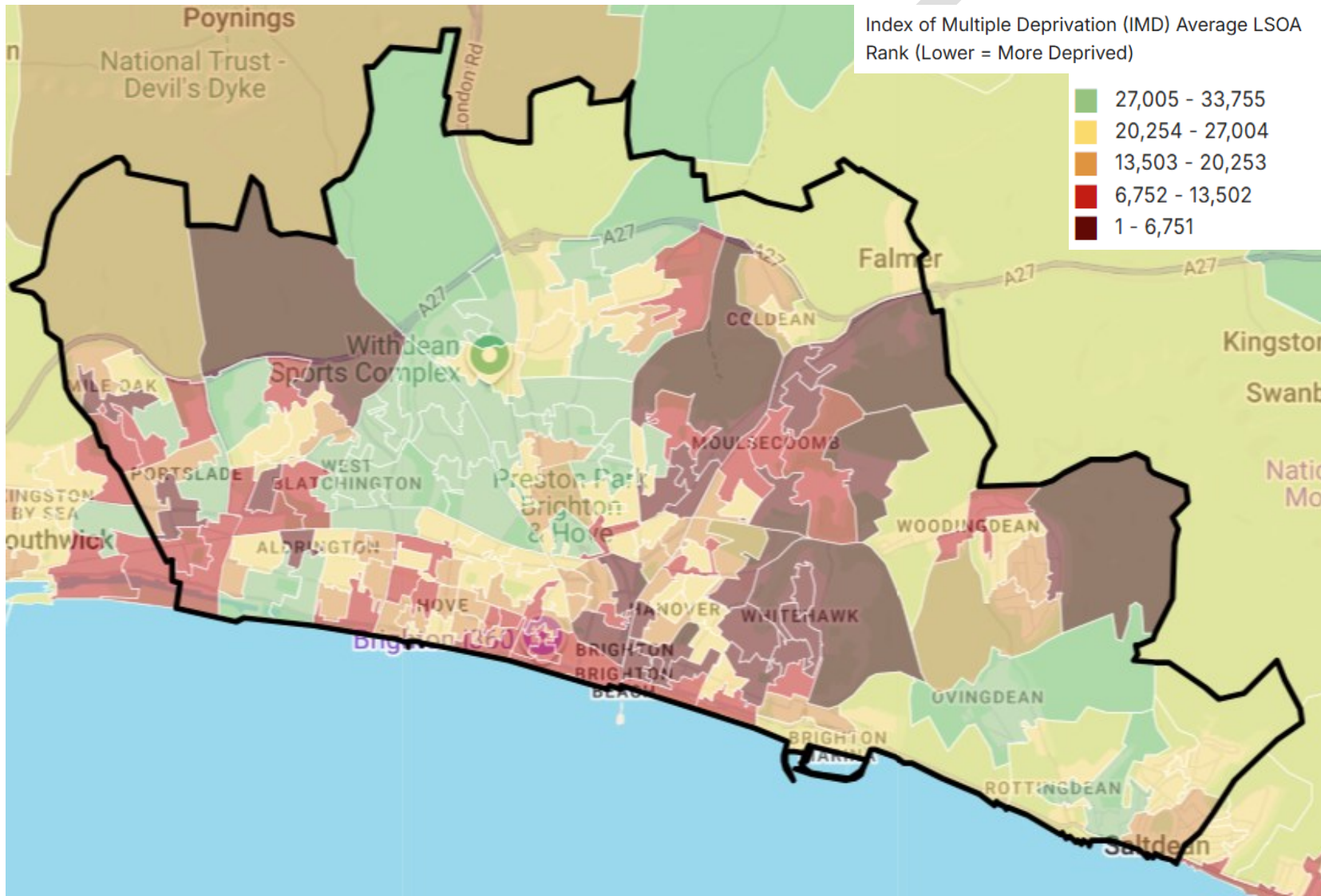
- Future policy and operational changes, although anticipated in the strategic assessment will benefit from revisiting, so we remain flexible and will respond appropriately in developing our strategy and action plan.
- We will work to re-energise structures to engage and work in partnership with our diverse communities, including the 'One Voice Partnership', to create a shared understanding on Prevent, deliver new trainings, and embed Channel Changes. Work to reduce the permissive environment and disrupt radicalising influences will continue to be focused on.

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12. Appendices

Appendix A: Multiple Deprivation Index 2025 for Lower Super Output Areas in Brighton & Hove



Appendix B: Note on police recorded crime and incident data

Important note about police recorded crime data

Please note that police recorded crime and incident data included in this report are an extract from Sussex Police live systems, in an unaudited and unverified raw format. These statistics represent a reflection of crime or incidents at the point of export and may not match information released directly by Sussex Police or other official published statistics.

Changes in police recorded crime over time (trends) are likely to be impacted by several factors. These may include improvements to recording processes and practices, introductions of new offences, variations in police activity, more victims reporting crime, as well as genuine increases in some types of crime.

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Appendix C: Crime statistics

| | number of crimes 2023/24 | number of crimes 2024/25 ¹⁵¹ | 2024/25 compared with 2023/24 (% change) |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Police recorded crimes | | | |
| Total crimes | 29,048 | 30,342 | + 4.5% |
| Criminal damage (incl. arson) | 2,378 | 2,342 | - 1.5% |
| Violence against the person | 9,673 | 9,647 | - 0.3% |
| Violence with injury | 2,940 | 2,980 | + 1.4% |
| Public order | 3,110 | 3,008 | - 3.3% |
| Sexual offences ¹⁵² | 1,208 | 1,289 | + 6.7% |
| Robbery | 362 | 333 | - 8.0% |
| Burglary | 1,005 | 1,133 | + 12.7% |
| Vehicle crime ¹⁵³ | 1,469 | 1,304 | - 11.2% |
| Theft from the person | 501 | 504 | + 0.6% |
| Pedal cycle theft | 754 | 607 | - 19.5% |
| Total theft (excl. vehicle crime) | 7,634 | 8,701 | + 14.0% |
| Police recorded incidents and crimes | | | |
| Domestic violence incidents and crimes | 5,146 | 5,035 | - 2.2% |
| Racist incidents and crimes | 645 | 728 | + 12.9% |
| Religiously motivated incidents and crimes | 126 | 150 | + 19.0% |
| Sexuality/LGB hate incidents and crimes | 303 | 431 | + 42.2% |
| Gender identity hate incidents and crimes | 93 | 105 | + 12.9% |
| Disability hate incidents and crimes | 70 | 53 | - 24.3% |
| All hate incidents and crimes | 1,242 | 1,447 | + 16.5% |
| Anti-social behaviour incidents | 4,871 | 5,365 | + 10.1% |

¹⁵¹ Data are taken as a snapshot from a 'live database' and are subject to fluctuation over time.

¹⁵² Because there remains an emphasis on encouraging reporting of sexual offences, it does not necessarily follow that a low rank is 'good', and a high rank is 'bad'.

¹⁵³ Includes vehicle interference and aggravated vehicle taking

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Brighton & Hove
Strategic Assessment of Crime and Community Safety, 2025

Email: community.safety@brighton-hove.gov.uk

November 2025

Brighton & Hove
Community Safety Partnership

General Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

Support:

An [EIA toolkit](#), [workshop content](#), and guidance for completing an [Equality Impact Assessment \(EIA\) form](#) are available on the [EIA page](#) of the [EDI Internal Hub](#). Please read these before completing this form.

For enquiries and further support if the toolkit and guidance do not answer your questions, contact the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) team by emailing Equalities@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk. If your request is urgent, please mention this in the subject line of your email so we can support as required.

Processing Time:

- EIAs can take up to 10 business days to approve after a completed EIA of a good standard is submitted to the EDI Business Partner. This is not considering unknown and unplanned impacts of capacity, resource constraints, and work pressures on the EDI team at the time your EIA is submitted.
- If your request is urgent, we can explore support exceptionally on request.
- We encourage improved planning and thinking around EIAs to avoid urgent turnarounds as these make EIAs riskier, limiting, and blind spots may remain unaddressed for the 'activity' you are assessing.

Process:

- Once fully completed, submit your EIA to the Equalities team by emailing the Equalities inbox and copying in your Head of Service, Business Improvement Manager (if one exists in your directorate), any other relevant service colleagues to enable EIA communication, tracking and saving.
- Your EIA will be reviewed, discussed, and then approved by the assigned EDI Business Partner and after seeking additional approval as appropriate for your EIA.
- Only approved EIAs are to be attached to Committee reports. Unapproved EIAs are invalid.

1. Assessment details

Throughout this form, 'activity' is used to refer to many different types of proposals being assessed.

Read the [EIA toolkit](#) for more information.

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Name of activity or proposal being assessed: | Community Safety Strategy |
| Directorate: | Commissioning and Communities |
| Service: | Community Cohesion |
| Team: | Community Safety |
| Is this a new or existing activity? | Existing Activity |
| Are there related EIAs that could help inform this EIA? Yes or No (If Yes, please use this to inform this assessment) | No |

2. Contributors to the assessment (Name and Job title)

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Responsible Lead Officer: | Adam Salmon |
| Accountable Manager: | Richard Tuset |
| Additional stakeholders collaborating or contributing to this assessment: | Nahida Shaikh and Anne Clarke |

3. About the activity

Briefly describe the purpose of the activity being assessed:

Under the **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**, Brighton & Hove City Council and its statutory partners are required to work together through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to formulate, publish and implement a strategy for reducing crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, reoffending and substance misuse, and for addressing serious violence and community harm. The Act places a duty on responsible authorities to take community safety considerations into account in all relevant decision-making.

The **Counter Terrorism and Security Act, 2015**, places a statutory duty on specified authorities (including council and public bodies) 'to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorism'. Additionally, local authority has the Channel Duty 'to identify, assess and support individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism' and all other public bodies have the 'Duty to Cooperate' with the local authority regarding Channel.

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029 is the statutory mechanism through which these duties are discharged locally. It is informed by a Strategic Assessment of crime, harm, vulnerability and community safety risks, and is subject to regular review to ensure it remains responsive to emerging trends, legislative change and community need.

The Strategic Assessment highlights that harm in Brighton & Hove is increasingly shaped by cumulative disadvantage, place-based risk and repeat victimisation rather than isolated incidents. This EIA reflects that analysis by focusing on how structural inequality, deprivation, identity-based hostility and system barriers interact to produce disproportionate impacts for certain groups. The Strategy's emphasis on early intervention, place-based responses and integrated safeguarding is intended to address these patterns of harm rather than single issues in isolation.

Governance and accountability for delivery of the Strategy sit collectively with the **Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership Board and Prevent Partnership Board**, which provides strategic oversight, ensures compliance with statutory duties, and monitors performance through agreed partnership structures and thematic sub-groups. The Strategy is therefore a shared partnership plan rather than a council only document, reflecting the collective responsibilities of local authorities, police, health, probation, fire and rescue, and other relevant agencies.

The strategy is now being reviewed and developed for the period 2026-29 with an updated Strategic Needs Assessment, though the underlying strategic priorities remain the same. This review and refresh gives us an opportunity to conduct an Equality Impact Assessment which assesses, based on current knowledge and available demographic data, the impact that the renewed Community Safety Strategy for Brighton and Hove may have on diverse protected characteristics and different communities.

Within this statutory and governance framework, the Strategy identifies five priority areas that reflect both national requirements and local evidence of harm and inequality. These priorities provide the basis for coordinated action, resource alignment and performance monitoring across the partnership over the lifetime of the Strategy.

1. Serious violence, drugs and exploitation
2. Domestic and sexual abuse and violence against women and girls
3. Anti-social behaviour
4. Hate incidents and crimes
5. Prevent (preventing terrorism and extremism)

The principle focus and/or changes arising from this review and refresh of the strategy are with respect to:

1. Serious violence, drugs and exploitation

The Strategy strengthens the city's collective response to serious violence, drug-related harm and exploitation through coordinated delivery via the Violence Reduction Partnership and the Combating Drugs Partnership. Activity will prioritise prevention, safeguarding and early intervention, particularly for individuals and communities experiencing inequality, poverty and multiple complex needs.

A core focus is improving the identification and protection of vulnerable adults and children affected by criminal and sexual exploitation, including county lines activity, cuckooing and coercive control. The partnership will continue to embed contextual safeguarding approaches, strengthen use of disruption powers, and improve pathways for victims to be recognised and supported rather than criminalised.

Improved data quality and analysis - including on knife carrying, exploitation, substance misuse and disproportionality - will inform targeted, place-based interventions. The Strategy also strengthens communications and engagement to address fear of crime, improve reporting, and build trust with communities most affected by serious violence and exploitation.

2. Domestic abuse, sexual violence and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

The Strategy sets out a whole-system commitment to preventing and responding to domestic abuse, sexual violence and VAWG in all its forms. This includes strengthening the coordinated community response, prioritising early prevention, improving support for survivors, and holding perpetrators to account.

