

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.

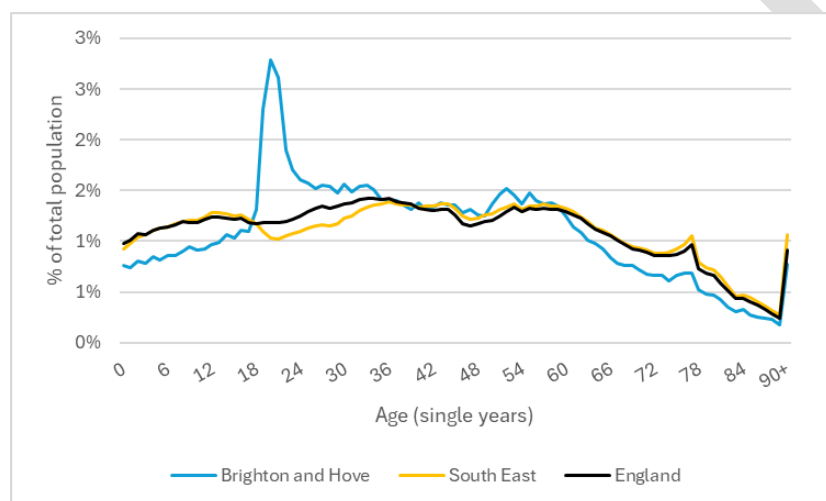
As a popular tourist destination, Brighton & Hove sees large numbers of UK and overseas visitors each year. In 2023, around 10.187 million trips were estimated to have been made to the city by day visitors (up 2% on 2022) with over 5.57 million overnight stays (up 7% on 2022)¹.

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.](#)

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 SWEP (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 SWEP 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.](#)

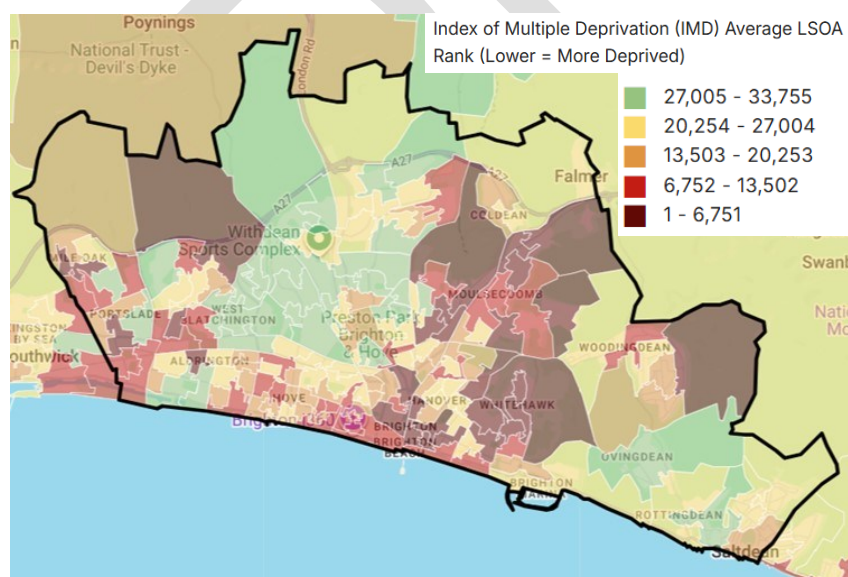
Personal crime includes violence, robbery, theft from the person, other theft of personal property, and fraud and computer misuse.

- 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	• Early malnutrition • Behavioural risk factors • Alcohol or drug misuse • Traumatic brain injury • Language difficulties • Isolation • Exposure to extreme narratives or violent content (especially online)	• Health problem solving • Being ready for school • Healthy social relationships • Learning language • Self-esteem and strong personal and social identity
Family	• Abuse • Emotional or physical neglect • Household alcohol or drug misuse • Household mental illness • Family violence • Household offending	• Stable home environment • Nurturing relationships • Shared activities with parents • Good, consistent parenting skills
School and peer group	• Poor educational attainment • Truancy • Gang membership • Low expectations from teachers • School bullying	• Commitment to school • Positive teacher relationships • Positive social interactions
Community	• Deprivation • Poor housing • Unsafe areas • Poor social mobility • High crime rate • High unemployment • Racism	• 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.

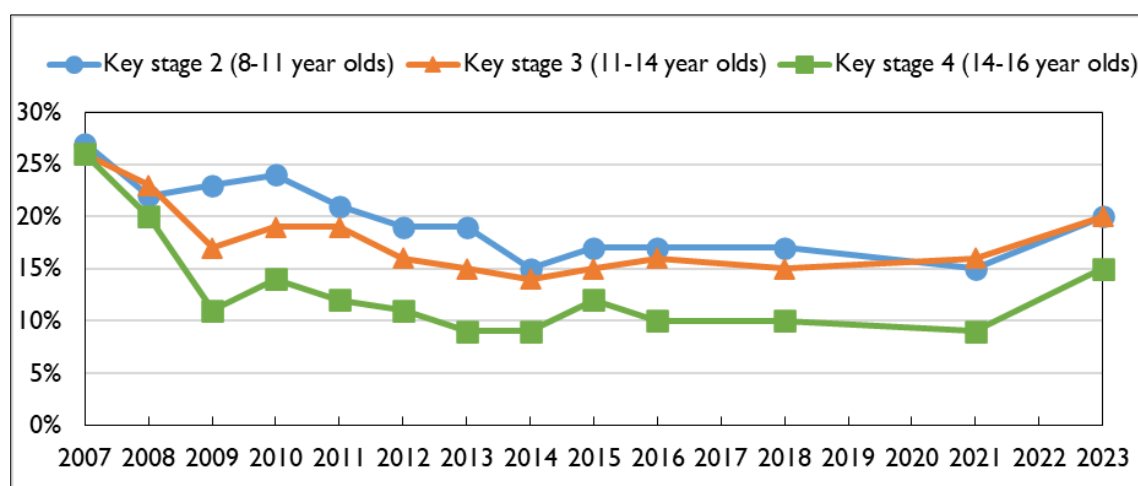
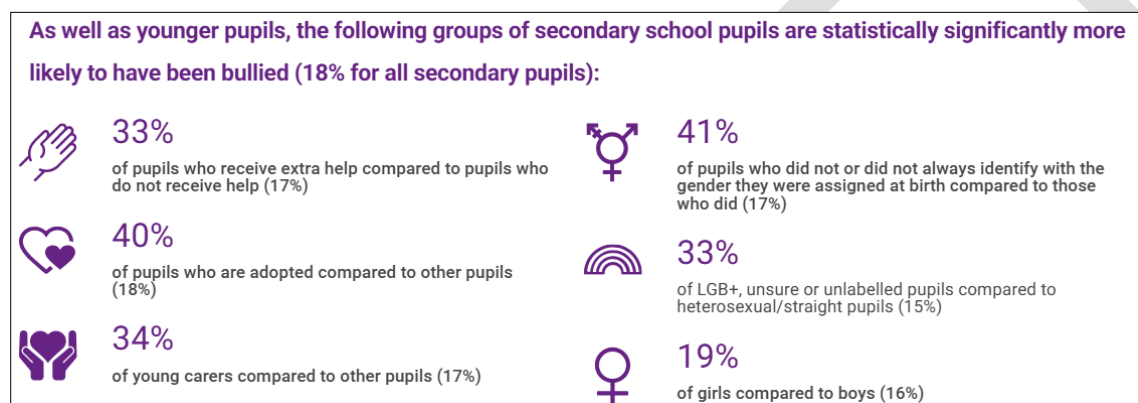


Figure 4 – presentation board of assorted Safe and Well at School survey statistics concerning secondary school pupils.



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

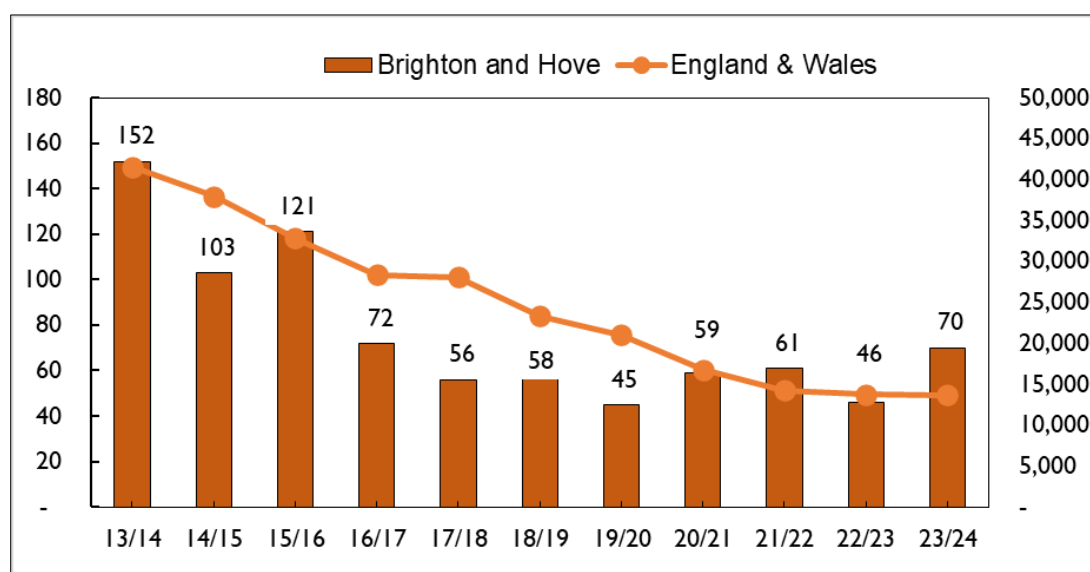
Offending and reoffending in children and young people

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.

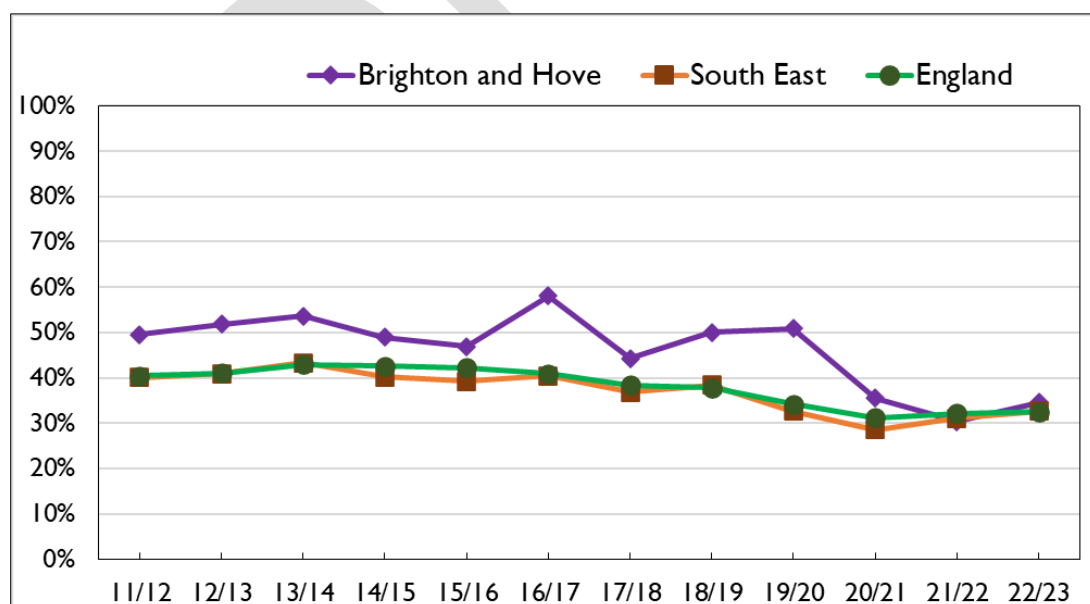


Looking at the demographic characteristics of the 70 young people cautioned or sentenced in 2023/24³⁹:

- 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**.

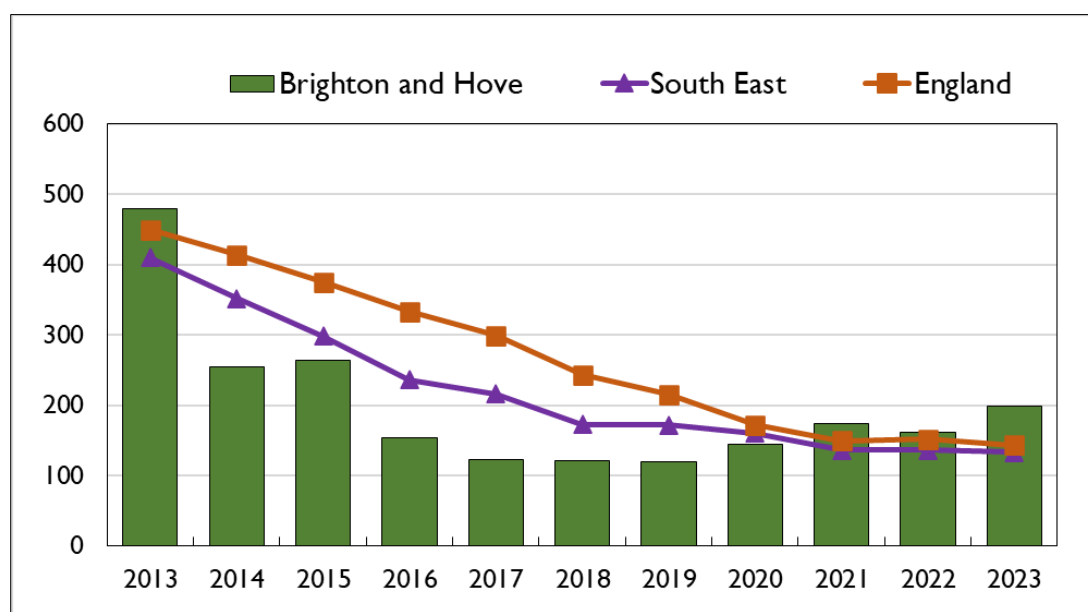
Figure 6- percentage of reoffending among children aged 10-17, by area and by year.



