Oversight and Governance
Chief Executive's Department
Plymouth City Council
Ballard House
Plymouth PL1 3BJ

Please ask for Jamie Sheldon
T 01752 668000
E jamie.sheldon@plymouth.gov.uk
www.plymouth.gov.uk
Published 01 December 2023

CABINET

Monday 11 December 2023
2.00 pm
Council House, Plymouth

Members:
Councillor Evans OBE, Chair
Councillor Laing, Vice Chair
Councillors Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Haydon, Lowry and Penberthy.

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.

This meeting will be webcast and available on-line after the meeting. By entering the Warspite room, councillors are consenting to being filmed during the meeting and to the use of the recording for the webcast.

The Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with authority's published policy.

You can watch any of our webcast meetings on YouTube. For further information on attending Council meetings and how to engage in the democratic process please follow this link - Get Involved

Tracey Lee
Chief Executive

Cabinet

Agenda

Part I (Public Meeting)

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence submitted by Cabinet Members.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cabinet Members will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of items on this agenda.

3. Minutes **(Pages 1 - 10)**

To sign and confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2023.

4. Questions from the Public

To receive questions from the public in accordance with the Constitution.

Questions, of no longer than 50 words, can be submitted to the Democratic Support Unit, Plymouth City Council, Ballard House, Plymouth, PL1 3BJ, or email to democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk. Any questions must be received at least five clear working days before the date of the meeting.

5. Chair's Urgent Business

To receive reports on business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

6. Leader's Announcements **(Verbal Report)**

7. Cabinet Member Updates **(Verbal Report)**

8. LGA Update **(Verbal Report)**

9. Recommendation from the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Response **(Pages 11 - 14)**

10. Corporate Plan Performance Report, Quarter Two 2023/24 (Pages 15 - 60)

11. Ageing Well Update (Pages 61 - 82)

12. Dental Task Force update (Pages 83 - 90)

13. Serious Violence Duty (Pages 91 - 222)

14. Housing Business Case: Purchase of Temporary Accommodation (Pages 223 - 248)

15. Exempt Business

To consider passing a resolution under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

PART II (PRIVATE MEETING)

16. Housing Business Case: Purchase of Temporary Accommodation (Pages 249 - 270)

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Cabinet

Monday 13 November 2023

PRESENT:

Councillor Evans OBE, in the Chair.
Councillor Dann, Vice Chair (for this meeting).
Councillors Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Haydon, Lowry and Penberthy.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Laing

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 4.20 pm.

Note: The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast of the City Council meeting at www.plymouth.gov.uk. At a future meeting, the Council will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

57. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

58. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

59. **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from members of the public.

60. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chairs urgent business.

61. **Leader's Announcements**

The Leader made the following announcements:

a) The Council, Plymouth University and Freeport led a successful bid to become one of Innovate UK's national innovation launch pads, covering Digital Health, Net Zero, Agri-tech, Food and Maritime and Marine;

b) Working with Plymouth University, the Economic Development team organised the city's first ever Offshore Floating Wind Conference which helped build on the work done to develop the first ever Port Strategy;

c) A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed with Brittany Ferries and Associated British Ports which would see Millbay become a Net Zero port by

2030;

d) National Lottery Trustees investigation had reached its final stage and would go to the Board in December for decision, funding a £22 million project to transform the Mount Batten Centre and Peninsula, Tinside, Mount Edgcumbe, Firestone Bay and Ernesettle Creek;

e) A Marine Engagement Programme would start in January including, a large schools programme, multiple community-based programmes, major nature boost projects, heritage interpretation and a large digital project;

f) Plymouth would be hosting the UK's largest outdoor promoter, Live Nation, on the Hoe;

g) 25,000 people attended Bonfire Night celebrations on Plymouth Hoe, which had been brought back as part of the cost of living action plan;

h) The Box had had 660,000 visitors since its opening, and over half-term there were 11,000 visitors, which was a 20% increase from 2022;

i) A film by British Artist, John Akomfrah would be launched on 29 November 2023;

j) Richard Pyshorn gave a presentation at the Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee about the inspirational work being done with veterans;

A video was presented regarding the Armada Way consultation

62. **Cabinet Member Updates**

Councillor Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Cemeteries and Crematoria) provided the following update:

a) Libraries would start to sell a small selection of stationary items including pens, envelopes, bulldog clips and document holders and the additional income would be used for the library service;

b) 'Donate a Coat' programme would be added to the library service in which the public would donate a coat to someone in need, coat racks with the donated articles would be shown at the Central Library and Plympton, Plymstock, St Budeaux and Southway libraries with a book and a Christmas Card in the pocket for vulnerable people to take;

c) The library service would also be offering 11 spaces across the city for keeping people warm and to alleviate loneliness;

d) 16 Days of Activism for Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) would start on 25th November, starting with the Orange Plymouth Peace Walk;

Councillor Dann (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Sport, Leisure and HR & OD) provided the following updates:

e) £21 million would be invested into the Brickfields sports site with three planning applications submitted, one for Brickfields, one for the hockey pitch at Stoke Damerel and one for Petanque;

f) 2500 people had still accessed the cost of living hub over the past four weeks proving the need for welcoming spaces;

g) Talk Money week took place to encourage people to access financial help rather than struggling;

h) Warm Spaces Programme had stared and encouraged smaller places to apply to the Household Support fund to access funding which would help open community spaces for people to go and keep warm;

i) Third Food Club had been opened, where the public would pay a small amount to be a member to access good quality food at a more reasonable price and the Public could receive lessons in food and how to manage a budget;

j) Plymouth Active Leisure came second for the Best Marketing Campaign category at the UK Active Awards;

k) The Fit and Fed programme offered 1,966 family swims at the Life Centre during October half term;

l) The Life Centre offered numerous events including youth climbing series, swim leagues, a Plymouth Raider's basketball match and a boxing event at the sports hall.

Councillor Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) provided the following update:

m) Adult Safeguarding Awareness week would take place 20 – 24 November 2023 and would include the following: partnership representatives spending time in the City's health and wellbeing hubs, raising awareness of people's experiences and signposting;

n) A video would be posted highlighting safeguarding issues that adults may face and how help and support could be provided, focusing on abuse, neglect, wellbeing, homelessness, and promoting the message: 'Everyone had the right to live their lives free from violence, fear and abuse'.

Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities) provided the following update:

o) Plymouth City Council's Cabinet Advisory Group on Child Poverty would look at longer term solutions to the Cost of Living Crisis and how they would be

integrated into long term work on tackling poverty within the city;

p) Ten years ago Plymouth was awarded status as a Social Enterprise City, being the first Social Enterprise City in the UK and had recently received positive feedback about how supportive the Council and Administration had been regarding Social Enterprise in Plymouth;

q) Special thanks was given to The Rank Foundation for investing £5.75 million in Social Enterprise development in the city over the past seven years;

r) Meetings held with the private rented sector had been replaced with meetings with Southwest Landlords Association, focusing on issues such as damp and mould, pest control in houses of multiple occupancy (HMO), and dealing with anti-social behaviour;

s) It was agreed that over a period of 15 months the Southwest Landlords Association would be carrying a substantial number of articles from Plymouth City Council in their newsletter;

t) Literature regarding legislative changes had been distributed to landlords to ensure they were up to date prior to license renewal;

u) Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates were too low to meet the cost of renting in Plymouth, which meant there were no properties to let at the LHA rate and so more people had approached the Council as homeless or threatened with homelessness;

v) A Housing Taskforce had been set up with a recovery plan to try and bring impetus from across the Council into providing solutions into the crisis, meaning there had been reduced numbers of households in Bed and Breakfasts;

w) The Council had worked with Plymouth Alliance to support them by providing loans to enable them to take on more accommodation to help those most vulnerable, including a loan to both Plymouth Access to Housing and Young Devon to support an additional 20 units of accommodation;

x) A bid for additional money had been submitted through the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme that would see approximately 80 additional unit of accommodation brought online.

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) provided the following update:

y) A consultation drop-in session would take place at the Guildhall on 22 November 2023 from 12pm to 7pm and would be open to all in the local community to hear questions and views on the proposed development of the Community Diagnostic Centre at Colin Campbell Court.

63. **LGA Update**

The Leader introduced the item and highlighted the following points:

a) The Local Government Association (LGA) had promoted a smoke free society, highlighting issues around vaping and the litter that had come from it, as well as the public health issues that had arisen.
b) Pressures in Children's Social Care had been felt through Council's nationally as costs had increased by 13.5% across the country;

c) LGA members reported a 20% increase in Council budgets to support homelessness;

d) The LGA had said the Government needed to expand the list of accepted ID documents to remove barriers to voting as the ID changes at the prior election caused disadvantages to certain groups of people.

Councillor Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) added:

e) Professor Whitty (Medical Officer of Great Britain) had confirmed money would be made available to support the vaping issues.

64. **Finance and Capital Monitoring Report Month 6**

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

a) There was a net forecast overspend for quarter two of £4.766 million which had decreased from £7.5 million in quarter one;

b) Children's Services projected overspend was £6.138 million which equated to an additional cost close to 10% of the budget and was not sustainable;

c) David Northey (Interim Section 151 Officer) had worked closely with the Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) who had chaired the Children's Services Transition Board to ensure children would get the care they required alongside ensuring the council's finances would remain robust;

d) Adult Social Care had an overspend of £3.7 million which hadn't increased since quarter one;

e) There had been a significant increase of £1.5 million in home to school SEND public transport;

f) Homelessness had a projected an overspend of £2.423 million pounds since the beginning of the 2023-24 financial year;

g) £5.86 million of budget savings had been identified corporately which helped to offset the pressure which came from specific areas of the council;

h) The original saving targets within budget were £23 million and from period seven the projected forecast for savings were for £19 million, the remaining £4 million

to be saved would hopefully be achieved in the coming months;

i) The Capital Forecast Budget for 2023-28 had increased from £5.57 million to £6.29 million for the five year period;

j) The Capital programme had a substantial increase to include £1.3 million for Plymouth and South Devon Freeport Terminal Development, £2.98 million for Tinside pool, the National Marine Park and other Marine projects, and a further £8.64 million for the Freeport.

David Northey (Interim Section 151 Officer) added:

k) The Capital section of the report would go forward to Council at the next meeting on 20 November 2023.

Cabinet agreed to –

1. Note the forecast revenue monitoring position at Period 6 as set out in this report in the sum of £4.766m;

2. Note the Capital Budget 2023-2028 is revised to £629.924m as shown in Table 1 and agreed to recommend these amendments to Full Council for approval.

65. **Draft Budget 2024 - 25**

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

a) National inflation, energy costs, increased demands, rising social care costs, homelessness had all continued to increase and therefore had a significant impact on setting the budget;

b) Additional allowance had been made in the budget to ensure there was adequate funding to repair potholes and keep the roads safe;

c) Additional funding had also been allocated to grass cutting due to the significant number of complaints received;

d) The council would have a shortfall of £2.358 million of funding in 2024-25 which would need to be closed;

e) The Commitments made in the Labour Council Manifesto (less potholes, streets would be cleaner and greener, increase greener transportation, build more homes and invest in the green infrastructure) had been set out in the budget:

f) Next steps would include public engagement with businesses and the community to ask for their views and opinions on the budget. The budget would follow the scrutiny process for further consideration on 6 and 7 December 2023;

g) After those steps had been taken, Cabinet would consider a further report in January and February 2023, which would then go to the Full Council on 26 February 2024.

Cabinet agreed to note the report and acknowledged that the report would be subject to change in line with any Government Autumn Statement, Provisional Settlement adjustments and changes required as proposals are developed.

66. **Renewal of Armed Forces Covenant**

Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities) introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

a) Plymouth had the second highest veteran population of all local authorities in the Country;

b) The first Community Covenant was signed in 2012 which saw the appointment of the Council's first Armed Forces and Veteran's Champion;

c) The Council achieved Silver Recognition in the Employment Recognition Scheme;

d) New legislation changed the Covenant from voluntary to an organisational commitment, and this had changed the way covenants looked throughout the country, and since this had been changed the Council had received Gold Employment Recognition Status;

e) The proposal for the new Covenant would go beyond legislative requirements and as an organisation; the council had already gone beyond the legislative requirements.

Councillor Murphy (Armed Forces and Veterans Champion) added:

f) The Armed Forces Covenant was a commitment from the nation to those who serve, or have served in the British Military and to their families. By signing, the council committed to acknowledge and understand those who serve, or have served, in the armed forces, and their families, would be treated with respect and fairness in all of the services the Council offered, and the unique and selfless sacrifice associated with service would be recognised;

g) Emphasis was put on supporting young people with their mental health due to the conditions their parents would work in, and the accommodation provided not being adequate;

h) The new Covenant would outline a criteria that all businesses who had signed would offer a guaranteed interview for spouses of military personnel;

i) Over 70 businesses had signed the Covenant;

j) The Navy would become more involved in the new Covenant.

Cabinet asked that Officer's correct an error in the document to remove reference to "Her Majesty's" and replace with "His Majesty's".

Cabinet agreed the renewal of the Armed Forces Covenant by Plymouth City Council subject to the above amendment being made.

67. **Violence Against Women and Girls Update**

Councillor Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Cemeteries and Crematoria) introduced the item and provided the following update:

a) The Violence Against Women and Girls Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy and Action plan was signed off by Safer Plymouth and would be launched on 7 December 2023;

b) One of the main actions of the strategy would be to be the first area in the UK to achieve a Coordinated Community Response Accreditation which would be pioneered by the charity, Standing Together;

c) The council had recommissioned the Domestic Abuse and Refuge service which would help provide safe accommodation and community support for individuals and families in the Plymouth area;

d) A Healthy Relationship Alliance had been introduced which would increase education for young people;

e) E-learning and Workforce Development training would be launched alongside a refreshed Domestic Abuse Policy for the Council.

Councillor Reilly added:

f) The 16 days of Activism against Gender-based Violence would take place 25 November – 10 December and would include Turning Plymouth Orange, an art installation by Trevi and a youth conference with VAWG at its focus;

g) Large organisations such as Babcock helped facilitate connections to Trevi and First Light which promoted awareness of resources;

h) MAN Culture held a conference in September and had conversations about the attitudes of men with respect to VAWG.

In response to questions, supported by Meghan Field (VAWG Strategic Lead), it was explained:

i) 'Plymouth says enough to Violence Against Women and Girls, Plymouth says enough to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence' was the agreed message for the 16 days of Activism campaign;

j) The Enough Campaign would have a QR code where the public would access relevant information and the council would be able to track the data regarding how many people accessed the information;

k) Interviews and surveys would take place with people with lived experiences, which would gauge the effect of 16 days of Activism and the Enough Campaign in three to six months.

Cabinet thanked Councillor Reilly and Officer's for the update.

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Cabinet

Date of meeting:	11 December 2023
Title of Report:	**Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Recommendation: Council Tax Exemption**
Lead Member:	Councillor Zoe Reilly, Chair of Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Lead Strategic Director:	David Haley (Interim Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Jake Metcalfe, Democratic Advisor
Contact Email:	Jake.metcalfe@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

On 07 November 2023 the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee met to consider the item 'Council Tax Exemption for Plymouth City Council Foster Carers' following an amendment to a Motion on Notice heard at Council on 18 September 2023. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet *'that a Council Tax Exemption for foster carers is considered following the conclusion of the consultation on proposed new Support and Retention Offer to Our Foster Carers'.*

Recommendations and Reasons
That Cabinet considers the recommendation agreed at Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Alternative options considered and rejected
Cabinet is required to take into account feedback from the scrutiny function.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan
The system of Scrutiny is an essential element of Local Government governance and by considering comments from Education and Children's Social Care Overview Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet is supporting the "Democracy" value as defined in the Corporate Plan.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
The financial implications would need to be considered by Cabinets response.

Financial Risks

None arising from this report.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:
None arising from this report.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

None arising from this report.

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	JS/01/12/23/01	Leg	JS/01/12/23/02	Mon Off		HR		Assets		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: N/A											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 01/12/23											
Approval: *Councillor Zoe Riley* Date approved: 01/12/23											

Minute 31: Council Tax Exemption for Plymouth City Council Foster Carers

Councillor Laing (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture, Events and Communications) and Nigel Denning (Interim Service Director for Children, Young People and Families) presented the report to the Committee and highlighted the following key points:

a) The Council Tax exemption scheme for internal foster carers and connected carers, approved by Plymouth City Council would be considered under a new support and retention offer to support Plymouth City Council foster carers and was being considered and developed;

b) The Council wanted to provide a package of support to its foster carers and potential new foster carers to promote a package that made it worthwhile to recruit and then maintain its foster carer numbers. The package would ensure that local authority foster carers felt valued and underline why the council thought it was best to be a local authority foster carer;

c) The Council was trying to ensure that would be more local authority foster carers to that of independent foster carers recruited and provided by an agency;

d) The Council acknowledged that it was required to think differently around recruitment due to there not being a net gain of foster carers, primarily due to the numbers of foster carers retiring to that that were being recruited. A Council tax exemption was a measure that the service would like considered alongside a support package of which foster carers had advised was equally important as the financial aspects;

e) There were a number of children/young people in high cost placements and the service discussed that it could do things differently around recruiting a different kind of foster carer under different arrangements that could help Plymouth's more challenged children and bring them back to the city and look after them more closely;

f) There would be a foster carer summit arranged and through that a set of proposals would be developed and costed which would then proceed alongside a proposed council tax exemption to make Plymouth's offer competitive against the independent sector.

In response to questions raised, it was reported that:

a) Councillors were encouraged to take part in the Foster Carer summit where proposals would be formulated as part of the support and retention offer. Care experienced young people would also be encouraged to attend. The council would like to foster care summit to be run independently and would contact the Foster Carer network to facilitate;

b) The Council was required to look at providing offers that the independent sector could not offer and the Council Tax exemption would set the council apart;

c) Local Authority foster carers were the council's biggest recruiters through word of mouth and through them being part of the discussions and advising the council on a range of proposals would be advantageous;

d) Training for foster carers would be part of the package, particularly around therapeutic support for Plymouth's children. It was acknowledged that being a foster carer over a relatively short period had changed significantly and training would need to keep pace;

e) It was acknowledged that the Children's service required a lot of the Council's budget and with decreasing funding from national government and the increasing costs, the council had to find ways to mitigate those costs;

f) Foster carers had made it clear that money was not the drive for them and that they preferred more support and the ability to have a conversation with a practitioner when dealing with a complex child/young person. It was acknowledged that the Council had to find ways to provide this support;

g) The council would be taking part in an initiative across the region involving 15 councils in which the Department for Education would be providing additional resource from April 2024 in which all the marketing and advertising for foster carer recruitment would go to a virtual hub in the southwest. It would also be an opportunity for the council to understand the other offers from the authorities in the region;

h) Plymouth staff were good at building relationships with those that had expressed an interest in becoming a local authority foster carer and were providing support all along the way of their journey to become a foster carer. Once someone had shown an interest, contact would be made within 48 hours to make an initial visit;

i) Foster carer allowances would be considered under the support and retention proposals to ensure competitiveness and also to acknowledge the cost of living crisis;

j) The Council would look into support for planning applications as part of the package should potential/existing foster carers want to make additions to their homes to provide placements to Plymouth's children and young people

The Committee agreed unanimously to:

- Recommend to Cabinet that a Council Tax Exemption for foster carers is considered following the conclusion of the consultation on proposed new Support and Retention Offer to Our Foster Carers.

Cabinet

Date of meeting:	11 December 2023
Title of Report:	**Corporate Plan Performance Report, Quarter Two 2023/24**
Lead Member:	Councillor Chris Penberthy, Cabinet member for Housing, Co-operative Development and Communities
Lead Strategic Director:	Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)
Author:	Ross Jago (Head of Governance, Performance and Risk)
Contact Email:	Ross.jago@Plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	CPRUQ2.2324
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report provides the Cabinet with an overview of how the Council is performing against its priority performance indicators that were agreed as part of the Corporate Plan 2023-2026 in June 2023.

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, filling in potholes, creating cleaner streets, building new homes, green investment and better access to healthcare and dentistry are front and centre of the new administration's vision for Plymouth's future. This report provides an analysis of performance as at the end of September 2023 against these Corporate Plan priorities.

The key performance indicators (KPIs) and their associated targets detailed in this report are for the second quarter of 2023/24 (July to September 2023). This period covers the first full quarter following a change of administration and is the second iteration of our new style of report. Benchmarking and comparisons with established comparator groups will become available as the report develops and will provide additional rigour to our performance approach.

This report forms part of the Council's Delivery and Performance Framework and is a key part of our aim to achieve a 'golden thread' from the Corporate Plan and its KPIs and delivery plans, through to service and team level business plans, and ultimately to individual objectives.

Areas of good performance this quarter include:

- Children in care (rate per 10,000)
- Repeat MASH referrals to Children's Social Care
- Homelessness prevention.

Performance challenges are:

- Number of No Criteria to Reside patients at an acute setting
- Repeat Child Protection Plans within a child's lifetime
- Days lost due to staff sickness.

There are a small number of indicators that are listed as 'under review' or 'in development'. These are the subject of ongoing due diligence prior to reporting or are still being developed to ensure that the

most suitable and reliable data is reported. These will be included in future reports when they become available.

Recommendations and Reasons

That Cabinet notes the Corporate Plan Performance Report, Quarter Two 2023/24.

Reason: To update Cabinet on the performance of the Council in terms of progress in delivering against the Corporate Plan.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The Corporate Plan Performance Report is a key reporting document that provides transparency on the Council's performance and as such reporting this performance is considered best practice.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This report is fundamentally linked to delivering the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The Medium Term Financial Strategy is a core component of the Council's strategic framework and has a vital role to play in translating the Council's ambition and priorities set out in the Corporate Plan 2023-26.

Financial Risks

Associated risks regarding performance are managed within the strategic and operational risk registers.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

Environmental sustainability is a key priority of the administration, and the waste management, recycling and traffic management commitments are specifically aimed at reducing the city's carbon footprint.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

Appendices

Ref.	Title of Appendix	**Exemption Paragraph Number** (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
A	Corporate Plan Performance Report, Quarter Two 2023/24							

Background papers:

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	**Exemption Paragraph Number** (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**

Sign off:

Fin	N/A	Leg	LS/0000013 12/2/AC/1/12/23	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Senior Leadership Team approval: Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive) Date approved: 24/10/2023											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet member for Housing, Co-operative Development and Communities) Date approved: 27/11/2023											

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CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT
Quarter Two 2023/24

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2023-2026

The Plymouth City Council Corporate Plan 2023-2026 sets out our vision of Plymouth being *one of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities, where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone*. It was approved by Full Council in June 2023.

At the heart of the plan is the Council's ambition to make Plymouth a fairer, greener city where everyone does their bit, making Plymouth a great place to grow up and grow old, whilst minimising the impact of the cost of living crisis.

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, filling in potholes, creating cleaner streets, building new homes, green investment and better access to healthcare and dentistry are front and centre of the new administration's vision for Plymouth's future.

The Corporate Plan priorities are delivered through specific programmes and projects, which are coordinated and resourced through cross-cutting strategic delivery plans, capital investment and departmental business plans.

The key performance indicators (KPIs) and their associated targets detailed in this report are for the second quarter of 2023/24 (July to August 2023). This is the first full period since a change of administration and a new reporting style. Benchmarking and comparisons with established comparator groups will become available as the report develops and will provide additional rigour to our performance approach.

Structure of this report

The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis of performance against the priorities and enablers of the Corporate Plan 2023-2026. There are six priorities:

- Working with the Police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
- Fewer potholes, cleaner, greener streets and transport
- Build more homes – for social rent and affordable ownership
- Green investment, jobs, skills and better education
- Working with the NHS to provide better access to health, care and dentistry
- Keeping children, adults and communities safe.

Direction of travel (RAG) colour scheme

A red-amber-green (RAG) direction of travel rating is provided to give an indication of whether performance is improving or declining based on the two latest comparable periods for which information is available. For example, repeat referrals to Children's Social Care is compared to the previous quarter; household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting is compared to the same period in the previous year (due to seasonality); and annual measures, such as public satisfaction with traffic flow, are compared to the previous year.

- Indicators with arrows highlighted **green:** improved on the previous value or on an expected trend
- Indicators with arrows highlighted **amber:** within 15% of the previous value (slight decline)
- Indicators with arrows highlighted **red:** declined by more than 15% on the previous value
- Indicators with arrows that are not highlighted have no direction of travel or the most recent value is not comparable with previous values.

Target (RAG) colour scheme

A RAG target rating is applied for indicators that have a target. For these indicators, the bar for the latest reporting period is coloured either red, amber or green in the chart and in the table to visually display how we are performing compared with the target.

- Indicators highlighted **green** show where Plymouth is better than target
- Indicators highlighted **amber** show where Plymouth is within 15% of target
- Indicators highlighted **red** show where Plymouth is more than 15% worse than target
- Indicators not highlighted or 'N/A' show where no in year data is available to compare against target, or no target has been set.

Summary page

A performance summary section is presented at the start of this report to visually display how we have performed against our Corporate Plan priorities. Our RAG rating on these pages is used to show whether we have done better, worse or had a slight decline from the previous comparable period (coloured arrows), and whether we have done better, worse or got close to the target (coloured boxes). Some indicators do not have a target (for example, due to being a new indicator) and will therefore have no target RAG rating. Similarly, some of our indicators are new and we do not have any previous data to compare our performance to or it is not appropriate to compare to previous data; these will have no direction of travel RAG rating in the summary pages.

Description of key performance indicators

Tables containing the names and descriptions of all of the key performance indicators featured within this report are presented at the end of the document.