VAWG is recognised as both an equality issue and a significant driver of health inequality. The Strategy reflects this by embedding trauma-informed practice, improving access to specialist support, and ensuring responses are inclusive of all survivors, including women, men, and trans, non-binary and intersex people. Particular attention is given to the intersection between VAWG, multiple disadvantage, substance misuse, mental ill health and homelessness.

Prevention activity includes education, public awareness, safer public spaces and improved professional practice across agencies. Delivery is aligned with national and local VAWG strategies and safeguarding duties, ensuring consistent, victim-centred responses across the partnership.

3. Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

The Strategy prioritises a balanced and proportionate response to anti-social behaviour that combines enforcement with prevention, support and restorative approaches. Delivery will continue to use the powers available under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014, guided by the principle of "putting victims first".

Operational coordination will be driven through multi-agency structures, including the Joint Action Group and ASB Taskforce, to target repeat perpetrators, high-harm locations and persistent issues on council

estates and in public spaces. Activity addressing ASB linked to public place drug use will be aligned with the city's Drug and Alcohol Strategy and wider work on Multiple Compound Needs.

The Strategy also emphasises early intervention with children and young people, strengthened engagement with businesses and the night-time economy, and improved communication with residents about thresholds, actions and outcomes. Learning from scrutiny and national policy changes, including the introduction of new Respect Orders, will be embedded into local practice.

4. Hate incidents and hate crime

The Strategy responds to a rising volume and complexity of hate incidents and crimes, recognising their significant impact on individuals, communities and cohesion. Delivery focuses on prevention, victim support, improved reporting, and effective partnership responses to both offline and online harms.

The Strategy acknowledges the role of national and international events in shaping local community tensions, including increased fear and harm experienced by Jewish, Muslim, Black and racially minoritised communities, LGBTQ+ communities, disabled people, migrants, refugees, and trans, non-binary and intersex residents. Addressing under-reporting, particularly following the loss of third-party reporting centres, is a key priority.

Activity will include rebuilding reporting pathways, strengthening data and intelligence, addressing online hate and misinformation, and supporting communities affected by heightened tensions. The Strategy aligns with the Council's Fair and Inclusive Action Plan and Anti-Racism Strategy, embedding equality, inclusion and cohesion into partnership delivery.

5. Prevent (preventing terrorism and extremism)

Prevent work aims to stop people from being drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorism. The Prevent Strategy sets out a whole system partnership approach to reduce the risk of terrorism and extremism by strengthening community resilience, improving early identification and support for individuals susceptible to being drawn into terrorism, supporting people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate, and enhancing frontline and institutional capacity to recognise and respond to evolving threats. Prevent addresses an increasingly complex and evolving threat and risk landscape; our delivery is risk based, proportionate, and flexible to respond to emerging risks.

Prevent delivery in Brighton & Hove is grounded in strong partnership with our communities and an explicit commitment to equality, proportionality, and anti-racist practice. The Strategy recognises concerns raised through consultation about trust and the potential for disproportionate impacts on some communities. The strategy emphasises transparency, trust building, and inclusive practice to rebuild confidence with communities. Strategy emphasises improved communication on Prevent with our communities and partners to create consensus, strong democratic oversight, and accountability.

Work also focuses on improving resilience to international, national, and local critical incidents, coordinate partnership responses to reduce its impact on community cohesion, reassure, and reducing harm to individuals and communities. Prevent delivery will remain aligned with statutory duties while adapting to emerging risks and national policy changes. Ultimately, it seeks to reduce harm, disrupt radicalising influences, and ensure that individuals, institutions, and communities across the city are equipped, confident, and supported to prevent terrorism and extremism.

Within Community Safety Partnership, the council works with police, health, probation and fire services, as well as other partners to deliver this strategy. However, the council's role and level of influence varies across different actions within the strategy. Some actions fall entirely within our direct control. In other areas, the council works collaboratively with partners through co-delivery of joint actions. In many cases, BHCC's role is to advocate for, encourage, or suggest action to partners, such as encouraging schools to

embed safeguarding approaches, advocating with police for victim-centred responses, or working with health services to improve mental health provision. This EIA focuses on the council's ability to take action under its direct control, while recognising the importance of partnership working to achieve shared community safety objectives. Where actions require partner engagement, the EIA clarifies what we can directly influence versus where partner decisions and resources determine outcomes.

What are the desired outcomes of the activity?

To improve the quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in or visits the city by focusing on:

- Taking early action to prevent crime and disorder
- Tackling the issues which have the biggest impact on people
- Reducing fear of crime and meeting the needs of victims
- Increasing trust and confidence in our communities
- Building and supporting resilience in our communities.

Which key groups of people do you think are likely to be affected by the activity?

Key groups that we'd anticipate would be disproportionately impacted as a consequence of this activity are disabled people, Black and Racially Minoritised communities, Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex, young people, women, looked after children and care leavers and those experiencing deprivation and poverty.

It is however important to note that the Community Cohesion Service and its constituent teams that deliver the Community Safety Strategy as a central component of their work maintain proactive engagement with the Black, Racially Minoritised, LGBTQ+ and Disabled communities and organisations supporting them as well as a range of services that support Women, young people and looked after children and care leavers. We maintain a number of forums and other contacts with these communities to, over and above the consultation on the renewal of the Community Safety Strategy development, support an open dialogue on the issues impacting or concerning these groups. This dynamic contact and feedback enables the services to better respond to the needs of our communities stakeholders and address identified equalities impacts.

4. Consultation and engagement

What consultations or engagement activities have already happened that you can use to inform this assessment?

- For example, relevant stakeholders, groups, people from within the council and externally consulted and engaged on this assessment. **If no consultation** has been done or it is not enough or in process – state this and describe your plans to address any gaps.

BHCC informally consulted with partners in finalising its 2025 Strategic Assessment and formulating the refreshed Draft 2026–2029 Community Safety Strategy before convening a formal consultation event with partners on 20/11/2025, ahead of putting the revised draft (in light of partners' contributions at the 20/11/2025 event) out to formal consultation through the 'Your Voice' portal. During this consultation period there have been further informal and formal consultation with partners and stakeholders across the full range of Community Safety meetings, panels and sub-groups.

- The 'Your Voice' consultation received **147 responses**, with most respondents participating as **residents (72.1%, n=106)**. Additional responses were received from **community/voluntary organisations (10.9%, n=16)**, **statutory organisations (7.5%, n=11)**, **visitors (4.8%, n=7)** and **businesses (2.0%, n=3)**, alongside a small number identifying as **local councillors (0.7%, n=1)** or 'other' (1.4%, n=2).
- Where respondents provided demographic information, participation was strongest among **older age groups**, with the largest proportions aged **45–54 (19.7%, n=29)** and **55–64 (19.7%, n=29)**, and **65–74 (16.3%, n=24)** (noting that **25.9% (n=38)** did not answer the age question).

Respondents who answered the question on disability/long-term health condition most commonly reported **no limiting condition (50.3%, n=74)**, with **15.6% (n=23)** reporting limitations “a little” and **4.8% (n=7)** “a lot” (with **27.2%, n=40** giving no answer).

- For sex and gender, among those responding, **female** respondents were the largest group (**sex: 37.4%, n=55; gender: 34.0%, n=50**) and **male** respondents accounted for **29.9% (n=44)** (with a substantial “no answer” proportion for both questions). A small number identified as **non-binary (2.7%, n=4)**, and **2.0% (n=3)** indicated their gender is different from sex assigned at birth (with **36.7%, n=54** giving no answer to that question).
- In relation to ethnicity, among those responding, the largest group identified as **White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British (36.1%, n=53)**, followed by **White: Other (13.6%, n=20)** and **Mixed background (7.5%, n=11)** (with **29.9%, n=44** giving no answer). For sexual orientation, **heterosexual/straight** respondents formed the largest group (**47.6%, n=70**), with smaller proportions identifying as **gay or lesbian (6.8%, n=10)**, **queer (4.8%, n=7)**, **bisexual (2.0%, n=3)** and other categories (with **33.3%, n=49** giving no answer).
- For religion or belief, the most commonly selected response was “**no particular religion or belief**” (**24.5%, n=36**), followed by **Christian (9.5%, n=14)** and **Jewish (8.2%, n=12)** (with **33.3%, n=49** giving no answer). A small number of respondents indicated current or previous UK armed forces service (**regular: 2.0%, n=3; reserve: 0.7%, n=1**), with **10.2% (n=15)** indicating a close family member had served in the regular forces. Responses to the refugee/asylum question indicated **no respondents selected “recognised refugee” or “seeking asylum”**, with **65.3% (n=96)** selecting “No” and **34.0% (n=50)** giving no answer.

The consultation received a broad range of responses from residents, community groups, statutory partners, and businesses. Across all priority areas, respondents overwhelmingly agreed with the overall aims and plans, but raised concerns about implementation, enforcement, and resourcing. Free text comments provided rich insights into community priorities, anxieties, and expectations.

Consultations were also carried out with some forums, for example, the Refugee and Migrant Forum, One Voice Partnership and other minority forums.

- **Serious violence, drugs & exploitation**
- Agreement levels were high, with over three-quarters supporting the aims and plans. Key themes included:
- **Top concerns**
 - Visible drug use and dealing in central centre areas (especially Kemptown, St James’ Street, Brighton Station, North Laine) centre areas (especially Kemptown, St James’ Street, Brighton Station, North Laine).
 - Lack of visible policing and low confidence in police response.
 - Homelessness, begging and hostel locations linked by respondents to safety concerns.
 - Need for joined-up safeguarding across police, social care, health and community services.
 - Calls for stronger enforcement, targeted raids, and tackling repeat offenders.
 - Concerns about young people’s vulnerability, lack of youth provision, and links to poverty.
- **Suggestions**
 - More place-based, nighttime safety approaches and night-time safety approaches.
 - Better reporting mechanisms, including instant reporting tools.
 - Expanded harm reduction, safe use spaces, and investment in support services.
- **Domestic abuse, sexual violence & VAWG**
- **Respondents showed very strong support for the aims.**

- **Key themes**

- Need for better police training, greater trust, and more consistent responses.
- Better focus on early prevention, including healthy relationships education in schools.
- Increased public / community awareness of VAWG and services available
- More refuge spaces and specialist women led services.
- Strong emphasis on holding perpetrators to account.
- Repeated calls to ensure trans, non-binary, and intersex survivors are explicitly included.
- Need for support tailored to people with multiple and compound needs.
- Greater consideration of male victims.

- **Anti-social behaviour (ASB)**

Agreement remained high but feedback highlighted frustration with current ASB responses.

- **Top concerns**

- ASB is perceived as worsening, especially in:
 - Kemptown
 - Brighton Station
 - St James' Street
 - The Level
 - Hove Lawns
- Repeat offenders and hotspots not being proactively tackled.
- Insufficient visible policing and lack of follow up when incidents are reported.
- Youth related ASB linked to lack of spaces, activities, and support.
- Perception that council run events sometimes increase ASB.

- **Suggested actions**

- Stronger enforcement and clearer thresholds for action.
- Improved communication back to residents after reports.
- More youth services and preventative community work.

- **Hate incidents & hate crime**

- This section generated the most polarised and high-volume feedback, with over a third of comments relating to tensions between Jewish and Palestinian communities.

- **Key issues**

- Conflicting views on:
 - The nature of local protests
 - Whether criticism of Israel constitutes antisemitism
 - Whether policing is biased *for or against* particular communities
- Requests for:
 - Clearer definitions of hate crime
 - Address the root causes of hate crime - with greater education for young people and countering of divisive narratives in communities and online
 - A more balanced and transparent approach to community tensions
 - Reinstatement of third-party reporting centres
- Widespread concerns about:
 - Under-reporting due to mistrust of authorities
 - Rising antisemitism, Islamophobia, and hostility toward Trans, Non Binary and Intersex and Black and Racially Minoritised communities
 - Hate speech and intimidation at public protests

- Calls to ensure legitimate protest is not criminalised, alongside concerns that protests can feel intimidating.

- **Prevent**

- Agreement levels were positive overall, but free text comments revealed strong polarisation.

- **Key concerns**

- Fear that Prevent could criminalise protest
- Concern from others about extremist activity, radicalisation of young men, and rising Islamophobia and antisemitism.
- Calls for greater focus on:
 - Far right extremism
 - Online radicalisation and misogynistic influencers (“manosphere”)
 - Supporting young, isolated men and boys
- Concerns about Prevent disproportionately impacting BRM and Muslim communities and damaging trust.

- **Suggestions**

- More community engagement, transparency, and balanced narratives.
- Stronger emphasis on education, critical thinking, and youth support.

- **Cross-cutting themes across the consultation**

1. Visible policing & enforcement

- Across all priority areas, respondents expressed extremely low confidence in police responsiveness.
- Increased place-based work/ tackling geographical city centre hotspots

2. Addressing root causes

- Strong calls to invest in:
 - Poverty reduction
 - Youth provision
 - Housing and homelessness support
 - Mental health and substance misuse services-misuse services

3. Communication and reporting

- People want:
 - Better ways to report crime/ASB
 - Clear feedback loops
 - Transparency about thresholds, actions, and outcomes

4. Community tensions around Israel/Palestine Violence

- The Israel/ Palestine violence strongly shaped feedback, with:
 - Both Jewish, Palestinian, and other communities expressing fear
 - Confusion and disagreement about what constitutes hate crime
 - Concerns about protest rights, safety, and bias in policing

It is important to note that protest and policing of protest do not fall under Prevent workstream and therefore not something that the Prevent Strategy and local delivery could address or influence directly. Unlawful activities at the fringes of lawful protests, and community tensions arising from protests are addressed through Prevent and team activities.