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.

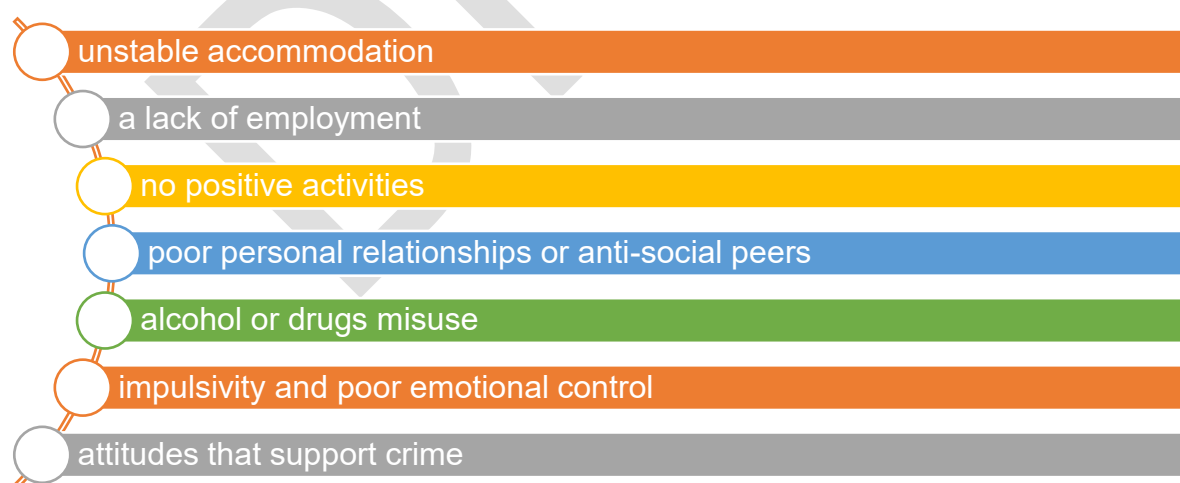
Figure 7 - rate of first-time entrants (FTEs) to the criminal justice system per 100,000 children aged 10 to 17, by area.



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.



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

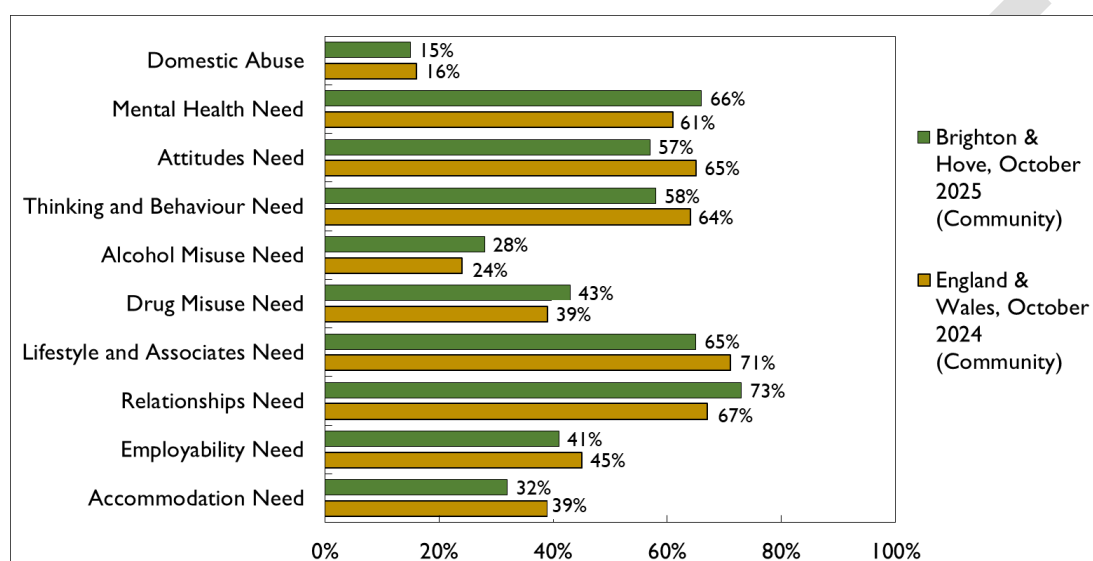
⁴¹ [Ministry of Justice and HM Prison and Probation Service guidance webpage. Offending behaviour programmes and interventions - published 2018, updated 2022.](#)

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.

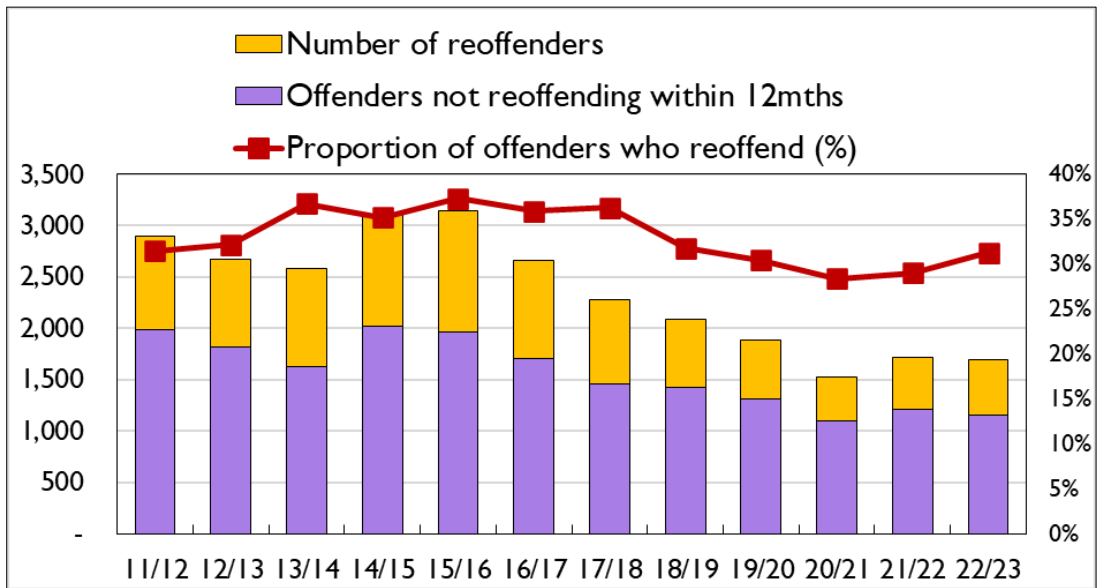
Offenders and reoffending in adults

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.



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.

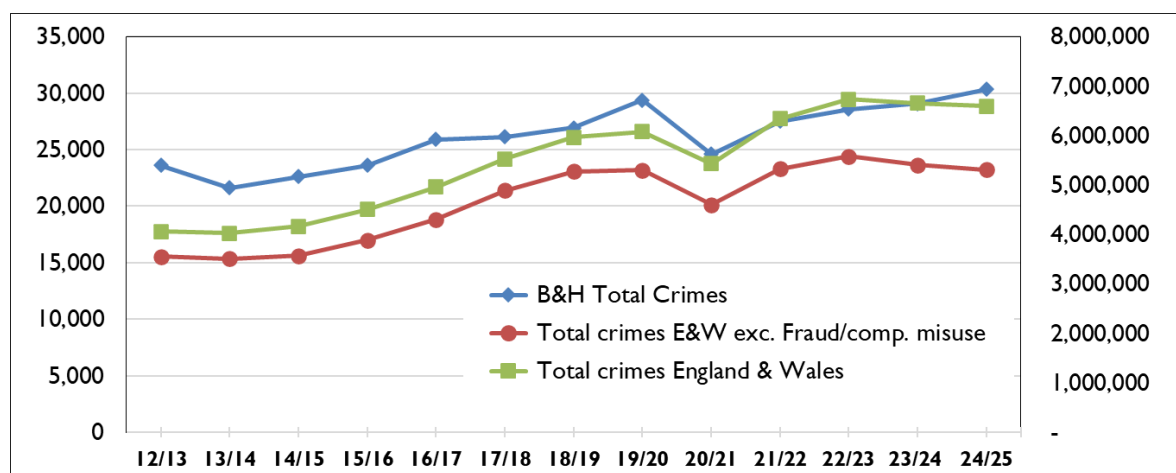
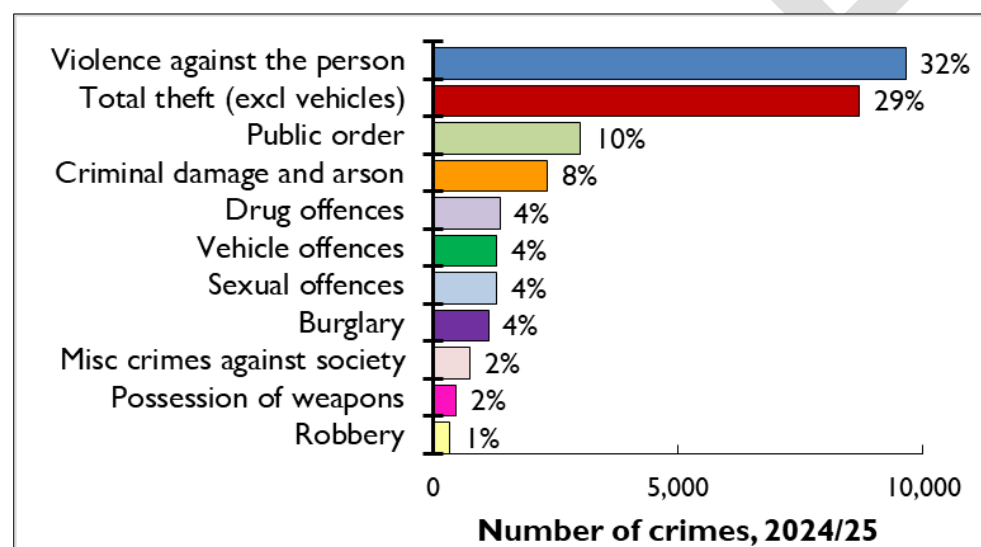


Figure 11 shows the different crime groups making up the total crime recorded in the city in 2024/25. Over the year, 32% of recorded crimes can be classified as violence against the person crimes, 29% total theft offences, 10% public order offences and 8% criminal damage/arson.

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

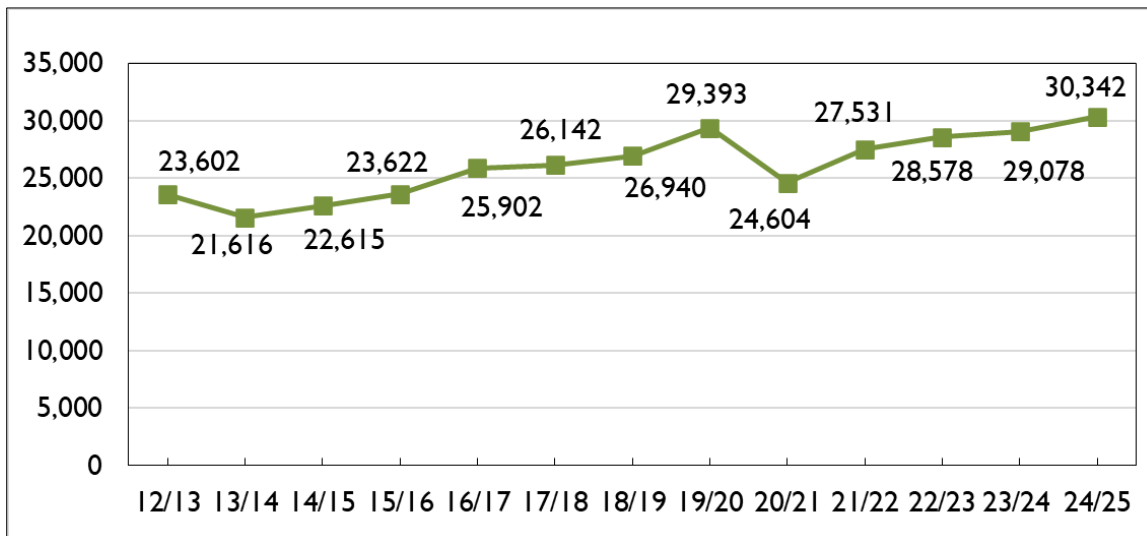


Compared with the previous two years, theft offences made up a larger proportion of total crimes in the city in 2024/25 (28.7% of crimes in 2024/25, 24.5% in 2022/23), as did drug offences (4.5% of crimes in 2024/25, 3.2% in 2022/23). **Appendix C: Crime statistics** provides more detail on the numbers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

Trends to 2024/25

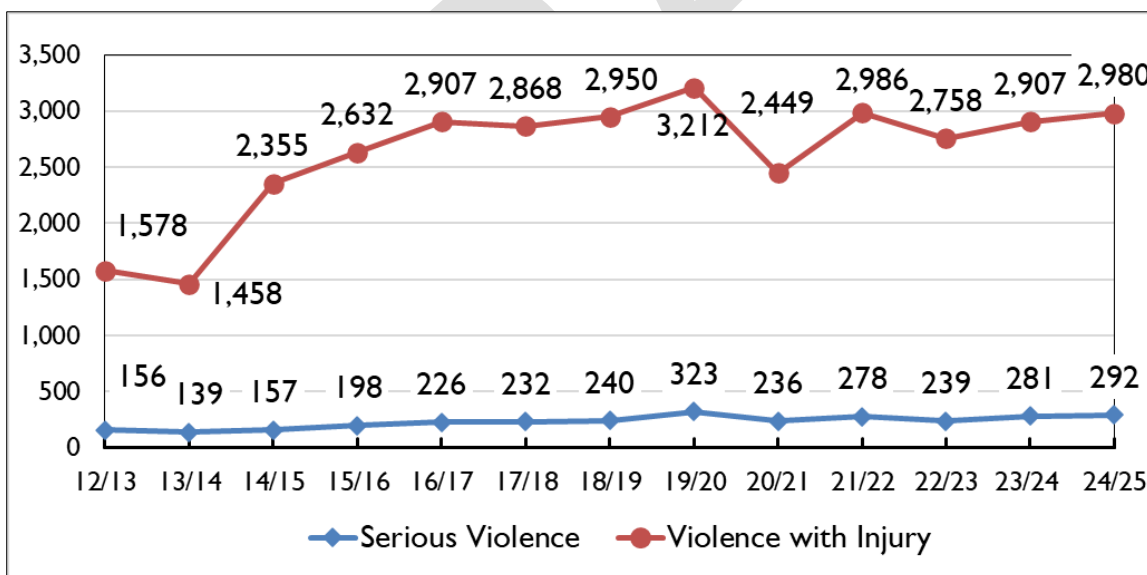
Figure 12 shows the long-term trend in police recorded crime data in Brighton & Hove between 2012/13 and 2024/25, sorted by various crime groups.