Quarter two performance summary

OUR PRIORITIES

Priority	Key performance indicators	2022/23 Baseline	Previous performance	Latest performance		Page
Working with the Police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour	Number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the Council **(Q)**	543	107	**236**	▲	7
	Number of early interventions to anti-social behaviour **(Q)**	222	52	**44**	▼	
	Crime rate per 1,000 residents **(Q)**	22.59	22.59	**22.97**	▲	
Fewer potholes, cleaner, greener streets and transport	Surface repair **(Q)**	KPI under review				10
	Cleanliness Index (APSE) **(Q)**	KPI under review				
	Public satisfaction with traffic flow **(A)**	39%	38%	**39%**	▲	
Build more homes - for social rent and affordable ownership	Net additional homes in the city **(A)**	6,562	6,177	**6,562**	▲	13
	Total new affordable homes (gross) **(A)**	115	50	**115**	▲	
Green investment, jobs, skills and better education	Employment rate **(Q)**	73.2%	73.2%	**71.9%**	▼	16
	Percentage of young people aged 16 to 17 going to, or remaining in, education, employment or training (EET) **(Q)**	92.4%	92.4%	**91.9%**	▼	
	Pupils attending schools judged as good or better by Ofsted **(Q)**	81.0%	81.4%	**84.4%**	▲	
	Number of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) permanently excluded **(Q)**	KPI in development				
	Corporate scope 1 and scope 2 CO_2e emissions (tonnes CO_2e) **(A)**	6,155	6,789	**6,155**	▼	
	PCC investment in low carbon infrastructure (3 year average) **(A)**	£8,458,112	£5,862,152	**£8,458,112**	▲	
	Key Stage 4 pupils achieving Grade 5+ in English and maths (achieving the 'Basics') **(A)**	46.0%	46.0%	**41.3%**	▼	
Working with the NHS to provide better access to health, care and dentistry	Adult Social Care Front Door - timeliness of assessments **(Q)**	KPI in development				22
	Number of No Criteria to Reside patients at an acute setting (daily average during the quarter) **(Q)**	36	30	**32**	▲	
	Number of children (<16 years) on the NHS dental waiting list year-on-year from 2022-2025 **(Q)**	NEW	4,189	**4,181**	▼	
	Number of adults (>16 years) on the NHS dental waiting list year-on-year from 2022-2025 **(Q)**	NEW	17,646	**17,693**	▲	
	GP access – patient satisfaction with appointments offered **(A)**	74%	74%	**73%**	▼	
	Social care-related quality of life impact of Adult Social Care services **(A)**	19.7	19.7	**19.5**	▼	
	Proportion of people who use services who find it easy to find information about services **(A)**	62.3%	62.3%	**61.4%**	▼	

Keeping children, adults and communities safe	Repeat child protection plans within a child's lifetime (rolling 12 months) **(Q)**	25.7%	25.6%	**25.6%**	-	25
	Children in care (rate per 10,000) **(Q)**	94.0	94.9	**94.1**	▼	
	Percentage of closed adult safeguarding enquiries where the desired outcomes have been fully or partially achieved **(Q)**	98.6%	98.0%	**94.9%**	▼	
	Adult Social Care service users who feel safe and secure **(A)**	87.9%	90.0%	**87.9%**	▼	
	Residents who feel safe (during the day) **(A)**	89%	90%	**8259%**	▼	

DOING THIS BY

Enabler	Key performance indicators	2022/23 Baseline	Previous performance	Latest performance		Page
Providing quality public services	Stage one complaints resolved within timeframe (Q)	80.6%	83.3%	**82.8%**	▼	31
	Percentage of people who receive social care who are satisfied (A)	67.0%	66.1%	**67.0%**	▲	
Trusting and engaging our communities	Percentage of eligible adults registered to vote in local elections (A)	91.2%	91.2%	**92.2%**	▲	32
	Residents who know how to get involved in local decisions (A)	27%	34%	**27%**	▼	
	Residents who think people from different backgrounds get on well (A)	42%	55%	**42%**	▼	
	Percentage of Plymouth City Survey respondents who volunteer or help out (A)	38%	42%	**38%**	▼	
Focusing on prevention and early intervention	Number of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) contacts received (Q)	NEW	2,487	**3,407**	▲	33
	Number of MASH referrals received (Q)	2,347	722	**1,071**	▲	
	Repeat MASH referrals to Children's Social Care (rolling 12 months) (Q)	19.4%	18.6%	**18.3%**	▼	
	Number of households prevented from becoming homeless or relieved of homelessness (Q)	828	147	**217**	▲	
	Percentage of people accessing the Stop Smoking Service who have quit (Q)	54%	54%	**48%**	▼	
	Proportion of people who received short term service, where sequel was either no ongoing support or support of a lower level (A)	82.5%	88.9%	**82.5%**	▼	
	Child obesity at Year 6 (A)	35.1%	33.5%	**35.1%**	▲	
	Percentage of two year olds benefiting from Funded Early Education (A)	72.6%	72.6%	**72.8%**	▲	
	Total persistent absence in all schools (A)	28.1%	28.1%	**24.4%**	▼	
Spending money wisely	Forecast spend against budget (£million) (Q)	£0.000m	£7.500m	**£4.766m**	▼	35

	Council tax revenue per dwelling (A)	£1,283	£1,283	**£1,359**	▲	
	Social care spend as percentage of core spending power (A)	Not yet available	-	**75.3%**	-	
	Debt servicing as percentage of core spending power (A)	Not yet available	-	**11.9%**	-	
Empowering and engaging our staff	Days lost due to sickness (average per rolling 12 months) (Q)	9.37	9.07	**9.33**	▲	36
Being a strong voice for Plymouth	Advocacy / Lobbying Update					37

Our Priorities

Working with the Police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour

TAKING THE LEAD

Lead Cabinet Members	Councillor Sally Haydon Councillor Chris Penberthy
Lead Officer	Matt Garrett, Service Director for Community Connections
Enabling Plans	Safer Plymouth Plan
Relevant Scrutiny Panel	Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Panel

WHAT WE KNOW

Overall recorded crime in Plymouth increased by 7.9 per cent (1,656 crimes) in the 12 month period to the end of March 2022 compared with the same period the previous year. This follows on from a 9.0 per cent decrease reported in the previous year. This increase in crime may have been affected by the impacts of the pandemic and the associated lockdowns in the previous years.

Plymouth has a comparatively low crime rate for a city of its type and is placed first in its most similar family group of 15 partnerships (where first is lowest). Plymouth's crime rate is 85.9 crimes per 1,000 population, compared to an average of 107.7 for the comparator group of similar areas within which it sits. As well as having the lowest overall crime rate, Plymouth also has the lowest rates for residential burglary, theft other, shoplifting, theft from vehicle, and public order offences.

However, Plymouth does not benchmark as well for violence with injury (14th), other sexual offences (14th) and possession of drugs (15th). The biggest percentage increases are in other sexual offences, which increased by 35.8 per cent (+233); this is followed by a 24.4 per cent increase in violence with injury (+729) and 16.7 per cent in violence without injury (+599). Eight other crime/incident types increased in 2021/22; public order, robbery, rape, non-crime domestic incidents, theft other, hate crime, criminal damage and shoplifting.

PROGRESS UPDATE

We have recently participated in several events over Hate Crime Awareness Week, which took place from 14 to 21 October this year. We visited Piety Mosque, the Red Cross, and the Synagogue to develop our relationships further with some of our diverse communities. We also attended Blue Light Day and engaged with those who have learning disabilities, their parents, and carers. There was also food and dancing, and the team made many new contacts whilst enjoying the experience.

We have progressed the development of a new partnership forum to tackle an emerging theme of street-attached anti-social behaviour in the city centre. Terms of Reference have been drafted and the work will offer support and interventions that aim to address the root causes of the anti-social behaviour (ASB) and will use enforcement action where appropriate. We are also developing a refreshed multi-agency process for the escalation of ASB cases to ensure that we are offering a consistent and robust response to victims. The recent national ASB Conference highlighted upcoming changes in ASB legislation, which will strengthen some of the tools and powers that can be used to tackle ASB. Work is already in progress to understand the proposed changes and begin to consider an implementation plan.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Launch of Plymouth's VAWGDASV Strategy and 2023-2036 Action Plan: Supported by Plymouth City Council (PCC) officers, the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Board recently refreshed its vision, mission, values and strategic objectives. The Plan received sign off from Safer Plymouth on 7 November and will be formally launched on 7 December during the 16 Days of Activism (see below).

City-wide VAWGDASV Workforce Development Programme: To support the delivery of the Action Plan and Coordinated Community Response Accreditation, a rolling city-wide workforce

development programme was launched in November. The first three trainings include Intersectionality/Cultural Competency, Anti-Racism Training and Addressing 'Honour-based' Abuse.

As part of our commitment to **White Ribbon Accreditation**, the Council is refreshing our **Domestic Abuse Policy**. This will be finalised and launched by December, along with a training programme for Well-being Champions and HR representatives, to improve our internal understanding of and response to staff affected by domestic abuse.

Online Harm Campaign: NSPCC is leading a local campaign co-produced with young people on the impact of pornography and online harm. The campaign is targeted at young teens (12-14) and the professionals who work with them. It was launched at a city-wide event on 18 October and piloted at three sites in Plymouth in the autumn, with evaluation and recommendations for further roll out in early 2024.

16 Days of Activism: To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Gender-based Violence on 25 November and the start of 16 days of activism, the city-wide VAWG Communications Group has designed a campaign and programme of activities to raise awareness of VAWG and DASV. Professionals from across the city are invited to attend a series of events and to get involved in raising awareness of these issues: 16 Days of Activism | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK.

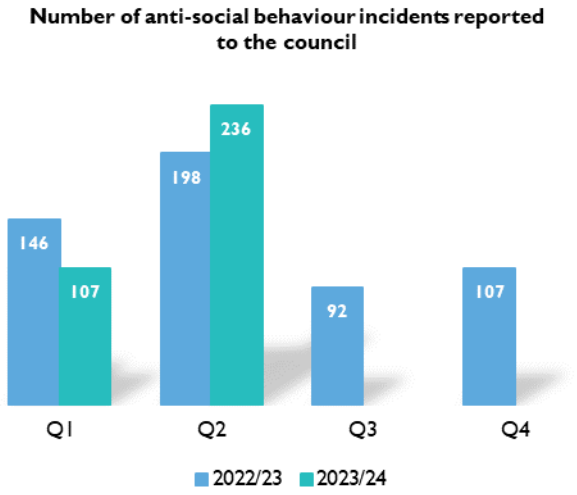
Whole Schools Approach to Healthy Relationships: PCC officers are working with colleagues from NSPCC Together for Childhood to promote our Healthy Relationships offer, both within formal and informal education settings, and to align our activity with early help and targeted support. The first school to pilot the Whole School Approach is Brook Green, which will commence in January. There is a shared action plan to target all secondary schools across the city, with an initial multi-agency meeting of professionals happening on 22 November to build a Healthy Relationships Alliance in Plymouth.

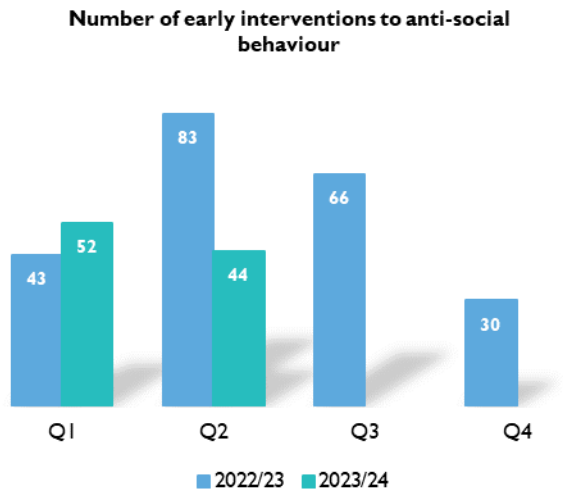
Re-commissioning Domestic Abuse Services: The re-commissioning process for core domestic abuse services in Plymouth – which includes refuge and dispersed accommodation; community-based Independent Domestic Violence Advisor support; Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences coordination; Sanctuary Scheme coordination; therapeutic support for adult and child survivors; and behaviour change support for people who cause harm – was re-launched in October, with a new service set to be in place by May 2024.

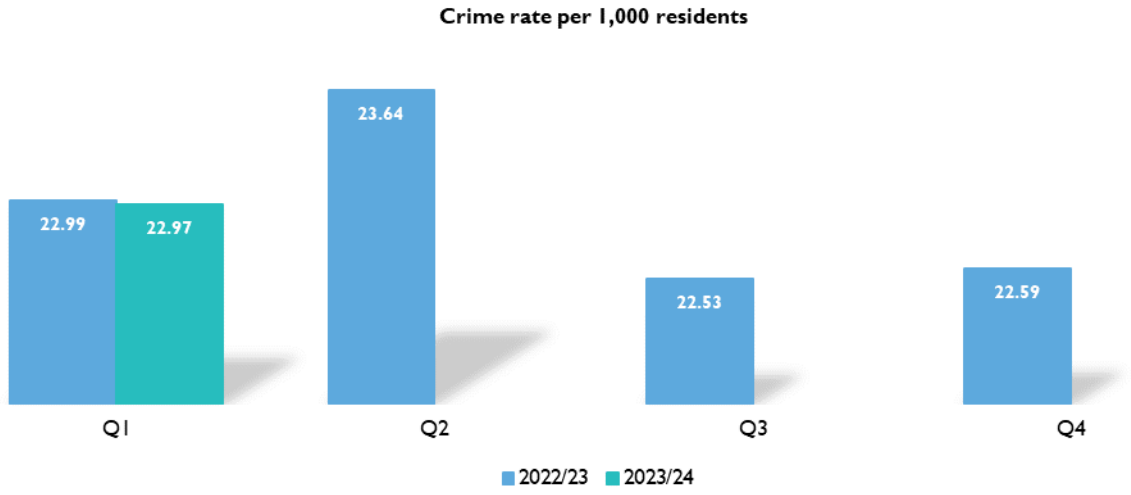
Working with People who Cause Harm: A paper recommending that Plymouth take a coordinated community response to people who harm, including perpetrators of domestic abuse, has been taken to both the DASV Partnership Board and Safer Plymouth. It received widespread support and a multi-agency working group is now being formed to strengthen our approach to prevention, early intervention, acute responses and long-term behaviour change for people who harm.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Quarterly KPIs	Q3 2022/23	Q4 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Direction of travel	Target
Number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the Council	92	107	107	**236**	▲	Monitor
Number of early interventions to anti-social behaviour	66	30	52	**44**	▼	Monitor
Crime rate per 1,000 residents	22.53	22.59	**22.97**	Available in Q3	▲	Monitor







Fewer potholes, cleaner, greener streets and transport

TAKING THE LEAD

Lead Cabinet Members	Councillor Tom Briars-Delve Councillor Mark Coker
Lead Officer	Philip Robinson, Service Director for Street Services
Enabling Plans	Plan for Plastics Highways Maintenance Plan Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) Plan for Trees 2019-2034 Local Transport Plan Transport Implementation Plan Plymouth bus service improvements
Relevant Scrutiny Panel	Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Panel

WHAT WE KNOW

Provision of cleaner, greener streets and transport is delivered through two key service areas – Plymouth Highways and Street Scene and Waste.

Highways Maintenance

The highway network is the Council's largest capital asset, with an estimated replacement cost in excess of £1.6 billion (2019). It requires regular maintenance and renewal to keep it in a safe and serviceable condition for the travelling public. The asset is vitally important not only for the everyday operation of the city and the lives of its inhabitants, but also for ongoing economic development and productivity in all aspects of city life.

The Council is responsible for 53km of principal (A) roads, providing transport links within or between large urban areas; 211km of non-principal (B and C) roads connecting towns and villages and feeding traffic between principal and smaller roads; and unclassified, estate and rural roads serving local traffic, accounting for 611km, the largest proportion of the Plymouth network. The condition of the carriageway asset is measured through annual surveys and inspections, which include all Highways Maintainable at Public Expense (HMPE), such as pavements, walkways, drainage systems – gullies, slotted and grilled drainage channels, catch pits and manholes (circa 1,700km of public footways and carriageways).

Environmental Operations – Street Scene and Waste

Street Cleansing Operations – responsible for maintaining civic pride, highway and public safety through routine cleansing works, as well as responding to fly-tipping and hazardous waste on both the Council's green and grey estate, including HMPE. The service also collects waste from over 1,100 public street bins and delivers works to support both Business Improvement Districts, Council car parks and other public and private assets.

Green Estate Operations – managing and maintaining the city's green spaces, trees, highway vegetation and playgrounds for the benefit of both people and nature. The green estate is made up of over 585 hectares of grassland, 136 nature reserves, approximately 400,000 trees of which circa 30,000 are street trees, as well as 22 formal parks, 127 playgrounds and sports grounds and other assets.

Household Waste Services – most of the city's 123,000 households are provided with kerbside collection of recycling and non-recyclables, totalling over five million collections a year and lifting over 78,000 tonnes of materials. Additionally, there is a seasonal kerbside collection of garden waste, with more than 30,000 registrations collecting about 7,000 tonnes of material.

Disposal and Recycling of Waste – the service operates two Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRC) at Chelson Meadow and Weston Mill. In addition, it contract manages the Materials Recycling Facility at Chelson Meadow and the Energy from Waste Plant, which is managed by MVV Environment on behalf of the South West Devon Waste Partnership and provides an effective solution for residual waste treatment. The service also operates a commercial waste transfer station at Chelson Meadow that receives 16,500 tonnes of waste per year from 280 commercial customers.

PROGRESS UPDATE

The road patching system trial – Velocity – continues to deliver impressive results during this financial year, repairing an average of 1,257 highway defects a month in 2023/24 (7,544 repairs since 10 May 2023), compared to 200 defects a month in 2022/23 using traditional methods of surface repair. As there is no requirement to excavate the road surface, this reduces the need for road closures, eliminates waste, and results in faster and more efficient pothole repairs. The process also reduces carbon emissions when compared to previous methods.

The research for alternative methods to repair highway defects continues. We are hosting an infrared heating platform trial next month, which re-heats existing asphalt and enables redressing without removing existing surfacing; this may provide a solution for coal tar bound surfacing.

City centre cleansing activity has increased, including:

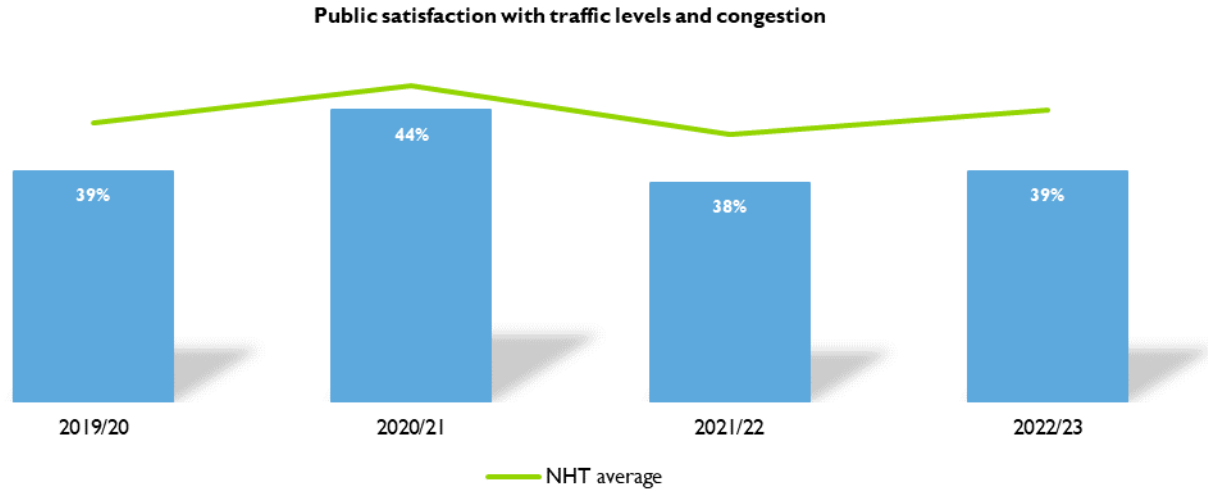
- replacement bins have been ordered and we are starting to swap out 15 bins
- we have reinstated a regular surface washing regime targeting areas near food outlets
- greater focus on weeds and sweeping detritus.

Our Fly Tip Response Team has adjusted how it operates. Now when officers respond to a fly-tip report in a rear lane, they will assess the entire rear lane to look for other items whilst gathering evidence for enforcement. We are continuing to deliver the Defra funded investment of five moveable cameras to target rear lane fly-tipping.

We are in the process of redesigning our city-wide cleansing activity to switch to a zonal model, whereby small teams are allocated designated areas. This will increase ownership and pride for the teams and enable better coordination of sweeping, weed removal and litter picking. We trialled several areas in September.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Quarterly KPIs	Q3 2022/23	Q4 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Direction of travel	Target
Surface repair	KPI under review					
APSE cleanliness index (cumulative)	KPI under review					
Annual KPI	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**		
Public satisfaction with traffic flow	39%	44%	38%	**39%**	▲	Monitor



Build more homes - for social rent and affordable ownership

TAKING THE LEAD

Lead Cabinet Members	Councillor Chris Penberthy Councillor Mark Lowry
Lead Officer	Paul Barnard, Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure
Enabling Plans	Plan for Homes Plymouth Alliance Accommodation and Homelessness Prevention Strategy and Delivery Plan
Relevant Scrutiny Panel	Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Panel

WHAT WE KNOW

Housing Profile

Plymouth has approximately 122,813 dwellings, which is an increase from 114,543 in 2011. A profile of Plymouth's housing stock, taken from the 2021 Census, shows that Plymouth's housing profile remains significantly different to that of England as a whole and also the South West region. The proportion of detached homes in the city has increased slightly, from 10.9 per cent to 11.4 per cent in 2021; this is around half the national figure (22.9 per cent), which given the city's urban character is not unexpected. A third (32.8 per cent) are terraced, compared to 23 per cent nationally.

Current Performance

Plymouth is on track to meet the Plymouth Local Planning Authority (LPA) area target set out in the Joint Local Plan of 13,200 net additional dwellings to be delivered over the period 2014 to 2034 (annualised to 660 dwellings per annum). We have delivered 6,562 net additional dwellings over the period 2014 to 2023 and are currently ahead (by 622 dwellings) of the Plymouth LPA cumulative target (5,940 net additional dwellings over the period 2014 to 2023). Of the 6,562 homes, 1,127 were affordable homes, which is an annualised average of 125 (17% of net housing delivery). However, this hides the significant amount of new affordable housing that has been delivered over the period (1,841). The major regeneration areas of Devonport, North Prospect and Barne Barton have seen the demolition of 714 poor quality affordable homes being replaced by the provision of new high quality affordable homes.

Housing Need

The city has seen a rise in homelessness and families living in temporary accommodation. There are currently 12,192 Plymouth households on the Devon Home Choice Register and at present, there are 1,922 Plymouth households on the Devon Home Choice Register with accessibility needs. This includes 1,109 households requiring a maximum of three steps, 653 households requiring step free properties, and a further 160 requiring wheelchair accessible properties. The number of people aged 65 or over who are living with a limiting long-term illness or mobility issues is projected to increase significantly by 2035. It is therefore critical that the city's housing delivery achieves the best value in terms of housing outcomes whilst meeting a wide range of housing needs such as extra care housing for older people, wheelchair accessible housing, homes for both single people and couples without children, as well as larger family homes.

PROGRESS UPDATE

Following a successful bid for £1,020,000 from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' (DLUHC) Local Authority Housing Fund, which will be matched with £1.2 million from the Council's capital programme, a total of 10 homes with between two and four bedrooms will be purchased from the open market in locations across the city. As part of the programme additional investments of £20,000 per property will be available for refurbishment costs to ensure that the homes are ready for occupation by March 2024.

As part of the funding agreement, eight of the homes will be allocated to Afghan families who are part of the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme or Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, which are initiatives designed to relocate locally employed staff who worked for British forces, often in dangerous and challenging situations, during the conflict in Afghanistan.

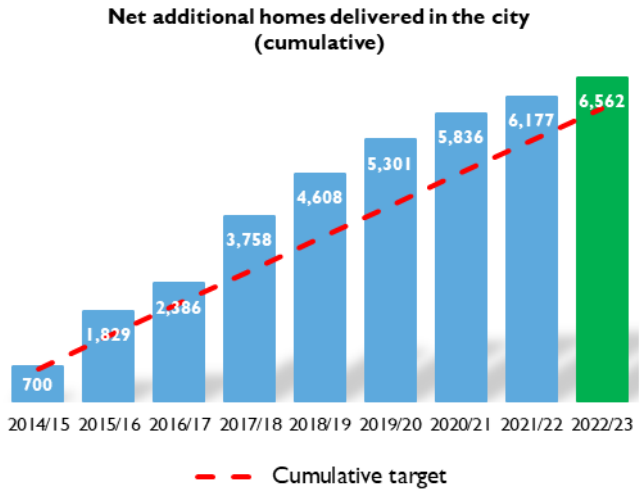
Westward's latest two housing developments for Plymouth will provide 18 affordable homes on land previously owned by the Council and sold to Westward at a discount for redevelopment to include accessible homes as a priority. Building work began recently with Homes England funding and recycled grant funding from Westward for both sites. All properties on both sites will benefit from photovoltaic solar panels to assist with fast-rising energy costs and support environmental and sustainability strategies. Two shared ownership and three affordable rent properties will be built at St Peter's Close in Plympton, ready for occupancy next summer.

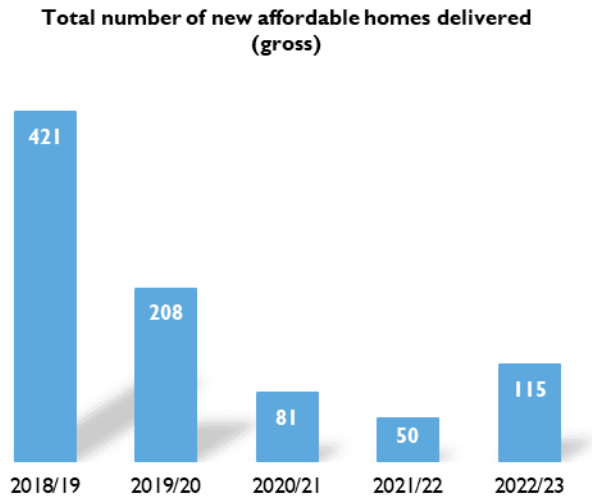
In addition, **the regeneration site at Moses Close in Southway providing 13 much needed affordable homes has now recommenced**. The 13 homes will be at social rent rates and provide an apartment block of six one-bedroom flats designed for couples, including two ground floor accessible and adaptable homes. These are alongside a terrace of six two-bedroom houses designed for three people each, plus an end of terrace bungalow. This site is not only providing new homes but will also deliver an Employment and Skills Plan for the site, which means delivery of new opportunities for training in construction.