Freedom of assembly and freedom of speech are basic freedoms that support the right to peacefully and lawfully assemble (i.e. protest). The police usually are the agency to enable this right to protest

peacefully and ensure that disruption is minimised to all other residents and city whilst enabling people their freedoms to demonstrate. These freedoms are qualified freedoms (i.e. they can have conditions imposed on them or prohibited within a legal framework) and based on police's own assessments. Police are key partners in the Community Safety Partnership and whilst protest or policing of protests are not covered by the Strategy, we feed in any community concerns or sentiments appropriately to the relevant authorities, and the Safety Advice Group that the local authority chairs with Prevent and Community Cohesion attendance.

Similarly, training to distinguish between antisemitism or anti-Zionism etc. are not within the remit of the Prevent. Some of the extremist ideologies (for example, extreme right wing, Al-Qaida or Daesh affiliated groups) use antisemitic tropes and target Jewish communities and the extent to which extremist groups or ideologies mobilise these prejudices, is covered by the Prevent work and in Prevent trainings. The extremist discourses often respond to topical issues, for example, currently extreme right wing is engaging on an anti-migrant platform – Prevent trainings cover those identified risks and issues and work to tackle them.

Through our engagement and partnership with communities and through our public statements we reiterate city values, encourage reporting of hate incidents and community concerns, and coordinating partnership responses to address those.

Consultation feedback highlighted strong concern about violence against women and girls, including the availability of specialist women-led services, consistency of statutory responses, and the need for inclusive support for all survivors, including trans, non-binary and intersex people. Respondents also raised concerns about fear of crime, safety in public spaces, and the impact of online harm and misogyny.

These insights have informed the equalities analysis within this EIA and reinforce the need for trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approaches across all Community Safety priorities. Ongoing engagement with communities and service users will be essential to monitoring impact and ensuring that delivery responds effectively to lived experience.

5. Current data and impact monitoring

Do you currently collect and analyse the following data to enable monitoring of the impact of this activity? Consider all possible intersections.

(State Yes, No, Not Applicable as appropriate)

| | |
|--|---|
| Age | Yes, age data is captured in the strategic assessment |
| Disability and inclusive adjustments, coverage under equality act and not | Yes, disability data is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Ethnicity, 'Race', ethnic heritage (including Gypsy, Roma, Travellers) | Yes, ethnicity data is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Religion, Belief (any religious or philosophical belief), Spirituality, Faith, or Atheism | Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Sex | Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Gender Identity and Sex (including non-binary and Intersex people) | Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment. |

| | |
|---|--|
| Gender Reassignment | Yes, TNBI data is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Sexual Orientation | Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Marriage and Civil Partnership | No, this is not captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Pregnant people, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Menopause, (In)fertility (across the gender spectrum) | No, this is not captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Armed Forces Personnel, their families, and Veterans | Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Expatriates, Migrants, Asylum Seekers, and Refugees | Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Carers | Yes, carer data is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Looked after children, Care Leavers, Care and fostering experienced people | Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Domestic and/or Sexual Abuse and Violence Survivors, and people in vulnerable situations (All aspects and intersections) | Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Socio-economic Disadvantage | Yes, index of multiple deprivation data is captured in the strategic assessment |
| Homelessness and associated risk and vulnerability | Yes, this is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Human Rights | Not Applicable, it's not practicable within the context of the strategic assessment to collect meaningful human rights data. |
| Multiple Compound Needs | Yes, MCN data is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Mental Health | Yes, mental health data is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Substance Misuse | Yes, substance misuse data is captured in the strategic assessment. |
| Offenders | Yes, offender data is captured in the strategic assessment. |

Additional relevant groups that may be widely disadvantaged and have intersecting experiences that create exclusion and systemic barriers may include:

- Ex-offenders and people with unrelated convictions
- Lone parents
- People experiencing homelessness
- People facing literacy, numeracy and /or digital barriers
- People on a low income and people living in the most deprived areas
- People who have experienced female genital mutilation (FGM)

- People who have experienced human trafficking or modern slavery
- People with experience of or living with addiction and/ or a substance use disorder (SUD)
- Sex workers

The EIA recognises that there are limitations in the availability, consistency and granularity of equalities data within community safety, particularly in relation to under-reported harms, intersectional identities and experiences that sit across multiple service systems. Some protected characteristics (such as pregnancy, maternity, and marriage or civil partnership) are not routinely captured within community safety data sources, and in other areas data may not fully reflect lived experience due to barriers to reporting or mistrust of statutory services.

To address these limitations, the Strategy places strong emphasis on partnership intelligence, qualitative insight, consultation feedback and learning from lived experience alongside quantitative data. A central mitigation action arising from this EIA is the introduction of a data-driven equalities impact review within Community Safety Partnership governance, supported by the development of a quarterly equalities impact dashboard.

These arrangements will enable the Partnership to identify emerging disproportionality, respond to gaps in data or outcomes, and take corrective action where required. Learning from this process will inform annual strategic reviews and ongoing refinement of delivery, ensuring that equality considerations remain active throughout the lifetime of the Strategy rather than being treated as a one-off exercise.

If you answered “NO” to any of the above, how will you gather this data to enable improved monitoring of impact for this activity?

Currently the strategic assessment is the only tool at our disposal for gathering equalities data, although we are exploring acquiring one, Community Safety doesn't currently have a case management database, nor does it have the resources to separately collect and meaningfully collate significant equalities data.

The strategic assessment doesn't capture Marriage and Civil Partnership or Pregnancy, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Menopause and (In)fertility data, but it's impracticable to identify a methodology/data source for collecting this data in relation to the subjects covered by the Community Safety Strategy.

While the council does hold baseline demographic data, it doesn't currently have a system or methodology for longitudinally comparing this to its demographic data on those impacted across the five strands of the Community Safety Strategy to comprehensively identify disproportionate impacts.

A central plank of the proposed Action Plan arising from this EIA is that the council add a data driven equalities impact review to its quarterly Community Safety Partnership Board meeting, which in turn would require the development of a quarterly equalities impact dashboard (with a data pre-meet of strategic leads prior to each CSP Board meeting).

What are the arrangements you and your service have for monitoring, and reviewing the impact of this activity?

Currently the only mechanism/arrangement for monitoring and reviewing the equalities impact of the Community Safety Strategy is the annually reviewed Strategic Assessment, as a follow-up to this EIA we will be reviewing how an equalities impact dimension can be incorporated into future Strategic Assessments and how the quarterly reviewed Action Plans that underpin each element of the Strategy can incorporate actions to identify and address equality concerns.

6. Impacts

Advisory Note:

- **Impact:**
 - Assessing disproportionate impact means understanding potential negative impact (that may cause direct or indirect discrimination), and then assessing the relevance (that is: the potential effect of your activity on people with protected characteristics) and proportionality (that is: how strong the effect is).
 - These impacts should be identified in the EIA and then re-visited regularly as you review the EIA every 12 to 18 months as applicable to the duration of your activity.
- **SMART Actions mean:** Actions that are (SMART = Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, T = Time-bound)
- **Cumulative Assessment:** [If there is impact on all groups equally, complete only the cumulative assessment section.](#)
- **Data analysis and Insights:**
 - In each protected characteristic or group, in answer to the question ‘If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?’, describe what you have learnt from your data analysis about disproportionate impacts, stating relevant insights and data sources.
 - Find and use contextual and wide ranges of data analysis (including community feedback) to describe what the disproportionate positive and negative impacts are on different, and intersecting populations impacted by your activity, especially considering for [Health inequalities](#), review guidance and inter-related impacts, and the impact of various identities.
 - For example: If you are doing road works or closures in a particular street or ward – look at a variety of data and do so from various protected characteristic lenses. Understand and analyse what that means for your project and its impact on different types of people, residents, family types and so on. State your understanding of impact in both effect of impact and strength of that effect on those impacted.
- **Data Sources:**
 - **Consider a wide range (including but not limited to):**
 - [Population and population groups](#)
 - [Census 2021 population groups Infogram: Brighton & Hove by Brighton and Hove City Council](#)
 - [Census](#) and [local intelligence data](#)
 - Service specific data
 - Community consultations
 - Insights from customer feedback including complaints and survey results
 - Lived experiences and qualitative data
 - [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) data](#)
 - [Health Inequalities data](#)
 - Good practice research
 - National data and reports relevant to the service
 - Workforce, leaver, and recruitment data, surveys, insights
 - Feedback from internal ‘staff as residents’ consultations
 - Insights, gaps, and data analyses on intersectionality, accessibility, sustainability requirements, and impacts.
 - Insights, gaps, and data analyses on ‘who’ the most intersectionally marginalised and excluded under-represented people and communities are in the context of this EIA.
- Learn more about the [Equality Act 2010](#) and about our [Public Sector Equality Duty](#).

6.1 Age

| | |
|---|-----|
| Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to any particular Age group? For example: older people, people who may be housebound, those under 16, young adults, with other intersections. | |
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | Yes |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | Yes |
| 3. Anti-social behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate incidents and crimes | No |
| 5. Prevent | Yes |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Compared with England and the South East, Brighton & Hove has fewer children and older people but more younger adults, particularly those aged 19 to 30. According to the latest ONS estimates (2023), Brighton & Hove is estimated to have more female residents (142,800 people, 51%) than male residents (136,800, people, 49%). The biggest difference is in the age group 19 to 25 years old where there are 2,500 (14%) more females than males. As seen nationally, beyond the age of 75 years old the proportion of female residents increases. There are an estimated 18,900 residents aged 75 or older in the city, of which 58% (10,900 people) are female and 42% (8,000 people) are male. By the age of 90 or older the difference is two to one with 1,400 female (67%) to 700 male (33%) residents ().

Older people may experience specific and under-recognised community safety risks, including domestic abuse by partners, adult children or carers, financial exploitation, hate incidents and fear of crime. Older victims may be less likely to report abuse due to stigma, dependency, isolation or lack of awareness of services, and harms may be misidentified as care or health issues rather than safeguarding concerns. Women in later life may be particularly affected by domestic abuse and coercive control that has continued or escalated over time. Fear of crime and antisocial behaviour can also have a disproportionate impact on older people’s wellbeing, independence and use of public space.

The Strategy’s focus on early identification, partnership safeguarding and trauma-informed responses provides a basis for addressing these risks. Equalities monitoring will support improved understanding of older people’s experiences and help ensure that responses are proportionate and accessible. Health Counts 20244 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence.

Those in younger age groups had significantly higher levels of worry about physical violence against themselves compared with respondents as a whole, with 35% of 18-24 year olds reporting they were very or fairly worried. The proportion of respondents who were very or fairly worried generally decreased in subsequent age groups.

Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation –

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate the disproportionate impacts identified below through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring

through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- Serious violence disproportionately affects boys and young men, including care-experienced young people and those excluded from education.
- Victims of gang violence, especially young Black men, may be disproportionately treated as perpetrators.
- National stop/search data shows that Black people are 9.7 times more likely to be stopped than White people. Young Black men are disproportionately stopped and searched under serious violence initiatives.
- County lines exploitation disproportionately affects looked-after children and care leavers.
- County lines victims (often looked-after children) characterised as offenders rather than victims.

Mitigations:

- Utilising mentors with lived experience.
- Triggering the Serious Violence Response Plan after critical incidents with potential community cohesion impacts, ensuring a rapid multi-agency response coordinated through Sussex Police with BHCC and partners.
- Better targeted prevention through the AVR (Adolescent Vulnerability Risk Meeting) and associated exploitation screening/safety planning processes, to ensure earlier identification and multi-agency risk management for children at risk of exploitation/serious violence.
- Maintaining (and re-activating where needed) the Op Safety Youth Meeting model for high-risk cohorts, using structured multi-agency risk assessment and action planning to reduce serious violence and exploitation harm.
- Co-designing and targeting BHVRP-funded youth interventions (e.g., detached youthwork, school/A&E-linked youthwork, and diversionary activity) in high-need areas with voluntary and community sector partners embedded in local communities.
- Developing a dedicated multi-agency “exploitation perpetrators” meeting (aligned to existing local multi-agency models) to strengthen identification, disruption, and partnership accountability while protecting victims.
- Strengthening transitional safeguarding via MARM and the developing local transitional safeguarding protocol/pathways, to reduce the risk of young people with complex needs losing support at the point they move into adulthood.