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.

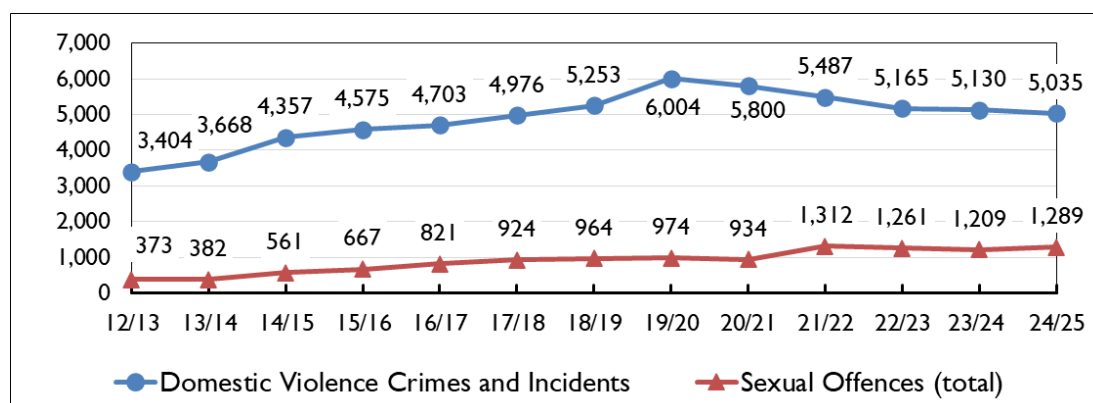


Trends in recorded violent crime in the city, as seen in **Figure 13**, have been similar to that of total crime. Since 2016/17, changes to recording practices were influenced by the Sussex Police response to an audit by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (now the HMICFRS)⁴⁶ and

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.

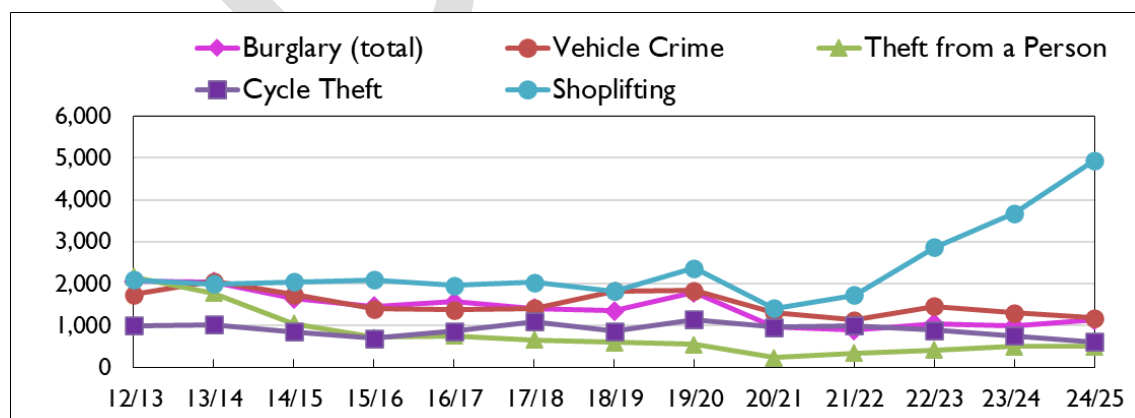
Figure 14 – trends in domestic violence and sexual offences in Brighton and Hove between 2012/13 and 2024/25.



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.



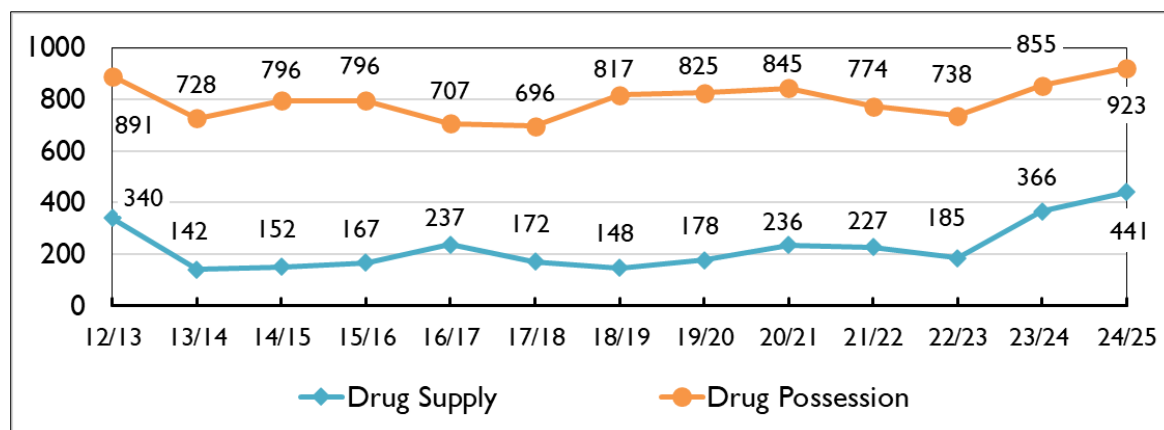
⁴⁷ [HMICFRS webpage - PEEL report for Sussex Police 2021/22.](#)

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.

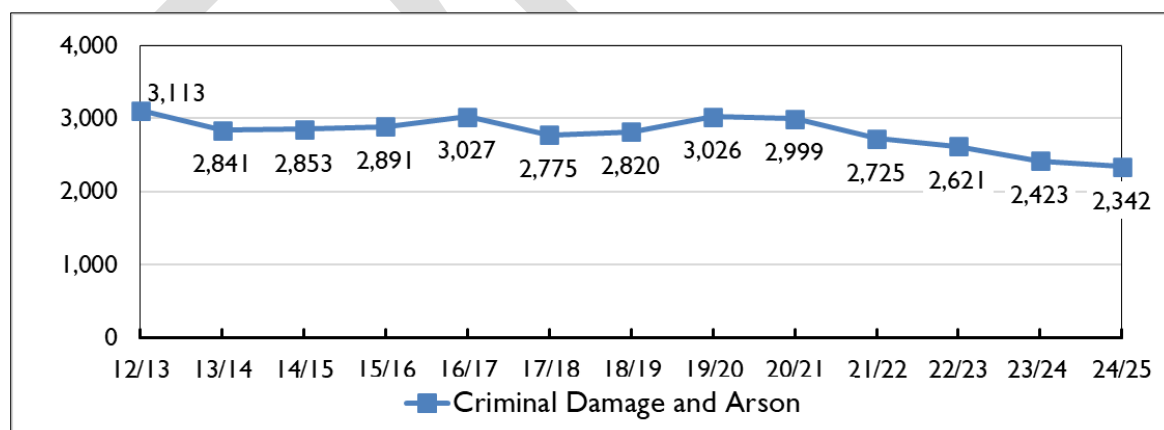


Figure 18 compares police recorded crimes in 2019/20 – the full year immediately before restrictions were placed on residents due to the Covid-19 pandemic - and 2024/25, the latest full year. Total recorded crimes were 3.2% higher in 2024/25, a long-term high; previously, 2019/20 had seen the most crimes 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.

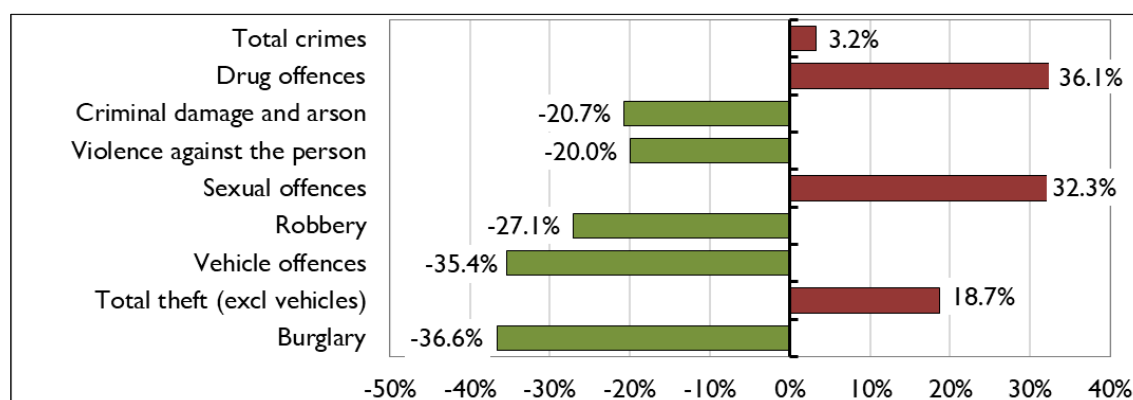
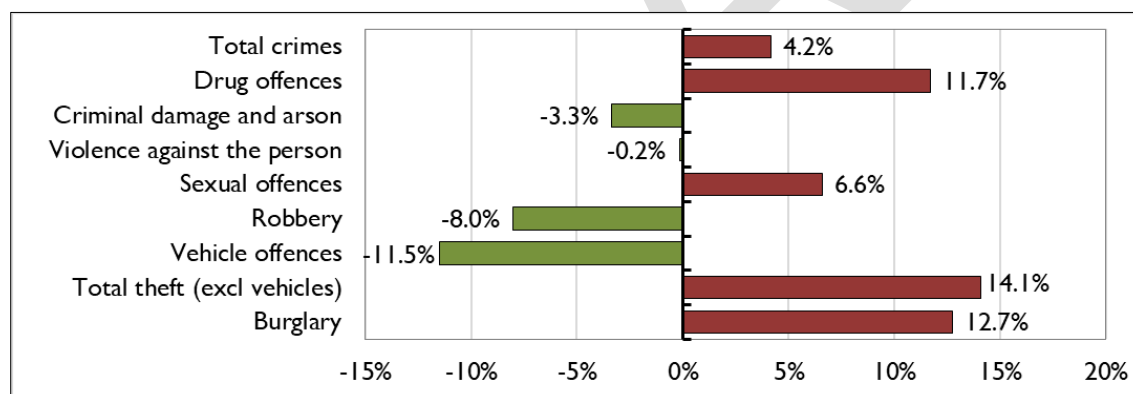


Figure 19 shows the percentage changes in the last year for the same major crime types, between 2023/24 and 2024/25. This shows a 4.2% increase in total crime, a 14% increase in non-vehicle-related theft, as well as increases in burglary (13%) and drug offences (12%). There were reductions seen in other 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

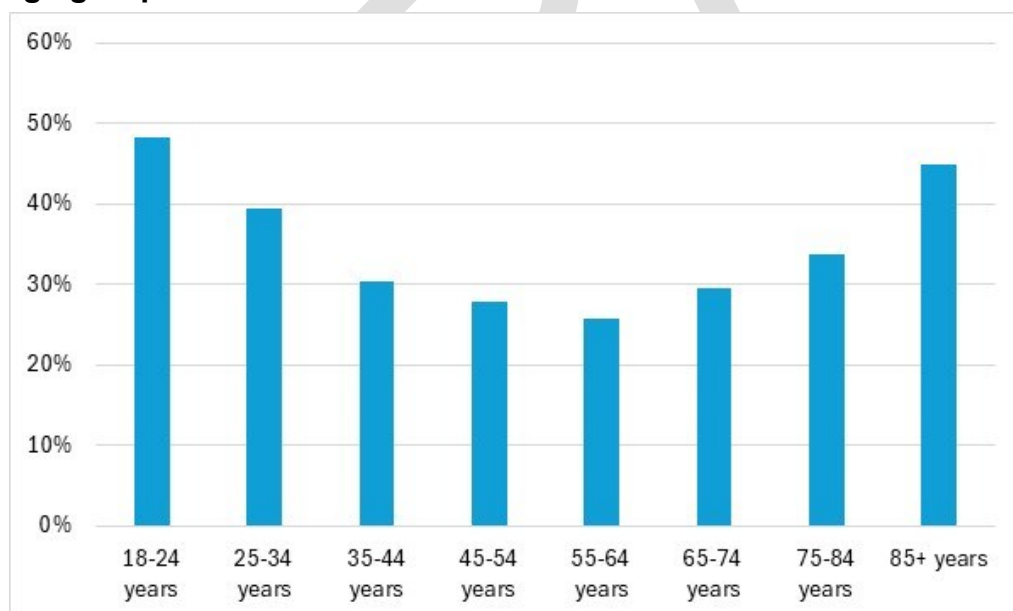
Adults

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**).

- 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.