At Broadland Gardens, Plymstock, the **first direct housing development by the Council in the city for over 40 years** is well under construction. The proposed 10 family eco-houses for open market sale have been designed to be liveable, adaptable and sustainable, responding to the needs of occupants as they change over time. This scheme is the start of an important journey that will once again see Plymouth City Council building quality, well designed homes that people will be proud to live in both now and into the future, and will set the benchmark for future Council projects.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Quarterly KPIs	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Direction of travel	Target
Net additional homes in the city (cumulative)	5,301	5,836	6,177	**6,562**	▲	5,940
Total new affordable homes (gross)	208	81	50	**115**	▲	Monitor





Green investment, jobs, skills and better education

TAKING THE LEAD

Lead Cabinet Members	Councillor Tudor Evans Councillor Tom Briars-Delve Councillor Mark Lowry Councillor Sally Cresswell
Lead Officer	Anthony Payne, Strategic Director for Place
Enabling Plans	Net Zero Action Plan Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan Delivering Economic Growth 2020-25 Plymouth's Plan for Economic Growth Unlocking Plymouth's Potential Plymouth Skills Plan 2021-2026 Plymouth SEND Strategy 2023-2026 Child Poverty Action Plan
Relevant Scrutiny Panel	Growth and Infrastructure / Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel

WHAT WE KNOW

Climate Emergency

On 18 March 2019, the City Council's Labour Administration introduced a council motion to declare a climate emergency, which was unanimously supported, and pledged to make Plymouth carbon neutral by 2030, in recognition of the need for an urgent response from the global community to the threat of climate change. In so doing, the Council was highlighting the 2020s as a critical decade for urgent and accelerated action towards net zero.

The declaration set in train a series of actions, including a refresh of the Plymouth Plan to align with the net zero mission; the establishment of the Plymouth Net Zero Partnership to provide city-wide strategic leadership; annual Climate Emergency Action Plans and Corporate Carbon Reduction Plans; the establishment of a £2 million Climate Emergency Investment Fund; the launch of the Climate Connections website; and a refresh of planning policy through a Climate Emergency Planning Statement. Additionally, the Council has continued to be proactive in seeking funding for net zero projects, including for retrofit of the corporate estate and city housing, decarbonising transport and renewable energy projects.

Since April 2023, the Council has set out its plans for reducing its own emissions and influencing city emissions in a Net Zero Action Plan. This is a three-year delivery plan, which will be rolled forward annually. Whilst the Council only directly affects 1% of city emissions and influences about 30%, this plan is crucial to showing how it will play its part in delivering the Plymouth Plan's policy aim that Plymouth achieves net zero by 2030.

Corporate and city emissions are monitored and reported annually. While corporate and city emissions are both reducing, these reports demonstrate the scale of the challenge to get to net zero by 2030. There is a need for a radical step-change in the pace of delivery if the net zero aspiration is to be realised, particularly at a city-wide level.

Jobs

The latest figures (2021) show the number of jobs in Plymouth has increased from 110,000 in 2020 to 115,000 (a net increase of 5,000 jobs). Of the total jobs in Plymouth, 74,000 were full time and 41,000 were part-time.

Skills

Plymouth has seen relatively higher average levels of job vacancy postings in 2022 when compared to pre-pandemic levels, up by over 60 per cent since 2019. Over 60 per cent of unique job postings require a Level 4 qualification or higher, but only 27.5 per cent of Plymouth residents are qualified to this level. The city also fares poorly in comparison to England as a whole, with 33.9 per cent of the population holding a Level 4 qualification or higher; a gap of 6.4 percentage points.

Education

Plymouth has a diverse range of early years and childcare settings, and high percentages of children taking up their free entitlements. Plymouth currently has 98 schools, consisting of 18 local authority-maintained schools, two non-maintained nursery schools and 78 academies. At the end of December 2022, 79 per cent of Plymouth's pupils attended a school that was judged as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

The progress made by pupils from Key Stage (KS) 1 to KS2 in Plymouth is above that made by similar pupils regionally and within our statistical neighbours for reading, writing, and maths. The progress made by disadvantaged pupils (eligible for Free School Meals) is below that of non-disadvantaged pupils (those not eligible for Free School Meals) at the end of KS2.

By the end of KS4, the progress made by Plymouth pupils is below that made by similar pupils within the statistical neighbour group. The progress made by disadvantaged pupils is below that of non-disadvantaged pupils at the end of KS4.

The percentage of pupils achieving a strong pass (5+) in English and Maths in Plymouth is 41.3 per cent, which is below the national average of 45.3 per cent and the regional average of 44.7 per cent.

PROGRESS UPDATE

Investing in Net Zero

With the Net Zero Partnership, we have bid for £2.9 million of Innovate UK funding to boost capacity for collaboration around and ownership of net zero delivery in the city, including, amongst other things, facilitating the development of green markets, skills and jobs. If successful, this will represent a significant increase in the city's ability to move towards net zero, alongside a further £2 million the Council is already proposing to invest through its new Green Investment Fund.

Additionally, we continue to deliver and proactively pursue funding and opportunities for net zero infrastructure. For example, renewable energy schemes (such as that now operational on the Theatre Royal car park roof), district heating, retrofit of the corporate estate, working with Plymouth Energy Community to retrofit housing for residents in fuel poverty, and Connect Plymouth with over 500 Beryl Bikes now in operation.

We have also renewed our commitment to the UK100 Net Zero Pledge to: (1) Have set ambitious net zero targets for greenhouse emissions of 2030 at the latest; (2) Report our carbon emissions annually; and (3) Commit to limiting the use of offsets, and if used, to be as local as possible.

With regard to offsets, we are developing local solutions that organisations can invest in to support their own net zero commitments. This includes the development of a Blue and Green Carbon Fund, linked to Habitat Banking, and working with the Net Zero Partnership, a housing retrofit offer for carbon offsetting.

Shared Prosperity Funding

We have issued four contracts to provide business support covering start up advice, business support, social enterprise and net zero. We are working on a community call and hope to be able to announce funding in the next four months. Funding has been allocated to a consortium of Destination Plymouth, Plymouth Waterfront Partnership and the City Centre Company to help market the city and improve its image.

Green Jobs

We will launch an inward investment fact sheet on floating offshore wind, with a targeted event being delivered with the University of Plymouth on floating offshore wind on the 31 October 2023. Additionally,

funding has been allocated for shore power for the ice-cream vans on the Hoe, and work is underway on a feasibility study to expand Cattewater capacity.

Devonport

The Leader and officers are currently in discussions with partners to consider how to ensure Plymouth benefits from the scale of the investment going into the Naval Base, and in particular benefits from the 10 per cent social requirement in Ministry of Defence contracts. Further updates will be provided in future reports.

New Direct Development

The Council has submitted business cases to secure funding for building new business units at Langage and Oceansgate.

Innovation

Both the Regulatory Pioneer Fund project to look at the regulations around autonomous vessels and the sub-sea Smart Sound project have formally started and signed contracts.

Unlocking Plymouth's Potential

An ambitious new plan, Unlocking Plymouth's Potential, has been co-designed with local businesses, employers, schools and colleges, and outlines how Plymouth City Council and key partners will work together to address issues and empower young people to aspire and achieve.

The plan sets out how these young people will be targeted and supported to seek education, employment or training (SEET) and then to take advantage of those opportunities so they can develop new skills or begin their careers. The support on offer will include:

- Enhancing the post-16 training offer in Plymouth with more traineeships, internships, apprenticeships and other early career opportunities
- Increasing the number of internships and employment opportunities for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) by forming a Plymouth City Council-led SEND Employment Forum
- Providing bespoke action plans, skills assessments and pre-employment courses for young people
- Working with employers to develop an effective model for work experience and to grow opportunities for entry-level jobs
- Running a programme of careers events across the city so that every child in Plymouth can attend at least one event a year
- Creating a mentoring and coaching programme where young people in further education can support young people from SEET into education or training.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

A priority action plan has been produced to address concerns raised in a recent Local Area Inspection, undertaken jointly by the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted in June 2023. The inspection found provision and outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Plymouth needs to rapidly improve. Areas identified as needing improvement include the early identification of young children's needs and transitional planning in social care.

A number of immediate actions have already been carried out since the inspection. This has included ensuring social care teams have thorough and robust oversight of the small number of children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) living in residential accommodation outside of Plymouth. A review of children and young people who receive respite care and short breaks is also underway to ensure that families are being fully supported.

The report highlights that 'leaders across the partnership understand the issues and share a commitment to improve the way they work together'. Other areas identified by Ofsted and CQC where the partnership is effective include:

- Strengthening the early support for young children with language and communication difficulties
- Providing a range of services to meet the social and emotional needs of children and young people with SEND
- Reducing the number of young people with SEND who are not in employment, education or training

- Effectively supporting children and young people with autism spectrum disorder or those with a learning disability to avoid hospital admission at times of crises.

Work is moving forward to implement the agreed governance and school engagement for this improvement work.

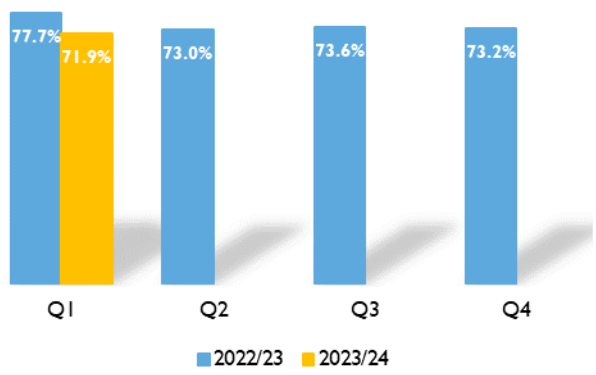
School Attendance, Mobility and Inclusion

In partnership with schools, there is coordinated work across schools to address attendance, pupil mobility and strengthen the inclusive approach of Plymouth secondary schools. Improving inclusion and attendance, as well as reducing mobility, will all help to improve achievement. Work on these areas is being taken forward by all of Children's Services and the collaboration of school leaders, including multi-academy trust CEOs.

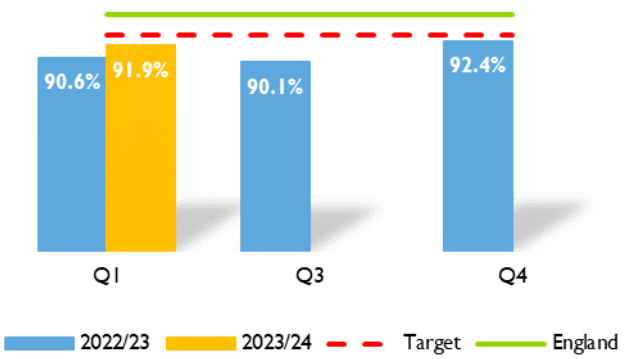
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Quarterly KPIs	Q3 2022/23	Q4 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Direction of travel	Target
Employment rate	73.6%	73.2%	**71.9%**	Available in Q4	▼	Increase
Percentage of young people aged 16 to 17 going to, or remaining in, education, employment or training (EET)	90.1%	92.4%	**91.9%**	Not reported due to school holidays	▼	93.0%
Pupils attending schools judged as good or better by Ofsted	78.8%	81.0%	81.4%	**84.4%**	▲	Monitor
Number of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) permanently excluded	KPI in development					
Annual KPIs	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**		
Corporate scope 1 and scope 2 CO_2e emissions (tonnes CO_2e)	6,672	6,789	**6,155**	Available in 2024	▼	Reduce
PCC investment in low carbon infrastructure (3 year average)	NEW	NEW	£5,862,152	**£8,458,112**	▲	Monitor
Percentage of Key Stage 4 pupils achieving Grade 5+ in English and Maths	47.1%	51.9%	46.0%	**41.3%**	▼	Monitor

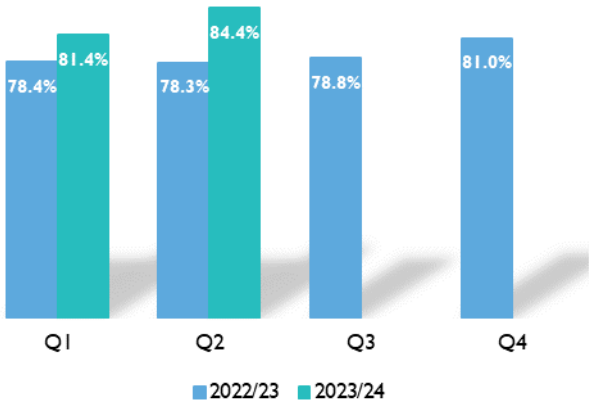
Percentage of 16-64 year olds in employment (rolling 12 months)



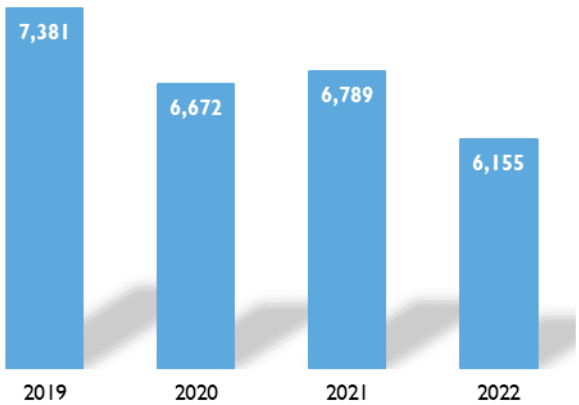
Percentage of young people in education, employment or training

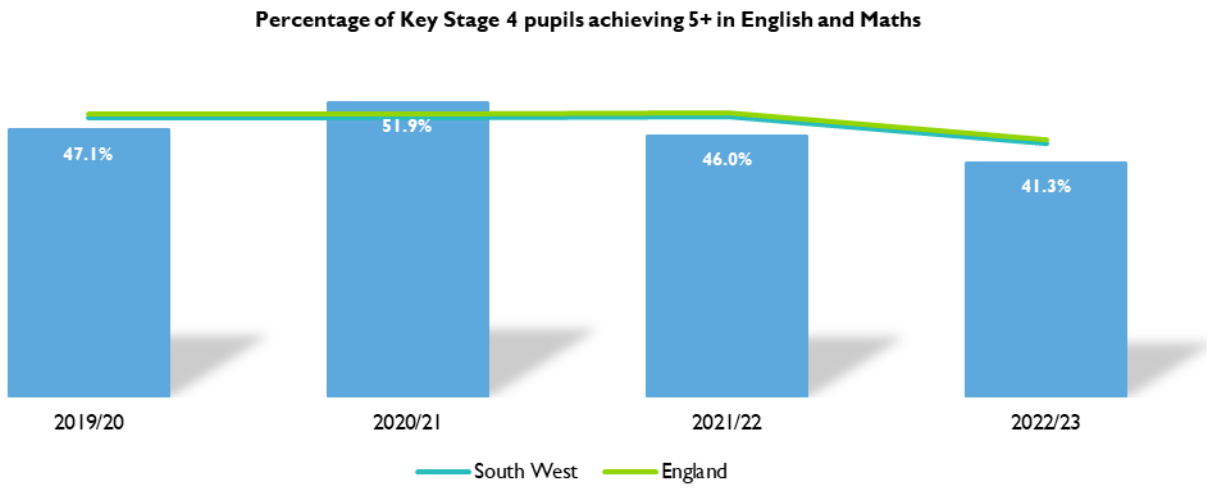


Percentage of pupils attending schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding



Corporate scope 1 and scope 2 CO_2e emissions (tonnes CO_2e)




Percentage of Key Stage 4 pupils achieving 5+ in English and Maths
47.1%
51.9%
46.0%
41.3%
2019/20
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
South West
England

Working with the NHS to provide better access to health, care and dentistry

TAKING THE LEAD

Lead Cabinet Members	Councillor Mary Aspinall Councillor Jemima Laing Councillor Mark Lowry
Lead Officer	Gary Walbridge, Interim Strategic Director for People / Ruth Harrell, Director of Public Health
Enabling Plans	Plymouth Local Care Partnership System Plan Community Mental Health Framework 2021-2024 One Devon Partnership Interim Integrated Care Strategy Child Poverty Action Plan
Relevant Scrutiny Lead	Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel

WHAT WE KNOW

The COVID-19 pandemic and the control measures to reduce transmission have impacted on almost all aspects of our lives. This has had profound health, economic and social consequences. The impact on access to health services has been huge and persistent, with waits for health service treatment, along with thousands of people unable to access NHS dental care in our city and many residents finding themselves consistently unable to access primary care delivered by GPs in the way they would wish.

The NHS Dental Patient Survey, conducted in the first three months of 2023, shows that across Devon 27% of patients who wanted an NHS dental appointment in the last three months of 2022 were unsuccessful, 24% were unsuccessful in the previous six months and 25% failed to get an appointment in 2022. Currently in Plymouth there are 17,251 adults and 4,104 children on dental waiting lists. These figures do not include the wider population who have been removed from NHS dentists and have not joined the waiting list.

The NHS GP Patient Survey shows on average, for the Primary Care Networks covering the city, 12% of people who tried to get an appointment were not offered one. For those who were offered an appointment, 77% were satisfied with the appointment offered.

In relation to adult social care provision, across Plymouth in 2022/23 there were:

- 12,030 requests for support from new clients
- 4,516 people accessed long term adult social care support
- 1,318 people received care in a residential or nursing care setting
- 3,198 people received care in a community based setting
- 400 Carers Assessments were undertaken
- 699 individuals received social care support via a Direct Payment.

Life expectancy in Plymouth has improved for both males and females in recent years; however, it remains below the England average. Healthy life expectancy in Plymouth (the average number of years a person can expect to live in good health) is significantly lower than the England average for females, whilst similar for males. This theme has been included as a challenge in the current and previous Plymouth Reports and remains a priority for the city to address.

Health and wellbeing needs increase with age, with a higher burden of chronic disease, susceptibility to the negative impacts of social isolation, and an associated raised need for health and social care services and carers. There will be a considerable increase in the population aged 65+ years in the coming years, which is likely to place additional pressures on the already stretched health and social care services in the city.

PROGRESS UPDATE

Primary Care

NHS Devon Integrated Care Board (ICB) is working in partnership with local primary care providers to respond to the pressures faced locally and support improvements for the local population. Key system drivers include the Devon Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) Improvement Plan, and the National Primary Care Access Recovery Plan (PCARP). The UEC Plan includes priorities around improving the resilience of GP practice services, with a number of workstreams looking to achieve improvements within GP practices through this coming winter and beyond, and also in the way that GP practices and other services, such as University Hospitals Plymouth, work together. The PCARP specifically aims to address access to primary care, including the ease of getting through to a practice and ability to be seen in a timely fashion. Some of the metrics measured through the PCARP include the number of additional staff within Plymouth Primary Care Networks (PCNs); the number of GP practices using cloud-based telephony; patients' reported overall satisfaction with their GP practice; ease of access to the practice; patients with needs met within one working day; and patients seen within two weeks (as appropriate to clinical need).

Procurement of a provider for people registered as patients with Mayflower Medical Group is underway. NHS England has recently supported an improvement week within GP practices in two PCNs, focusing on identifying opportunities for support/improvement through engagement with patients and staff. This was a successful event with a range of actions identified that are currently being developed into local action plans.

Dental Task Force

Plymouth City Council has established a Dental Task Force to address dental access issues. The Dental Task Force brings together key stakeholders, local MPs and NHS leaders from across the city to discuss what can be done to improve dental provision in Plymouth. The Dental Task Force will seek to:

- Identify sources of funding that can be used address this priority
- Ensure existing planned developments are taken forward
- Identify service providers who have capacity to deliver additional dental services
- Ensure additional NHS dental capacity is made available to improve access to NHS Dental Services for Plymouth residents
- Enhance the oral health improvement (prevention) offer available in the city.

Delivery of this priority will be ongoing over the next 18 months, with updates being submitted to Plymouth City Council's Cabinet and Health and Wellbeing Board as and when required. The cross-party Dental Task Force has now met on three occasions and is focusing on the following topics:

- The City Centre Dental Education Practice
- The Expression of Interest process
- The Schools' Offer
- The Clawback, Underspend and Ringfence issue
- The Five Priorities (Dental Asks).

Sexual Health Services

The Sexual Health in Plymouth (SHiP) service provides testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), routine and emergency contraception and HIV testing and prevention, as well as advice about pregnancy, STIs, sexual health and wellbeing, and help for victims of sexual assault. The Council has extended its current contract with University Hospitals Plymouth (UHP) NHS Trust to deliver the integrated service, in advance of a further procurement process set to begin in 2024.

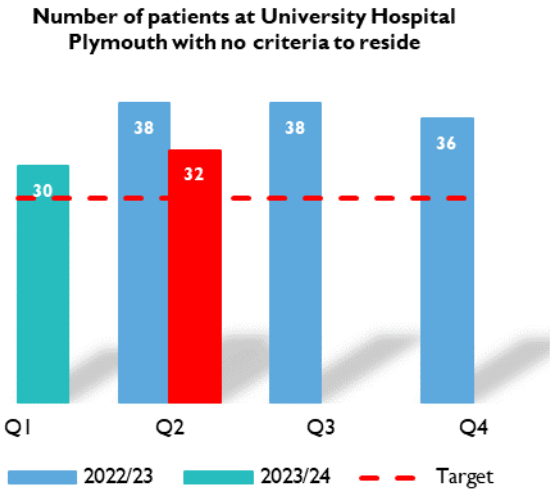
Health and Wellbeing

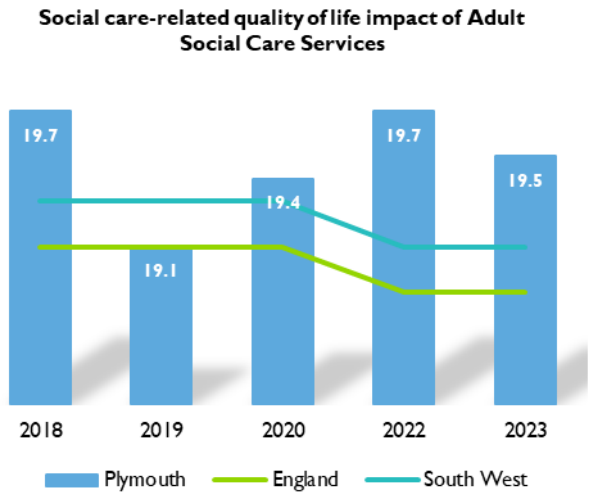
Support available to help people in Plymouth make healthy choices and improve their wellbeing will continue until 2025. The service, One You Plymouth, is commissioned by Plymouth City Council and delivered by Livewell Southwest. All of the services are open to self-referral, so anyone living in Plymouth can access them directly without needing to be referred by a GP or other professional.

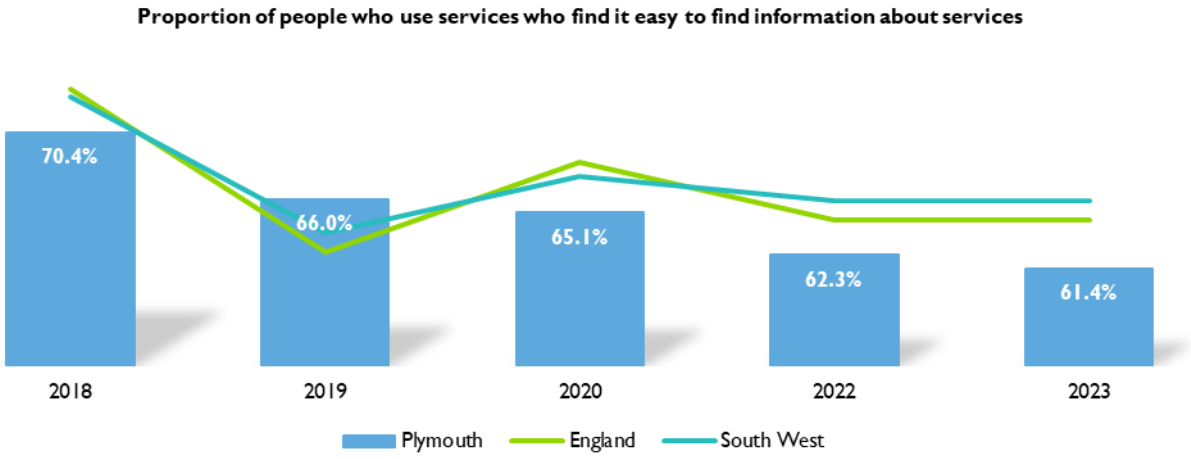
The wider network of support in the city for health and wellbeing includes the Wellbeing Hubs, the emerging Family Hubs and a broad range of services including befriending and support for carers. Mapping and design work for improving the city's early help offer for adults will begin in the new year.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Quarterly KPIs	Q3 2022/23	Q4 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Direction of travel	Target
Number of No Criteria to Reside patients at an acute setting (daily average during the quarter)	38	36	30	**32**	▲	26
Number of children (<16 years) on the NHS dental waiting list year-on-year from 2022-2025	NEW	NEW	4,189	**4,181**	▼	Monitor
Number of adults (>16 years) on the NHS dental waiting list year-on-year from 2022-2025	NEW	NEW	17,646	**17,693**	▲	Monitor
Annual KPIs	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**		
GP access - patient satisfaction with appointments offered	NEW	NEW	74%	**73%**	▼	Monitor
Social care-related quality of life impact of Adult Social Care services	19.4	No survey	19.7	**19.5**	▼	Monitor
Proportion of people who use services who find it easy to find information about services	65.1%	No survey	62.3%	**61.4%**	▼	Monitor







Keeping children, adults and communities safe

TAKING THE LEAD

Lead Cabinet Members	Councillor Jemima Laing Councillor Mary Aspinall
Lead Officer	TBC
Enabling Plans	A Bright Future Safer Plymouth Plan Plymouth Safeguarding Adults Partnership Plan Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Partnership Plan PSCP Plan on a Page 2022 - 2023 Child Poverty Action Plan
Relevant Scrutiny Panel	Health and Adult Social Care / Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panels

WHAT WE KNOW

The safeguarding of children and adults is everyone's business and local partnership working is essential for consistency across Plymouth to ensure that adults with care and support needs and children are safeguarded from abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Adult Safeguarding

In 2022/23, 7,204 adult safeguarding referrals were received. Demand remains relatively steady, with the numbers received in 2022/23 reducing by 238 (-3.2%) compared to 2021/22. The longer-term trend is upward, with the number of referrals received in 2022/23 being 50.7% higher than the number received in 2018/19.

7,183 adult safeguarding referrals were completed under the triage process and of these, 873 (12.2%) were triaged as a safeguarding concern. This means that the conversion rate from referral to concern has significantly dropped for the second successive year. In 2022/23, 12.2% of referrals became a concern, down from 18.3% in 2021/22.

Children's Safeguarding

In 2022/23, 5,355 contacts were received by the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH); 42.9% were repeat contacts compared to 51.1% in 2021/22, and 61.2% of the MASH contacts met the threshold for Child Protection. 2,347 MASH referrals were made and 19.4% of these were repeat referrals, which is a reduction of 2.4 percentage points (21.8%) compared to 2021/22.