Disproportionate impacts:

- National statistics indicate that most Prevent referrals are for young men. However, number of referrals overall are very small (when compared to safeguarding referrals, VAWG referrals or any of the other priority area identified in this strategy). Prevent is an early intervention programme, that supports all existing freedoms and rights of the individuals (for example, all decisions must be in the best interest of children and young people), Prevent is a supportive intervention - it will coordinate existing universal support and bring in targeted interventions as a bespoke package to improve the outcomes for individuals, to divert them away from risk of illegality (for instance, harm to self or to others).

Mitigations:

- Individuals engage with the support voluntarily, there is a written signed consent form for all individuals, and this will be signed by parents or legal guardian for children under 18 years of age. Individuals can withdraw from support or remove consent from Channel support.

- Channel Panel is made up of professionals from different public bodies; the panel owns and manages the safeguarding risks. Professionals have safeguarding responsibilities and expertise and are robust in their approach.
- Services that are working with or supporting individuals attend as case specific members of the Channel Panel and will be able to advocate for the individual. The panel will invite voice and experience of the individuals into the process to tailor the support package to their needs.
- The Prevent strategy and delivery has explicitly adopted an anti-racist approach and is promoted within the context of Equality Duty.

6.2 Disability:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to [Disability](#), considering our [anticipatory duty](#)?

| | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | Yes |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | Yes |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | Yes |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | Yes |
| 5. Prevent | Yes |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Health Counts 2024 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence.

Respondents who were disabled had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents. This was also true of respondents living in temporary/ emergency accommodation, as well as respondents living in the most deprived areas of the city.

Disproportionate impacts

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate the disproportionate impacts identified below through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disabled people, including those with physical, sensory, learning and cognitive disabilities and those with mental ill-health, can experience disproportionate impacts across several areas of community safety. Disabled people are at increased risk of domestic abuse, sexual violence, hate incidents and exploitation, and may experience abuse over longer periods before it is identified or reported.

Barriers faced by disabled people include communication and accessibility challenges, dependence on others (including perpetrators) for care or support, reduced access to safe reporting routes, and difficulties navigating complex service systems. Disabled women may face compounded risks due to the intersection of gender-based violence, disability-related dependency and isolation, and barriers to access to information and in reporting.

Mitigations

The Strategy's emphasis on trauma-informed practice, inclusive communication, early identification of vulnerability and partnership safeguarding responses provides a framework for addressing these risks. Commitments to improving accessible reporting pathways, data quality and cross-agency working will support more effective identification of harm and reduce barriers for disabled people. Equalities monitoring will be used to assess whether responses are reaching disabled residents proportionately and to inform service improvements.

Prevent –

Disproportionate impacts:

- National referrals data indicates that individuals who are neurodivergent and/or autistic, and with mental health conditions are often more frequently represented in referrals. There is no causal link between the disability and the Prevent referrals. As stated previously, number of referrals overall are very small, Prevent is a supportive, early intervention, consensual programme to improve outcomes for the individual, and divert them away before any risk of illegality occurs.

Mitigations:

- The Home Office continues to produce disaggregated data and look at impact through national Channel evaluations and a few supportive interventions/ pilots.
- As stated previously, the Channel Panel comprises of professional with knowledge, expertise and responsibilities around safeguarding, including for example, mental health and neurodivergence. The bespoke support package is often to ensure appropriate mental health support is in place and increase support around neurodivergence (for example, appropriate pathways within statutory services).
- A new assessment tool – Prevent Assessment Framework is introduced nationally for robust assessments, that identifies risk and protective factors.
- The 'Clinical Consultancy Services' nationally works to improve the health outcomes for individuals already subject to Counter Terrorism Policing interventions.

What [inclusive adjustments](#) are you making for diverse disabled people impacted? For example: those who are housebound due to disability or disabling circumstances, D/deaf, deafened, hard of hearing, blind, neurodivergent people, those with non-visible disabilities, and with access requirements that may not identify as disabled or meet the legal definition of disability, and have various intersections (Black and disabled, LGBTQIA+ and disabled).

- The strategy document will be designed by the design team to be accessible and will be uploaded on the website in a format accessible for screen readers.
- Translation into British Sign Language and Easy Read will be considered, resources allowing.
- We are committed to advocating and encouraging our partners to continue working on improving accessible reporting pathways to reducing barriers for disabled people, including, but not limited to, ensuring that safety information and reporting pathways are accessible, written in plain English and available in translation to main community languages.

- Exploring ways to better include the digitally excluded. E.g. digitally excluded and British as a second

6.3 Ethnicity, 'Race', ethnic heritage (including Gypsy, Roma, Travellers):

| Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to ethnicity? | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | Yes |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | No |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | Yes |
| 5. Prevent | Yes |

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Health Counts 20244 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence. Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller communities had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves, with 61% reporting that they were very or fairly worried about this. Respondents from mixed/ multiple ethnic groups as well as respondents who described their ethnicity as 'Other' 30 were also significantly more likely to report feeling very or fairly worried about physical violence against themselves (32% and 30% respectively).

Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation –

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate the disproportionate impacts identified below through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- Serious violence disproportionately affects black boys and black young men.
- Victims of gang violence, especially young Black people, may be dealt with as perpetrators rather than victims.
- County lines exploitation disproportionately affects Black and ethnic minoritised young people.
- Adultification bias and racial stereotyping results in 'gang' terminology applied more readily to Black/Asian youth than White youth.
-

Mitigations:

- Better targeted support and interventions through the AVRMS and associated processes.
- Appropriate proactive NRM referrals to ensure victims of exploitation are appropriately identified as victims, no perpetrators and supported accordingly.
- Work with Police, community safety teams and safeguarding agencies to safeguard children and young people who are being exploited.

Hate Incidents and Crimes –

Disproportionate impacts:

- Ethnic Minoritised groups and communities are disproportionately the victims of hate incidents and crimes.
- Growing concern over national migration management-alongside the St George's flag campaigns have contributed to the increase in fear of and reported hate incidents against ethnic minoritised groups.

Mitigations:

- Establish new mechanisms for third party reporting to promote and enable the reporting of hate incidents and crimes.

Prevent –

Disproportionate impacts:

- Local consultation has indicated people's worries about the Prevent strategy potentially being seen as unfairly targeting Muslims, Black and racially minoritised communities.

Mitigations:

- Prevent strategy since 2011 addresses all forms of terrorism. Prevent delivery is risk based, flexible to respond to emerging risks and needs, and proportionate to risks. We carry out annual risk assessments and action plans to respond to those identified strategic risks.
- The Home Office continues to produce disaggregated data, which are published annually, and look at impact through national Channel evaluations. There are national and local scrutiny and oversight of the impacts and mitigation actions.
- As stated previously, the Prevent strategy and delivery has explicitly adopted an anti-racist approach and is promoted within the context of Equality Duty.
- Statutory Prevent duty requires local authority to have a regular and effective dialogue with communities. We work with all communities, including minority ethnic and faith communities, and support them as required. Most communities are involved in the One Voice Partnership. One Voice Partnership facilitated by the Brighton and Hove City Council, provides a positive and common vision of our city and its communities. Together, we reinforce the values of Brighton and Hove, which are based on pluralism, equality, fairness, and respect for all. For example, all the statements that respond to critical incidents explicitly promote the headline message that we do not tolerate hate incidents, targeting of any communities, provide counter narratives and reporting routes.
- Please see further mitigations identified under the Faith section below.

6.4 Religion, Belief (any religious or philosophical belief), Spirituality, Faith, or Atheism:

| Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Religion, Belief (any religious or philosophical belief), Spirituality, Faith, or Atheism? | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | No |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | No |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | Yes |
| 5. Prevent | Yes |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

This EIA assesses the potential impact of the Community Safety Strategy on people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act (2010), including those with particular religions, beliefs, spiritual perspectives, or philosophical beliefs (including but not limited to gender-critical beliefs and other philosophical positions on gender and equality). The assessment recognises that people across the full spectrum of protected beliefs may experience crime and community safety issues, and that the council's duty under the Equality Act is to ensure that its community safety work is accessible, responsive, and respectful to all, regardless of their protected beliefs.

Hate Incidents & Crimes

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate the disproportionate impacts identified below through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- The current situation in Israel and Gaza is impacting community cohesion nationally and locally and has contributed to the increase in fear and reported hate incidents against both the Jewish and Muslim communities.
- Growing concern over national migration management-alongside the St George's flag campaigns have contributed to the increase in fear of and reported hate incidents against both the Jewish and Muslim communities

Mitigations:

- Establish new mechanisms for third party reporting to promote and enable the reporting of hate incidents and crimes.

Prevent –

Disproportionate impacts:

- Local consultation has indicated people's worries about the Prevent strategy potentially being seen as unfairly targeting Muslims. This is a legacy issue, as the first iteration of Prevent strategy (prior to 2010) focused on the risks from international terrorism that included Al-Qaida and affiliated ideologies, groups and causes. Prevent strategy since 2011 addresses all forms of terrorism, Prevent delivery is risk based, flexible to respond to emerging risks and needs, and proportionate to risks. We carry out annual risk assessments and action plans to respond to those identified strategic risks.
- Local consultation has also indicated concerns relate to national events and ongoing geo-political shifts and conflicts. For example, many refer to the issues around rising antisemitism in the context of Israel/ Palestine violence and long term, and some refer to the arrests of those opposing ban of the now proscribed group 'Palestine Action'. Protests, and arrests of people on proscription offences are not within the remit of Prevent. The protests are enabled with freedoms of speech and assembly, and the police have a positive duty to facilitate these rights. Prevent aims to stop people becoming terrorist or supporting terrorism. Cases adopted onto Channel have a susceptibility to being drawn into terrorism. Antisemitic tropes are well documented within for example, extreme right-wing discourses and activity. Currently, anti-migrant and anti-Muslim discourses form part of extreme right-wing activity. To that extent, Prevent work raises awareness of the issues and support tackles antisemitism or Islamophobia or other prejudices such as those against migrants and refugees.

Mitigations:

- The Home Office continues to produce disaggregated data, which are published annually, and look at impact through national Channel evaluations. There are national and local scrutiny and oversight of the impacts and mitigation actions.
- As stated previously, the Prevent strategy and delivery has explicitly adopted an anti-racist approach and is promoted within the context of Equality Duty.
- Statutory Prevent duty requires local authority to have a regular and effective dialogue with communities. We work with Muslim, Jewish, faith and no faith communities and support them as required. Most communities are involved in the One Voice Partnership. One Voice Partnership facilitated by the Brighton and Hove City Council, provides a positive and common vision of our city and its communities. Together, we reinforce the values of Brighton and Hove, which are based on pluralism, equality, fairness, and respect for all. For example, all the statements that respond to critical incidents explicitly promote the headline message that we do not tolerate hate incidents, targeting of any communities, provide counter narratives and reporting routes.
- We work with all faith institutions and respond to any concerns around security or incidents. We have good links with faith communities, faith institutions and faith leaders as well as non-faith and humanist communities to understand concerns and respond to those concerns appropriately. For example, racist violence following the Southport incident (29th July 2024) targeted mosques, migrant, visibly Black and minority communities nationally. We worked with local mosques, Muslim and migrant communities to ensure safety, brought in additional security measures with funding and support from the Home Office. Similarly, following the targeting of Heaton Park Synagogue, in Manchester, we worked with all synagogues and Jewish communities to understand and respond to concerns. Our work therefore improves the safety of minority faith communities and institutions, links them with appropriate statutory agencies, improves wellbeing and sense of belonging.
- Following critical incidents, we reach out to the affected communities and groups appropriately to understand concerns, manage and prevent escalation of community tensions and reassure our communities, work to reduce those risks, and build resilience.

6.5 Sex:

| Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Sex ? | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | Yes |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | Yes |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | Yes |
| 5. Prevent | No |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Health Counts 20244 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence. Respondents who were female had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents.

Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation –

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate the disproportionate impacts identified below through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- Serious violence disproportionately affects boys and young men, including care-experienced young people and those excluded from education.
- Victims of gang violence, especially young Black men, may be disproportionately treated as perpetrators.

Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls (VAWG), including domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, harassment and exploitation, is a form of gender-based violence that disproportionately affects women and girls. These harms are rooted in structural gender inequality and are not evenly distributed across the population.

While people of all genders can experience domestic and sexual abuse, evidence consistently shows that women are significantly more likely to experience repeated, coercive and high-harm abuse, often perpetrated by known individuals, and to experience longer-term physical, psychological and economic impacts. Women’s experiences of crime and safety are therefore shaped not only by victimisation, but also by fear of crime, restrictions on movement, and the need to modify everyday behaviour to reduce risk.

Women are also disproportionately affected by sexual harassment, misogynistic abuse and intimidation in public spaces and online, which contributes to reduced feelings of safety and belonging and intersects with other harms such as antisocial behaviour and hate incidents.

Women in later life may be particularly affected by domestic abuse and coercive control that has continued or escalated over time.

Women within migrant and refugee communities may face particular risks, including coercive control, exploitation and culturally specific forms of harm, alongside additional barriers to disclosure and support. Under-reporting is a significant concern, meaning that the scale and nature of harm may not be fully reflected in recorded data.