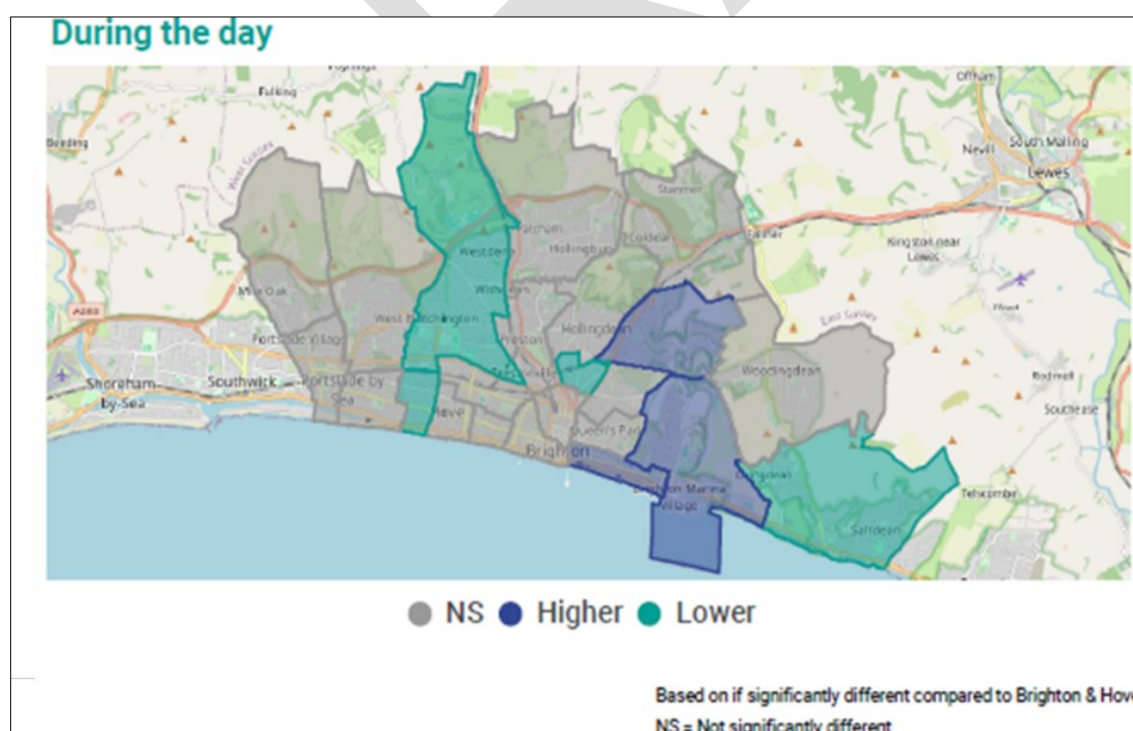
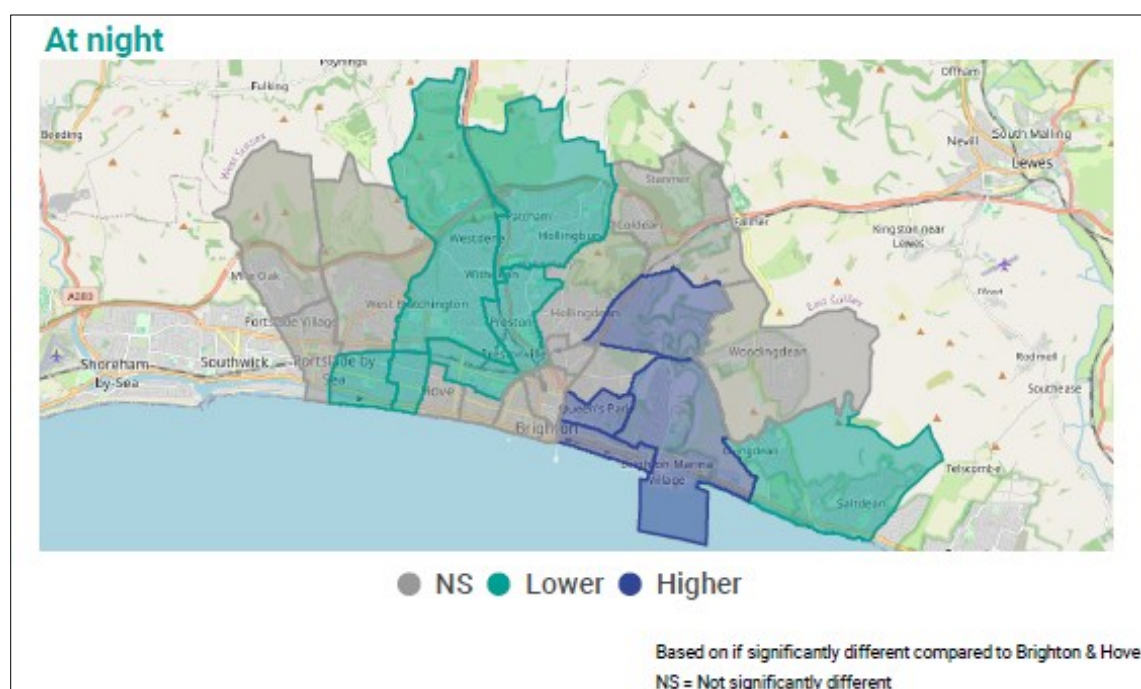


Figure 22 - proportion of respondents to the 2024 Health Counts Survey feeling unsafe walking in their local area at night, by ward.



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.](#)

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

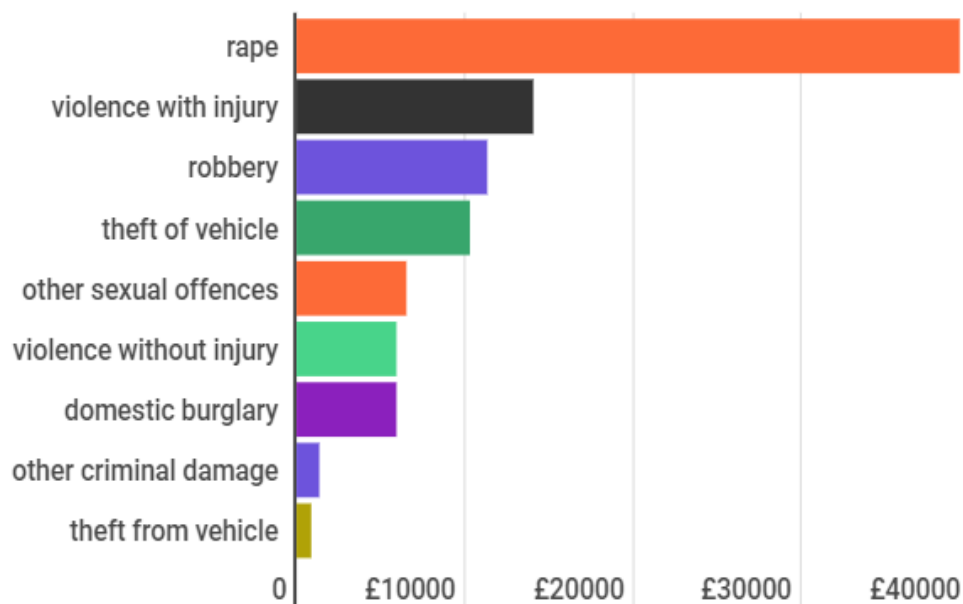
action, followed by improved police engagement (18%) and a stronger focus on the safety of women and girls (17%).

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.

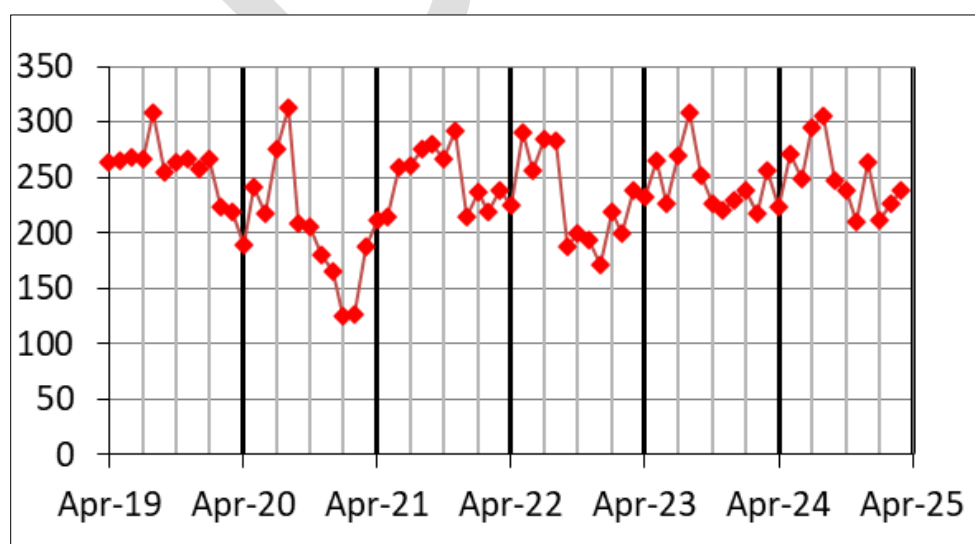
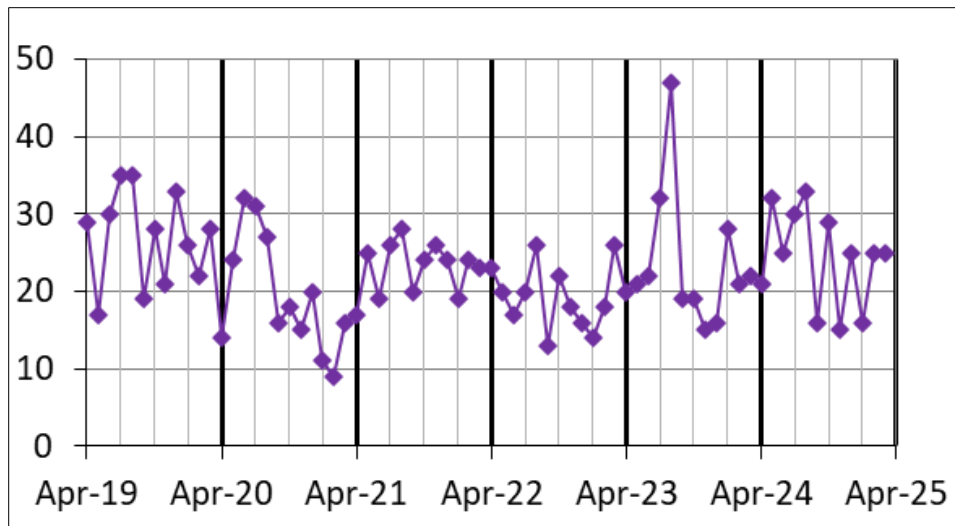


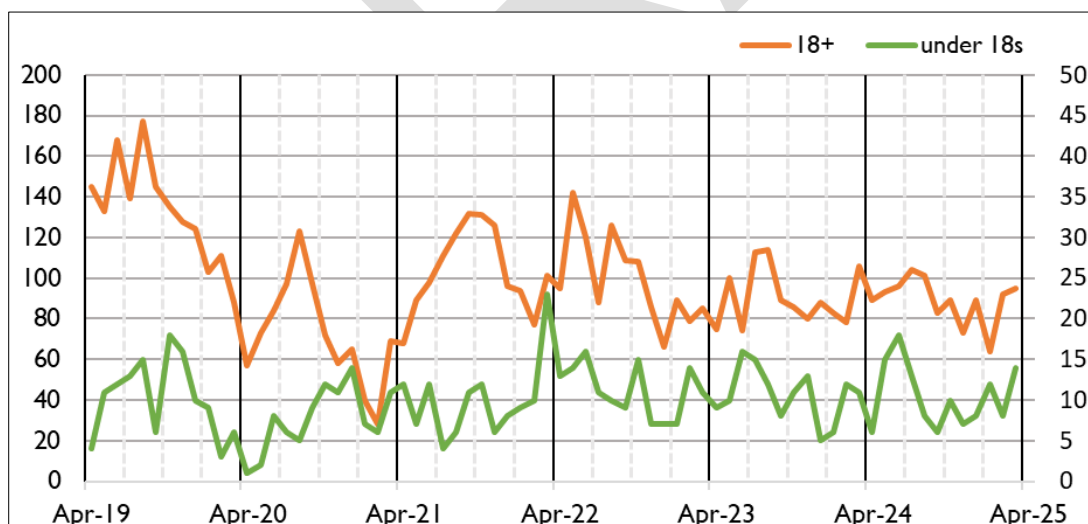
Figure 25 - Serious violence crimes, April 2019 to March 2025.



A&E Attendances

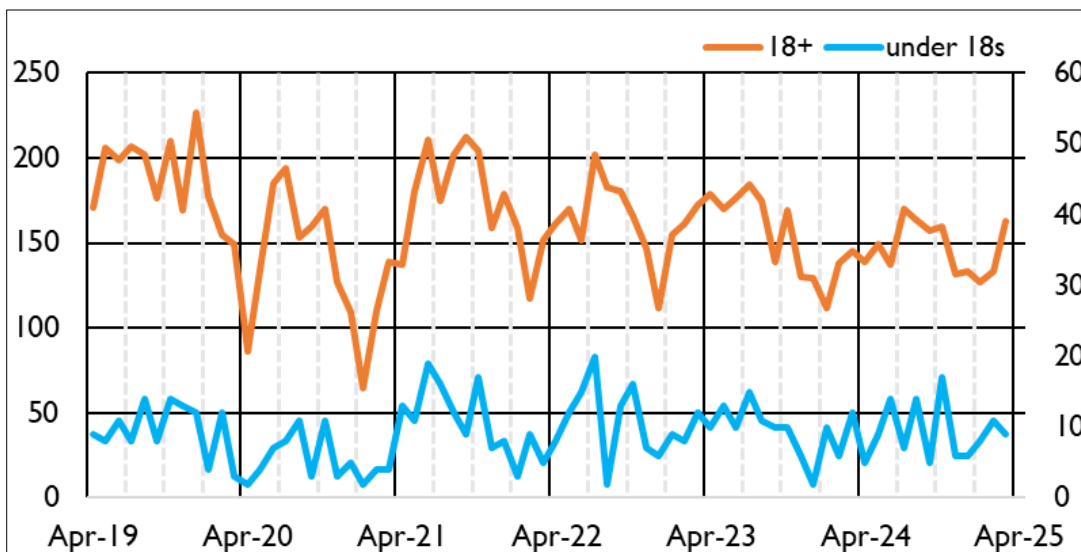
- In 2024/25 there were 3,035 attendances at A&E in Brighton & Hove hospitals⁶³ due to alcohol and/or assault, continuing a gradual decreasing trend in attendances for both reasons since 2021/22 when 3,535 were recorded. Among these, 1,193 were attendances due to assault, also part of a steady decreasing 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.