Our Partnerships

Plymouth City Council is a lead member of both the Plymouth Safeguarding Adults Partnership (PSAP) and the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The **Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership** is often known as the PSCP and is a partnership of agencies, coordinating and leading safeguarding services across the city. The Partnership has a strong focus on learning from local and national reviews into what works and what could be improved within children's safeguarding. It scrutinises the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and provides a forum for agencies to hold each other to account for ensuring everyone plays their part in keeping children and young people safe in Plymouth. Priorities for the partnership are:

- Neglect
- Adolescent safety framework
- Child victims of domestic abuse

- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Governance arrangements.

The **Plymouth Safeguarding Adults Partnership** is a partnership of agencies, coordinating and leading safeguarding services across the city. Ongoing key strategic priorities for the partnership are:

- **Prevention**
  - Ensure PSAP partners are encouraged to take opportunities to work in preventative ways to minimise abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults at risk
  - Promote a culture of collective accountability and respectful challenge aimed at implementing preventative strategies and systems.
- **Engagement**
  - Ensure adult safeguarding information is co-produced and communicated appropriately through a range of approaches and formats
  - Local people with care and support needs and their carers are engaged to provide assurance and feedback on their experience of safeguarding.
- **Assurance**
  - Leadership focused on personalised practice, a whole system approach across and within organisations
  - Continued analysis and assessment of outcomes of multi-agency practice, including intervention where safety and quality is compromised.
- **Learning**
  - Provide learning activity which demonstrates improvement in the outcome and experience for the person, safeguarding practice and multi-agency working
  - Support a culture of continuous learning and improvement with access to a wide range of learning disseminated through a range of methods.

PROGRESS UPDATE

Plymouth Safeguarding Adult Partnership (PSAP) Business Plan 2023 to 2024 has been designed to be an organic, developmental document, able to react to issues highlighted by partners or identified by data monitoring. Current key priorities include:

- Ensure that individuals are robustly safeguarded as they move from adolescence to adulthood
- Ensure that individuals leading complex lives are safeguarded
- Ensure that those with care and support needs who experience domestic abuse are safeguarded
- Ensure the safeguarding needs of homeless people are recognised and responded to
- People and communities in Plymouth are engaged in the best way with the safeguarding system
- Information on adult safeguarding is accessible to the public and professionals
- Ensure that frontline staff across agencies have the confidence and competence to meet the safeguarding needs of the people of Plymouth
- Ensure that safeguarding practice is robust across the system and learning is embedded into practice
- Ensure that safeguarding data informs the safeguarding system and practice.

Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Partnership (PSAP) plans 2023 to 2024 include:

- **Response to Neglect** – Ensure a shared understanding across the Partnership about what neglect looks like and how each agency should respond. As the most common reason for statutory intervention in the lives of families, the partnership is focusing across prevention to early help to statutory support.
- **Response to Sexual Harm** – Continue in partnership with the NSPCC to deliver Together for Childhood, and embed evidence gathered across the system. A campaign to direct adults who might sexually harm to get help and prevent abuse has been initiated and the momentum for this innovative local approach will need to be maintained.
- **Right Support, Right Time** – Data suggests that we are not quite getting it right in terms of offering the right support, at the right time. More can be done earlier, across the Partnership, to prevent families requiring statutory services at a later stage.
- **Trauma-informed Practice –** Translate the motivation and understanding that has developed within the workforce into practice that feels trauma-informed for children, young people and families.

Cutting across all of the priorities is a focus on organisational culture and professional support. Good practice can only thrive where we have a culture of learning, respectful challenge and a workforce that feels supported and valued.

Repeat Child Protection Plans within a child's lifetime (rolling 12 months)

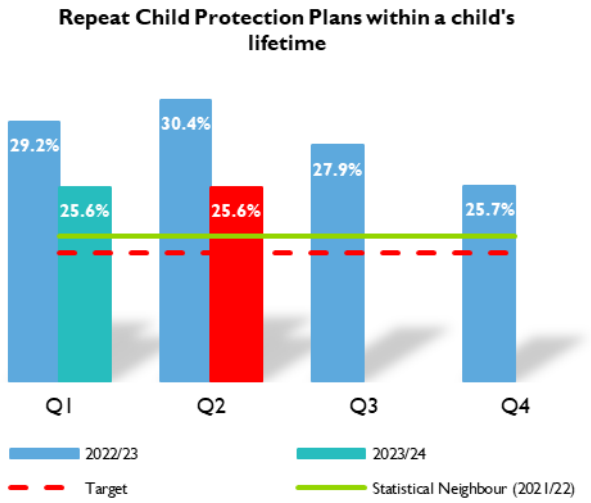
In the rolling 12 months to the end of quarter two 2023/24, the percentage of children starting a Child Protection Plan who had previously been the subject of a Child Protection Plan within their lifetime was 25.6%, which is lower than the last four year-end positions. During the last 12 months, 63 children/young people have started repeated Child Protection Plans, which is an improvement on the 103 reported for 2021/22 and two less than our provisional figure for 2022/23 (65). The current percentage is higher than statistical neighbours and the England average. Improvements to practice and increased effectiveness of management oversight is expected to continue to reduce repeat Child Protection Plans.

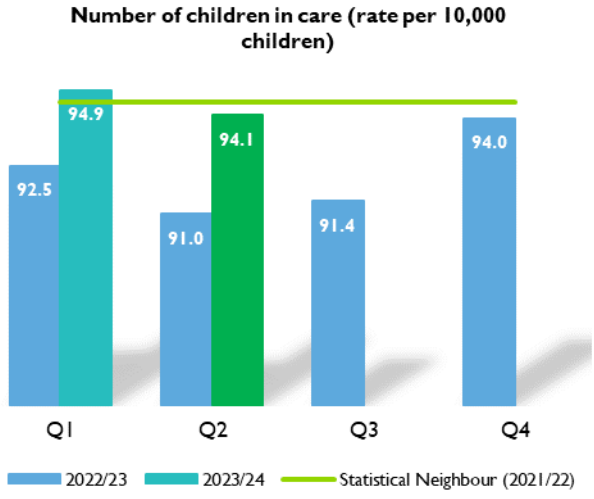
Children in care (rate per 10,000)

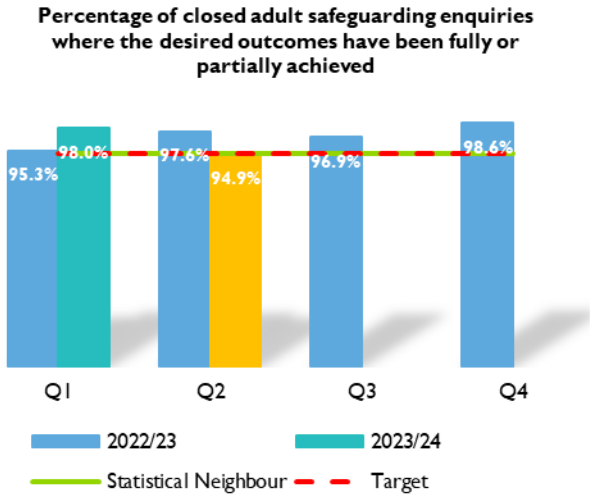
On 30 September 2023, there were 486 children/young people in care. This is a net decrease of 15 children on the provisional figure for 2022/23 and slightly lower than the published figure of 490 for 2021/22. The rate per 10,000 for Plymouth is 94.1, which is just below statistical neighbours (94.5) but above the national average (70). The focus on ensuring that the right children come into care at the right time will continue to improve practice in this area and may lead to a small further decrease in the number of children in care, but we are now in line with statistical neighbours. Further improvement work is ongoing to ensure children are in homes that are meeting their needs, including increasing our capacity with a brokerage team to match children with appropriate homes and at the right cost.

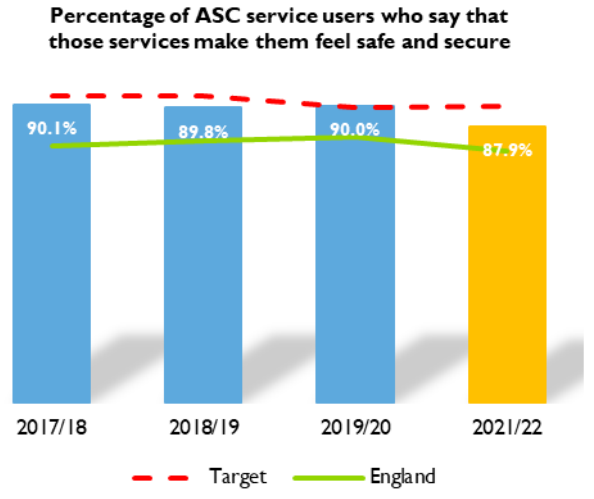
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Quarterly KPIs	Q3 2022/23	Q4 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Direction of travel	Target
Repeat child protection plans within a child's lifetime (rolling 12 months)	27.9%	25.7%	25.6%	25.6%	▲ ▼	22.0%
Children in care (rate per 10,000)	91.4	94.0	94.9	94.1	▼	94.5
Percentage of closed adult safeguarding enquiries where the desired outcomes have been fully or partially achieved	96.9%	98.6%	98.0%	94.9%	▼	95.0%
Annual KPIs	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**		
Adult Social Care service users who feel safe and secure	89.8%	90.0%	No survey	87.9%	▼	90.0%
Residents who feel safe (during the day)	No survey	90%	No survey	89%	▼	Increase

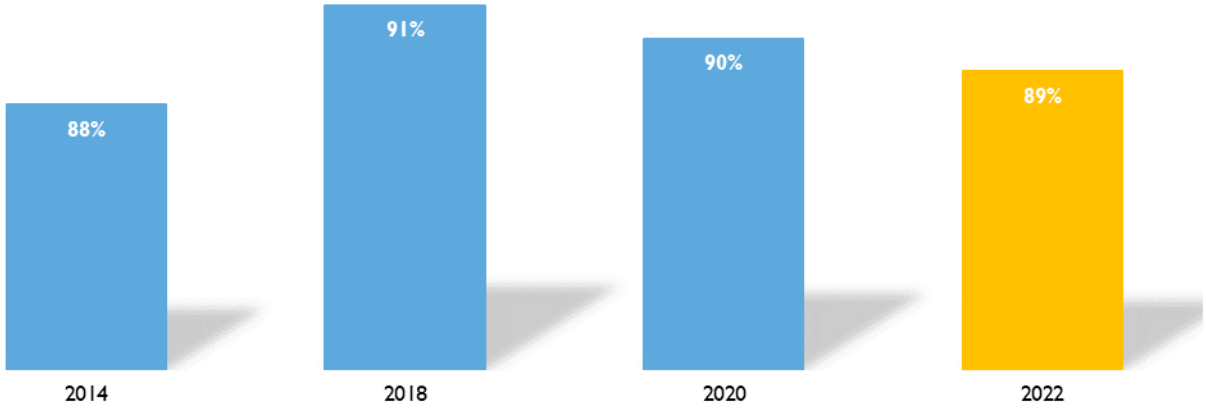








Percentage of Plymouth City Survey respondents who feel safe outside in their local area



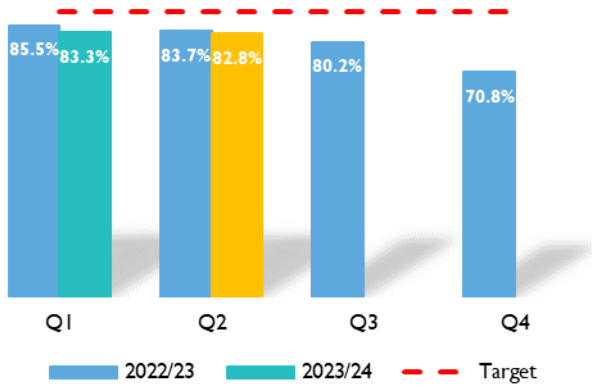
Doing This By

Providing quality public services

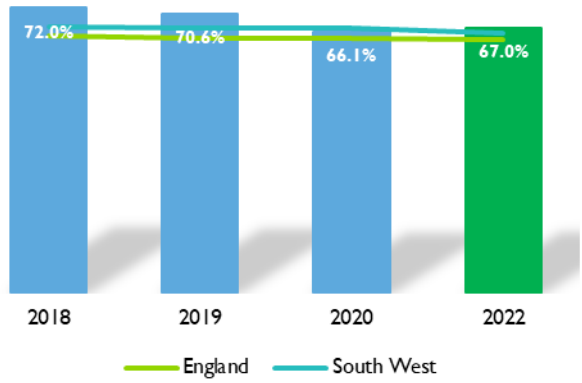
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Quarterly KPI	Q3 2022/23	Q4 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Direction of travel	Target
Stage one complaints resolved within timeframe	80.2%	70.8%	83.3%	**82.8%**	▼	90%
Annual KPI	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**		
Percentage of people who receive social care who are satisfied	70.6%	66.1%	No survey	**67.0%**	▲	Increase

Percentage of stage one complaints resolved within timeframe



Percentage of people who receive social care who are satisfied

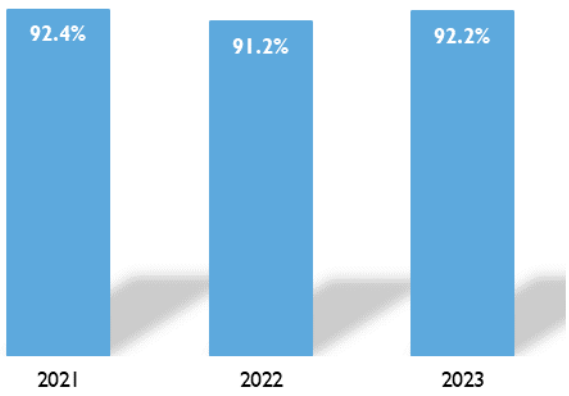


Trusting and engaging our communities

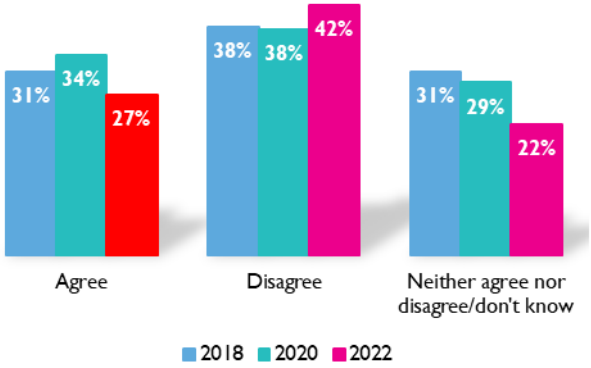
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Annual KPIs	2020	2021	2022	2023		
Percentage of eligible adults registered to vote in local elections	No local election	92.4%	91.2%	**92.2%**	▲	Monitor
Residents who know how to get involved in local decisions	34%	No survey	**27%**	Available in 2024	▼	Increase
Residents who think people from different backgrounds get on well	39%	55%	**42%**	Available in 2024	▼	Increase
Percentage of Plymouth City Survey respondents who volunteer or help out	42%	No survey	**38%**	Available in 2024	▼	Increase

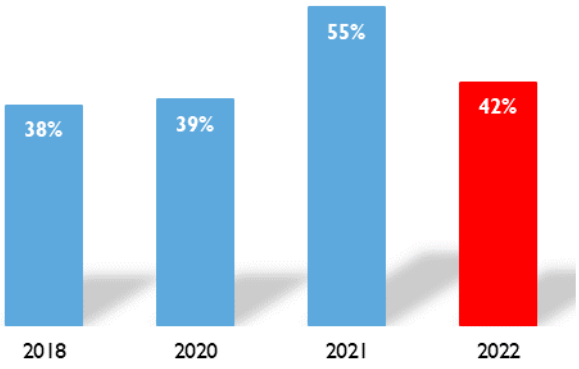
Percentage of adults registered to vote in local elections



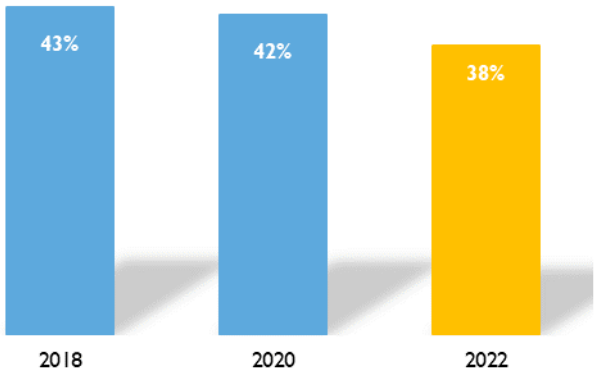
Percentage of Plymouth City Survey respondents who know how to get involved in decisions affecting their local area



Percentage of City Survey respondents who think their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together



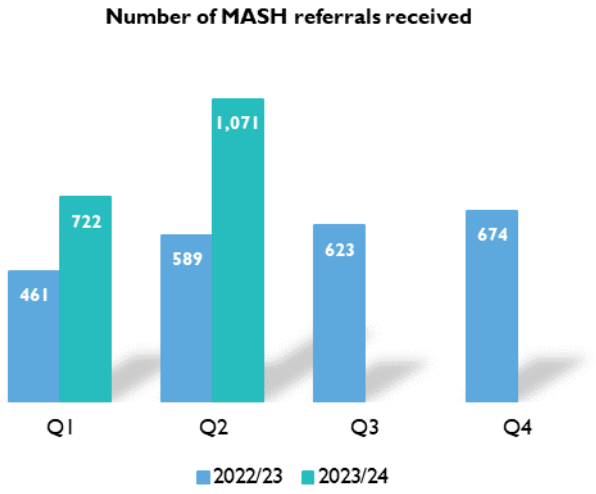
Percentage of Plymouth City Survey respondents who volunteer or help out

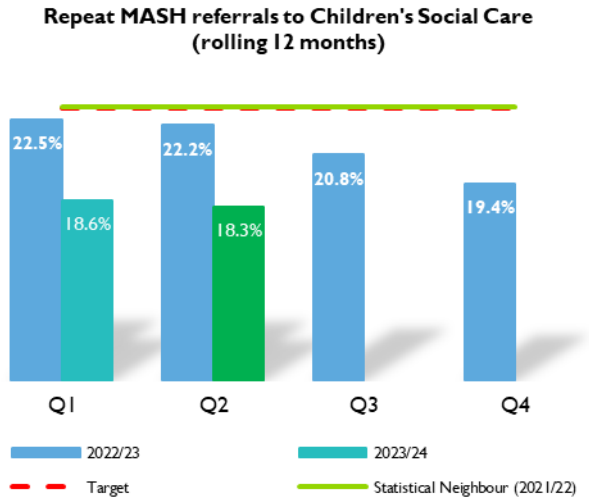


Focusing on prevention and early intervention

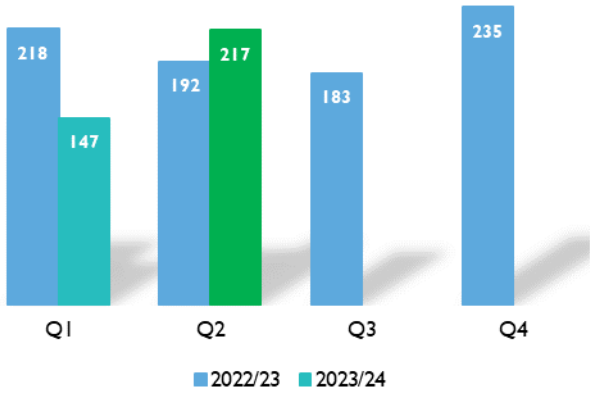
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Quarterly KPIs	Q3 2022/23	Q4 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Direction of travel	Target
Number of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) contacts received	NEW	NEW	2,487	**3,407**	▲	Monitor
Number of MASH referrals received	623	674	722	**1,071**	▲	Monitor
Repeat MASH referrals to Children's Social Care (rolling 12 months)	20.8%	19.4%	18.6%	**18.3%**	▼	23.0%
Number of households prevented from becoming homeless or relieved of homelessness	183	235	147	**217**	▲	188
Percentage of people accessing the Stop Smoking Service who have quit	53%	54%	**48%**	Available in Q3	▼	35%
Annual KPIs	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**		
Proportion of people who received short term service, where sequel was either no ongoing support or support of a lower level	86.6%	88.9%	**82.5%**	Available in 2024	▼	Monitor
Child obesity at Year 6	33.5%	No NCMP	**35.1%**	Available in 2024	▲	37.8%
Percentage of two year olds benefiting from Funded Early Education	87.0%	66.8%	72.6%	**72.8%**	▲	Monitor
Total persistent absence in all schools	Not reported	12.9%	28.1%	**24.4%**	▼	Monitor

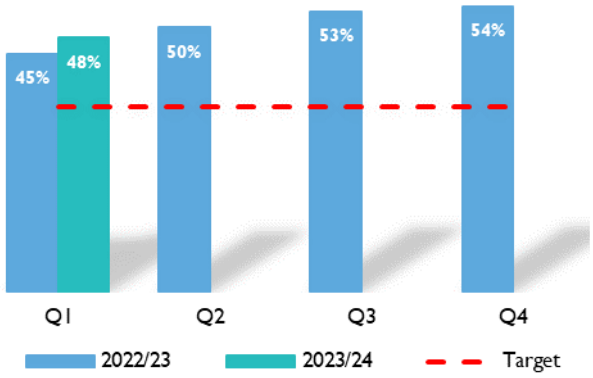




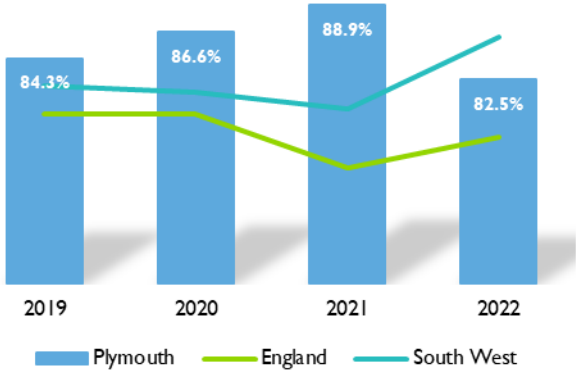
Number of households prevented from becoming homeless or relieved of homelessness



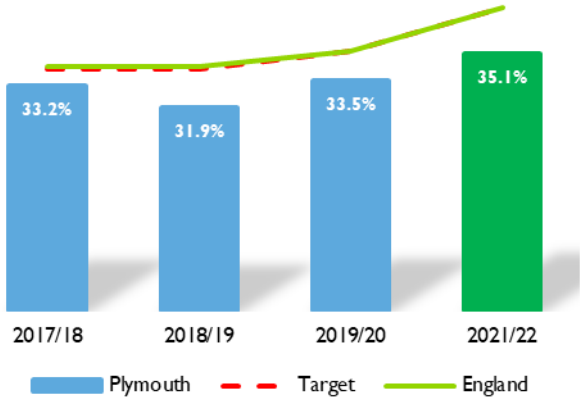
Percentage of people accessing the Stop Smoking Service who have quit



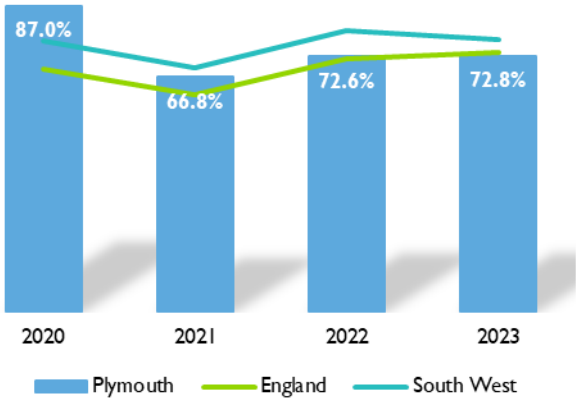
Proportion of people who received short term service, where sequel was either no ongoing support or support of a lower level



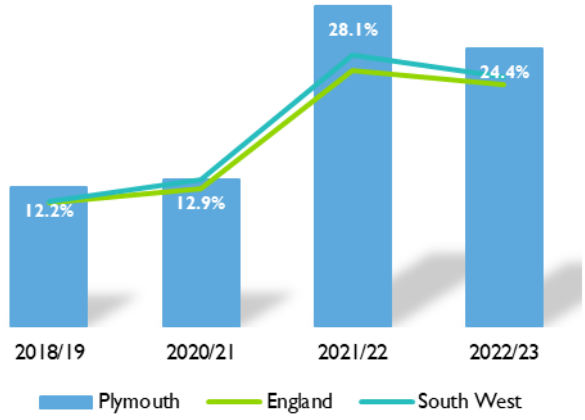
Excess weight in 10-11 year olds



Percentage of two year olds benefiting from Funded Early Education

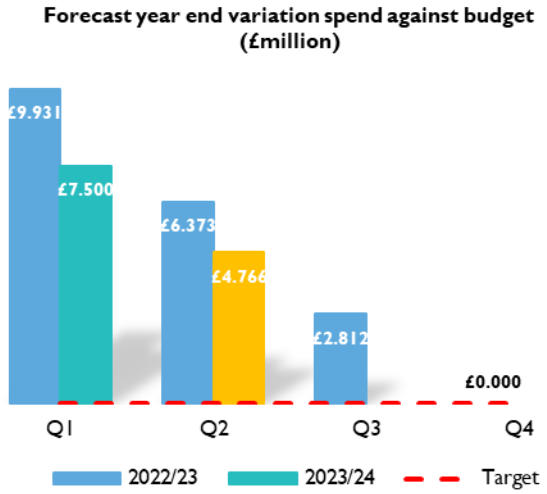


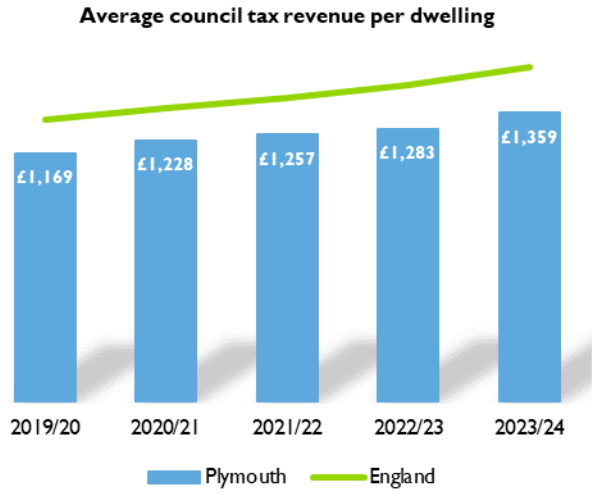
Total persistent absence in all schools



PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Quarterly KPIs	Q3 2022/23	Q4 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Direction of travel	Target
Forecast spend against budget (£million)	£2.812m	£0.000m	£7.500m	**£4.766m**	▼	£0
Annual KPIs	**2020/21**	**2021/22**	**2022/23**	**2023/24**		
Council tax revenue per dwelling	£1,228	£1,257	£1,283	**£1,359**	▲	Monitor
Social care spend as percentage of core spending power		**75.3%**	Not yet published	Not yet published		Monitor
Debt servicing as percentage of core spending power		**11.9%**	Not yet published	Not yet published		Monitor

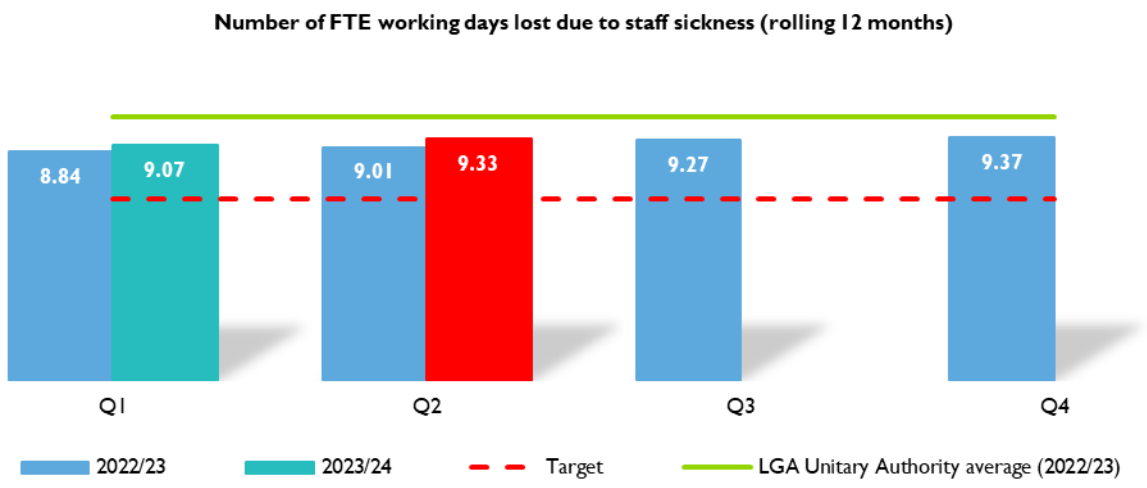




Empowering and engaging our staff

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Quarterly KPIs	Q3 2022/23	Q4 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Direction of travel	Target
Days lost due to sickness (average days per FTE rolling 12 months)	9.27	9.37	9.07	**9.33**	▲	7



ADVOCACY / LOBBYING UPDATE

Our public affairs activity remains focused on the priority areas for the Council and city, and we continue to engage with ministers and senior civil servants on a range of issues that are important to Plymouth.