Consultation feedback highlighted strong concern about violence against women and girls, including the availability of specialist women-led services, consistency of statutory responses, and the need for inclusive support for all survivors, including trans, non-binary and intersex people. Respondents also raised concerns about fear of crime, safety in public spaces, and the impact of online harm and misogyny.

The Strategy explicitly prioritises Violence Against Women and Girls and adopts a whole-system, trauma-informed approach focused on prevention, early intervention, survivor support and perpetrator accountability. It aligns with national and local VAWG strategies and safeguarding duties, ensuring that responses are victim-centred, proportionate and inclusive.

Mitigation includes strengthening coordinated community responses, improving access to specialist support (including women-led and inclusive services), embedding learning from lived experience, and addressing wider factors such as fear of crime, safety in public spaces and online harm. Ongoing partnership oversight will monitor impact and ensure responses continue to reduce inequality rather than reinforce it.

Mitigations

The Community Safety Strategy explicitly prioritises VAWG and adopts a whole-system, trauma-informed approach focused on prevention, early intervention, survivor support and perpetrator accountability. The Strategy aligns with national and local VAWG frameworks and commits to inclusive, victim-centred responses that recognise the gendered nature of harm while ensuring support is accessible to all survivors. Delivery will be supported by partnership governance, learning from lived experience, and ongoing review of equalities impacts.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Young males are likely to be overrepresented as perpetrators of youth ASB, although though data not disaggregated by sex in strategy.

Hate Incidents and Crimes –

Disproportionate impacts:

- The TNBI community are disproportionately the victims of hate incidents and crimes.
- The Supreme Court ruling on the definition of sex and the public discourse that has followed it have heightened fears of discrimination and victimisation in the THBI community.

Mitigations:

- Establish new mechanisms for third party reporting to promote and enable the reporting of hate incidents and crimes.

6.6 Gender Identity and Sex:

| Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Gender Identity and Sex (including non-binary and intersex people)? | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | No |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | Yes |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | Yes |
| 5. Prevent | No |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Health Counts 20244 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence.

Respondents who were trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI) had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents.

Consultation feedback highlighted strong concern about violence against women and girls, including the availability of specialist women-led services, consistency of statutory responses, and the need for inclusive support for all survivors, including trans, non-binary and intersex people. Respondents also raised concerns about fear of crime, safety in public spaces, and the impact of online harm and misogyny.

LGBTQ+ and TNBI people in Brighton and Hove experience disproportionate harms across multiple areas of community safety, reflected in higher exposure to hate incidents and crimes and ongoing experiences of exclusion. The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy identifies hate incidents as a core priority area and highlights the need to address the specific vulnerabilities of minoritised groups within the city’s safety landscape. Local research shows that while some LGBTQ+ residents benefit from Brighton and Hove’s inclusive environment, trans and non-binary people in particular continue to face multiple forms of exclusion and are significantly affected by hate crime, indicating persistent inequalities in safety and wellbeing. Additionally, LGBTQ+ survivors of domestic abuse, especially trans survivors, are acutely impacted by service pressures and risk losing specialist support, which further compounds their vulnerability to harm and reduces safe pathways to protection and recovery.

Non-binary, intersex (TNBI) individuals experience fear of exploitation, but data on this group is limited; leading to potential gaps in identifying vulnerabilities.

Hate Incidents and Crimes –

Disproportionate impacts:

- The TNBI community are disproportionately the victims of hate incidents and crimes.
- The Supreme Court ruling on the definition of sex and the public discourse that has followed it have heightened fears of discrimination and victimisation in the TNBI community.
- Impact of online harm and transphobia.

Mitigations:

- Establish new mechanisms for third party reporting to promote and enable the reporting of hate incidents and crimes.

6.7 Gender Reassignment:

| Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to <u>Gender Reassignment</u> ? | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | No |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | No |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | Yes |
| 5. Prevent | No |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

| |
|---|
| <p>Respondents who were Trans had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents. This was also true of respondents living in temporary/ emergency accommodation, as well as respondents living in the most deprived areas of the city.</p> <p><u>Hate Incidents and Crimes –</u></p> <p>Disproportionate impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TNBI community are disproportionately the victims of hate incidents and crimes. The Supreme Court ruling on the definition of sex and the public discourse that has followed it have heightened fears of discrimination and victimisation in the THBI community. <p>Mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish new mechanisms for third party reporting to promote and enable the reporting of hate incidents and crimes. |
|---|

6.8 Sexual Orientation:

| Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to <u>Sexual Orientation</u> ? | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | No |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | No |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | Yes |
| 5. Prevent | No |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Health Counts 20244 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence.

Respondents who were LGBQ+ had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents.

LGBTQ+ and TNBI people in Brighton and Hove experience disproportionate harms across multiple areas of community safety, reflected in higher exposure to hate incidents and crimes and ongoing experiences of exclusion. The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy identifies hate incidents as a core priority area and highlights the need to address the specific vulnerabilities of minoritised groups within the city’s safety landscape. Local research shows that while some LGBTQ+ residents benefit from Brighton and Hove’s inclusive environment, trans and non-binary people in particular continue to face multiple forms of exclusion and are significantly affected by hate crime, indicating persistent inequalities in safety and wellbeing. Additionally, LGBTQ+ survivors of domestic abuse, especially trans survivors, are acutely impacted by service pressures and risk losing specialist support, which further compounds their vulnerability to harm and reduces safe pathways to protection and recovery.

Disproportionate impacts:

- The LGBTQ+ community is disproportionately victim of hate incidents and crimes.
- The national dialogue on migration management-alongside the St George’s flag campaigns has stoked parallel expressions of homophobia, contributing to the fears of victimisation in the gay community.
- LGBTQ+ community is similarly disproportionately victim of ASB.

Mitigations:

- Establish new mechanisms for third party reporting to promote and enable the reporting of hate incidents and crimes.

6.9 Marriage and Civil Partnership:

| Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Marriage and Civil Partnership? | |
|---|----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | No |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | No |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | No |
| 5. Prevent | No |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

6.10 Pregnant people, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Menopause, (In)fertility (across the gender spectrum):

| Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Pregnant people, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Menopause, (In)fertility (across the gender spectrum)? | |
|--|----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | No |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | No |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | No |
| 5. Prevent | No |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

6.11 Armed Forces Personnel, their families, and Veterans:

| Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Armed Forces Members and Veterans? | |
|---|----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | No |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | No |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | No |
| 5. Prevent | No |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

6.12 Expatriates, Migrants, Asylum Seekers, and Refugees:

| Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Expatriates, Migrants, Asylum seekers, Refugees, those New to the UK, and UK visa or assigned legal status? (Especially considering for age, ethnicity, language, and various intersections) | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | No |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | Yes |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | Yes |
| 5. Prevent | No |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum may experience heightened vulnerability to crime, exploitation, hate incidents and abuse, including domestic and sexual violence. These risks can be compounded by language barriers, insecure immigration status, fear of statutory authorities, social isolation, poverty and lack of awareness of rights and available support.

Women within migrant and refugee communities may face particular risks, including coercive control, exploitation and culturally specific forms of harm, alongside additional barriers to disclosure and support. Under-reporting is a significant concern, meaning that the scale and nature of harm may not be fully reflected in recorded data.

The Strategy recognises the importance of trust, accessible information and partnership working with voluntary and community sector organisations in supporting migrant and refugee communities. Actions to improve inclusive communication, strengthen safeguarding pathways and address hate incidents will support more equitable access to support. Monitoring of equalities data and community intelligence will help identify gaps and inform targeted responses.

Hate Incidents and Crimes –

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate these disproportionate impacts through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- Migrants, Asylum Seekers, and Refugees are disproportionately the victims of hate incidents and crimes.
- Growing concern over national migration management-alongside the St George’s flag campaigns have contributed to the increase in fear of and reported hate incidents against Migrants, Asylum Seekers, and Refugees.

Mitigations:

- Establish new mechanisms for third party reporting to promote and enable the reporting of hate incidents and crimes.

6.13 Carers:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Carers (Especially considering for age, ethnicity, language, and various intersections).

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | No |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | No |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | No |
| 5. Prevent | No |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

While carers are not identified as a group disproportionately impacted by the Strategy, some carers may experience indirect impacts where caring relationships overlap with dependency, isolation, domestic abuse or safeguarding concerns. The Strategy’s safeguarding-led and trauma-informed approach provides a framework for identifying and responding to such risks where they arise.

6.14 Looked after children, Care Leavers, Care and fostering experienced people:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Looked after children, Care Leavers, Care and fostering experienced children and adults (Especially considering for age, ethnicity, language, and various intersections).

Also consider our [Corporate Parenting Responsibility](#) in connection to your activity.

| | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | Yes |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | No |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | No |
| 5. Prevent | No |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Health Counts 2024 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence.

Respondents who have experience of the care system as a child/ young person all had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents. This was also true of respondents living in temporary/ emergency accommodation, as well as respondents living in the most deprived areas of the city.

Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation –

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate these disproportionate impacts through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- Serious violence and exploitation disproportionately affect care-experienced young people and those excluded from education.
- Victims of gang violence, including care-experienced young people may be disproportionately treated as perpetrators.
- County lines exploitation disproportionately affects looked-after children and care leavers.
- County lines victims (often looked-after children) characterised as offenders rather than victims.

Mitigations:

- Better targeted prevention through the AVRMS and associated processes.
- Appropriate proactive NRM referrals to ensure victims of exploitation are appropriately identified as victims, not perpetrators and supported accordingly.

6.15 Homelessness:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to people experiencing homelessness, and associated risk and vulnerability? (Especially considering for age, veteran, ethnicity, language, and various intersections)

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | No |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | No |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | No |
| 5. Prevent | No |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

While homelessness is not a protected characteristic, people experiencing homelessness often face intersecting vulnerabilities linked to exploitation, sexual violence, hate incidents and criminalisation. Women experiencing homelessness are at particular risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. These risks are addressed through the Strategy's focus on Multiple Compound Needs, safeguarding-led responses and alignment with housing, health and substance misuse services.

6.16 Domestic and/or Sexual Abuse and Violence Survivors, people in vulnerable situations:

| Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Domestic Abuse and Violence Survivors, and people in vulnerable situations (All aspects and intersections)? | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | Yes |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | Yes |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | Yes |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | Yes |
| 5. Prevent | No |

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate these disproportionate impacts through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention, safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- Survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of interpersonal harm experience significant and often long-lasting impacts on physical safety, mental health, housing security, financial stability and wellbeing. These harms are frequently hidden and under-reported, particularly where individuals experience fear, shame, coercive control, or mistrust of statutory services.
- While violence against women and girls disproportionately affects women and girls, domestic and sexual abuse can affect people of all genders, including men and trans, non-binary and intersex people. Survivors may also experience multiple and intersecting vulnerabilities, including disability, mental ill-health, substance misuse, homelessness, immigration insecurity, poverty and social isolation, which can increase exposure to harm and create substantial barriers to disclosure, reporting and access to support.
- People in vulnerable situations may be at risk of being misidentified as perpetrators of antisocial behaviour or criminal activity rather than recognised as victims in need of safeguarding. Survivors experiencing multiple compound needs are particularly vulnerable to repeat victimisation,

exploitation and criminalisation if responses are not trauma-informed and coordinated across agencies. Evidence also highlights the link between domestic abuse, trauma, deteriorating mental wellbeing and heightened risk of self-harm and suicide, underlining the significant health inequalities associated with abuse.

Mitigations:

- The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy explicitly prioritises domestic abuse, sexual violence and Violence Against Women and Girls and adopts a whole-system, trauma-informed approach to mitigate these disproportionate impacts. Delivery focuses on prevention, early intervention, survivor-centred support and perpetrator accountability, aligned with national and local VAWG strategies and safeguarding duties.
- The Strategy strengthens coordinated community responses to ensure that survivors are identified early, believed, and supported through accessible and inclusive pathways, rather than being criminalised or excluded from services. Particular emphasis is placed on addressing intersections with multiple disadvantage, including homelessness, substance misuse and mental ill-health, through partnership working and alignment with wider health, housing and social care systems.
- Mitigation also includes improving professional practice across agencies, enhancing awareness and reporting routes, supporting specialist and inclusive services, and embedding learning from lived experience. Ongoing equalities monitoring through Community Safety Partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks, gaps in provision and unintended consequences, ensuring that responses continue to reduce harm and inequality over the lifetime of the Strategy.

6.17 Socio-economic Disadvantage:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Socio-economic Disadvantage? (Especially considering for age, disability, D/deaf/ blind, ethnicity, expatriate background, and various intersections)

| | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | Yes |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | No |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | No |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | No |
| 5. Prevent | No |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Health Counts 2024 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence. Respondents living in temporary/ emergency accommodation, as well as respondents living in the most deprived areas of the city had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents.

Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation –

The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy seeks to mitigate these disproportionate impacts through a trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approach. Delivery prioritises early intervention,

safeguarding-led responses and partnership working to ensure that individuals are identified as victims where appropriate and supported rather than criminalised.