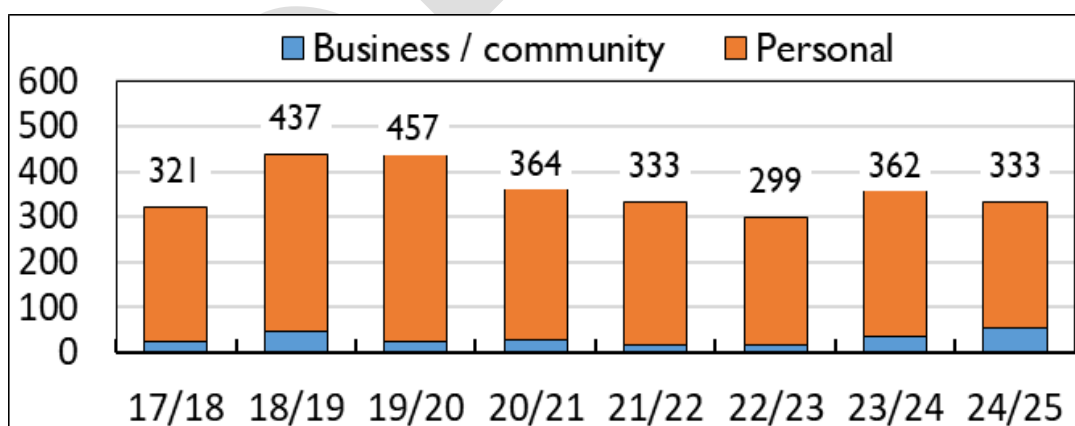
Figure 27 - at Accident and Emergency departments in Brighton & Hove due to alcohol, April 2019 to March 2025 (Symphony data).



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.

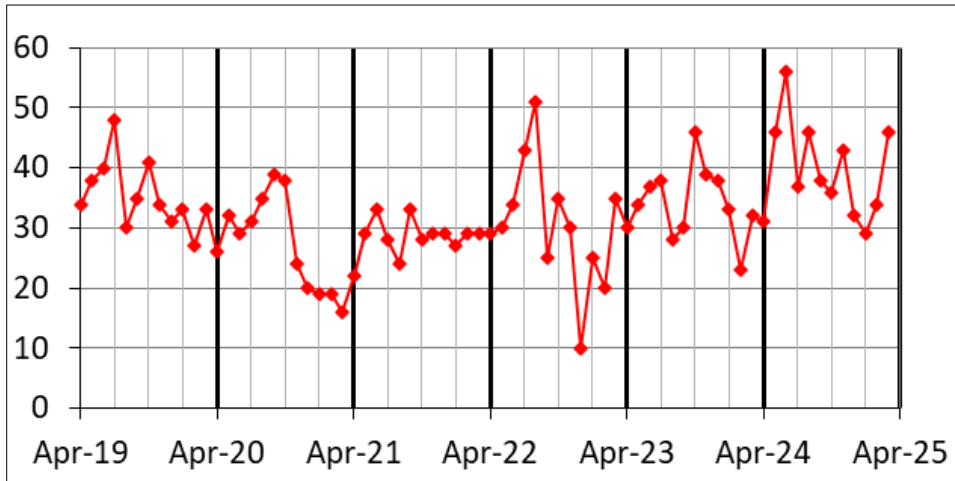


- Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) data showed a significant increase in robberies reported to it since 2021; following the 11 robberies reported to them in 2021, 38 were reported in 2022 and 59 in 2023, decreasing to 34 in 2024.

Carrying and use of weapons

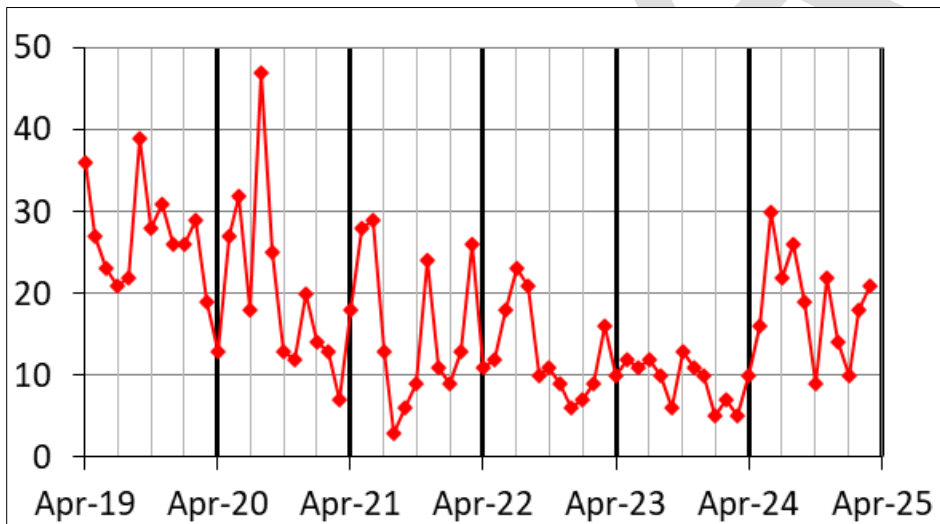
- There were 474 weapons possession crimes in 2024/25, 15% higher than the 411 recorded the previous year. This number is also 12% greater than the previous long-term high, when 424 were recorded in 2019/20.

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.

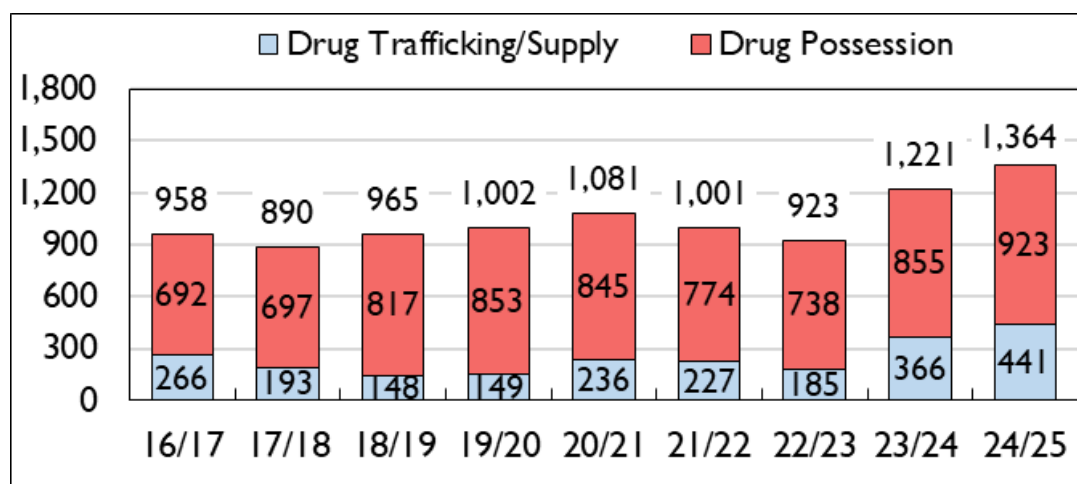


Drugs

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.

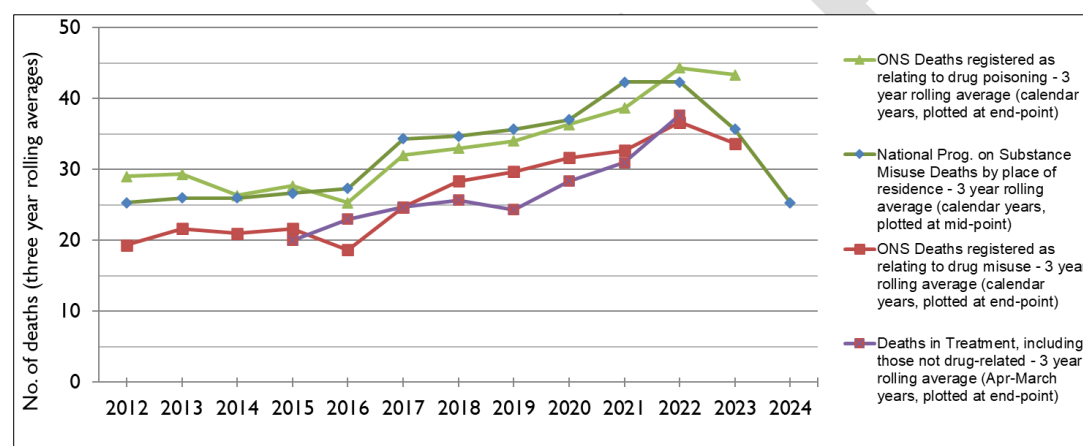
Figure 31 – police recorded drugs supply and drugs possession offences, 2014/15 to 2024/25.



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 at 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

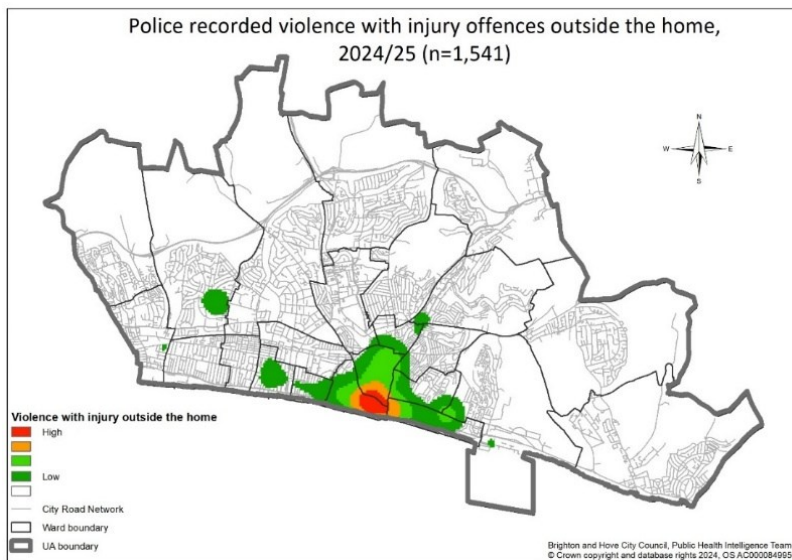
recorded), 67% of victims were male, 32% were female, 0.5% were transgender, and less than 0.5% had a victim sex or gender identity recorded as 'other' or 'indeterminate'⁶⁶.

- 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.

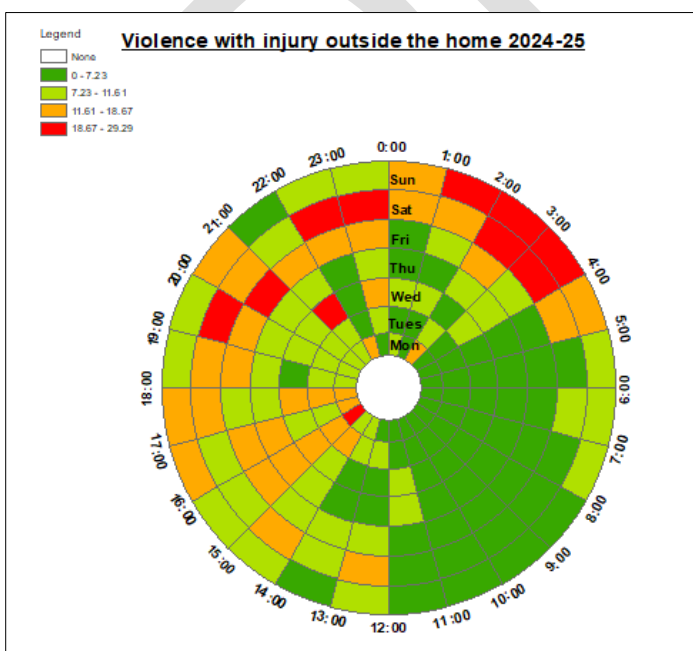
⁶⁷ Analysis counts victims rather than offences and will not include those who have been a repeat victim of this crime type within this 12 month period.

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.