July

- Councillor Penberthy, Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities, co-signed an open letter from several local authorities to the Home Secretary. The letter outlined local authorities' concerns about the modern slavery clauses within the then Illegal Migration Bill. A response was received in September from Sarah Dines MP, Minister for Safeguarding at the Home Office, re-iterating the Government's position on this.
- Councillor Briars-Delve, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, wrote to the Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, the then Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, calling on the Government to provide additional funding and support to local authorities like Plymouth to help tackle climate change. A response was received from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero in August, outlining that the Government would publish a response to the Climate Change Committee's June progress report later in the year, and also acknowledging the role that local authorities play in tackling climate change.
- The Leaders and Chief Executives of Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council met with Dehenna Davison MP, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Levelling Up, to discuss a proposed Devon, Plymouth and Torbay devolution deal. Since this meeting there has been various correspondence with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Department for Transport in relation to moving forward with a proposed devolution deal for the Devon, Plymouth and Torbay area.

August

- The Leader wrote to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, regarding Plymouth's aspiration to be included as one of the Government's 20 named places for regeneration.
- The Leader wrote to Dr Sarah Wollaston, Chair of NHS Devon, setting out concerns regarding the long-standing issue of Fair Shares for Plymouth from the Devon NHS system. A response was received in September setting out how NHS Devon intends to achieve equitable funding allocations across Devon.

September

- The Leader wrote to the Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP, Shadow Deputy Prime Minister, Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition and Shadow Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing, Communities and Local Government, congratulating her on her appointment and inviting her to visit Plymouth to see first-hand some of the progress that the Council has been making to unlock the city's potential.

Description of key performance indicators

Priority	Key performance indicators	Description and data source
Working with the Police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour	Number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the Council **(Q)**	A demand measure that reports on the number of anti-social behaviour reports to the Council via our online reporting form, which is used by the public and our Community Connections advisors who take telephone queries. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	Number of early interventions to anti-social behaviour **(Q)**	The number of early interventions issued by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team to help prevent an escalation in offending. Early interventions include ASB1 letters; ASB2 letters; Acceptable Behaviour Contracts; referrals to IMPACT (youth diversionary programme); and Community Protection Notice Warnings. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	Crime rate per 1,000 residents **(Q)**	All crime recorded as a rate per 1,000 population. Nationally published crime data submitted by Devon and Cornwall Police, accessed via iQuanta.
Fewer potholes, cleaner, greener streets and transport	Surface repair **(Q)**	This KPI is under review to ensure that a suitable and reliable measure of pothole and surface repair can be reported.
	Cleanliness Index (APSE) **(Q)**	The cleanliness and condition of streets is measured using the Land Audit Management System (LAMS), which allows us to compare ourselves to other members of the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) performance network. It comprises three main elements: street cleanliness, grounds maintenance, and the presence of hard surface weeds. Results are cumulative and include all audits that have been completed in the financial year to date. This measure is under review due to a change of inspection routine. Benchmarking available with other local authorities that are part of APSE.
	Public satisfaction with traffic flow **(A)**	Public satisfaction with traffic levels and congestion on Plymouth's roads, collected via the National Highways and Transport (NHT) Network annual survey. National measure with benchmarking available from the NHT Network.
Build more homes - for social rent and affordable ownership	Net additional homes in the city **(A)**	The annual net additional homes in the Plymouth Local Planning Authority Area, for example through new house building completions and conversions (e.g. of a house into flats), but after the removal of dwellings lost by change of use or demolition. This is aligned with the Plymouth Joint Local Plan. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	Total new affordable homes (gross) **(A)**	The annual number of gross homes delivered that are affordable. This is a new measure, with 2022/23 as the baseline. Aligned with the Plymouth Joint Local Plan. Local measure with no benchmarking.
Green investment, jobs, skills and better education	Employment rate **(Q)**	Anyone aged 16-64 years who did some paid work in the reference period, whether as an employee or self-employed; had a job that they were temporarily away from; on government-supported training and employment programmes; or were doing some unpaid family work. Published national data taken from NOMIS - official census and labour market statistics.
	Percentage of young people aged 16 to 17 going to, or remaining in, education, employment or training (EET) **(Q)**	The percentage of young people aged 16 to 18 in academic years 12 to 14 who are going to, or remaining in, education, employment or training (EET). Local quarterly Careers South West data. Annual benchmarking available through published Department for Education statistics.
	Pupils attending schools judged as good or better by Ofsted **(Q)**	The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) inspect services providing education and skills

		for learners of all ages. Ofsted's role is to make sure that organisations providing education, training and care services in England do so to a high standard for children and students. There are four overall judgements: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement' and 'inadequate'. The aspiration in Plymouth is that all pupils attend a school that receives a minimum judgement of 'good' in their overall effectiveness. Please note that due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Ofsted inspections from March 2020 were suspended. Graded inspections resumed at the start of the 2021/22 academic year. National measure with benchmarking available on school inspections from Ofsted.
	Number of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) permanently excluded **(Q)**	KPI in development.
	Corporate scope 1 and scope 2 CO_2e emissions (tonnes CO_2e) **(A)**	The combined amount of scope 1 and scope 2 CO_2 emissions produced by Plymouth City Council. Scope 1 includes all direct emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control, including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air-conditioning leaks. Scope 2 includes indirect emissions from any electricity, heat and steam purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	PCC investment in low carbon infrastructure (3 year average) **(A)**	PCC's spend on low carbon infrastructure over a three year period, divided by three to give an average annual spend over the period. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	Key Stage 4 pupils achieving Grade 5+ in English and maths **(A)**	Key Stage 4 is the phase of education attended by 14 to 16 year olds and leads to GCSE examinations. GCSEs are awarded a grade level between 1 and 9, with a strong pass (C+) being graded at a 5+ and the previous 'A' grade being graded at a level 7. National measure with benchmarking available from the Department for Education.
Working with the NHS to provide better access to health, care and dentistry	Number of No Criteria to Reside patients at an acute setting (daily average during the quarter) **(Q)**	Data taken from ICS operational pressures data book, published internally daily by NHS Devon. Counts the number of people within an acute health setting (UHP) where the person has a delayed discharge that meets the no criteria to reside definition. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	Number of children (<16 years) on the NHS dental waiting list year-on-year from 2022-2025 **(Q)**	Data provided on a quarterly basis by the South West Collaborative Commissioning Hub Dental Team. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	Number of adults (>16 years) on the NHS dental waiting list year-on-year from 2022-2025 **(Q)**	Data provided on a quarterly basis by the South West Collaborative Commissioning Hub Dental Team. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	GP access - patient satisfaction with appointments offered **(A)**	Data is from the annual national GP Patient Survey, based on responses to the question: 'Were you satisfied with the appointment (or appointments) you were offered?' This is asked of patients who have tried to make an appointment since being registered with their current GP Practice. Our local authority results are an average of scores by Primary Care Networks covering the Plymouth City Council area. National benchmarking available via the GP Patient Survey.
	Social care-related quality of life impact of Adult Social Care services **(A)**	Overall quality of life score for people in receipt of Adult Social Care services, measure is a score calculated using responses to a group of questions within the statutory annual user survey.

		National benchmarking available via the Adult Social Care Analytical Hub.
	Proportion of people who use services who find it easy to find information about services **(A)**	Measure from the statutory annual survey of Adult Social Care users that measures how easy it is for users to find and access information about Adult Social Care services. National benchmarking available via the Adult Social Care Analytical Hub.
Keeping children, adults and communities safe	Repeat child protection plans within a child's lifetime (rolling 12 months) **(Q)**	The percentage of children starting a Child Protection Plan who have previously been on a Child Protection Plan. The current Plan may be for the same or different reasons and there might be a significant time lapse between Child Protection Plans. Local data reported on a quarterly basis from the automated electronic reporting system for CYPFS. Benchmarking available nationally on an annual basis via the DfE national Children in Need Census return.
	Children in care (rate per 10,000) **(Q)**	If a child/young person is made the subject of a care order, we have legal responsibility for them. We count a child as a 'child in care' if they get accommodation for a period of more than 24 hours, are subject to a care order, are accommodated under section 20 of the 1989 Children's Act or are subject to a placement order (adoption). To enable comparison against other authorities, we report the number as a rate per 10,000 children within our authority's population. National benchmarking available via the annual Children in Care return (SSDA903), which is collected from local authorities in England.
	Percentage of closed adult safeguarding enquiries where the desired outcomes have been fully or partially achieved **(Q)**	The percentage of safeguarding enquiries in which, at the point of completion, the individual affected or individual's representative's desired outcomes have been fully or partially achieved. Data is taken from the Safeguarding Adults returns, with national benchmarking available via the published Safeguarding Adults Return Statistics.
	Adult Social Care service users who feel safe and secure **(A)**	The proportion of people who use Adult Social Care (ASC) services who say that those services make them feel safe and secure, as measured using the annual Statutory ASC Survey. National benchmarking available via the Adult Social Care Analytical Hub.
	Residents who feel safe (during the day) **(A)**	The percentage of Plymouth City Survey respondents who feel fairly safe or very safe when outside in their local area during the day. Local measure with no benchmarking available.

Enabler	Key performance indicators	Description and data source
Providing quality public services	Stage one complaints resolved within timeframe **(Q)**	The percentage of stage one customer complaints resolved within the period that are resolved within the timeframe of 10 working days. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	Percentage of people who receive social care who are satisfied **(A)**	Measure from the statutory annual survey of Adult Social Care users that measures how satisfied users are with the services they receive. National benchmarking available via the Adult Social Care Analytical Hub.
Trusting and engaging our communities	Percentage of eligible adults registered to vote in local elections **(A)**	Percentage of adults (aged 18+ years) who are eligible to vote who are registered to vote in the local election. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	Residents who know how to get involved in local decisions **(A)**	The percentage of Plymouth City Survey respondents who agreed with the statement 'I know how to get involved in decisions that affect my local area'. Local measure with no benchmarking.

	Residents who think people from different backgrounds get on well **(A)**	The percentage of Plymouth City Survey respondents who agreed with the statement 'my local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together'. This is a measure of community cohesion. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	Percentage of Plymouth City Survey respondents who volunteer or help out **(A)**	The percentage of Plymouth City Survey respondents who volunteer or help out in the city, which includes formal volunteering (e.g. for a charity or community group) or informal helping out (e.g. a neighbour). Local measure with no benchmarking.
Focusing on prevention and early intervention	Number of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) contacts received **(Q)**	Where there are concerns about a child, our partner agencies and the public (e.g. family members) can contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. These initial concerns are recorded as a contact on our case management system. This measure gives the number of contacts that have been received in the quarter. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	Number of MASH referrals received **(Q)**	Where concerns about a child have been raised to the Children, Young People and Families Service, once the initial contact has been screened by our multi agency hub, if appropriate, referrals will be accepted. Local data reported on a quarterly basis from the automated electronic reporting system for CYPFS. Benchmarking available nationally on an annual basis via the DfE national Children in Need Census return.
	Repeat MASH referrals to Children's Social Care (rolling 12 months) **(Q)**	The percentage of referrals to Children's Social Care within the financial year where there has been a referral within the previous 12 months for the same child. Local data reported on a quarterly basis from the automated electronic reporting system for CYPFS. Benchmarking available nationally on an annual basis via the DfE national Children in Need Census return.
	Number of households prevented from becoming homeless or relieved of homelessness **(Q)**	The number of households that the Council has either helped to stay in their current accommodation or has supported to relocate, preventing them from becoming homeless. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	Percentage of people accessing the Stop Smoking Service who have quit **(Q)**	The number of people who engage with the Stop Smoking Service and set a quit date, with successful quit attempts measured at four weeks. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	Proportion of people who received short term service, where sequel was either no ongoing support or support of a lower level **(A)**	Short term services aim to re-able people and promote their independence. This measure which is calculated using statutory returns provides evidence of a good outcome of maximising independence and delaying/preventing further care needs. National benchmarking available via the Adult Social Care Analytical Hub.
	Child obesity at Year 6 **(A)**	The prevalence of excess weight (including obesity) among children in Year 6 (aged 10 to 11 years old), collected as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) in schools. National measure with benchmarking available from the NCMP: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-child-measurement-programme
	Percentage of two year olds benefiting from Funded Early Education **(A)**	From September 2013, the entitlement to 15 hours of funded early education per week for 38 weeks of the year was extended to specified two year olds in vulnerable families or who are looked after by the local authority. National measure with benchmarking available from the Department for Education.
	Total persistent absence in all schools **(A)**	Pupils on roll at school are deemed persistently absent if their attendance falls below 90%. National measure with benchmarking available from the Department for Education.

Spending money wisely	Forecast spend against budget (£million) **(Q)**	The projected balance remaining against the Council's overall budget at the end of the financial year, updated monthly. Local measure with no benchmarking.
	Council tax revenue per dwelling **(A)**	Council tax dwelling is calculated as the total council tax payable in an area divided by the total number of chargeable dwellings in the area. National measure with benchmarking available from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
	Social care spend as percentage of core spending power **(A)**	The proportion of the Council's core spending power spent on social care. National measure with benchmarking available from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities via the Local Authority Data Explorer.
	Debt servicing as percentage of core spending power **(A)**	Capital expenditure is expenditure that has an impact over more than one year, for example building a new road. When capital spending is financed by borrowing or credit, costs will be incurred over the period of the loan or credit arrangement. This is a measure of how much the Council is paying in relation to servicing its debt compared with its core spending power. National measure with benchmarking available from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities via the Local Authority Data Explorer.
Empowering and engaging our staff	Days lost due to sickness (average per rolling 12 months) **(Q)**	The average number of working days lost due to sickness per full-time equivalent (FTE) employee, calculated as a rolling 12 month average, excluding schools. Sickness data includes days lost due to physical and mental ill health, as well as injuries. Local data but comparable annual sickness statistics available nationally through the Local Government Workforce Survey.
Being a strong voice for Plymouth	Lobbying update	Narrative update.

This report was produced by the Plymouth City Council Performance and Risk Team. For further information, please contact:

Ross Jago
Head of Governance, Performance and Risk
Chief Executive Office
Plymouth City Council
Ballard House
West Hoe Road
Plymouth
PL1 3BJ

Ross.Jago@plymouth.gov.uk

Cabinet

Date of meeting:	11 December 2023
Title of Report:	**Full of Life Update**
Lead Member:	Councillor Mrs Mary Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care)
Lead Strategic Director:	Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health)
Author:	Ruth Harrell
Contact Email:	Ruth.Harrell@Plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report
To update Cabinet on the 'Full of Life!' programme which is supporting ageing well in Plymouth.

Recommendations and Reasons
Cabinet is asked to note this report

Alternative options considered and rejected
NA

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan
Plymouth's vision is to be one of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone. Age is a protected characteristic, and looking through the lens of the older person will be important to consider inequalities not just in older age groups but also in other groups with some commonalities, such as those with mobility or sensory issues, with chronic illnesses and carers, for example.
It will also support the growing city aims around increased ability to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from its growth and economic prosperity.
We will ensure there is a read-across to the newly forming NHS Devon ICB Healthy Ageing Programme, which will have a broader remit around ageing well for adults. This will include any implications and opportunities for commissioned services which focus on services for older people.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
The funding that supports this work will mainly use existing staff resources and budgets, influencing the work done to ensure that it is supporting the development of age-friendly communities. Opportunities for external funding will be sought for specific projects within the programme.

Financial Risks

None

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:
None in the overall programme – there may be advantages in terms of active travel.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:
** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

Appendices
**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	**Exemption Paragraph Number** (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
A	Briefing report title							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							
C	Climate Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

Background papers:
**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	**Exemption Paragraph Number** (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
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Sign off:

Fin	DJN. 23.24. 156	Leg	LS/000013 12/1/AC/30/11/23	Mon Off		HR		Assets		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 27/11/2023											
Cabinet Member approval: *Councillor Mary Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care)* Date approved: 24/11/2023											

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Full of Life!

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Supporting the people of Plymouth to live life to the full

November 2023

The Plymouth Plan 2014-2034

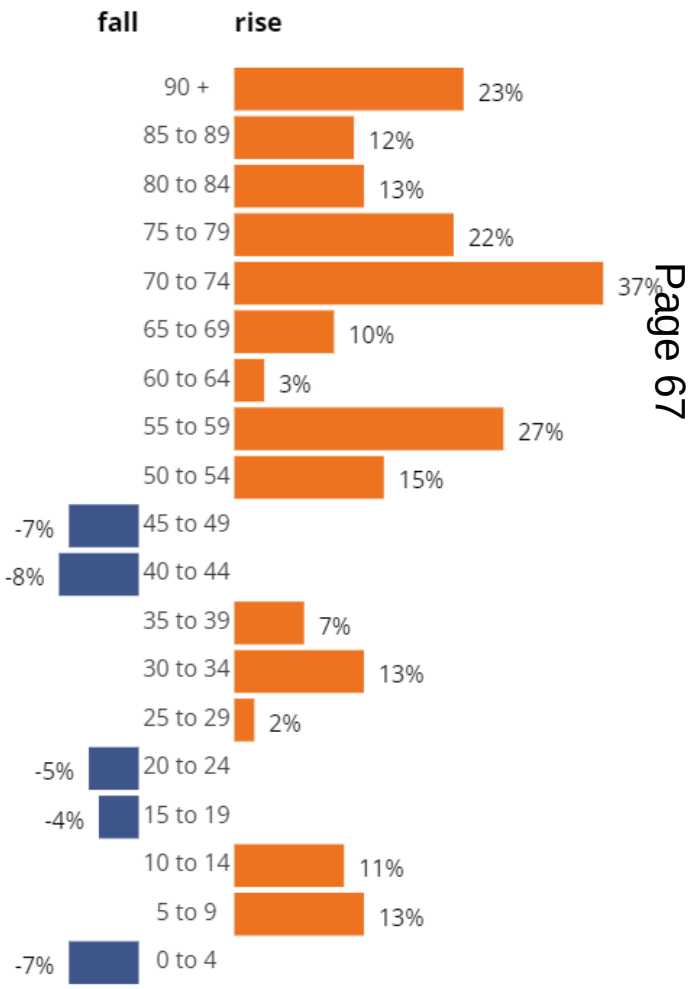
PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Multiple strategic statements around older people including;

- Supporting adults with health and social care needs
- Playing an active role in the community
- Meeting local housing needs
- Creating the conditions for economic growth
- Address health inequalities and improving health
- Delivering skills and talent development

Why a focus on older people?

- The proportion of older people in society (Worldwide, UK, Plymouth) is growing through a combination of people living longer, and the higher number of people born between 1946-1964 (so called baby boomers)
- People in later life often bring many assets to society; for example, though caring for their loved ones, volunteering in communities, and bringing their skills and knowledge to many organisations.
- With a growing number of older people, it is essential that they are empowered, skilled, healthy and able to contribute fully to society.
- Worldwide movement (WHO)



Population change in England from 2011 to 2021

Cabinet recommendations

That Plymouth City Council

- Commits to the development of Age-Friendly communities across Plymouth (and through this, apply to become a member of the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities)
- Delegates to Councillor Mary Aspinall to approve the Terms of Reference of, and to Chair, a city wide steering group to oversee the work from a stakeholder and older persons' perspective. This will be supported by appropriate Council Officers, and Task and Finish groups.
- Through this Steering Group, to develop and/or implement;
  - a baseline assessment
  - a strategy to set the vision
  - an action plan
  - an evaluation framework
- Develop a 'Plymouth Ageing Better' charter, to encourage a large number of organisations across the city to apply age-friendly principles.

Programme structure

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Full of Life! is a city wide programme and will have a city wide steering group

The Programme will last several years, recognising that there will be more that can be done as time goes by.

There will be a clear focus in year 1 of strong engagement and in achieving the baseline assessment, action plan (and evaluation framework), strategic direction and delivering some of the actions such as the charter.

Full of Life! will cover two general cohorts;

- Those who are well – helping them to stay well through promoting Thrive Plymouth targeted to that cohort
- Those impacted by the consequences of ageing

<u>This is about Stage not Age</u>

The programme will not specifically cover health and care services except where we believe that there is a need to challenge the use of language or images used in communications (e.g. use of 'frail elderly' in communications, while recognising there is a specific use for this term in clinical settings)

Age friendly communities framework

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings
2. Transport
3. Housing
4. Social participation
5. Respect and social inclusion
6. Civic participation and employment
7. Communication and information
8. Community support and health services

"Full of Life!" will include all of these themes.
However, they have been organised differently to fit better with existing partnerships
Health and social care services will not figure heavily since this work is part of the Local Care Partnership plan, feeding into the Health and Wellbeing Board.

“Full of Life!” themes

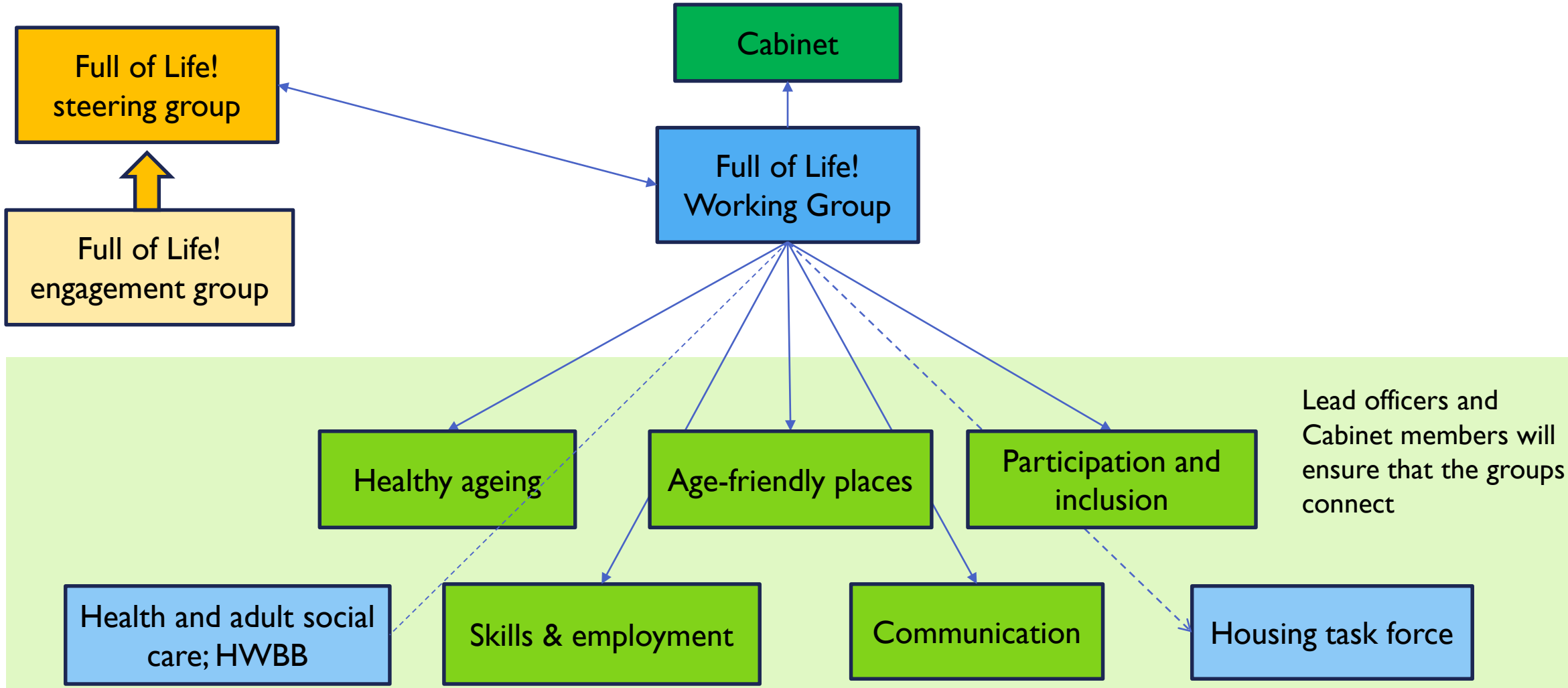
PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

- **Healthy ageing** – Use of Thrive Plymouth (our programme for tackling inequalities) to support people to live healthily which supports healthy ageing
- **Age-friendly places** – that spaces and buildings are accessible, welcoming and feel safe and inclusive. Includes sub themes of a) transport b) outdoor spaces c) buildings
- **Participation and inclusion** – ensuring that activities (inc Culture) available in their place are as financially, culturally and physically accessible as possible. Tackle ageism and ableism, and consider specific groups who may be or feel excluded. Promote and celebrate the contributions of older people to their community.
- **Skills and employment** – ensuring people have opportunities as they age to develop new skills and to pass on their skills and experience to others. a) Age-friendly employers national pledge b) volunteering opportunities c) new skills and opportunities
- **Communication** – ensuring that communications across the city are inclusive, and portray positive images of older people across the city

And also;

- The programme Working Group will receive updates from the Housing Taskforce to be assured that the needs of older people are being taken into account.
- Members will utilise existing partnerships in Health and social care to be assured that the needs of older people are being taken into account.