The Strategy emphasises improved accessibility of reporting pathways, inclusive communication, and strengthened engagement with communities most affected by harm. Ongoing equalities monitoring through partnership governance will enable the identification of emerging risks and support timely adjustment of delivery where disproportionate impacts are identified.

Disproportionate impacts:

- Socio-economic disadvantage renders people more vulnerable to grooming and exploitation, resulting in the socio-economic disadvantaged being disproportionately affected by criminal exploitation and associated violence.

Mitigations:

- Better targeted prevention through the AVRMS and associated processes.

6.18 Human Rights:

| Will your activity have a disproportionate impact relating to Human Rights? | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Serious Violence, Drugs and Exploitation | Not Applicable |
| 2. Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls | Not Applicable |
| 3. Anti-Social Behaviour | Not Applicable |
| 4. Hate Incidents and Crimes | Not Applicable |
| 5. Prevent | Not Applicable |

If “YES”, what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Note: While this Strategy engages areas where human rights considerations are relevant – including policing powers, enforcement activity, and Prevent duties - it does not introduce new powers or change legal thresholds. Potential impacts on rights such as freedom of expression, assembly and privacy have been considered and are mitigated through existing statutory safeguards, proportionality requirements, multi-agency governance, and oversight arrangements. The Strategy emphasises lawful, proportionate and necessity-based decision-making, alongside safeguarding, transparency and accountability.

6.19 Cumulative, multiple intersectional, and complex impacts (including on additional relevant groups):

What cumulative or complex impacts might the activity have on people who are members of multiple Minoritised groups?

- For example: people belonging to the Gypsy, Roma, and/or Traveller community who are also disabled, LGBTQIA+, older disabled trans and non-binary people, older Black and Racially Minoritised disabled people of faith, young autistic people.

- Also consider wider disadvantaged and intersecting experiences that create exclusion and systemic barriers:
 - People being housebound due to disabilities or disabling circumstances
 - Environmental barriers or mobility barriers impacting those with sight loss, D/deafness, sensory requirements, neurodivergence, various complex disabilities
 - People experiencing homelessness
 - People on a low income and people living in the most deprived areas
 - People facing literacy, numeracy and/or digital barriers
 - Lone parents
 - People with experience of or living with addiction and/ or a substance use disorder (SUD)
 - Sex workers
 - Ex-offenders and people with unrelated convictions
 - People who have experienced female genital mutilation (FGM)
 - People who have experienced human trafficking or modern slavery

Many individuals experience overlapping forms of disadvantage that compound their exposure to crime, harm and barriers to support. These cumulative impacts are particularly significant for people who belong to more than one marginalised or disadvantaged group.

For example, women who are disabled, from Black and Racially Minoritised communities, migrants, refugees, older people or those experiencing poverty may face heightened risks of abuse and exploitation alongside additional barriers to reporting and accessing support. These barriers can include language requirements, insecure immigration status, reliance on carers or perpetrators, stigma, fear of authorities, inaccessible services and lack of culturally appropriate provision.

People experiencing multiple compound needs, including homelessness, substance use, poor mental health and contact with the criminal justice system, are at increased risk of both victimisation and criminalisation. Women within this group are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation, coercion and violence, and may experience responses that prioritise enforcement over safeguarding if equalities impacts are not actively considered.

The Strategy seeks to mitigate cumulative impacts by strengthening partnership working, aligning enforcement with support, embedding trauma-informed practice and improving data and learning on disproportionality. Ongoing monitoring of equalities impacts through partnership governance will be critical to identifying emerging risks and ensuring that responses do not inadvertently reinforce existing inequalities.

7. Action planning

What SMART actions will be taken to address the disproportionate and cumulative impacts you have identified?

- Summarise relevant SMART actions from your data insights and disproportionate impacts below for this assessment, listing appropriate activities per action as bullets. (This will help your Business Manager or Fair and Inclusive Action Plan (FIAP) Service representative to add these to the Directorate FIAP, discuss success measures and timelines with you, and monitor this EIA's progress as part of quarterly and regular internal and external auditing and monitoring)

1. To add a data driven equalities impact review to the standing agenda of the quarterly Community Safety Partnership Board meeting.
 - Develop a quarterly equalities impact dashboard to inform the quarterly equalities impact review.

| |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an equalities data pre-meet of strategic leads prior to each CSP Board meeting to prepare for the quarterly equalities impact review. Incorporate the learning and insights from the quarterly CSP Board equalities impact reviews into the annual strategic review of the Community Safety Strategy, incorporating the resultant equality analysis and corrective action planning. |
| <p>2. To seek to ensure that all community safety information is accessible, available in plain English, various languages and accessible formats, such as British Sign Language (BSL) and Easy Read.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add the Easy Read version of the strategy to Easy Read Hub on Brighton and Hove City Council's website. |

Which action plans will the identified actions be transferred to?

- For example: Team or Service Plan, Local Implementation Plan, a project plan related to this EIA, FIAP (Fair and Inclusive Action Plan) – mandatory noting of the EIA on the Directorate EIA Tracker to enable monitoring of all equalities related actions identified in this EIA. This is done as part of FIAP performance reporting and auditing. Speak to your Directorate's Business Improvement Manager (if one exists for your Directorate) or to the Head of Service/ lead who enters actions and performance updates on FIAP and seek support from your Directorate's EDI Business Partner.

8. Outcome of your assessment

What decision have you reached upon completing this Equality Impact Assessment? (Mark 'X' for any ONE option below)

| | |
|--|----------|
| Stop or pause the activity due to unmitigable disproportionate impacts because the evidence shows bias towards one or more groups. | |
| Adapt or change the activity to eliminate or mitigate disproportionate impacts and/or bias. | |
| Proceed with the activity as currently planned – no disproportionate impacts have been identified, or impacts will be mitigated by specified SMART actions. | |
| Proceed with caution – disproportionate impacts have been identified but having considered all available options there are no other or proportionate ways to achieve the aim of the activity (for example, in extreme cases or where positive action is taken). Therefore, you are going to proceed with caution with this policy or practice knowing that it may favour some people less than others, providing justification for this decision. | X |

If your decision is to "Proceed with caution", please provide a reasoning for this:

| |
|--|
| <p>Caution because there is disproportionality, proceed because we need a Community Safety Strategy.</p> <p>The decision to proceed with caution reflects the fact that the Strategy addresses areas where disproportionality already exists across multiple protected characteristics and disadvantaged groups, and where statutory duties require action. The risks of inaction would be greater than the risks of proceeding. Identified impacts will be mitigated through trauma-informed practice, partnership governance, targeted prevention, and ongoing equalities monitoring, including quarterly review through the Community Safety Partnership Board.</p> |
|--|

Summarise your overall equality impact assessment recommendations to include in any committee papers to help guide and support councillor decision-making:

The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026–2029 identifies that crime, harm and fear of crime are not experienced equally across Brighton & Hove. The evidence shows that certain groups are disproportionately affected, including women and girls, disabled people, Black and racially minoritised communities, LGBTQ+ communities (particularly trans, non-binary and intersex people), young people, care-experienced individuals, migrants and refugees, and people experiencing poverty, homelessness or multiple compound needs.

The EIA finds that these inequalities are driven by a combination of structural factors, including deprivation, discrimination, barriers to reporting, mistrust of statutory services, and cumulative disadvantage. In particular, violence against women and girls is identified as a form of gender-based harm rooted in inequality and closely linked to wider health and social inequalities. Hate incidents and crimes, including those linked to religion, race, sexuality, gender identity and disability, have a significant impact on community cohesion and feelings of safety, with under-reporting remaining a key challenge. Young people, care-experienced children and those experiencing exploitation face heightened risks of criminalisation rather than safeguarding if equalities impacts are not actively considered.

The EIA also recognises that delivery of the Strategy operates within a complex statutory environment, including duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. While some areas of community safety activity engage human rights considerations (such as enforcement powers and Prevent), the Strategy does not introduce new powers and places strong emphasis on proportionality, safeguarding, transparency and accountability.

To mitigate identified disproportionate impacts, the EIA recommends that the Strategy is delivered through trauma-informed, inclusive and preventative approaches, with a strong focus on early intervention, victim-centred responses and partnership working. Particular emphasis is placed on ensuring that enforcement activity is aligned with safeguarding and support, especially for people experiencing multiple disadvantage.

A central recommendation of the EIA is the introduction of strengthened governance and monitoring arrangements. This includes the addition of a standing equalities impact review at the Community Safety Partnership Board, supported by the development of a quarterly equalities impact dashboard. These mechanisms will enable ongoing scrutiny of disproportionality, support learning from lived experience and data, and allow corrective action to be taken where required.

The EIA concludes that, while disproportionate impacts are present, the risks of not having a statutory Community Safety Strategy in place would be greater. The Strategy should therefore proceed with caution, recognising existing inequalities and committing to active mitigation through partnership delivery, continuous monitoring and transparent governance. Councillors are asked to note that equality considerations are embedded within the Strategy and that ongoing oversight will be critical to ensuring that delivery advances equality, reduces harm and strengthens community safety for all residents.

9. Publication

All Equality Impact Assessments will be published. If you are recommending, and choosing not to publish your EIA, please provide a reason:

10. Directorate and Service Approval

| Signatory: | Name and Job Title: | Date: DD-MMM-YY |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Responsible Lead Officer: | Adam Salmon, Community Safety Manager | 05/03/2026 |
| Accountable Manager: | Richard Tuset, Head of Community Cohesion | 05/03/2026 |

Notes, relevant information, and requests (if any) from Responsible Lead Officer and Accountable Manager submitting this assessment:

EDI Review, Actions, and Approval:

Equality Impact Assessment sign-off

EDI Business Partner to cross-check against aims of the equality duty, public sector duty and our civic responsibilities the activity considers and refer to relevant internal checklists and guidance prior to recommending sign-off.

Once the EDI Business Partner has considered the equalities impact to provide approval for by those submitting the EIA, they will get the EIA signed off and sent to the requester copying the Head of Service, Business Improvement Manager, [Equalities inbox](#), any other service colleagues as appropriate to enable EIA tracking, accountability, and saving for publishing. Budget and Staffing EIAs secure EDI Manager and Head of Service level approval via different templates.

| Signatory: | Name: | Date: DD-MMM-YY |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| EDI Officer: | Zofia Danin | |
| EDI Manager: | Deb Totney | |

Notes and recommendations from EDI Officer reviewing this assessment:

Notes and recommendations (if any) from EDI Manager reviewing this assessment:

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 106

Subject: Pay Policy Statement 2026/27

Date of meeting: 26 March 2026

Report of: Director People & Innovation

Contact Officer: Name: Laura Rush
Email: laura.rush@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to produce a pay policy statement to be approved by Council annually before the start of the financial year to which it relates. The aim is to increase accountability, transparency, and fairness in the setting of local pay.

1.2 The pay policy statement:

- sets out the council's policies on a range of issues relating to the pay of its workforce, particularly its senior and lowest paid staff;
- summarises the parameters within which staff are paid;
- describes the parameters being governed by a local pay framework set with reference to national terms and conditions, and nationally agreed pay awards

1.3 The provisions in the Act do not seek to determine what decisions on pay should be taken, or what policies should be in place, but they do require councils to be open about their policies and how decisions are made.

1.4 This report asks Council to approve the attached pay policy statement for adoption from 1 April 2026

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Full Council adopts the pay policy statement for 2026/27 attached at Appendix 1.

3. Context and background information

3.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to produce and formally approve an annual pay policy statement prior to the year to which it relates. The statement for 2026/27 is attached at Appendix 1. The council may amend its statement by resolution of Council if required during the year.

- 3.2 School staff fall outside the scope of this legislation. Individual governing bodies are responsible for setting and updating their own Schools' Pay Policy each year.
- 3.3 The guiding principles for the council's pay policy are set out in the 'Aim' section of the statement and align with the Council's Learning Organisation Framework. This includes supporting workforce development, skills acquisition and career progression, and ensuring that pay and grading structures enable continuous learning, internal mobility and the effective deployment of skills across the organisation.
- 3.4 The council has adopted national terms and conditions, and these provide scope for local determination on grading structures, as well as the ability to negotiate on working pattern allowances. Local authorities have the ability to determine their grading structures and payments over and above basic pay.
- 3.5 Chief Officers, for the purpose of this legislation, are those who report to the Chief Executive and those who report to posts reporting to the Chief Executive i.e. deputy chief officers (aside from support roles).
- 3.6 The statement must provide a definition of lowest-paid employees adopted by the council for the purposes of the statement and include the council's policies relating to the remuneration of chief officers, payments to chief officers on leaving, and the publication of information on the remuneration of chief officers. The pay policy statement provides links to our existing policies on redundancy, retirement, and other compensation payments. These policies set out who is responsible for decisions on such payments.
- 3.7 The council's pay policy statement provides that an Appointment and Remuneration Panel is responsible for advising on any proposal to offer a salary package for any Officer that is outside of the current grading structure and exceeds £100,000. In this way, it is ensured that adequate systems are in place to ensure value for money. In doing so, the Council also has regard to the need to build sustainable leadership and professional capability in line with the Learning Organisation Framework, ensuring that pay decisions support long term organisational learning and resilience rather than short term solutions.
- 3.8 The same provision is made regarding severance packages above £100,000, with the Chief Executive having authority to agree a severance package above £100,000 where the severance package has been recommended by the Appointments & Remuneration Panel. In accordance with Statutory Guidance, this figure does not include amounts that may be payable by virtue of any enactment e.g. redundancy retirements where payment is in line with legal requirements and normal council policy.
- 3.9 All other severance packages are scrutinised by an officer Compensation Panel comprising the Director of People & Innovation, the Monitoring Officer and the s151 Officer (or their nominated deputies). The Compensation Panel makes recommendations to the relevant Corporate Director responsible for

the severance package. The council's external auditors are also consulted about the value for money of any potential offers to Chief Officers. Compensation packages in excess of £100,000 which relate to the Chief Executive will be referred to full Council for approval.