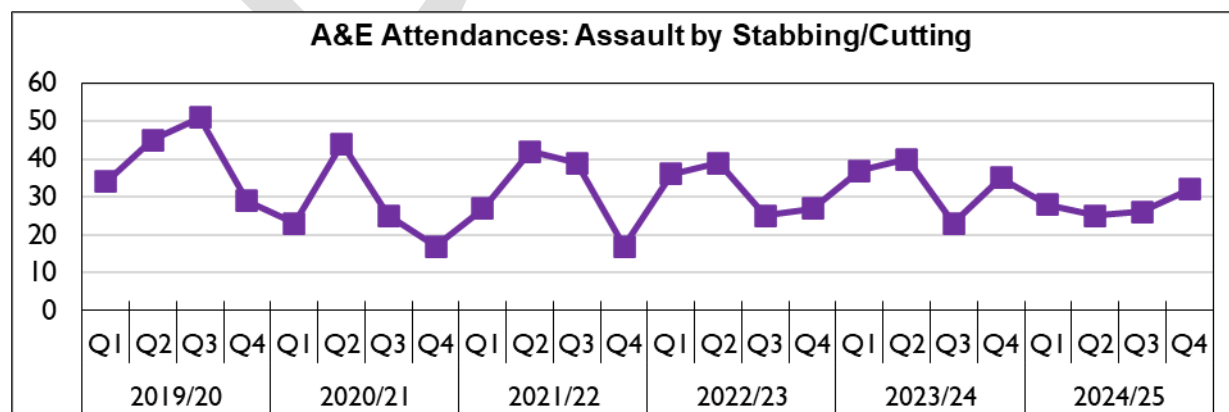
Mechanism	2024/25	2024/25 %	2023/24	2023/24 %	2022/23	2022/23 %
Blow from blunt object	67	9%	70	9%	68	8%
Blunt force / pushed	141	19%	146	19%	159	19%
Kicked with foot	41	6%	32	4%	62	7%
Punched with fist	282	38%	266	35%	309	36%
Stabbed	111	15%	135	18%	128	15%
Other	97	13%	101	13%	120	14%
Refused to disclose	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 of 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

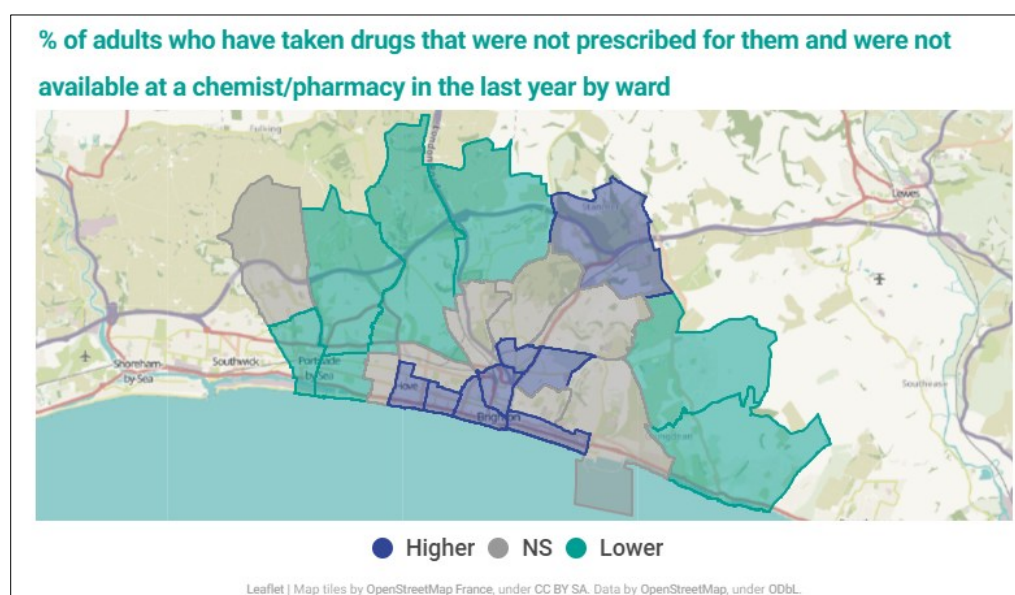
- The Health Counts survey⁶ in 2024 also asked respondents about drug use. One in five adults had taken drugs not prescribed for them and not available at a chemist or pharmacy in the last 12 months (20%). Another 3% preferred not to say. The question was slightly different in the 2012 Health Counts 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.

Figure 37 – map showing the percentage of adults having reported taken drugs not prescribed for them (and not available at a pharmacy) in the Health Counts Survey 2024.



Drug use in children and young people

- Brighton & Hove City Council's Safe and Well at School Survey (SAWSS), conducted in November and December 2023, asked students aged 11-18 whether if and how often they took any non-prescription drugs.
- The 2023 version of this survey showed 12.6% of all respondents aged 11 to 16 in secondary school said they had taken non-prescribed drugs. Certain demographic groups were identified as statistically significantly more likely to have reported having ever taken non-prescribed drugs:
 - Students who do not identify, or did not always identify, with the gender they were assigned at birth (16.6%).
 - Young carers (22.3%).
 - Students who identify as being from the LGB+ community (14.9%).
 - Students who were adopted (30.9%).
- The proportion of students aged 11 to 16 who had reported having taken non-prescription drugs was the highest in 2023 than in any of the four previous surveys, where 10% to 12.5% of students had reported doing so. All year groups except for Year 11 (aged 15 to 16, where the greatest proportion of secondary school students report having taken drugs but also shows the greatest year-on-year variability) saw substantial increases in the 2023 survey compared to the previous survey in 2021.

Resources and gaps

Resources available

- There are a range of statutory services in the city supporting efforts to reduce serious violence, drug and alcohol misuse and supply and the risks of exploitation. These include Sussex Police, Probation services, Court services, the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and the Home Office. The NHS provides support through its Social Work teams and Assessment and

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.

- 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.

- 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 (DARDS), 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.

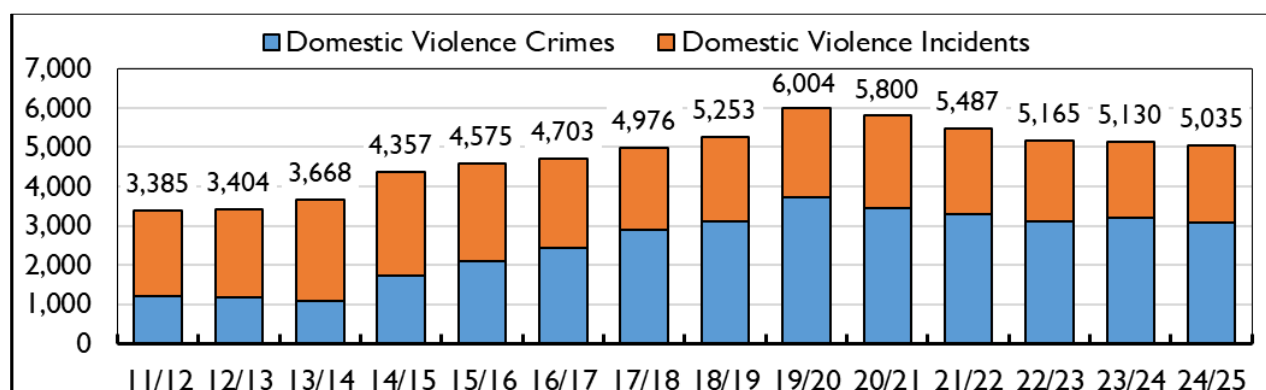
⁸¹ [Brighton & Hove City Council webpage - Strategy and Action Plan - Preventing and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, 2025 to 2028.](#)

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.](#)

- **Equinox⁹³** 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.](#)

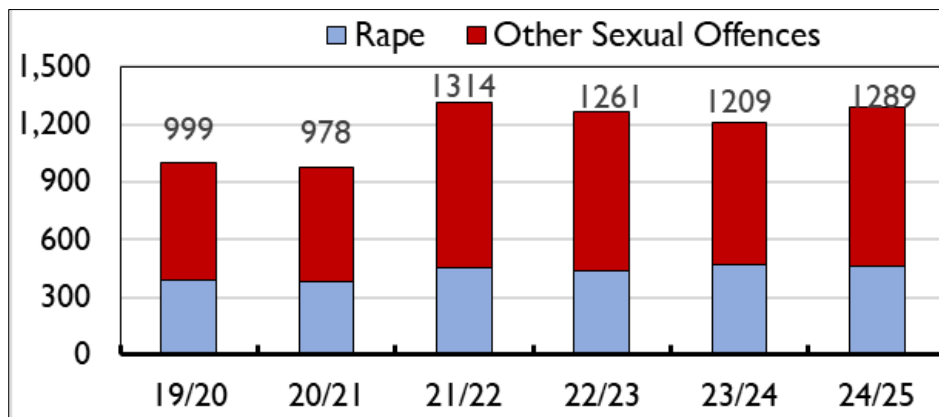
¹⁰⁰ [Cranstoun - Men & Masculinity programme webpage.](#)

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.

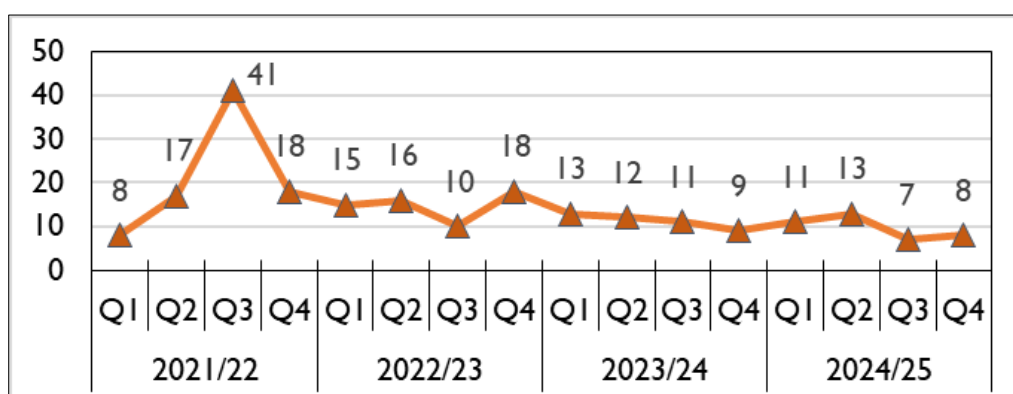


- The Crime Survey for England and Wales in 2024/25 estimated that 3% of women and 0.7% of men across England and Wales had experienced some form of sexual assault during the year ending March 2025. Using mid-2024 population estimates, this would equate to 3,766 women and 826 men in the city in 2024/25. 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.

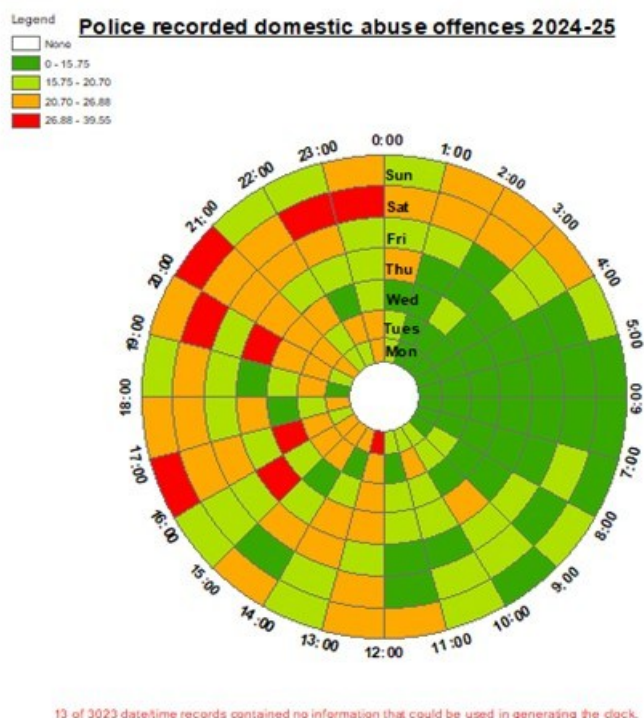
Nature of the problem

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

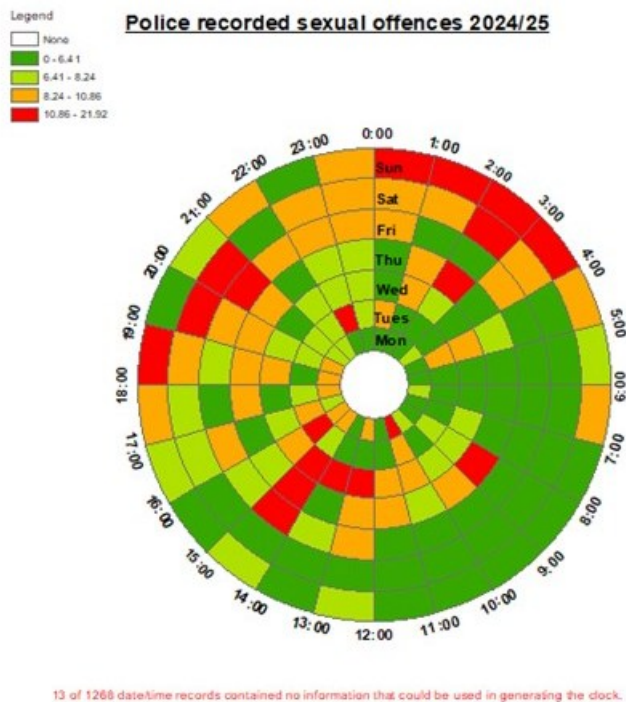
- Police data shows that perpetrators of domestic abuse locally, as nationally, are overwhelmingly male. Sussex Police currently record victim sex and gender identity in a combined field, and as a result it is not possible to separate sex from gender identity in analysis. 79% of offenders charged locally 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.

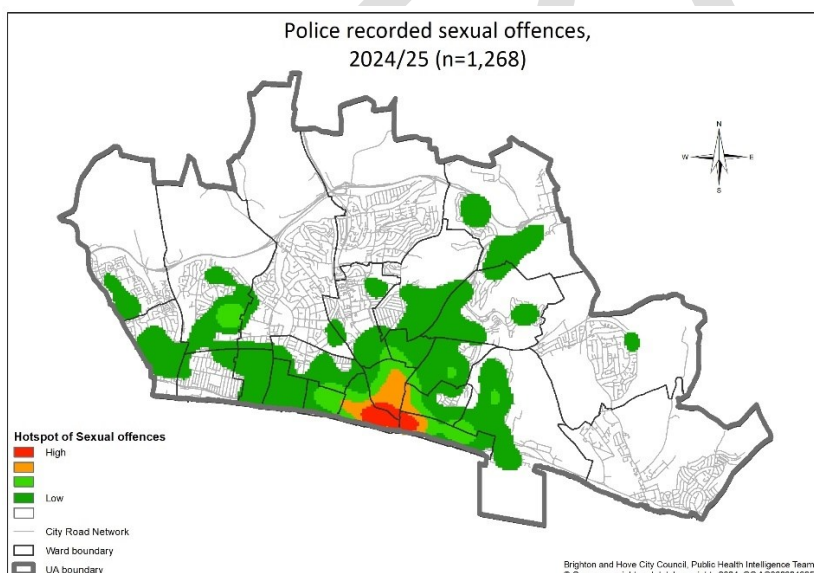
¹⁰⁵ [Changing Futures Sussex webpage.](#)

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 DARDs through the DARD 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.](#)

****DRAFT****

- 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

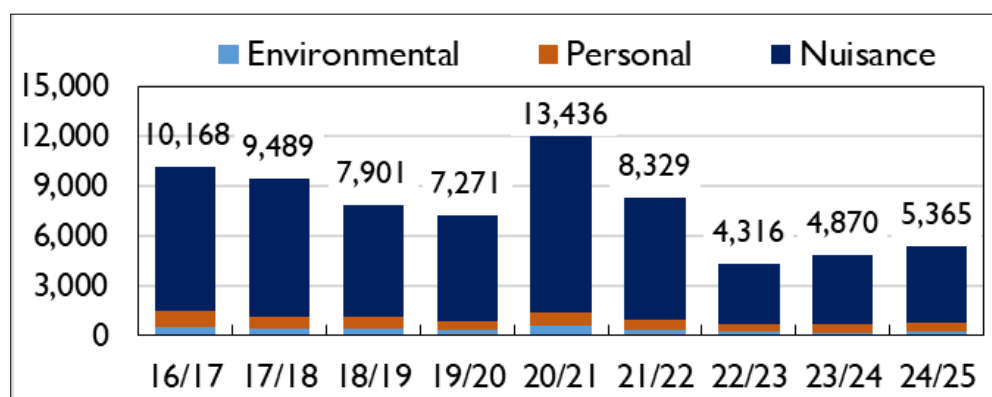
- The Community Safety Team moved into the new Families, Children and Wellbeing directorate on 1st January 2025 as part of the new Community Cohesion Team; the re-organisation resulted in a short-term constriction on capacity to respond to reported ASB.
- We have continued to see an increase in overt 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.