Programme Governance



Lead officers and Cabinet members will ensure that the groups connect

Theme Governance

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Theme	Officer lead	Councillor lead
Healthy ageing	Ruth Harrell	Cllr Mary Aspinall
Age-friendly Places	Paul Barnard	Cllr Mark Coker Cllr Tom Briars-Delve
Participation and Inclusion	Rachel Silcock	Cllr Dann / Cllr Laing Cllr Penberthy
Skills and employment	David Draffan	Cllr Evans
Housing	Gary Walbridge	Cllr Penberthy
Communication	Ellie Firth	Cllr Jemima Laing

Steering group representation

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

- Steering Group will be supported by an Engagement Group.

Steering Group.

- Chair – Cllr Aspinall
- Senior Citizens Forum rep
- Plymouth Area Disability Action Network rep
- Age UK
- Improving Lives / Sensory Solutions
- Dementia Friendly City lead
- Eldertree

Engagement Group

- Will draw on wider groups across the city, with open invitations to meetings communicated widely
- Workshop style of meetings to understand issues, barriers and possible solutions
- To broaden engagement with a wide range of older people
- To support evaluation of actions taken
- Economy / culture / tourism / shopping / transport etc…..

Context; shared endeavour

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- Healthy Ageing; A consensus on healthy ageing - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
  1. Putting prevention first and ensuring timely access to services and support when needed
  2. Removing barriers and creating more opportunities for older adults to contribute to society
  3. Ensuring good homes and communities to help people remain healthy, active and independent in later life
  4. Narrowing inequalities
  5. Challenging ageist and negative language, culture and practices wherever they occur, in both policy and practice
- World Health Organization 2021-2030 as a Decade of Healthy Ageing
- Centre for Ageing Better | Action today for all our tomorrows (ageing-better.org.uk) - a growing movement of communities, giving you access to contacts, ideas and expertise from the UK and across the globe, as well as learning opportunities and peer support.

Programme Process

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

The programme will be developed using four steps which run in a cycle

It is recommended by the WHO in Creating Age-friendly Environments in Europe that the timescales for this sort of approach should be at least 5 years; this is a long term programme

Preliminary Plans – vision

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Our vision for older people is not different to our vision for everyone living in our city.

The point of this programme is to focus attention on older people.

Our vision is for Plymouth to be;

One of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities, where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone; and where age is no barrier.

Preliminary plans – Baseline

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Baseline assessment comprises two parts;

- What does any data and intel tell us about how we are doing and what could be better?
- What are we already doing / working on to support this agenda?

Next steps

- Team Plymouth workshop
- Full of Life! Engagement Group

A	B	C	D	E	F
Project	Domain	How does it support ageing well?	Currently in place	Planned / could be done	Lead
Wellbeing Hubs	4. Social participation	Provides social setting for people to meet and take part in activities, and get help they might need eg digital inclusion	Tea and toast, regular events	Ask community builders / wellbeing hubs to focus on what local older people say they would like, and enable that to happen	Rachel Silcock
Wellbeing hubs - improving lives	4. Social participation	specialist services around sensory impairment which helps to reduce the isolation caused by sensory loss	Support service offering different technologiesand advice, outrech across city		Rachel Silcock
Janner mens shed	4. Social participation	space for men of all ages to meet		Consider promoting more	
Eldertree	4. Social participation	Eldertree offer a befriending service for those over 50, which includes being active, volunteering, and getting support	Reduces social isolation and also offers opportunity to be active such as seated exercise		
Cost of Living hub	8. Community support and health services	range of support around fuel / food poverty		Campaign around pension credits (and universal credit for those not yet retired)	

Preliminary Plans – what do we already know?

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

City Survey

- Those aged '75 plus' (75%) were significantly more likely to agree with the statement 'I feel I belong to my local area' than those aged '16-64' (49%-65%).
- Those aged '75 plus' (38%) were significantly less likely to disagree with the statement 'I am involved in community activities/groups in my local area' than those aged '16-64' (51%-68%).
- Those aged '45yrs+' were significantly more likely to have agreed that 'I know how to get involved in decisions that affect my local area' than those aged 'Under 45yrs'.
- Those aged '75+' (59%) were significantly more likely to have agreed that 'I feel there is trust between people in my local area' than those aged '16-54' (27- 49%).
- Those aged '75 plus' (27%) were significantly more likely to never use the internet than all other age groups (0-11%).
- Those aged '16-24' (89%) and '75 plus' (86%) were significantly more likely to have agreed that they feel in control of their lives with the statement than those aged '45-54' (76%).

Preliminary plans – action plan

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Baseline assessment will support this;

- What are we already doing / working on to support this agenda?
- What are the identified gaps?
- What can we do in the short term to fill these gaps…?
- What can we do to understand more about the gaps and the potential longer term solutions?
- What are our longer term areas of work?

Next steps

Develop an action plan for short term to include;

Actions over the next 12 months

Areas where more understanding is needed to inform longer term actions

Preliminary plans – charter

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

The 'Full of Life!' charter will be a city-wide charter, looking for engagement across the city.

This might include; shops, hospitality, tourism, transport, employees and anyone providing a service that includes older people.

We have some preliminary ideas for what this might include, and will be testing those out both with those we hope will sign up; and those we hope that will benefit from it.

It might include a set of principles around;

- Communications and signage
- Customer Care
- Accessibility
- Supporting employees

Next steps

Discuss at the steering group and the engagement group

Develop a draft Charter for further consultation

Preliminary plans - evaluation

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

- We work with the Plymouth HDRC to support the development of an evaluation framework for this work
- The city survey information will be key here, especially to track changes over time
- There is a wide range of nationally collected information that can support the overall direction of travel, including indicators such as Productive Healthy Ageing Profile - Data - OHID (phe.org.uk);
  - Life expectancy and the inequality gap
  - Healthy life expectancy and the inequality gap
  - Lifestyle factors; smoking, obesity, physical inactivity, alcohol related ill health
  - Employment, and income
  - Loneliness
  - Physical health conditions
  - Factors such as falls

Cabinet

Date of meeting:	11 December 2023
Title of Report:	**Dental Task Force update**
Lead Member:	Councillor Mary Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)
Lead Strategic Director:	Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health)
Author:	Rob Nelder
Contact Email:	robert.nelder@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	DTF/Cabinet/01
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report
To provide Cabinet Members with an update on the progress of the Dental Task Force.

Recommendations and Reasons
That Cabinet note the content of the report and continue to support the Corporate Plan priority of working with the NHS to provide better access to health, care and dentistry.

Alternative options considered and rejected
Not applicable

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This work supports the Plymouth Plan Healthy City Strategic Outcome that 'People in Plymouth live in happy, healthy, safe and aspiring communities where social, economic and environmental conditions and services enable choices that add quality years to life and reduce the gap in health and wellbeing between communities.

In particular Plymouth Plan Strategic Objective 1 (Delivering a Healthy City), points nine and 10.

9. Ensuring people get the right care from the right people at the right time to improve their health, wellbeing and social outcomes.

10. Making Plymouth a centre of clinical excellence and innovation to benefit the sustainability and growth of the medical and health care sectors in the city and to create education and employment opportunities.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
None

Financial Risks

None

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:
Not applicable

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:
** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*
Specifically relating to child poverty…..tooth decay is the main cause of poor oral health in children and can affect pre-school and school-aged children, disproportionately affecting children living in more deprived areas. Decay affects the appearance of teeth and a child's smile, leading to embarrassment and impacting their ability to play and socialise. Painful, broken and missing teeth can have a negative impact on speech development, food choices, social interaction, readiness for school, and ability to thrive. Having tooth decay involves making repeat visits to a dentist or hospital. Children miss school and parents have to take time off work. Many children need to have their teeth extracted due to pain and infection. Often this is done under a general anaesthetic (GA) in hospital. Tooth decay is preventable, yet more children aged 5-9 have a GA for tooth extraction than for any other reason.
For all these reasons, improving oral health will impact upon child poverty in its widest sense. One of the main ways to alleviate this is by improving access to NHS dental services.

Appendices
**Add rows as required to box below*

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A	Briefing report title							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

Background papers:
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Sign off:

Fin	N/A	Leg	N/A	Mon Off		HR		Assets		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Robert Nelder (Consultant)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 29/11/2023											
Cabinet Member approval: Approved by Councillor Mary Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) Date approved: 30/11/2023											

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DENTAL TASK FORCE UPDATE

Office of the Director of Public Health

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

1. Background and context

Plymouth City Council's Dental Task Force (DTF) has now met on three occasions (July 2023, September 2023 and November 2023). The next meeting of the DTF will be in January 2024.

It was established to address the following issues…..

- The size of the waiting list for an NHS dentist. There are currently 21,874 Plymouth residents (17,693 adults and 4,181 children) on the waiting list for an NHS dentist (correct as of September 2023).
- More than one in five children in Plymouth has visible tooth decay by the age of five years old.
- Each year, more than 600 children in Plymouth have more than 4,000 teeth removed between them under general anaesthetic. This is entirely preventable and costs the health system approximately £1 million per year.
- Data from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities Health Intelligence Pack showed that, as of August 2023, 68.3 percent of adults and 57.4 percent of children in Plymouth had **not** accessed dental services in the preceding 24 months.

The DTF is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care and brings together, key stakeholders, local MPs and NHS leaders from across the city to discuss what can be done to improve dental provision in Plymouth.

Plymouth City Council's Corporate Plan contains six specific priorities. Priority five is…..

Working with the NHS to provide better access to health, care and ***dentistry****.*

To address this priority, the DTF will seek to…..

- Identify sources of funding that can be used address this priority
- Ensure existing planned developments are taken forward
- Identify service providers who have capacity to deliver additional dental services
- Ensure additional NHS dental capacity is made available to improve access to NHS Dental Services for Plymouth residents
- Enhance the oral health improvement (prevention) offer available in the city.

2. Update

2.1 The City Centre Dental Education Practice

The Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise (PDSE) C.I.C. is the teaching 'arm' of the Peninsula Dental School. PDSE is planning to establish a 14-chair multidisciplinary dental clinic in the City Centre. It will offer service, training and career opportunities. It will provide urgent

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care (minimum 3,500 appointments per annum), routine access (two dentists, four days per week), minor oral surgery (five days per week), and dental foundation training (four days per week). As well as this, the facility will provide speciality training in minor oral surgery, training opportunities for local dental professionals, and dental nurse training (there is currently a national shortage). This facility will be open all year round, five days per week from 9:00AM to 5:00PM and is likely to open in Autumn 2024. PDSE has not sought any capital but will invest a minimum £4 million of its own cash into the project. NHS support for this initiative has been sought in the past but has not been forthcoming. The DTF is supporting this initiative and is encouraging NHS Devon ICB (the new commissioner of NHS dental services) to do likewise.

2.2 The Expression of Interest process

In direct response to the challenges highlighted at the DTF meetings, NHS Devon ICB is putting in place a fast-paced expression of interest (EoI) process. This follows a meeting of all Plymouth NHS dental providers at the start of September 2023. The ICB intends to offer a flexible commissioning scheme across Devon to enable access to patient groups who have not had the opportunity of regular attendance at NHS dental services. The ICB is also seeking to support more vulnerable patient groups where there are clear health inequalities. The ICB is seeking expressions of interest to provide stabilisation treatment to patients with an immediate dental problem, with the aim of stabilising patients' oral health and reducing their chances of requiring urgent treatment within the following 12 months. Oral health stabilisation may also support patients to secure an ongoing place at a dental practice. Interested parties (NHS dental providers) will be invited to respond to this process (in the coming weeks) confirming the amount of activity their practice may be able to deliver and evidence to support compliance with the eligibility criteria. Services will be expected to be able to mobilise very early in the New Year (of 2024).

2.3 The Schools' Offer

NHS dental appointments are now being to children at Whitleigh Primary School and Laira Green Primary School. As part of a pilot, dental appointments are being offered by PDSE to all students in key stages one and two, with children remaining patients up until the age of 16. The scheme is now being expanded to include the following schools: High Street Primary, Victoria Road Primary, Mount Wise Primary, and Knowle Primary schools. Prioritisation of schools is based on measures of need, including proportion of free school meal eligibility and deprivation. It should be noted however that this is not new investment by PDSE, it is instead a re-focussing of their existing investment on a more targeted basis. Prior to this pilot being established, access was based on residents being aware of the service and referring their children into it. This did not always result in those patients in greatest need accessing the service. This new process benefits the dental students too as they will be exposed to more challenging dental work.

2.4 The Clawback, Underspend and Ringfence issue

This issue was highlighted in the House of Commons, Health and Social Care Committee, NHS dentistry, Ninth Report of Session 2022–23 (July 2023). It highlighted the following…..

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Under the terms of the current (dental) contract, if less than 96% of the contracted number of units of dental activity (UDAs) are delivered (by the provider), the NHS can and does initiate 'clawback' of funds. Dentists cannot currently exceed 110% (subject to local commissioner approval on a non-recurrent basis) of their contractual UDAs, even if there is increased demand and capacity to meet it. Currently, General Dental Services (GDS) contracts run in perpetuity meaning that rebasing is only possible with agreement of the provider.

Historically, this underspend could be directed away from NHS dentistry by ICBs, to plug gaps in other budgets. The report goes on to say…..

The trouble is, we do not know up front at the start of the year the size of the clawback that will be available, because we do not know the extent of under-delivery by dental providers. We have now introduced measures whereby we are actively reviewing and intervening on providers that are delivering less than 30% of their month-on-month contracted activity, so we can try to free up some of that funding earlier in the year and then commission locally to find alternative ways of providing dental activity.

There was some very good news in the report with regard to the establishment of a ringfence…..

We welcome the fact that to try and address the underspend, NHS England is applying a ringfence for 2023/24, to ensure that no ICB can divert funding away from NHS dentistry. We recommend that this ringfence applies permanently, and NHS England puts in place transparent scrutiny to ensure compliance.

In Plymouth, the underspend equates to approximately £1.5 million (per year) that would be available to support initiatives to improve access to NHS dental services in the city. This was very good news.

However, in November 2023 a letter was sent by NHSE to all NHS Trusts and ICBs which, amongst other things said the following…..

To cover the costs of industrial action to date we are taking the following actions which have been agreed with Government:

- ***Allocating a total of £800 million to systems sourced from a combination of reprioritisation of national budgets and new funding.***

This means that the ringfence for 2023/24 is likely to be been removed. It is currently unclear what the situation will be in 2024/25. However, as industrial action may no longer be taking place, it is hoped the ringfence (if removed) can be re-instated.

2.5 The Letter to the Secretary of State

One of the actions from the September DTF meeting was that a letter should be drafted and sent to the Health Secretary asking for (1) more flexibility in the rebasing of High Street NHS dental contracts and (2) permission to implement local initiatives 'at risk' in the current financial year in advance of local underspend being formally available (in Autumn 2024). This letter would be signed by the Chair of the Task Force and the local MPs.

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With regards to point (1) More flexibility in the rebasing of High Street NHS dental contracts, the letter stated that…..Plymouth's Dental Task Force would like permission to pilot changes to these rules that would enable underspend to be made available to the local ICB in a more timely manner to support local initiatives to improve access to NHS dental services or oral health improvement initiatives.

With regards to point (2) Permission to implement local initiatives 'at risk' in the current financial year in advance of local underspend being formally available (in Autumn 2024) the letter stated that….. Working in partnership with the ICB, Plymouth's Dental Task Force would like to request that permission is given to utilise the anticipated underspend in the coming months, rather than waiting until Autumn 2024. This will involve contracts being placed with willing providers 'at risk.' We would like this minimal risk to be covered by NHS England centrally, rather that by the local ICB, safe in the knowledge however that the contract value of any new initiatives would be far less than the anticipated underspend that will be recouped.

It is yet to be determined what impact the removal of the ringfence mentioned in (4) above will have on these issues.

2.6 The Five Priorities (Dental Asks)

At the November meeting it was suggested by Luke Pollard M.P. that the DTF agrees a set of five 'asks' that would form the basis of any public facing work that the DTF carries out. This was agreed by the other members of the DTF. One of the actions from that meeting was therefore to review the draft 'asks' suggested with a view to the final set being agreed by mid-December.

2.7 Partnership working between Providers

One of the main benefits that has become apparent since the establishment of the DTF is improved partnership working. The DTF has enabled the biggest providers of NHS dental services in the city (Livewell Southwest and PDSE) to engage in discussion as to how they can work more closely together. For example, if the City Centre Dental Education Practice is established (see section 2.1), then some patients who might normally attend Livewell's Dental Access Centre (DAC) could be treated at the new PDSE facility freeing up capacity for further patients to be seen/treated at the DAC. In addition to this, it is hoped that, moving forward, it will be possible to include University Hospitals Plymouth (UHP) in the work of the DTF enabling further coordination to take place between these major providers.

Cabinet

Date of meeting:	11 December 2023
Title of Report:	**Serious Violence Duty – Model for Violence Prevention in Plymouth**
Lead Member:	Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Cemeteries and Crematoria)
Lead Strategic Director:	Gary Walbridge (Interim Strategic Director for People)
Author:	Laura Juett
Contact Email:	Laura.juett@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	LJ/02/11/23
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part 1- official

Purpose of Report

To provide an overview of the Model for Violence Prevention in Plymouth proposed by Safer Plymouth. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced a new statutory Serious Violence Duty (the Duty) that commenced on 31 January 2023. This Duty requires local areas to take co-ordinated action to prevent and reduce serious violence. To complement the Duty, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has been amended to ensure that Community Safety Partnerships have an explicit role in evidence based strategic action on serious violence. Local areas are required to publish a serious violence needs assessment and response strategy by the end of January 2024.

Recommendations and Reasons

That Cabinet agree to endorse Safer Plymouth's Model for Violence Prevention in Plymouth and Strategic Needs Assessment.

Reason: To work with authorities and create governance through existing partnership structures, namely Safer Plymouth This will ensure we are meeting out statutory duties, aligning resource and expertise with partners, and meeting the needs of the city.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. Do nothing, this option was rejected as Community Safety Partnerships have a legal duty to deliver a Serious Violence Prevention Strategy, and Strategic Needs Assessment and to provide regular reporting on progress. Failure to do this could lead to the council incurring financial and legal penalties and could cause reputational damage
2. Create a stand-alone Plymouth City Council strategy, this option was rejected as this would not achieve best outcomes for residents and would not comply with the duty.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This vision aligns with the Corporate Plan in that we are **"Working with the Police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour"** and that we are **"Keeping children, adults and communities safe"** and that we are doing this by **"Trusting and engaging our communities"** and **"Focusing on prevention and early intervention."**

The Council's Corporate Plan sets out our ambition to be one of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities, where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone. Taking action to eradicate violence aligns with all our corporate values;

- Democracy – because we listen and hear what people want;
- Responsibility – because we care about the impact of our decisions and actions;
- Fairness – because we want to address inequality and inequity in our city;
- Co-operation – because we achieve more together than we would alone.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
There are no financial implications linked to delivering this new duty. The OPCC holds a small amount of Home Office funding for allocation. Amounts for allocation are not yet known.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:
No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:
No other implications or adverse impacts associated with this proposal.

Appendices

Ref.	Title of Appendix	**Exemption Paragraph Number** (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must i why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedu of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the releva*						
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
A	Serious Violence Duty. Model for Violence							
B	Serious Violence Duty. Strategic Needs Assessment.							

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

*Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are **unpublished** works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.*

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**

Sign off:

Fin	DJN.23.24.149	Leg	IW – 22.11.23 2599	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A

Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Matt Garrett (Service Director for Community Connections)

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 21/11/23

Cabinet Member approval:

Date approved: 20/11/2023

Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Cemeteries and Crematoria)

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Plymouth Serious Violence Prevention Strategy and Model for Violence Prevention

Foreword

Welcome to the Plymouth Strategy and Model for Serious Violence Prevention 2024-2028. This holistic model of working provides a framework that invites partners and communities to work collectively to prevent and reduce serious violence in the city.

Whilst Plymouth is a safe place to live, work and visit we understand that the fear and reality of violence can have a significant, and sometimes devastating impact in our communities. This strategy evidences our need for a preventative approach, which both addresses the drivers of violence, and responds to the harm caused by violence.

Safer Plymouth appreciates that continued and strengthened partnership working is key to achieving our aims. There is already significant innovative and creative work happening across the city to tackle serious violence. However, we recognise that there is still a lot to do to better understand why violence is happening, to respond to the harm that is caused, whilst also building community and personal resilience.

This document provides the framework for partners and communities to prevent and reduce serious violence in Plymouth. It aligns with the Corporate Plan in that we are "Working with the Police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour" and that we are "Keeping children, adults and communities safe" and that we are doing this by "Trusting and engaging our communities" and "Focusing on prevention and early intervention."

As a city we have spent the last 18 months gathering data and intelligence, listening to communities and partners, mapping current work happening both locally and nationally to identify what works in preventing violence. We have drawn on all this valuable information to produce a strategy where our vision is for Plymouth to be a place where everyone can lead their lives free from violence and fear of violence.

Councillor Sally Haydon

Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Cemeteries and Crematoria

Serious Violence Duty

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced a new statutory Serious Violence Duty (the Duty) that commenced on 31st January 2023. This Duty requires local areas to take co-ordinated action to prevent and reduce serious violence. To complement the Duty, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has been amended to ensure that Community Safety Partnerships have an explicit role in evidence based strategic action on serious violence[1].

The Duty has been introduced within the context of increasing levels of violence over the last decade, for example, offences involving knives and sharp instruments increased by 84% between 2014-2020 in England and Wales. The Duty is part of the government's wider programme to look beyond and build on law enforcement and criminal justice responses to consider the factors that influence and cause violence.

Who is involved?

Specified authorities - have a statutory duty to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence in this work - they are: • Police - Devon and Cornwall Police • Local authority – Plymouth City Council • Justice – HM Probation Service Plymouth and Plymouth Youth Justice Service • Fire and Rescue – Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service • Integrated Care Boards – NHS Devon	***Communities and Voluntary and Community Sector*** • Communities and people with lived experience of serious violence are central to understanding the impact of violence and to preventing violence • The VCS sector has a trusted and independent role in Plymouth and provide important connections across communities and organisations. They are crucial to ensuring that local people are involved in making decisions about things that matter to them.
Relevant authorities – must be consulted and are required to co-operate and participate in partnership arrangements – they are: • Educational authorities - including local authority maintained schools, academies, independent schools, free schools, alternative education providers and further education providers • Prisons and Children and Young People's Secure Estate for the local area	***Policing bodies*** – have a convening role for supporting and co-ordinating local approaches. They are also responsible for allocating funding and monitoring progress and performance. • Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner Devon and Cornwall

[1] Serious Violence Duty. Preventing and reducing serious violence. Statutory Guidance for responsible authorities. England and Wales. December 2022. Home Office. Serious Violence Duty - Statutory Guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Preventing violence is a collective endeavour and will only be achieved by people working together across cultural, professional and organisational boundaries. In Plymouth we have agreed that the Community Safety Partnership, Safer Plymouth, will lead this co-ordinated approach. Safer Plymouth is well placed to link to other strategic partnerships including the Plymouth Safeguarding Childrens Partnership, Plymouth Safeguarding Adults Partnership and Plymouth Drugs Strategy Partnership as well as to local communities and services.

In line with the guidance, we have agreed the following broad local definition of serious violence.

The intentional use or threat of violence and harmful behaviours including (but not limited to) knife and gun crime, robbery, domestic abuse, sexual violence including rape, alcohol related violence, exploitation and stalking and harassment.

Informing our approach

Needs assessment

Over the last 18 months we have been developing a shared understanding of what serious violence looks and feels like in Plymouth. A comprehensive needs assessment brings together data and intelligence from the police, health services, justice services and the local authority to show the types, distribution, extent and drivers of serious violence. The needs assessment also reflects the perceptions, views and experiences of people in the city. This 'community voice' supports a deeper understanding of how violence impacts people and ensures that our collective understanding and responses are socially and culturally informed and reflect people's lived experiences.

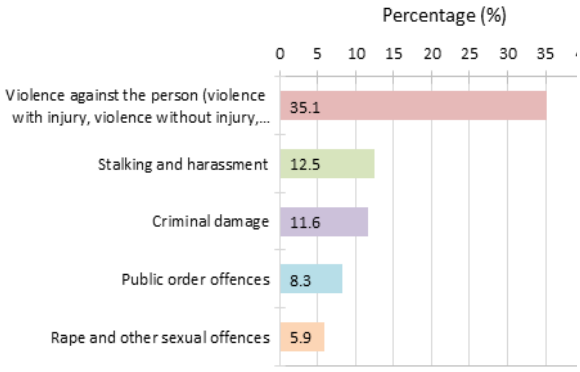
The crime figures shown here relate to the 12 months from April 2021 to end of March 2022[2].

Overall Crimes

There were 22,477 crimes recorded in Plymouth – an 8% increase on the previous year.

The rate of crime is below average for Most Similar Group (107.4 per 1,000) and is the lowest in the group (out of 15).

The top five highest crime types were



- 53.6% of victims were female and 46.4% were male
- The available data indicates people committing crimes were most likely to be male, aged 15-44 years and White British
- The City Centre, Stonehouse, Greenbank and University, Devonport and Stoke were the neighbourhoods with the highest number of recorded crimes

Violence against the person with injury

There were 3,724 violence against the person with injury crimes - a 25% increase from the previous year.