- 3.10 Following the revocation in March 2021 of the Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payment Regulations 2020, the Government issued statutory guidance in May 2022 pursuant to the Local Government Act 1999, which sets out the Council's 'best value' duty in legislation. That guidance sets the criteria for the Council to consider when determining whether to make a 'Special Severance Payment' ('SSP'). SSPs are payments outside of statutory, contractual or other requirements and are discretionary. The Government's view is that SSPs should only be considered in exceptional circumstances. The Compensation Panel pays due regard to this guidance when considering relevant cases.
- 3.11 The Localism Act 2011 does not require specific numerical data on pay and reward to be published as part of a council's pay policy statement. However statutory guidance made under section 40 of the 2011 Act suggests that consideration be given to how the pay policy statement fits with data on pay and reward that councils are already required to publish on their websites under the [Local Government Transparency Code](#) and by the [Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015](#). The data published is in an accessible format according to the guidance contained in the aforementioned publications.
- 3.12 The council publishes pay data annually in accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code. The majority of this information is published as soon as possible after the start of the financial year. However, information required in line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 is published in May each year in an unaudited format, and then the fully audited accounts are published in July each year.
- 3.13 The Localism Act 2011 requires authorities to explain what they think the relationship should be between the remuneration of its chief officers and its employees who are not chief officers. The pay multiple is calculated using the median pay of all employees within the scope of the Pay Policy Statement as a multiple of the Chief Executive's salary. This method is in line with the Hutton report on Fair Pay, which is referred to in the 'Openness and Accountability in Local Pay' guidance. For the financial year 2024/25, the pay multiple was 5.13 to 1. This is a 0.07 increase from 2023/24. This is recalculated after the end of the financial year and published on the council's website as part of our pay data. The pay multiple is calculated using the definition contained in the Local Government Transparency Code, i.e. the ratio between the highest paid employee (usually the Chief Executive, as is the case with Brighton & Hove) and the median salary across the workforce (excluding school staff). In addition, in 2021, revised guidance on the publication of fair pay disclosures was issued, requiring the publication of additional data; the top to median, lower quartile and upper quartile staff pay multiples (ratios).

- 3.14 The fair pay disclosures (pay multiples) will be published on the Council's website and monitored annually. The pay multiples for financial year 2025/26 are yet to be calculated as the data used includes March 2026 pay data. This will take into account the national pay awards for 2025/26.
- 3.15 The pay policy statement, when published on our website, will contain hyperlinks to related information. This will include reference to the separate pay policy for directly employed teachers at the council.
- 3.16 The Real Living Wage will increase from £12.60 to £13.45 per hour with effect from 1st April 2026: an increase of 6.75%. However, the council's lowest pay point exceeds this level of pay, with the lowest pay point as at April 2025 being £13.69 and 1.78% higher than the Real Living Wage rate at the time and will likely increase further when the 2026 national NJC pay award is agreed.

Gender Pay Gap reporting for period to March 2025.

Pay Gap reporting for period to March 2025, Gender, Ethnicity & Disability

- 3.17 Driven by The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017, the council's gender pay gap reporting for the period to March 2025 showed that, on average, female employee hourly earnings were 7.9% more than male employees, this is a 0.7% increase from the previous year. Using the median as a measure, female employee hourly earnings were 6.8% more than male employees, a 3% increase from the previous year. On both measures this is a negative pay gap. The council voluntarily publishes ethnicity and disability pay gap reports. For the period March 2025 the median ethnicity pay gap is 0.00%, reducing from 2.7% year on year. This shows there is no pay gap between the median hourly earnings of White and BME employees. The mean ethnicity pay gap is 3.1%, reducing from 4.9% year on year. The median disability pay gap is -0.3%, reducing from 2.7% year on year. This shows the median hourly earnings for employees who identify as having a disability is higher than the median earnings of employees who identify as having no disability. The mean disability pay gap in average hourly pay is 2.7%, reducing from 3.4% year on year.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 Section 39(1) of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to approve its Pay Policy Statement, while section 39(5) requires that it publish its Pay Policy Statement as soon as reasonably practicable after approval. This Report and the Pay Policy Statement are considered to achieve the appropriate levels of transparency and to comply with relevant guidance.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 The purpose of this pay policy statement is to provide transparency regarding how local decisions on pay are made. There will be no separate consultation, however trade unions have been made aware of the contents.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The annual pay policy statement provides a framework to support sound governance for the setting of local pay, and allows benchmarking and comparison with other local authorities to properly assess Value For Money and demonstrate that due consideration is given to the Council's Best Value Duty.
- 6.2 The policy statement aims to set pay at a level which balances the prudent use of public funds with the ability to attract and retain high caliber individuals to the workforce.

Name of finance officer consulted: Haley Woollard

Date consulted: 17/02/2026

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix 1 complies with the requirements of s38 of the Localism Act 2011 and with relevant statutory guidance.

It is a requirement of section 39(1) of the Localism Act 2011 that the Pay Policy Statement be approved by full Council.

Name of lawyer consulted: Victoria Simpson Date consulted 09/02/2026

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1 The publication of a pay policy statement increases transparency in relation to pay and promotes fairness.

9. Sustainability implications

- 9.1 None.

10. Social Value implications

- 10.1 The pay policy statement provides local taxpayers with information on how the council makes local decisions on pay and thus provides greater openness and transparency to assist the public to assess value for money.

11. Conclusion

- 11.1 It is a requirement of the Localism Act 2011 that Members are consulted prior to the publication of the Pay Policy Statement. It is therefore recommended that full Council formally approve the Pay Policy Statement

2026/27.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

1. Appendix 1: Pay Policy Statement 2026/27

Appendix 1

Brighton & Hove City Council Pay Policy Statement 2026/27

1 Aim

Brighton & Hove City Council wants to ensure that the City and its residents receive high quality services and excellent value for money. In the context of the significant budget challenges that the council faces, pay levels need to be set at a level that will enable the council to attract and retain high caliber individuals while remaining prudent in its use of public funds.

To achieve this, the council requires a workforce that is conscientious, professional, and reliable at all levels and which has the relevant up-to-date skills and knowledge to deliver high quality services to the residents of and visitors to Brighton & Hove. This supports the Council's Learning Organisation Framework, which emphasises continuous learning, skills development and adaptability as essential to delivering a better Brighton & Hove for all.

The council depends on a high calibre senior management team able to provide leadership and to work in close partnership with other private, public and voluntary agencies across the City. The senior team need to work with partners to assess and understand the level of need across the City and to commission and deliver services. At the same time, they need to be able to lead transformation programmes and reduce costs to deliver better outcomes for customers. An innovative, skilled and experienced workforce is vital to the delivery of our vision and this is at the heart of our pay policy. This principle applies from the lowest to the highest paid employee. In this context, the pay policy supports the Learning Organisation Framework by helping to enable a workforce that is connected, confident, innovative and inclusive, and able to work in a healthy and psychologically safe way.

Whilst recognising the market rates for pay and seeking to attract the best talent, the council seeks to ensure that pay policies are based on fairness and equality and allow the workforce to live healthy and happy lives in line with our commitment to being a Council that is healthy and psychologically safe. The council has worked to address low pay and ensure that the pay gap between the highest and the lowest paid is appropriate and justified. As at April 2025 the council's lowest pay point £13.69, is 8.65% higher than the April 2025 'Real Living Wage' of £12.60, and 12.12% higher than the 25/26 National Living Wage Rate of £12.21. Note from 1st April 2026, the Real Living wage is due to increase to £13.45, and the NLW to increase to £12.71. The pay multiple between the Chief Executive and the median earnings of the workforce is published annually on the council's website.

2 Scope

This document complies with the council's statutory responsibility to produce a pay policy statement annually pursuant to s38(1) of the Localism Act 2011. This policy statement requires approval by full Council. The council wishes to ensure that local taxpayers are able to take an informed view on all aspects of the council's

remuneration arrangements and the pay policy statement will be published on the council's website.

The statement applies to all employees of the council and 'casual workers', except for those staff based in schools and apprentices throughout the council.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of the pay policy statement the following definitions will apply:

- Brighton & Hove City Council defines its lowest paid employees as those who are paid on the lowest spinal column point of its [grading structure](#). This is spinal column point 7 and is applied to casual workers as well as employees. A full-time post is based on a 37-hour week.
- Chief Officers, for the purpose of this legislation, are those who report to the Chief Executive and those who report to posts reporting to the Chief Executive i.e. deputy chief officers (aside from support roles).
- The publication of the 'pay multiples' provides a calculation in the form of a ratio between the median average earnings across the organization, and the highest paid employee and was recommended by the Hutton report on Fair pay.

Senior Structure

With effect from 1st January 2025, the Corporate Leadership Team comprises the following posts:

- Chief Executive;
- Corporate Director Families, Children and Wellbeing (DCS) ;
Corporate Director Homes and Adult Social care;
- Corporate Director City Operations
- Director Governance and Law (Monitoring Officer)
- Director Property and Finance (S151)
- Director People and Innovation
- Head of Corporate Leadership Office
- Head of Cabinet Office
- Director Adult Social Care (DASS)
- Director Public Health

The Extended Corporate Leadership Team comprises members of the Corporate Leadership Team and Directors. Link to structure details: [Our management and structure](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/brighton-hove-city-council-plan-2023-2027/our-management-and-structure) (<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/brighton-hove-city-council-plan-2023-2027/our-management-and-structure>).

National Pay and Conditions

There are a number of national agreements produced through collective bargaining arrangements for different groups of local government staff. The main negotiating

bodies relevant to our workforce and their scope are listed below. Brighton & Hove City Council operates these national conditions as amended by local agreements.

The National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services negotiates collective agreements on pay and conditions for local authority employees who are not covered by other specialist negotiating bodies (e.g. teachers).

The Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities (JNC) covers the pay and conditions for Chief Officers (this includes Deputy Chief Officers who are appointed to JNC Chief Officers terms and conditions).

The Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives of Local Authorities covers the pay and conditions for Chief Executives.

The Soulbury Committee negotiates the pay and conditions for advisory staff in local authorities, such as: educational improvement professionals (previously advisers and inspectors) and educational psychologists.

The Joint Negotiating Committee for Youth and Community Workers covers the pay and conditions of youth and community workers.

4 Governance

While full Council formally approves the Council's Pay Policy Statement, Cabinet is responsible for setting those aspects of the Council's policy on pay and conditions which sit outside the statutory pay policy statement. The council has adopted the National Joint Council terms and conditions for local authority staff as amended locally. Chief Officers, including the Chief Executive, are mainly employed on nationally negotiated terms and conditions but their pay structure is determined locally.

The determination of individual staff terms and conditions and appointments are specifically excluded from executive (Cabinet) responsibility and must be exercised by full Council or by an officer or Committee exercising delegated powers. The Officer Employment Procedure Rules outline the process for the appointment of staff, including of the Head of Paid Service and Chief Officers. The council has adequate systems in place through the Appointment & Remuneration Panel to ensure value for money.

The Appointments and Remuneration Panel may also be consulted for its views in connection with the statement of pay policy as defined in the council's Constitution. The policy in respect of the remuneration of interims and consultants is set out under paragraph 20 below.

5 Grading Structure

The council uses a recognised, analytical job evaluation scheme to ensure that there is an objective process for determining the relative size of jobs and thus allocating jobs to the appropriate grade. This is used for all posts, apart from staff employed on Teachers, Soulbury and Youth Worker conditions of service. The current pay and grading structure was implemented in September 2022.

6 Progression

All posts, apart from that of the Chief Executive are employed on grades containing spinal column points. All employees (other than the Chief Executive) progress through their grade each year (subject to satisfactory performance), rising by one incremental point, until they reach the maximum point of the grade. Pay awards for NJC, JNC, Soulbury and Teaching staff are negotiated nationally

With the exception of Soulbury and Teaching staff employees may be accelerated up the pay grade by a maximum of two spinal column points to recognise exceptional performance. Link to [Additional Payments Policy](#). National terms and conditions for Soulbury and Teaching Staff incorporates specific requirements around progression related to performance.

7 Remuneration on Appointment

Staff are usually appointed on the minimum spinal column point of the grade. However line managers have discretion to appoint above the minimum of the grade including where there are difficulties recruiting to a post or where an individual can demonstrate significant valuable previous experience.