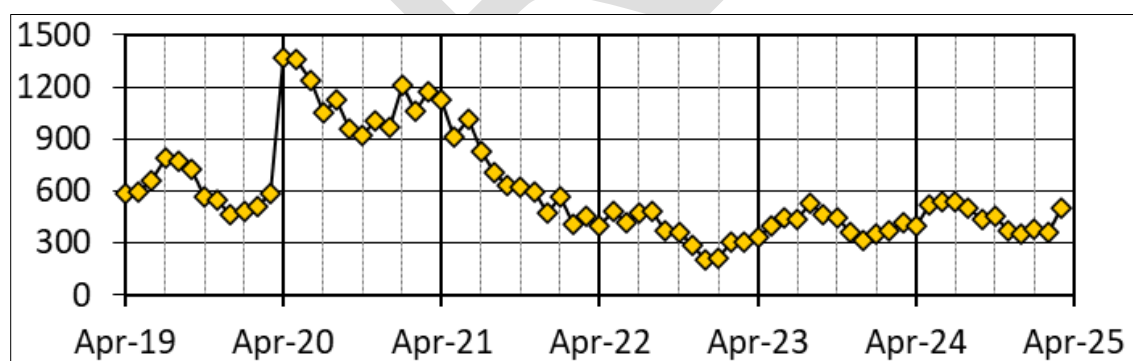
Figure 44 - ASB incidents recorded by Sussex Police, by type, 2016/17 to 2024/25.



- 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.



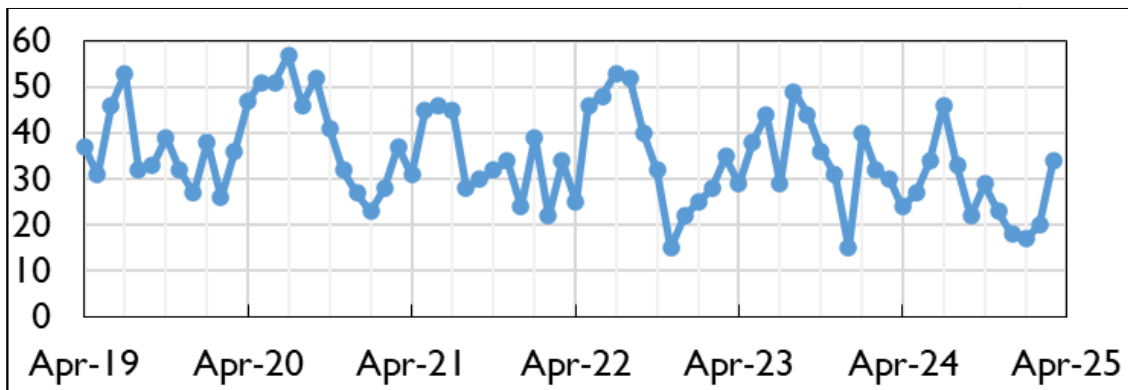
Police recorded criminal damage and arson

- 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.

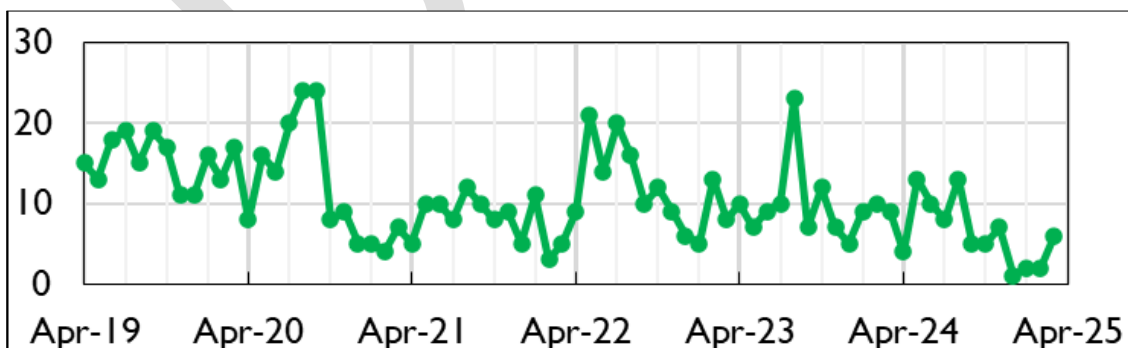
Figure 46 - total reports of ASB to the Community Safety Casework Team, April 2019 to March 2025.



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.

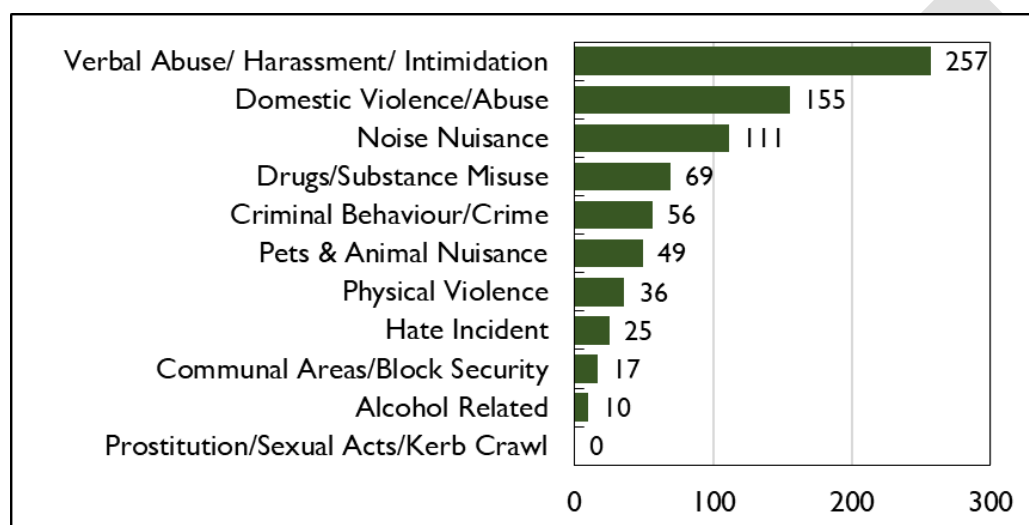


- The Business Crime Reduction Partnership recorded 169 reports of begging affecting businesses in 2024/25, of which 143 were recorded as persistent in nature.

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**.

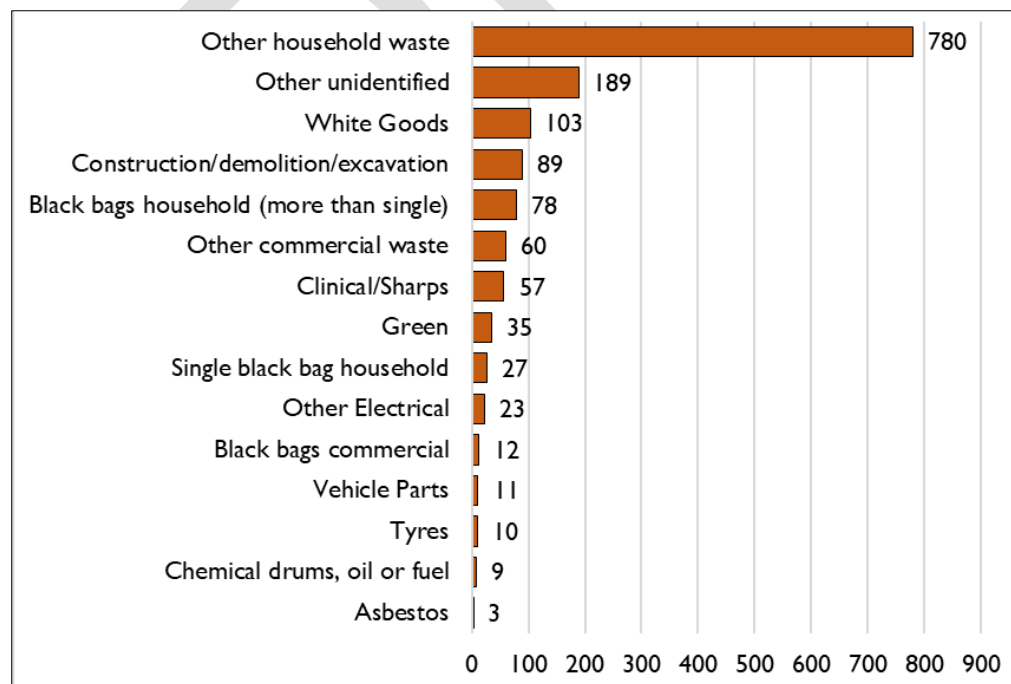
Table 1 - selected characteristics of Council Housing tenants involved in ASB as of August 2025, compared with all council housing residents and households in the 2021 Census.

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.

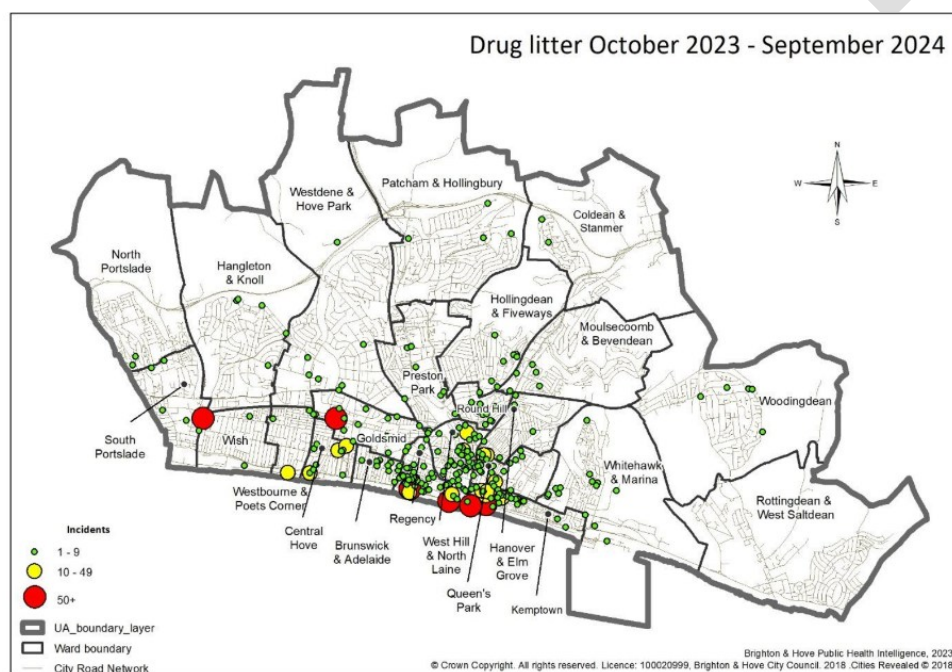
Drug litter found by council services

- 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.

- 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.](#)

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.

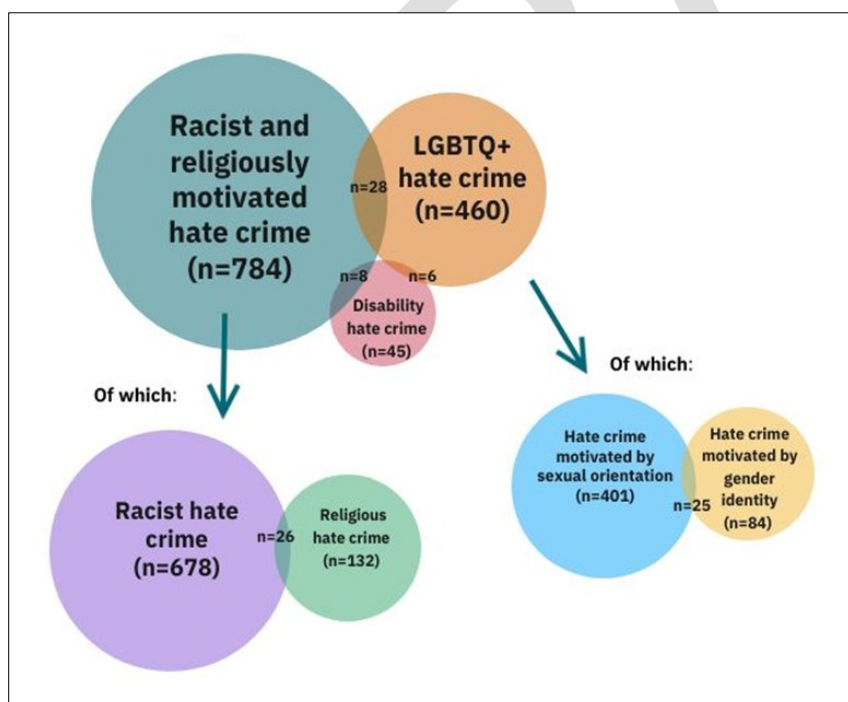
Overview of scale and trends

- 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.