The rate of crime is above average for Most Similar Group (11.5 per 1,000) and is the second highest in the group (out of 15).

- 54% of victims were male and 46% were female and 52.2% were between the ages of 15-34 years
- The available data indicates that 74.8% of people committing these crimes were male. 64% were between the ages of 15-34 years and 92% were White British

The City Centre, Stonehouse, Greenbank and the University, Devonport and East End were the neighbourhoods with the highest number of violence against the person crimes.

Homicide

There were 8 homicide crimes - a 300% increase from the previous year.

The rate of crime is above average for Most Similar Group (0.015 per 1,000) and is the highest in the group (out of 15).

Keyham was neighbourhood with the highest number of homicide crimes.

[2] Crime data has been sourced from the police Universal Data Set, 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 and from iQuanta a web-based data tools service for information on police recorded crime by Community Safety Partnership area.

Sexual Assault (rape and other sexual offences)

There were 1,318 sexual offence crimes – a 25% increase from the previous year. Of these 447 (33.8%) were for rape and 874 (66.2%) were for other sexual offences.

The rate of crime is above average for Most Similar Group (4.0 per 1,000) and is the third highest in the group (out of 15)

- 84.3% of victims were female, and 59.2% were between the ages of 10-24 years
- The data for sexual assault crimes indicates that 97.7% of people committing these crimes were male and 69.8% were between the ages of 25-39 years and 55-59 years and 97% were White British

The City Centre, Stonehouse, Greenbank and the University, Stoke and Devonport were the neighbourhoods with the highest number of sexual offences.

Stalking and Harassment

There were 2,813 stalking and harassment crimes – a decrease of 2% from the previous year.

The rate of crime is below average for Most Similar Group (14.4 per 1,000) and is the third lowest in the group (out of 15)

- 68.9% of victims were female and 31.1% were male. 62.9% of victims were aged 20-44 years.
- The data for stalking and harassment crimes indicates that 82.3% of people committing these crimes were male and 17.7% were female. 57.5% were between the ages of 25-44 years and 89.2% were White British.

Stonehouse, City Centre, Greenbank and the University, Honicknowle and St Budeaux and Kings Tamerton were the neighbourhoods with the highest number of stalking and harassment crimes.

Domestic Abuse

There were 4,884 domestic abuse related crimes. There were also 2,212 domestic abuse incidents reported (these do not result in a crime being recorded). This is a 1.5% decrease in the number of domestic abuse related crimes recorded in the previous year.

- 73.6% of victims were female and 26.4% were male
- 66.8% of victims were aged 20-44 and 92.9% were White British
- The available data indicates that 88% of offenders were male, 76.1% were aged 25-49 and 91.9% were White British

The Stonehouse, City Centre, Greenbank and University, Devonport and Whitleigh were the neighbourhoods with the highest number of domestic abuse related crimes.

Drug Offences (possession of drugs and trafficking of drugs)

There were 1,226 drug offences – a decrease of 10% from the previous year. Possession of drugs accounted for 79.1% of the crimes and trafficking of drugs 20.9%

The rate of crime is above average for Most Similar Group (3.4 per 1,000) and is the highest in the group (out of 15)

The data for drug offences indicates that

- 83.9% of people committing these crimes were male and 16.1% were female. 81.6% were between the ages of 15-39 years and 90.7% were White British.

The City Centre, Stonehouse, Greenbank and the University, Mutley and Stoke were the neighbourhoods with the highest number of drug offence crimes.

Robbery of business and personal property

There were 203 robbery crimes – an increase of 13% from the previous year.

The rate of crime is below average for Most Similar Group (1.2 per 1,000) and is the fourth lowest in the group (out of 15)

- 72.2% of victims were male and 64.5% were between the ages of 15-34 and 40-44 years
- The data for robbery crimes indicates that 82.8% of people committing these crimes were male and 17.2% were female. 93.1% were between the ages of 15-19 years and 25-44 years and 95.7% were White British

The City Centre, Stonehouse, Greenbank and the University, Stoke and Devonport, were the neighbourhoods with the highest number of robberies.

Possession of weapons

There were 382 possession of weapons crimes – an increase of 14% on the previous year.

The rate of crime is above average for Most Similar Group (1.2 per 1,000) and is the fifth highest in the group (out of 15)

- 73.4% of victims were male and 26.6% were female. 62.6% of victims were between the ages of 10-19, 25-29 and 35-39 years.
- The data for possession of weapons crimes indicates that 87.2% of people committing these crimes were male and 12.8% were female. 75.2% were between the ages of 15-39 years and 89.1% were White British

The City Centre, Stonehouse, Greenbank and the University, East End and Lipson and Laira and Stoke were the neighbourhoods with the highest number of possession of weapons crimes.

Youth Violence[3]

- Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes, those committed by under-18s can be considered to account for 12.1% and those committed by 18-24 year olds for 14.8%.
- Of the 3,704 violence with injury crimes those committed by under-18s can be considered to account for 16.6% (616 crimes) and those committed by 18-24 year olds for 20.6% (762 crimes).
- Of the 4,884 domestic abuse crimes those committed by under-18s can be considered to account for 5.6% (274 crimes) and those committed by 18-24 year olds for 18.1% (886 crimes).
- Of the 1,321 sexual offence crimes those committed by under 18's can be considered to account for 46.3% (612 crimes) and those committed by 18-24 year olds 18.8% (249 crimes)

[3] To get an indication of the levels of youth crime, and because offender data is recorded in less than 10% of violent crimes, this section includes crimes where the primary offender's age is under 25, plus crimes where the primary offender's age is unknown, but the victim's age is under 25 (1-24 years). Victims are used as a proxy in this case based on the broad assumption that crimes tend to occur within peer groups, although it is acknowledged that this isn't always true.

Hospital Emergency Department Assault Data

Assault data collected at Derriford Hospital Emergency Department provides a valuable source of intelligence about the scale and nature of violence in the city. Many of these assaults are not reported to the Police and therefore are not reflected crime statistics.

From April 2018 to March 2023, a total of 3,394 assaults were seen at Derriford Hospital Emergency Department - 61% of these were recorded as alcohol related. Key findings from analysis of the assaults that occurred in the Plymouth area is below.

- 1,941 assaults seen at Derriford Hospital Emergency Department occurred in Plymouth over last 5 years – 67% of these were recorded as alcohol related. This is an average of 255 alcohol-related and 133 non-alcohol related assaults per year over last 5 years.
- 41% of alcohol-related assaults occurred on the street, 35% took place either in or outside a pub/club and 17% at home. 40% of non-alcohol related assaults occurred on the street, 26% at home.
- 57% of all alcohol-related assaults took place at weekends and 77% occurred between the hours of 21:00-02:59. 47% of the city's alcohol-related assaults took place in evening and night time economy locations.
- Glass and bottles were used as weapons in 13.7% of alcohol-related and 5.6% non-alcohol related assaults in the last 5 years. Knives were used in 6.3% of alcohol-related and 4.8% of non-alcohol related assaults.

Hospital Episode Statistics

Between 2018/19 and 2020/21 there were a total of 265 emergency hospital admissions for violence in Plymouth.

- 73.2% of all emergency admissions for violence were male - 21.5% were under 25 years.
- 50.2% of the 265 emergency hospital admissions for violence were caused by assault by bodily force. 12.5% were caused by 'other maltreatment' and 11.3% by assault by sharp object

MARAC – multi agency risk assessment conference

A snapshot analysis of Plymouth MARAC cases between July 2022 - August 2023 showed that 429 high risk domestic abuse cases were discussed. Of these cases 35 perpetrators or 8% of the total had 2 or more victims. In total these 35 repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse were known to have 131 victims over time.

Childrens Social Care

In 2018/19 1,329 children referred into and assessed by Plymouth City Council's Children's Social Care service were considered to have current violence-related factors in their environment as recorded at first assessment after referral. In 2022/23 this number had dropped by 22.0% to 1,037 children.

- The most common factor recorded in both 2018/19 and 2022/23 were concerns around domestic abuse of parent(s)/carer(s) (62.6% and 62.7% respectively).
- The second most common factor recorded in both 2018/19 and 2022/23 were concerns around physical abuse (34.3% and 35.4% respectively).
- Recorded risks from child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse disproportionately affect females, whilst gang-related risks and child criminal exploitation disproportionately affect males.
- The age-profile of children has changed over the last five years. There has been a substantial decrease in proportion of children aged 0-4 year olds referred and assessed with violence related factors, and an increase in the proportion of children aged 10-17 years.
- The neighbourhoods of Barne Barton, Devonport, Efford, Honicknowle, St Budeaux & Kings Tamerton, Southway, Stonehouse, and Whitleigh appear repeatedly in the top five neighbourhoods across both years.

Youth Justice

The rate of first-time entrants to the youth justice system estimates the rate of young people receiving their first conviction, caution or youth caution per 100,000 10 to 17 year old population by area of residence. The rate in Plymouth in 2022 was 138.2 per 100,000 – this compares to the England rate of 148.9 per 100,000. This is a decrease from the previous year when the rate in Plymouth was 247 per 100,000 10-17 year old population.

Housing

Fleeing domestic abuse was cited as the primary cause of homelessness for 263 people seeking housing assistance from Plymouth City Council between April 2022 and March 2023. This is a 28% increase on the previous year.

Between April 2022 and March 2023 255 people cited domestic abuse as the main reason for losing their last settled accommodation – a 15% increase on the previous year. A further 63 people cited non-racially motivated/other motivated violence and harassment and 8 people cited racially motivated violence or harassment as the primary reason for losing their last settled accommodation.

Adult Safeguarding

In 2022 for adults who meet the Care Act definition and have been triaged as requiring a safeguarding response there were

- 92 domestic abuse cases, of which 74 were female and 18 were male. The most prevalent support need was physical disability followed by social support.
- 247 cases of physical abuse concerns, of which 140 were female and 107 were male. The most prevalent support need was physical disability followed by learning disability.
- 49 cases of sexual abuse concerns, of which 35 were female and 14 were male. The most prevalent support need was physical disability followed by learning disability and mental health

Drivers of Serious Violence

Serious violence can affect all people. However, violence is not equally distributed across populations or places and some groups and geographical areas are disproportionately affected. Violence can be both the consequence and the cause of social inequalities. Many of the factors that shape health and health outcomes including education, income, and environment are also determinants of serious violence. These factors **do not specifically cause violence**, but they may contribute to the likelihood of being a victim of violence or of being violent and causing harm. Key data from some of these risk factors are described here.

Deprivation and Income

Violence is strongly associated with deprivation and poverty at a neighbourhood and household level; people living in more deprived areas have a greater risk of exposure to violence[4].

- Plymouth is within the 40% most deprived upper-tier local authorities in England.
- 16% of children under the age of 16 are living in income deprived households. In some neighbourhoods more than 6 out of 10 children are affected by income deprivation.

Education

Regular school attendance is a strong protective factor against the risk of involvement in serious violence.

- In 2022/23 persistent absence in pupils in Plymouth secondary and special schools were higher than in England.
- In 2021 6.4% of 16 to 17 year olds were not in education, employment or training – this is higher that the England average of 4.7%

Violence in the home

Exposure to violence in the home has a number of significant impacts and there is evidence to support a link between family violence and involvement in future offending and violence.[5]

- 10% of Year 8 & 10 pupils responding to the latest Schools Health related Behaviour Survey said that there had been violence in their home once or twice in the last month.
- The 2022 Health Visitor Survey shows that 5.8% of families with children under 5 reported violence in their home.
- Between 2019 – 2021 the Plymouth domestic abuse refuge provided accommodation for 629 children.
- Between 2018 - 2021 the Zone supported 324 people under 25 who were victims of domestic abuse.

[4] Deprivation and violence in the community: a perspective from a UK Accident and Emergency department. A Howe, M Crilly. 2001. Deprivation and violence in the community: a perspective from a UK Accident and Emergency Department - ScienceDirect

[5] The relationship between family violence and youth offending. June 2018. Local Government Association. 15 34 - The relationship between family violence and youth offending-V4_1.pdf (local.gov.uk)

Drugs and Alcohol

The use of drugs and alcohol are inextricably linked to violence and are recognised as risk factors for being a victim and perpetrator of violence.

- Between April 2021 and March 2022, 20.8% (n.4,681) of overall crimes reported in Plymouth were flagged as alcohol related.
- 47% of drug trafficking offenders and suspects in the year to October 2022 were linked to County Lines and 16% to Dangerous Drug Networks.
- The rate of opiate and crack users per 1,000 population in Plymouth (13.8) is significantly higher than the England rate (8.9).

What have people told us?

The perceptions, views and experiences of people in Plymouth provide a rich insight into how violence is affecting families and communities. The themes and quotes presented here are drawn from local surveys, conversations and research – as such they do not represent the views of the whole population.

Perceptions of safety

- Surveys show that most people feel safe in their local area during the day, but a significant proportion of people do not feel safe in their local area at night.
- Women and younger people are less likely to feel safe outside in their local area after dark than other groups.
- Having limiting health problems or disabilities negatively affects how safe you feel outside in your local area.
- Gay and lesbian people are less likely than heterosexual/straight people to feel safe while out during the day
- Women are less likely than men to feel safe at home
- Young people are more likely to feel unsafe when going out at night than during the day and this is more common among girls and young people from more deprived areas

If you asked any girl they would probably say that they felt unsafe walking after dark.

I don't like to go anywhere on my own. I'm looking over my shoulder all the time. I have nightmares and flashbacks

Experience and Impacts of Violence

- The impacts of violence – including domestic abuse are long-term and can be debilitating
- Victims of violence frequently describe living in fear and never feeling safe
- A significant number of young people have been victims of violence and aggression
- Some young people regularly witness violence in their homes
- Young people describe negative emotional and mental health impacts of witnessing and being involved in violence including depression, anxiety and self-harm

We need to think more of the impact of domestic abuse has on the children within abusive relationships and what support should be immediately available to help them

Online Violence and Harms

- Issues relating to the 'online world' have featured in many local discussions and personal accounts of serious violence.
- Many young people – especially girls aged 14-15 report experiences of online bullying
- Young people have described ineffective checks for minimum age restrictions on social media sites
- Young people are concerned about the harmful impacts of viewing pornography with violent and extreme content and how this contributes to views that 'rough' and violent sex is normal
- Several organisations who gave evidence to the 2022 Violence against Women and Girls Commission raised concerns about unrestricted access to online extreme pornography and how this is normalises aggression and violence, including sexual violence

I get messages from random people all the time. One said he'd rape me and that's meant to be acceptable.

Improving our local response to violence

- Primary prevention approaches are key and essential to achieving change
- Earlier education and critical thinking about healthy and respectful relationships with open conversations that challenge gender and other stereotypes is essential
- Schools must have clear responses to incidents of violence including sexual harassment and assault
- We need whole family support responses e.g., where child is displaying harmful behaviours and intergenerational cycles are violence are emerging
- A structured support offer for people who are violent and causing harm is essential
- Plymouth should develop and be part of social movements for behavioural and cultural change that clearly communicates that violence is not acceptable and will be called out
- Male led initiatives to challenge language, behaviour and culture are part of the solution
- We must develop an understanding of 'online harms' and how to respond to these

Even if having the discussions and talking about this changes one person's behaviour it's a start in acknowledging this is not acceptable and change is needed

Male violence towards women and girls is an issue for men and boys, this is not a women and girls' issue. Men have to take responsibility and take the lead to make society different, going forward.

Service Mapping (to be presented in prevention triangle)

As part of preparing for the Duty we have carried out an audit of existing services, initiatives and projects across the city that have a role in preventing and responding to violence. Some of these are shown below and are presented to show which level of prevention they operate at.

Tertiary Prevention - is concerned with responding to violence once it has occurred and preventing and reducing harm and preventing escalation and recurrence.

- **Behaviour Change Programme** – specialist programme for people perpetrating domestic abuse. Also provider partner support and training and support for other services. Is testing an approach to working with 18–25-year-olds who are using abusive behaviours in their relationships with partners, parents or siblings.
- **Operation Encompass** - a police and education early information safeguarding partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support to children who are victims of domestic abuse.
- **MARAC** - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and management of high risk domestic abuse cases. Includes safety planning, safeguarding victims and management of risk.
- **Probation Services accredited programmes** – for people convicted of violent offences includes Thinking Skills, Building Better Relationships and Horizon.
- **Youth Justice Service Restorative Justice and Reparation** - holding young people to account, repairing the harm they have caused, enabling them to learn from the experience and prevention of re-offending.
- **Devon and Cornwall Sexual Violence Pathfinder Programme** -to improve care for adult victims and survivors of sexual assault and abuse with complex trauma related mental health needs. Includes building capacity for trauma stabilisation interventions.
- **NHS Devon/Primary Care Interpersonal Trauma Response Team** - training, support and direct patient work to improve the response to people affected by interpersonal abuse and trauma. Includes interventions for children who have experienced domestic abuse, adults who have experienced domestic abuse, sexual abuse or sexual violence and adults who are concerned about their own behaviour in relationships.

Secondary Prevention – often referred to as early intervention. These approaches are taken where people are at risk of, or are displaying early signs of, causing harm or being a victim of violence. They are also focused on supporting people to recognise and respond when people are at risk of causing harm or being a victim of violence.

- **Child Centred Policing Team and Youth Justice Service IMPACT project -** identifying Young People coming to the attention of the police and other services (pre crime) and offering a clear and structured menu of options around diversion and prevention.
- **Youth Justice Mentoring** - dedicated and experienced staff to work with young people with a focus on relationship based work. Youth Justice Mentors aim to engage young people in positive activities as a way to build and form trusting relationships and build a positive sense of themselves.
- **Child Centred Policing Team – Operation HYPURAL** aimed at groups of young people carrying weapons and arranging to meet to fight at discreet locations. Using prevention, protection, and pursue tactics.
- **Ambulance Service Operation Pathfinder** – response for 1st time offences of violence against emergency service workers focussed on treating root causes of crime and prevention of repeat offences.
- **Family Nurse Partnership** - Structured support programme supporting for young women (up to 19 years) with parenthood. Includes a focus on healthy relationships and reducing accidents and supporting healthy child development. Some support to wider family.
- **Barnardos Exceed** service for young people who have experienced or are at high risk of sexual exploitation. Provides direct support to young people, immediate safety advice and signposting and, indirect support to parents and carers and outreach support to schools.

Primary Prevention - preventing violence from occurring. Focuses on changing attitudes and behaviours and building knowledge and skills to prevent people becoming victims or people who cause harm.

- **Health Visiting** - universal offer for children up to 5 and their families – Supports delivery of the Healthy Child Programme – identify health and developmental needs of children and support families at key points in early years.
- **Family Hubs/Start for Life Programme** – focus on parenting support, early language and the home learning environment (all protective factors in violence prevention). They also have a role around identifying domestic abuse.
- **Healthy Child Quality Mark –** for schools includes modules for positive behaviour management and equality and diversity and Healthy Relationships and Sex Education – positive safe relationships.
- **VCS Youth Programmes** including Argyle PL Kicks, Mutley/Greenbank Trust Freedom Youth Project, Well Being Warriors and Exim Dance all provide opportunities around building life skills and resilience.
- **M.A.N Culture** - a Male Allyship Network challenging 'lad culture' and promoting a positive 'man culture'. Listening to men and boys, facilitating difficult conversations needed to address male culture and supporting the safety of women and girls in the city

- **Bystander Training** – developing skills and confidence to intervene and challenge unacceptable behaviours.
- **NSPCC Together for Childhood** place based programme with specific focus on preventing child sexual abuse through testing new ways to prevent abuse. Includes public awareness campaigns, events in schools, engaging with communities and direct services.
- **Fire and Rescue Service** – Fire Safety Interventions with young people where there are concerns about fire setting.

Conversations and themes

As part of developing a model for violence prevention in Plymouth we have facilitated a series of conversation sessions. Over 200 people from organisations and communities across the city joined these sessions to consider what effective approaches to violence prevention could look and feel like and how we build motivation for change in this area. A number of themes and opportunities for future focus were highlighted in the conversations and are shown below.

Theme – Young People	
Reflections	**Options**
• Concerns about the seriousness of violence among young people • Evidence that young people are carrying knives because they do not feel safe • Lack of capacity and support in schools to address violence • School environment and cultures including punitive behaviour policies do not work in preventing violence • Concerns that special educational needs and disabilities including neurodiversity and links to violence are not understood • Impact of online pornography and violence – shifting social norms	• Importance of supporting parents around healthy child development – including speech/language and communication • Education and Youth Services have a significant role in supporting behaviour and culture change • Schools must be supported with specialist input, tools, resources etc • Curriculum must focus on managing emotions and feelings as well as cause and effects of violence • Build understanding and response around SEND and neurodiversity • School behaviour and exclusion policies vs. relationship policies – align policies between primary and secondary • YP voices must be at centre of conversations and responses • Parents and schools need to work together to promote and support online safety • Positive engagement for boys and young men • More early engagement and intervention services to break the cycle • Need more support for transition to further education/employment/adulthood • Youth and community services as safety nets and opportunity to model behaviour – need more open access

	• Joined up approach with community youth work co-located with schools • Make public transport safer – ensure links with police to share what they see • Utilise the opportunities from the Family Hubs to support locality working

Theme – Communication	
Reflections	**Options**
• Concerns that social media promotes and celebrates violence • Public perception of council and strategy needs to be considered in terms of branding and promoting this work • Risk of alienating and shaming men	• Our narrative around violence prevention needs to be clear and to resonate across communities • Community Safety Partnership needs media profile and messaging – needs to promote prevention e.g., *Our Safer City* • Need direct communication with communities on these issues • Need to counterbalance all the negative narratives and messaging about young people and violence • Communicate the good news stories • Celebrate the strengths of Plymouth communities

Theme – Information, insights and understanding	
Reflections	**Options**
• Serious violence in some groups is underreported e.g., homeless people, people with complex lives, people with learning disabilities and diverse communities • Need a shared understanding of the real issues and the impacts e.g., on people's health – through using data and insights • Confidence in the Police is very low – need to improve this	• Improve opportunities for reporting – particularly for more vulnerable groups - need to build trust and confidence for this • Bring data and intelligence together to give clear picture and guide what we do • Build in people's experiences and context into the 'overall picture' • Better information/map about what support is available • Pulse surveys to check out people's perceptions of safety/feeling safe to follow change over time

Theme – Responding to harm	
Reflections	**Options**
• Concerns re waiting lists in broader range of services e.g., mental health hand CAMHS • Stigma of men reporting domestic abuse and violence • Lack of confidence around working with perpetrators of violence Concerns around intergenerational violence • Need appropriate support for people with learning disabilities	• Building confidence across services to work with people who cause harm • Importance of behaviour change programmes working with those who are violent/causing harm • Trauma responsive and relational approaches • Responses must be shame sensitive – 'shaming and blaming' does not support positive change • Responses must be aligned and co-ordinated • Justice system must have clear focus on victims • Services for men as victims as well as perpetrators • Specific approaches that continue work beyond the prison gate - • There need to be clear consequences for people who cause harm • Restorative justice approaches – for shared understanding and behaviour change • Build awareness of those who have turned their lives around

Theme – Culture and modelling behaviours	
Reflections	**Options**
• Concerns about lack of parental support and impact of violence in home – violence becoming normalised • Fears that online content and social media has normalised violence for young people • Where is the support for parents/families re concerns about online world?	• Importance of relational, strengths based practice • Support around parenting and modelling healthy relationships and behaviours • Male Allyship for exploring gender dimensions and role modelling • Bystander training and network – including for YP to help shift language, attitudes and behaviours and communicate the change we want to see • Need to develop more collective pride in the city

Theme – Environment and enhancing safety – community connectedness	
Reflections	**Options**
• Some areas don't feel safe including city centre and Mutley • Temporary hoardings can contribute to feeling unsafe	• 'Everyone has a right to feel safe' • Need to provide a platform for public voice • Safe places network • Build on Purple flag type schemes

• Some areas are stigmatised • What is the impact of military and high number of students	• Need to better understand what makes communities feel safer • Create more community spaces and activities • Address the fear through 'a movement of peace'

Theme – Socio Economic Factors	
Reflections	**Options**
• Deprivation, inequalities, poverty and cost of living crisis are important issues - can cannot ignore this • Feelings of anger are apparent in the community and linked to lack of access and availability of support including housing • Lack of face to face access points and services is 'de-humanising' • People are hearing 'no' too often • Long term impacts of violence in the home • Impact of poor parental mental health on YP • Impact of parental drug and alcohol misuse • Impact of Covid on feeling of safety and people's mental health	• Trauma responsive approaches are essential to understanding the drivers and risk factors for violence and driving relational and compassionate responses • Need to provide face to face services – less online interaction

Theme – System Enablers	
Reflections	**Options**
• Do we appreciate the need to be proactive rather than reactive? • Concerns about the impact of waiting lists for key services such as mental health	• Communities are key - community connectedness – create more shared spaces to share the approaches and learning • Approaches need to be aligned and co-ordinated • Integrated approaches to investment with shared objectives • Embed and understanding of the gendered nature of violence in our approaches • Intersectional approaches that recognise multiple layers of disadvantage and disadvantage • Valuing lived experiences

A Model for Violence Prevention

Violence is preventable. Everyone has a role in preventing violence.

Our vision is for Plymouth to be a place where everyone can lead their lives free from violence and the fear of violence.

We aim to achieve this through multiple and reinforcing approaches that both address the drivers of violence and respond to the harm caused by violence. This will support a dynamic and adaptive process that responds to the call for change outlined in the Serious Violence Duty and supports effective coordination of local efforts and resources. We will

1. Build on existing approaches including those led by the Serious Violence Duty *specified authorities,* the Office for Police and Crime Commissioner and the Violence against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Local Partnership Board.

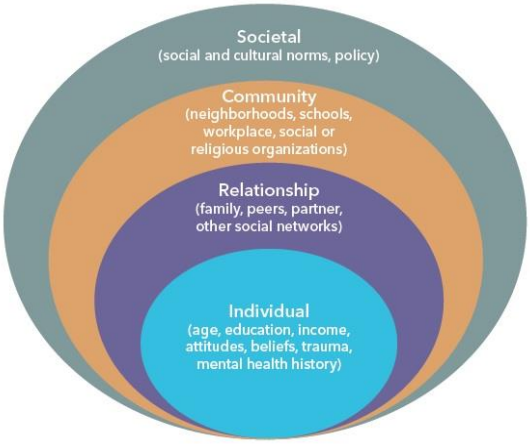
2. Realise the potential for violence prevention in the broader range of local policies, programmes and services, and

3. Initiate a programme of additional priorities to strengthen a whole systems approach that works towards the longer term change required to shift cultures and behaviours and prevent serious violence.