The Chief Executive is required to consult the council's Appointments & Remuneration Panel on the appropriate starting salary where there is any proposal to offer a salary outside of the current grading structure for Chief Officers.

In addition, an Appointment and Remuneration Panel is responsible for advising on any proposal to offer a salary package for any other Officer that is outside of the current grading structure and exceeds £100,000.

8 Chief Executive

The Chief Executive's salary is set to ensure that it is competitive when compared to roles of similar size and complexity elsewhere and with regard to the challenges, additional hours and working arrangements required to achieve the requirements of the role. The salary is on a single fixed salary point. Nationally negotiated cost of living awards are applied.

Full Council is required to approve the appointment of the Chief Executive following the recommendation of such an appointment by the Appointment & Remuneration Panel.

9 Corporate Leadership Team

The pay and grading of the Corporate Leadership Team is determined by the requirements of the role and by reference to the labour market for roles of a similar size and complexity. Corporate Directors progress to the next point of their grade subject to meeting objectives set in their annual Performance and Development Plan as determined by the Chief Executive. Once at the top of the scale they continue to receive the JNC for Chief Officers nationally negotiated cost of living awards.

11 Additional Payments

In order to ensure sufficient flexibility to reward staff who are undertaking additional responsibilities, the council's policy on [Additional Payments](#) provides for Acting Up payments or a one-off Honorarium Payment to be made in specific circumstances. Where appropriate, such payments recognise the application of additional skills, learning or expertise, supporting the Learning Organisation Framework's emphasis on confidence, innovation and continuous improvement.

12 Market Supplements

The Council may pay a market supplement, in accordance with the council's market supplement policy, where there are proven shortages of individuals with particular skills and experience.

13 Travel and Expenses

The Council is committed to becoming a carbon neutral city and promoting healthy and sustainable travel. This means that when employees are required to travel, they should be aware of choosing the most cost-effective, efficient and sustainable ways of travelling, both to and from work and within the working day.

Staff should first ensure that travel is necessary and that the intended outcome could not be achieved by other means, such as email or telephone or video-conferencing. Where travel is necessary, staff should make optimum use of diary planning to minimise the number of business travel journeys made and should explore walking, cycling, public transport options before using a car.

Where authorised to do so, employees are entitled to be reimbursed for mileage they incur whilst discharging their official duties. This does not include mileage to or from home to their normal place of work. The rate of [reimbursement](#) will depend on the engine size of their car, while other rates are applicable where motorbikes and bicycles are used for this purpose. Employees who have to use public transport to travel for their role are entitled to reclaim the costs of the transport under the council's expenses policies.

14 Working Pattern Allowances

The council introduced its current allowance scheme for those employed on NJC terms and conditions on the 01 October 2013; these allowances reward employees who work outside the council's standard working week, which is Monday to Friday between 6am to 8pm each day. Working outside of these standard times will attract an enhancement to the hourly rate. Details can be found in the Employee Rights & Responsibilities document.

15 Annual Leave

Annual leave entitlements vary according to the terms and conditions of employment. [Annual leave entitlements](#) are published on the Council's website.

16 Pension Scheme

Membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme is subject to the rules of the scheme and contribution rates are set by the East Sussex County Council Pension Fund ([Link to rates on ESCC Website](#)).

17 Redundancy, Retirement and other Compensation Payments

The council's approach to dismissals on the grounds of redundancy or efficiency of the service and in the case of early retirement can be found in the following policies on our website: [Redundancy, Retirement and other Compensation Payments policy statement](#) and [Retirement at Brighton & Hove](#).

It is the council's policy that employees who accept a financial package on voluntary termination of their employment with the council are not usually re-employed or engaged as a self-employed contractor or through an agency for a minimum period of two years; details of this policy can be found in the [Re-Employment of Employees policy](#).

In exceptional circumstances, the council will agree to settle a claim or potential dispute upon the termination of employment by way of a compensation payment. In this situation, an officer panel comprised of the Director People and Innovation (or their delegate), the Monitoring Officer (or their deputy) and the S151 Officer (or their deputy) will review a business case prepared by the relevant Chief Officer. While the officer panel will scrutinise the business case and may endorse it, make recommendations regarding it or advise against it, responsibility for the final decision remains with the relevant Chief Officer.

In the case of Chief Officers, other than those who report to members of the Corporate Leadership Team, and in any case where the proposed total payment is £100,000 or more and does not meet the definition of a Special Severance Payment outlined in statutory guidance, then the Chief Executive may approve the severance package where the package has been recommended by the Council's Appointment & Remuneration Panel. The council's External Auditor is also consulted about any potential offers to Chief Officers.

Where a Special Severance Payment of between £20,000 and £100,000 is made to any officer then as well as being approved by the Chief Executive, a record shall be made of the approval of the Leader or any other member agreeing it. All Special Severance Payments of over £100,000 and any compensation packages in excess of £100,000 which relate to the Chief Executive must be approved by full Council.

18 Pay Protection

In cases where an employee is redeployed into a lower graded role due to their original role being made redundant, the annual protection payment will be the difference between the employee's normal contractual pay in the former post and the normal contractual pay of the new post in year 1; and in year 2 it will be 75% of this value. After which the employee will be paid at the top of the grade for the role they've been redeployed into.

An employee will have the amount of their protection re-calculated should their pay details change at any point during the protection period so that their amount of pay does not exceed the pay they received in the role they were made redundant from.

19 Job Evaluation

The council grades all NJC and JNC Chief Officer roles using a job evaluation scheme to ensure roles of equal value are paid equitably. The council's allowance scheme sets out circumstances where individuals are entitled to payments beyond their basic grade.

20 Election fees

The Chief Executive may receive a fee for acting as the Returning Officer at elections. The Returning Officer fee at a local election is set using the East Sussex Scale of Election Fees and Charges, and for a national election is set by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Where the Returning Officer receive election fees these are paid and shown separately to salary as they are separate appointments to that of their substantive employment.

Where a director or other officer is appointed by the Returning Officer to perform specified duties at an election or referendum, fees may be paid in accordance with the schedule of fees agreed locally. The local schedule of election fees has been aligned to the NJC pay scales and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Returning Officer Expenses Guidance. They are reviewed annually by the Returning Officer and their deputies. Directors or officers receiving election fees will be paid by the Returning Officer's own payroll. The Returning Officer is a separate employer to the council and the appointments are separate to officers' substantive employment.

21 Remuneration of Staff – Contract for Services

Individuals employed on a contract for services will be paid at a rate consistent with the pay of directly employed staff performing a comparable role and will consider where relevant, a premium to take into account any relevant market factors. It is the council's policy to minimise the use of consultants wherever possible and the approval of the Chief Executive is required prior to any commitment to expenditure on consultants in excess of £10,000.

22 Remuneration of Staff and Pay Multipliers – Publication of Information

The council publishes details of staff earnings in accordance with legal requirements on transparency. This includes the relationship between the remuneration of Chief Officers and the median salary of our workforce. The 'pay multiple' will be calculated each year and published on the [Council's website](#). Historical information will be retained in order to monitor the pay multiple over time.

Further information is contained in the [Statement of accounts](#) in accordance with the Audit of Accounts legislation.

Transparency in pay and pay relationships supports engagement, trust and understanding, which are important foundations of a connected and confident learning organisation.

23 Gender Pay Gap Report

The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 requires all local authorities with more than 250 employees to publish gender pay gap data based on a 'snapshot' date of 31 March of the previous year to the year in which the data is published.

The gender pay gap is defined as the average pay gap between male and female staff in hourly pay. The council is required to publish the mean and median differences between male and female employees and the proportions of each gender in each pay quartile.

Further requirements stipulate the need to publish information related to bonuses received by each gender, however the council does not pay bonuses, and as such the council does not report under these headings.

The council publishes ethnicity pay and disability gap reports on a voluntary basis.

For further information please see the most recent. [Gender Pay Gap Report](#)
[Gender Pay and Ethnicity Pay Gap Reports.](#)

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 109

Subject: Affordable Housing on the Brighton General Hospital Site

Date of meeting: 26 March 2026

Proposer: Councillor Winder

Seconder: Councillor Rowkins

Ward(s) affected: Hanover & Elm Grove

Notice of Motion

Labour Group

This council notes:

1. The ongoing housing crisis in the city, and the dire need for more genuinely affordable homes.
2. The lack of readily available sites for housing development to meet this need.
3. That the Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust are revisiting plans to build a new Health Hub on the Brighton General Hospital site and intend to vacate much of the rest of the site.
4. That many public sector “key workers” are priced out of the city.

This council resolves to:

1. “Express support for the principle of prioritising social housing on suitable public sector land”
2. Request a report to Cabinet that assesses the viability of acquiring the site and developing social housing, either on a standalone basis, or via the Joint Venture with Hyde.
3. Request that this notice of motion is sent to the Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust for information.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 110

Subject: 3G Pitches – Use of Crumb Rubber Infill

Date of meeting: 26 March 2026

Proposer: Councillor Earthey
Seconder: Councillor Fishleigh

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Brighton & Hove Independents Group

This council notes:

1. The importance of 3G Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) for physical wellbeing.
2. The use of Crumb Rubber Infill (CRI) in UK 3G AGPs
3. The disparity in the legal position on CRI between the UK/EU;
4. The growing concerns about the human/environmental health risks posed by CRI in AGPs;
5. Sport England's funding for 3G CRI contradicts its commitment(1) to carbon neutrality/microplastic reduction;
6. BHCC Policies SU3 (Water Resources and their Quality), Policy DM43 in the Local Plan;
7. The alternative materials to CRI including Biochar-enhanced natural turf, and HydroRock water management;
8. The Petition to Parliament to ban the use of CRI on all new 3G artificial football pitches (2).

This council resolves to:

1. To request a report from Officers to Cabinet outlining:
 - a. the health and environmental risks of CRI as, for example, expressed by the UK EA, DEFRA, EU ECHA, and some academic institutions;
 - b. the current guidance/policies of relevant bodies such as the UK Government, Sports England, this Council, and other relevant bodies allowing the construction of new 3G pitches using CRI;
 - c. the alternative materials to CRI that could be used in future 3G pitches in the City;
 - d. the legal options open to BHCC for unilaterally imposing an outright ban on the use of CRI in Council-owned/supported 3G pitches.

2. To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Ministers for Health and Sport to ask for a rapid resolution of the misalignment of UK with EU law on the use of CRI in 3G AGPs.

Footnotes

1. *Sport England "Every Move" (2024) strategy*
2. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/752679>

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 111

Subject: Foodbank-Free City — From Parcels to Community Support Hubs

Date of meeting: 26 March 2026

Proposer: Councillor De Oliveira
Seconder: Councillor Hill

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Green Group

This council notes:

1. Reliance on food banks is driven by low incomes, high living costs, and gaps in statutory support.
2. Emergency food parcels cannot be a permanent substitute for social security, housing security and properly funded public services.
3. The city's community food organisations have the trust and reach to support a transition to dignified, non-stigmatising support.
4. Food is a matter of dignity and social rights, not charity or "deservingness".
5. Organisations committed to end food poverty such as the Child Poverty Action Group and the Trussell Trust have stated that a reduction in food banks should be sought by prioritising cash-first support, income maximisation, and access to services.

This council resolves to:-

1. Support the principle of achieving the goal of a Foodbank-Free Brighton & Hove, meaning an end to routine dependence on emergency food parcels through higher incomes and statutory support.
2. Request officers to consider how local food banks and community food organisations can be supported to develop a transition plan to transform participating sites into Community Support Hubs that combine dignified food access with warm handovers into advice, benefits, housing, debt, health and safeguarding support.
3. Request officers to consider cash-first and other advice routes where these are available in preference to food bank referral

4. Request officers to bring a report to Cabinet within six months, setting out delivery steps, role boundaries (so volunteers are not substitutes for statutory services), and simple measures of progress to achieve the above ambitions.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 112

Subject: Post-Budget Changes to the Toilet Tax

Date of meeting: 26 March 2026

Proposer: Councillor McNair
Seconder: Councillor Meadows

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Conservative Group

This council notes:

1. In Budget Council, £70,000 was earmarked to be raised by introducing charges at 5 seafront toilets;
2. This caused huge upset amongst community groups including the Older People's Council;
3. The council was not exploring the introduction of toilet charges as they had put forward this projected income in the budget, so they have now failed to provide a balanced budget;
4. A £70,000 shortfall will now have to be found;
5. Changes to the budget so quickly after it has been voted on undermines public confidence in the process.

This council resolves to:

1. Request that the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers the establishment of a task & finish group to explore the tightening of budget processes to minimise changes to the agreed Budget once it has been set by full Council;
2. Request officers to bring a report to Cabinet setting out why the Council found it necessary to U-turn on toilet charges despite the known risks in the EIA; why it was not identified prior to the publication of the budget; how the budgetary impact will be met and reported and whether further changes to the agreed Budget are proposed;
3. Request that the Administration consider issuing an apology to residents for distress caused.