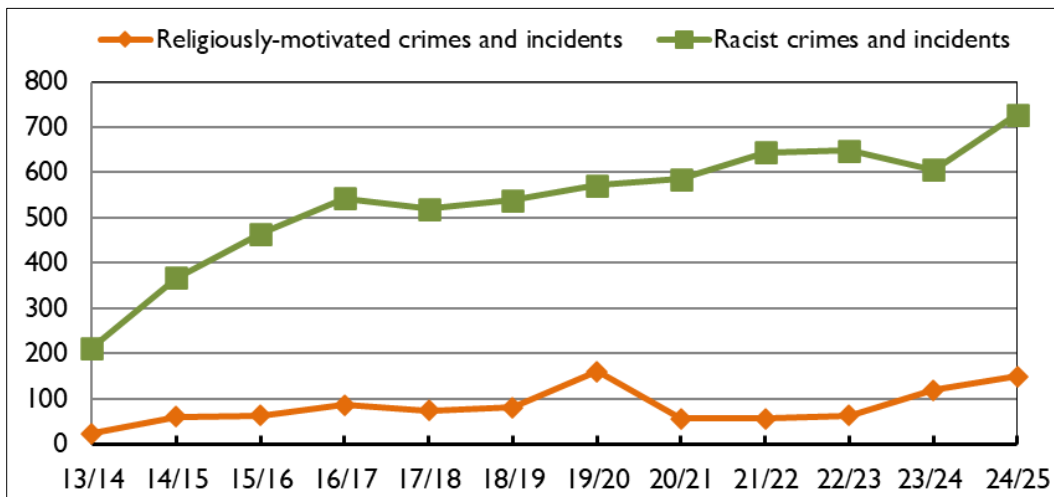


Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents

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

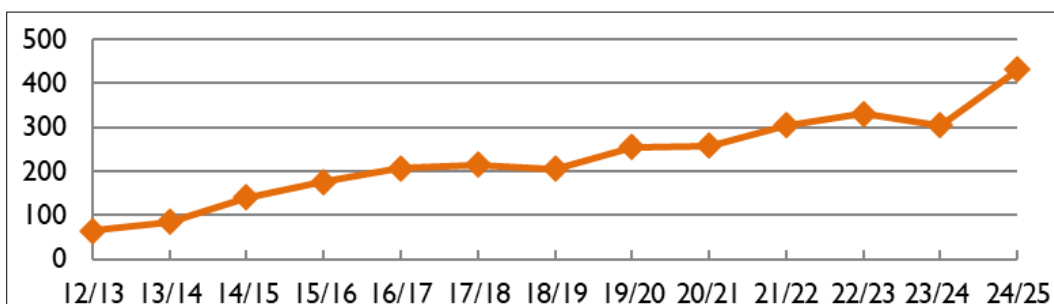
- In 2024/25 the Casework Team recorded 22 incidents of hate due to race, significantly fewer than the 43 recorded the previous year and 55 incidents in 2022/23. In most previous years, between 40 and 60 such incidents had been recorded.
- The Casework Team also recorded 5 incidents due to religion or 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

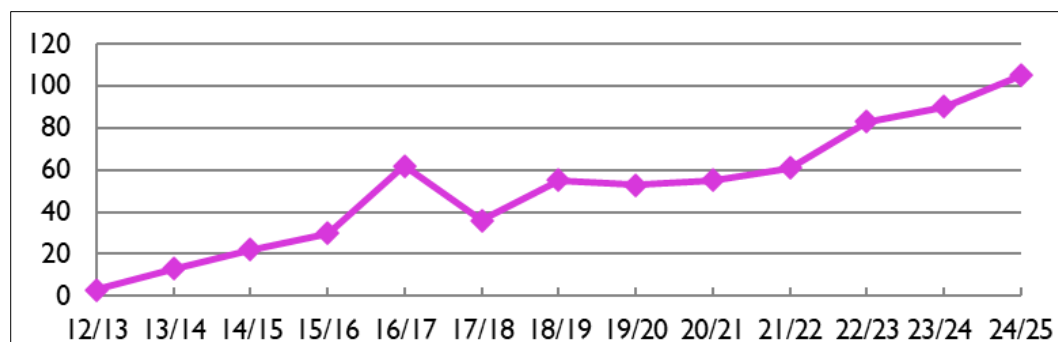
- There were 431 sexuality-motivated crimes and incidents in 2024/25, more than 40% higher than the 305 recorded in the previous year and continuing a longer-term increasing trend.

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

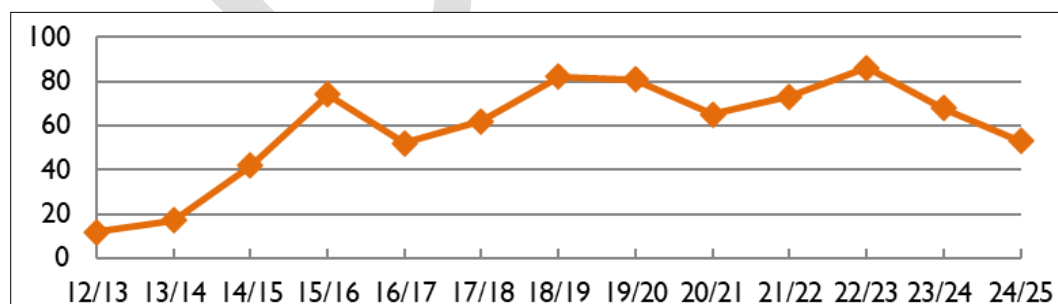
- In 2024/25, the Casework Team recorded 12 hate incidents motivated by sexual orientation, similar to the 14 incidents in the previous year and the 10 recorded in 2022/23. Since 2020/21, numbers of recorded incidents motivated by sexual orientation have fluctuated between 10 and 15 in number.
- The 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 practice, 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.

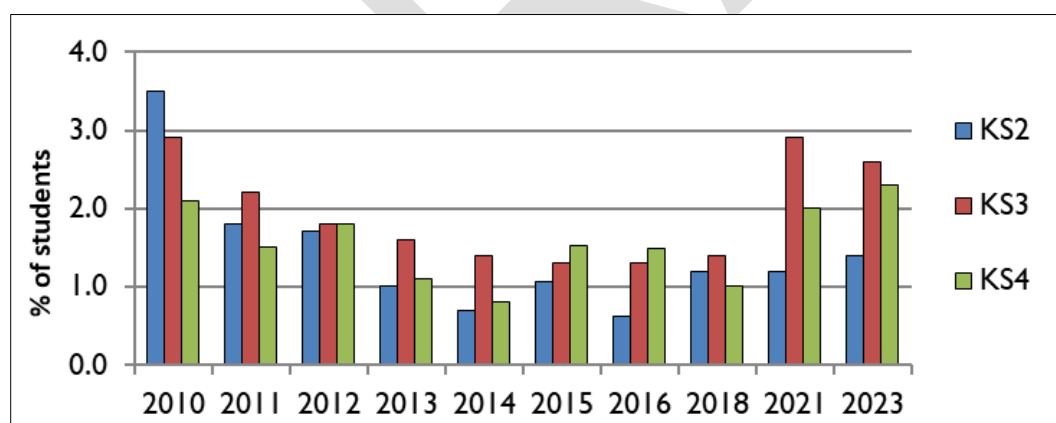
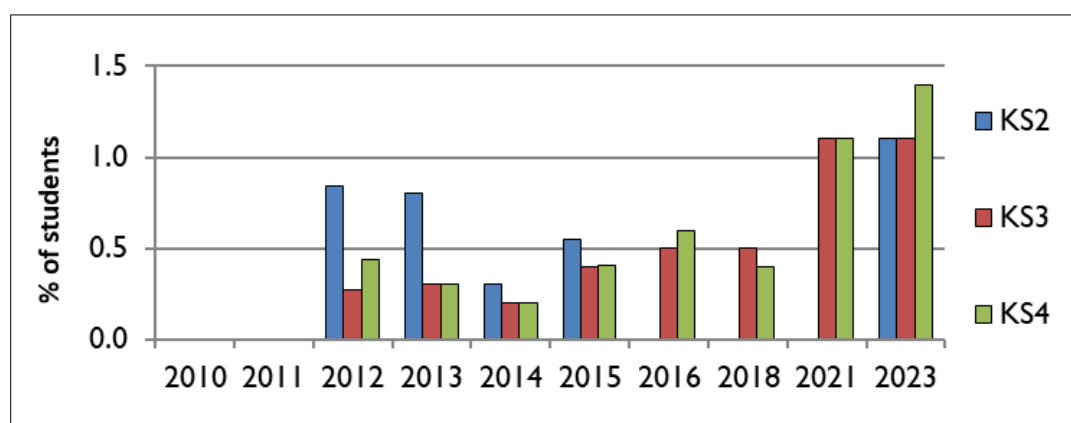


Figure 57 - percentage of SAWSS respondents reporting transphobic bullying by year, by survey year and Key Stage.



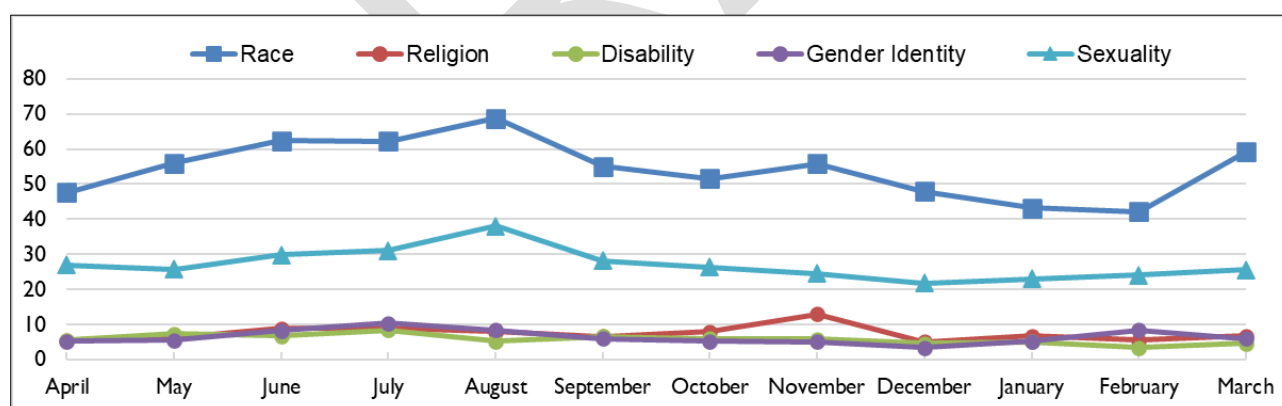
- Particularly in relation to sexual orientation and transphobic bullying, the latest two editions of the survey (2021 and 2023) have seen significant increases in the proportion of pupils reporting being bullied, shown in
- **Figure 56** and **Figure 57** respectively. These followed gradual decreases 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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 extremism 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

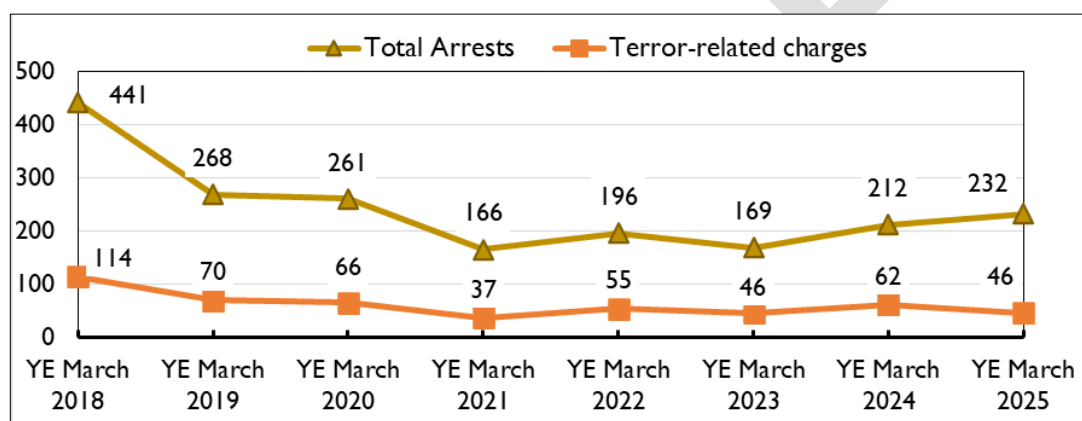
- The city is not a Prevent priority area, and mainstream budget continues to be identified for Prevent delivery to manage strategic risks for the city within reduced resources. Since 2009, the Community Safety team continues to deliver on Prevent in partnership with our communities.
- As part of the 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

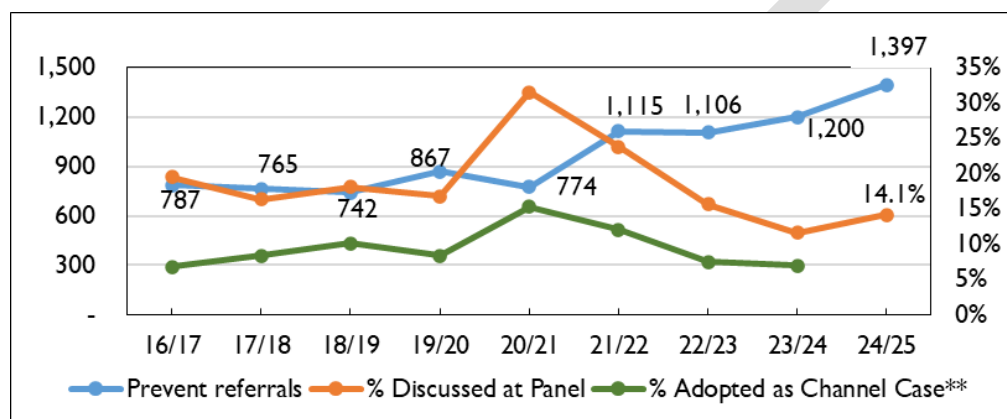
- Since the introduction of the Prevent duty in 2015, just under 6,000 people have been supported to move away from violent ideologies that could have resulted in harm to themselves, or others, or taken them down a pathway to terrorist offending.
- In the year to March 2025 there were 8,778 referrals 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-terrorist¹⁴⁴/ 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

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'.

- 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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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

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Brighton & Hove
Community Safety Partnership