A public health approach

A public health approach to violence prevention recognises that violence, rather than being the result of any single cause, is influenced by many factors. It considers the wider determinants of violence or drivers of violence that can make someone more at risk of being involved in violence either as a victim or as someone who causes harm.

Public health uses a social ecological model to understand these factors at an individual, relationship, community and societal level. The diagram and description below provide a helpful illustration of this.



Individual – biological and personal history factors can increase the likelihood of becoming a victim of violence or a person that causes harm. These factors include age, speech and language skills, drug and alcohol misuse and exposure to violence in the family.

Relationship – this considers peer and family relationships that may increase the risk of experiencing violence as a victim or person who causes harm. Important considerations here are low family income, parental mental health issues, parental conflict and youth involvement in gangs.

Community – this considers places and settings including neighbourhoods, workplaces and schools. Important issues here are perceptions of safety, rates of crime, lack of social connectedness and poverty.

Societal – this level is concerned with broader societal factors that support the conditions for violence such as health, economic and social policies that help maintain inequalities such gender inequalities.

A public health approach focuses on addressing risk factors that can impact on an individual's vulnerability and susceptibility to becoming a victim of violence or a person who causes harm. It is built on three levels of prevention – primary, secondary and tertiary. If we are to see a sustained reduction in violence then our key focus should be on primary prevention – stopping it before it occurs. Success at this level is not immediate but will reduce the harm caused by violence over time. This should be balanced with secondary and tertiary level prevention approaches to stop the escalation of violence and provide victims and people who cause harm with the support that they need.

A trauma informed approach

A trauma informed approach recognises that trauma – a harmful event, series of events or set of circumstances - shapes people's lives in many ways and can have lasting adverse effects. It also recognises that trauma and adversity are not predictive and can be overcome. A trauma informed approach prevents serious violence by working across the local system to identify those most at risk of violence due to previous adversity and trauma. It also emphasises physical, psychological and emotional safety for those affected by serious violence and creates opportunities to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.

The vision and values of the Trauma Informed Plymouth Network[6] (TIPN) provide a useful framework for approaches to violence prevention that is aligned to public health and human learning system approaches. The TIPN vision focuses on recognising the impact of trauma and the value of compassionate person-centred responses that support people and communities to build on their strengths to develop resilience.

A Human Learning Systems approach

Human Learning Systems (HLS)[7] is an emergent approach to public services and social action based on the acceptance of complexity. It proposes that:

- all people's lives are different and subject to many influences

[6] Trauma Informed Plymouth Network Home - Trauma Informed Plymouth Network
[7] Human Learning Systems Human Learning Systems

- social issues are complex and interdependent
- the systems responding to the issues are also complex
- things constantly change

In this way outcomes are created by a combination of people and factors and the relationships and interactions between them. The key features of a Human Learning Systems approach are working in a way that is human and responsive to bespoke needs and strengths, prioritising learning and adaptation, and taking a system approach. Taking a Human Learning System approach to violence prevention and reduction provides an opportunity to improve our understanding of the context and drivers of violence and lead a system response that is relational and adaptive.

A co-ordinated community response approach

A co-ordinated community response approach supports a whole system response that encourages organisations and communities to work together to keep people safe and to ensure that people who are violent and cause harm are held to account. This approach shifts responsibility for safety away from individual victims and survivors of violence. Our approach will be informed by the Standing Together Coordinated Community Response[8] that provides a framework for best practice in preventing and addressing domestic abuse. This prioritises the voice of all people affected by violence and recognises the interconnected nature of factors such as race, class, disability and gender that can combine and lead to people facing multiple layers of disadvantage and inequality.

As described above our approach to reducing and preventing serious violence in Plymouth builds on the existing services, initiatives and projects some of which are described in the mapping section on P11-13. It also recognises the broader range of local policies, programmes and services where there is potential to build capacity for violence prevention. Some of these are shown below.

[8] Coordinated Community Response. Standing Together. What is a CCR? — Standing Together

Plymouth Drug Strategy Partnership Harm to Hope

A 10-year programme to cut crime and save lives through breaking drug supply chains, building capacity for treatment and recovery services, and changing perceived acceptability of illegal drug use

Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme

Providing support to families with children 0-19 with a focus on early infant relationships and attachment, preparing for parenting and support for child language and communication development.

Thrive Plymouth

10-year plan to improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities. Focus on lifestyle behaviours and the wider determinants of health.

Breaking the Cycle of Child Poverty - Child Poverty Action Plan 2022-25

Includes a focus on improving disadvantaged children's emotional health and wellbeing, boosting child and parental literacy, providing additional support for school readiness and building young people's skills and capabilities.

SEND Improvement Plan

A partnership approach to improving the care and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. This includes a focus reducing the likelihood of vulnerable pupils being excluded from school and improving the consistency of support offered to children and young people in schools.

Community Youth Services

Programme to expand and improve local youth facilities and services to drive positive outcomes for young people including improved mental and physical health and skills for life and work.

Healthy Communities Together - Belong in Plymouth

A network to help tackle social isolation and loneliness and make Plymouth a city where no one feels forgotten.

You Belong Here - School Attendance Matters

City wide campaign to highlight the impact of lost days of learning and remind families that every day in school matters.

These policies, programmes and services have the potential to be part of system wide improvements in recognising and responding to violence as well as modelling the behaviour and cultural change needed to prevent violence. Specifically they have a role in preventing violence through the following.

- **Challenging harmful cultural and social norms** that promote and sustain violence. This means developing opportunities for bystander approaches that equip us to take action when we see unacceptable language and behaviours – reflecting a 'See it, Say it, Stop it' approach. It also means recognising the gendered nature of violence and challenging harmful stereotypes and inequalities. Through intervening in these ways we act as ambassadors and model the changes we want to see. When these changes are consistently reinforced we collectively shift the boundaries of what is acceptable and work together to prevent violence and to keep each other safe.

- **Adopting trauma responsive approaches and practice**. This means recognising and responding to the impact of trauma on people's lives. It means preventing further re-traumatisation and ensuring people's safety. Trauma informed practice takes a shame-sensitive, strengths-based approach that supports understanding and accountability as well as encouraging a sense of control and empowerment. Taking this respectful person-centred approach helps us to build mutual trust and understanding at an individual and collective level.

- **Sharing the responsibility for supporting victims and people who cause harm**. This involves balancing the safety and recovery of victims and survivors of violence with ensuring the visibility and accountability of perpetrators. This means collectively improving how we identify and intervene with perpetrators as early as possible to prevent escalation and support behaviour change. It also means prioritising multi-agency practice to share information, manage risk and prioritise safety.

- Maximising opportunities to **expand relational based programmes and initiatives** such as mentoring, sports and activity programmes and evidence-based therapies across the system. This has the potential to support the development of language and communication skills, positive social skills and relationships, to connect young people to trusted adults and peers and help process trauma and harmful experiences.

We will also develop the priorities detailed in the table below to ensure that we strengthen our approach with an enhanced focus on primary prevention over time.

BUILDING PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Establish a Healthy Relationships Alliance to support social, emotional and life skills development in all schools and youth settings.

Challenging harmful cultural and social norms through

- Bystander training to build knowledge, skills and confidence to intervene
- Developing a shared narrative and community awareness campaign to drive attitudinal and culture change
- Extending Male Allyship Network to promote and develop positive male cultures

RESPONDING TO HARM

Establish a Co-ordinated Community Response for people who harm through enforcement, disruption and behaviour change initiatives.

Respond to immediate harm by expanding capacity for trauma informed services for victims and survivors of violence.

Build capacity and expertise across core services for early identification of and response to violence.

FEELING SAFE

Improve opportunities for reporting violence particularly for diverse and excluded groups.

Improve communications with communities to encourage feelings of safety.

Strengthen violence prevention activity in the evening and nighttime economy.

LEARNING AND UNDERSTANDING

Optimise opportunities for conversations and co-production with communities, including those most affected by violence.

Enhance our understanding and insights through regular spotlight enquiries e.g., intergenerational violence, child on parent violence and impact of violence in diverse communities.

Establish research and learning partnerships to further develop evidence and understanding of the profile and nature of violence in Plymouth – including with the Health Determinants Research Collaboration and the University of Plymouth VAWG Knowledge Exchange.

System Enablers

Integrated commissioning and investment

Population focus to ensure investment reaches groups most affected and impacts positively on reducing inequalities

Co-production – design by experience

Co-ordinated communications

Sharing of data and intelligence

Workforce development and capacity building

Implementing the strategy

The Community Safety Partnership Safer Plymouth will oversee the implementation of this strategy. It will link with the Violence against Women and Girls/Domestic Abuse/Sexual Violence Local Partnership Board, Plymouth Safeguarding Adults Board, Plymouth Safeguarding Childrens Partnership and Harm to Hope Drugs Partnership to ensure shared leadership of the priority areas. Safer Plymouth will also strengthen links with schools and education settings to ensure that they are supported to collaborate in local efforts to reduce and prevent serious violence.

Safer Plymouth partners will further develop specific areas for action, manage and challenge progress and communicate achievements and learning. They will refresh the focus of the strategy annually.

Safer Plymouth partners will create opportunities for ongoing conversations and co-production with local communities, particularly with communities and groups most affected by violence.

How will we know we are making a difference?

Given the approach being taken and the focus on the wider determinants of serious violence the main impact of this work will be seen over the medium to longer term. In order to observe changes over time and demonstrate progress we will develop a framework to reflect the priority areas in this strategy and model for violence prevention. This will include the following indicators.

National indicators

- Reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with knife or sharp object
- Reduction in knife and sharp object enable serious violence recorded by the police
- Reduction in homicides recorded by the police

Local indicators

- Improved perceptions of safety (with a specific focus on protected characteristics)
- Reduction in number of recorded violent crimes
- Reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Reduction in re-offending of violent crimes
- Reductions in school exclusions and persistent absence
- Reduction in number of 16-17 year olds not in education, employment and training

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SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR PLYMOUTH 2024-2028

PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

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Office of the Director of Public Health
Plymouth City Council
Crownhill Court
Plymouth
PL6 5DH
Tel: 01752 398606
odph@plymouth.gov.uk

Date: January 2024 (v1.3)

Prepared by: Sarah Macleod, Carol Harman, and Laura Juett
For queries relating to this document please contact: odph@plymouth.gov.uk

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Contents

1. Executive summary 5

2. Introduction 7

2.1 Purpose of the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) 7

2.3 Legislative context 7

2.4 A public health approach 8

3. Community Focus and Lived Experience – views from our communities 12

4. The local context – place and population 18

4.1 Plymouth geographies 18

4.2 The population 19

4.3 Population diversity 19

5. Drivers and risk factors for serious violence 21

5.1 Deprivation 21

5.2 Employment, income, and poverty 23

5.3 Gender inequalities 24

5.4 Education – school readiness, engagement, exclusions, and attainment 24

5.4.1 School readiness 25

5.4.2 School absenteeism 25

5.4.3 School exclusions 26

5.4.4 Attainment 27

5.4.5 Young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) 27

5.4.6 Speech, language, and communication 27

5.5 Exposure to violence in the home 28

5.6 Drugs and alcohol 31

5.7 Mental health 32

5.8 Neurodiversity and brain injury 33

5.9 Drugs markets 34

5.9.1 County lines 34

5.10 Child Criminal Exploitation 35

5.11 Digital and online technologies 36

5.12 Impact of COVID-19 37

6. Profile of serious violence 39

6.1 Police data 39

6.2 Crime snapshot tables 39

6.1 Overall crime in Plymouth 41
6.2 Domestic violence 44
6.3 Sexual assault 49
6.4 Assaults 53
6.5 Homicides 59
6.6 Robbery 62
6.7 Possession of weapons 65
6.8 Stalking and harassment 69
6.9 Drug offences 72
6.10 Youth crime 75
6.9.1 Youth justice 85
6.9.2 Probation 88
7. Health intelligence 89
7.1 Hospital Emergency Care Department assault data 89
7.2 Spotlight on Ambulance data 90
7.3 Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data 91
8. Informing a public health model for violence prevention 94
Appendix A: The Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD) 95
Appendix B: Neighbourhood rank and scores, IMD 2019 96
Appendix C1: Plymouth City Council Children's Social Care data 97
Appendix C2: Violence-related factors identified during first assessment after referral to Plymouth City Council Children's Social Care 98
Appendix D: Police data 99
Appendix E: Summary of crime types 100
Appendix F: Youth Justice offence types 101

1. Executive summary

The new statutory Serious Violence Duty will strengthen collaboration and facilitate a public health approach to reducing and preventing serious violence in Plymouth. The data, intelligence and insights in this strategic needs assessment help to build a shared understanding of violence in the city and support decisions around the multiple and reinforcing approaches needed to both address the drivers of violence and respond to the harm caused by serious violence.

Some of the key findings from the needs assessment are detailed below.

- Between April 2021 and March 2022 the overall rate of crime in Plymouth was the lowest of the 15 areas in the Most Similar Group – areas with comparable demographic, social and economic characteristics.

- Violence against the person accounted for 35% of all crimes in Plymouth during that time. The rate of violence against the person with injury was the second highest in the 15 areas in the Most Similar Group.

- During that time there were 4,884 domestic abuse crimes and a further 2,212 reported domestic abuse incidents that did not result in a crime being recorded. Victims of domestic abuse were most likely to be female and the available data suggests that most offenders were male.

- There were 1,318 sexual offences between April 2021 and March 2022. Most victims were female, and the available data suggests that most offenders were male. The rate of sexual offences was the third highest of the 15 areas in the Most Similar Group.

- People under 18 years can be considered to account for 12.1% of the overall recorded crimes between April 2021 and March 2022 and those between 18-24 years account for 14.8% of overall crime during that time.

- Violence is not equally distributed across the city. Between April 2021 and March 2022 the City Centre, Stonehouse, Greenbank and the University were the neighbourhoods with the highest number of violent crimes.

- Between 2018/19 and 2020/21 there were a total of 265 emergency hospital admissions for violence in Plymouth. The most common reason for admission was assault by bodily force. Males were more likely to be admitted for violence than females.

- From April 2018 to March 2023, a total of 3,394 assaults were seen at Derriford Hospital Emergency Department - 61% of these were recorded as alcohol related.

- Domestic abuse was the most common violence related factor recorded for children at first assessment by Plymouth City Council's Children's Social Care

service during 2018/19 and 2022/23. Over this time there has been a substantial decrease in the proportion of children aged 0-4 years referred and assessed with violence related factors, and an increase in the proportion of children aged 10-17 years.

- The number of people in Plymouth citing domestic abuse as the primary cause of homelessness and the main reason for losing their last settled accommodation has increased in recent years.

- The rate of first-time entrants to the youth justice system (juveniles receiving their first conviction, caution, or youth caution) has reduced considerably in Plymouth over recent years. The number of young people known to the Youth Justice Service committing violent offences also decreased between 2018/19 and 2022/23.

- Most people in Plymouth feel safe in their local area during the day, but a significant proportion of people do not feel safe in their local area at night. Women and younger people are less likely to feel safe outside in their local area after dark than other groups and having limiting health problems or disabilities appears to negatively affect how safe you feel outside in your local area.

- Women are less likely than men to feel safe at home. Seven percent of young people responding to the latest Schools Health related Behaviour Survey said that there had been violence in their home once or twice in the last month and one percent said it happened every day or almost every day.

2. Introduction

2.1 Purpose of the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA)

As part of a new Serious Violence Duty - 'the Duty' (see section 2.3) local areas are required to undertake a strategic needs assessment to support a comprehensive understanding of violence in their area.

This strategic needs assessment aims to understand the types, distribution and extent of serious violence in Plymouth. It also highlights the risk factors that increase vulnerability to being or becoming a victim of serious violence or someone who causes harm. This provides an understanding of established and emerging serious violence trends, priority locations and high-risk issues. The intelligence and insights in this strategic needs assessment will inform an integrated response to serious violence and influence commissioning and investment decisions concerned with violence prevention and reduction.

2.2 Definition of serious violence

To date definitions of serious violence in national and local policy have focused on specific types of crimes such as homicide, knife and gun crime and areas of criminality such as gangs and county lines. The statutory guidance for the Duty (2021)[1] advises that local areas should consider the maximum penalty which could be imposed for any offence involved in the violence and the prevalence and impact of violence on victims and communities when agreeing a local definition of serious violence.

In Plymouth the following broad working definition of serious violence has been agreed *'the intentional use or threat of violence and harmful behaviours including (but not limited to) knife and gun crime, robbery, domestic abuse, sexual violence including rape, alcohol related violence, exploitation and stalking and harassment.'*

2.3 Legislative context

There is a complex legislative framework relating to violence prevention and reduction. The government's Serious Violence Strategy (2018)[2] was published in response to increases in gun crime, knife crime and homicides and has a clear focus on prevention and intervening early to support young people to avoid violence. The Strategy initiated the establishment of Violence Reduction Units in the areas of England most affected by violent crime and specific investment, including the Youth Endowment Fund, to support local responses. The Domestic Abuse Act

[1] Serious Violence Duty. Preventing and reducing serious violence. Statutory Guidance for responsible authorities. England and Wales. Home Office, December 2022. Serious Violence Duty - Statutory Guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[2] Serious Violence Strategy. HM Government, 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-strategy

(2021)[3] created a statutory definition that recognises that domestic abuse goes beyond physical violence and includes emotional, controlling or coercive and economic abuse. The Act introduced a number of new statutory duties and legislative orders to improve the justice system and protection and support for victims. The Tackling Violence against Women and Girls Strategy (2021)[4] recognises that certain violent crimes disproportionately affect women and girls. It prioritises prevention through challenging attitudes and behaviours, supporting victims and pursuing perpetrators. Building on this the Women's Health Strategy for England (2022)[5] specifically acknowledges the health impacts of violence against women and girls and details a series of measures giving the health and social care system an increased role in prevention, early intervention and support for victims. Most recently the Police Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Act 2022[6] seeks to reform the criminal justice system and covers a number of community safety issues. The Act includes the introduction of the new Serious Violence Duty (the Duty). The overall intention of the Duty is to encourage a public health approach to preventing and reducing serious violence. It places a statutory duty on specified authorities to collaborate in this work. The specified authorities are:

- Police – Devon and Cornwall Police
- Local authorities – Plymouth City Council
- Justice – youth offending teams and probation – National Probation Service and Youth Justice Service
- Fire and rescue – Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
- Health authorities – NHS Devon and health care providers

Educational authorities (including local authority-maintained schools, academies, independent schools, free schools, alternative education providers and further education providers) and prisons and youth custodial establishments have a duty to co-operate with the specified authorities to prevent and reduce serious violence in local areas.

2.4 A public health approach

Recent legislation and policy guidance has emphasised the need for a public health approach to violence prevention. This takes a four-step approach to supporting a shared understanding of the violence and developing effective violence prevention models.

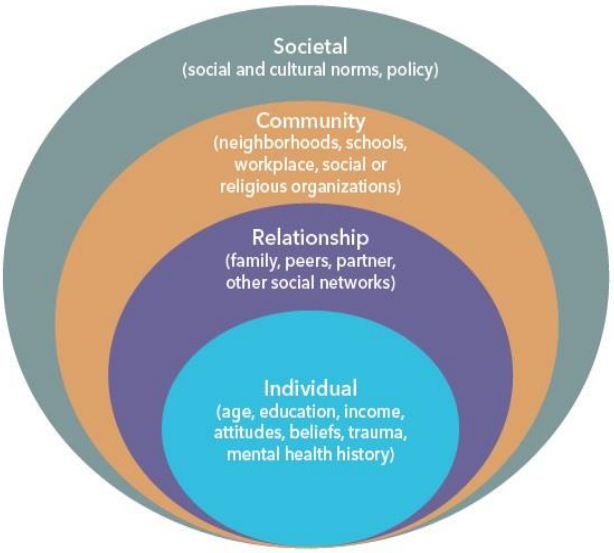
1. Defining the problem using wide range of data and intelligence – who is affected, where and when is the problem occurring
2. Identifying risk and protective factors – what are the causes
3. Develop and evaluate responses – employing existing evidence and testing new

[3] Domestic Abuse Act. The National Archives, 2021. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents/enacted
[4] Tackling Violence against Women and Girls. HM Government, 2021 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy
[5] Women's Health Strategy for England. Department of Health and Social Care, August 2022. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/womens-health-strategy-for-england
[6] Police, Crime, Sentencing and Court Act 2022. Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (legislation.gov.uk)

approaches
4. Scale up effective approaches and support widespread adoption – longer term planning and implementation

A public health approach to violence prevention uses a social-ecological framework for understanding the factors that influence violence. This recognises that violence, rather than being the result of any single factor, is influenced by multiple and complex factors as described below. As such serious violence is not considered in isolation, but rather as a symptom of the environment and the influences that impact on people throughout their lives.

Figure 1: Social Ecological Framework



Individual – biological and personal history factors that increase the likelihood of becoming a victim of violence or a person that causes harm. These factors include age, speech and language skills, drug and alcohol misuse and exposure to violence in the family.

Relationship – this considers peer and family relationships that may increase the risk of experiencing violence as a victim or person who causes harm. Important considerations here are low family income, parental mental health issues, parental conflict, and involvement in gangs.

Community – this considers places and settings including neighbourhoods, workplaces, and schools. Important issues here are perceptions of safety, rates of crime, lack of social connectedness and support and poverty.

Societal – this level is concerned with broader societal factors that support the conditions for violence such as health, economic and social policies that help maintain inequalities such gender inequalities.

A public health approach to serious violence prevention focuses on reducing and

mitigating risk factors and supporting and building protective factors. It proposes three levels of prevention:

Primary prevention	Preventing violence before it occurs. These approaches and interventions focus on changing attitudes and behaviours and building the knowledge and skills to prevent people becoming people who cause harm or victims of violence. Primary prevention also focuses on changing social conditions through challenging structures, practices and social norms that perpetuate violence. Examples of primary prevention include early years and family support, whole school approaches to healthy relationships, and bystander training.
Secondary prevention	Often referred to as early intervention approaches, these aim to support people at the earliest opportunity. They are generally directed towards people and groups who are at risk of, or who are displaying early signs of, causing harm or being a victim of violence. Secondary prevention is also concerned with ensuring that people in relevant public facing services and key individuals in communities can recognise and respond when people are at risk of causing harm or being a victim of violence. Examples of secondary prevention include youth diversion schemes, hospital based Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors (IDVA), and referral pathways to support and specialist services.
Tertiary prevention	These approaches are concerned with responding to violence once it has occurred and preventing and reducing harm and preventing escalation and recurrence. Examples of tertiary prevention approaches include support, treatment, and protection for victims of violence, and criminal justice and therapeutic interventions for people who cause harm.

Public health approaches to violence prevention take a life course approach. This acknowledges that a person's wellbeing and outcomes are influenced by a wide range of diverse factors throughout their life from pre-conception to infancy, early years and adolescence, working age, and into older age. A life course approach for violence prevention considers critical stages and transitions where significant differences can be made in enhancing protective factors and reducing risk factors.

This life course approach recognises the importance of primary prevention in breaking cycles of violence within families, communities, and other settings.

2.5 Human Learning Systems

Human Learning Systems (HLS) is an emergent approach to public services and social action based on the acceptance of complexity. It proposes that

- all people's lives are different and subject to diffuse influences
- social issues are complex and interdependent
- the systems responding to the issues are also complex

In this way outcomes are created by a combination of people and factors and the relationships and interactions between them. The key features of a human learning systems approach are working in a way that is human and responsive to bespoke needs and strengths, prioritising learning and adaptation, and taking a system approach.

Taking a Human Learning System approach to violence prevention and reduction provides an opportunity to improve our understanding of the context and drivers of violence and lead a system response that is relational and adaptive.

2.6 Trauma informed

A trauma informed approach recognises that trauma – a harmful event, series of events or set of circumstances - shape people's lives in many ways and can have lasting adverse effects. It also recognises that trauma and adversity are not predictive and can be overcome. The vision and values of the Trauma Informed Plymouth Network[7] (TIPN) provide a useful framework for approaches to violence prevention that is aligned to public health and human learning system approaches. The TIPN vision focuses on recognising the impact of trauma and the value of person-centred responses that support people and communities to build on their strengths to develop resilience.

[7] Trauma Informed Plymouth Network Home - Trauma Informed Plymouth Network

3. Community Focus and Lived Experience – views from our communities

The perceptions, views, and experiences of people in Plymouth provide important insights into various aspects of serious violence. This ‘community voice’ supports a deeper understanding of how violence impacts people in the city and ensures that our collective understanding and responses are socially and culturally informed and reflect people’s lived experiences.

This section of the needs assessment details some of this ‘community voice’ and is drawn from several sources including surveys, conversations, and local research. Further insights are included in the subsequent sections of the needs assessment.

Perceptions of safety

Perceptions of safety are important because they shape behaviour and have a significant influence on how people use spaces and places. As such people's perceptions of safety are an important consideration when considering responses to serious violence and other community safety issues.

The Plymouth City Survey 2022 captured over 1,800 responses about residents' perceptions and feelings of the city, their community, and their life. In responding to questions around how safe they feel 89% of respondents felt very or fairly safe when outside in their local area during the day and 5% felt unsafe. Respondents with health problems or disabilities that limit them a lot were less likely to report feeling safe (77%). The percentage of residents feeling safe during the day living in Plymouth Chaddlewood (99%) was significantly higher than those living St Peter and the Waterfront (81%) and Devonport (74%).

Significantly less people reported people safe when outside in their local area after dark (50%). 16–24 year olds were the least likely to report feeling safe (25%) and women were significantly less likely to report feeling safe when outside in their local area after dark (40%) than men (60%). The percentage of residents feeling safe after dark living in Plymstock Dunstone (77%) was significantly higher than those living in St Peter and the Waterfront (29%), Drake (31%) and St Budeaux (40%).

An online survey undertaken as part of the Violence against Women and Girls Commission (VAWG) for Plymouth[8] at the beginning of 2022 provides further insights into people’s perceptions of safety. Of the 1,327 responses 81% reported feeling very or fairly safe whilst at home and 11% felt very or fairly unsafe. Men were significantly more likely to feel very/fairly safe (90%) than women (80%) and older age groups were more likely to feel safe than those aged 20-24yrs (69%). 64% of the respondents felt very or fairly safe when out during the day while 17% felt very or fairly unsafe. Women were less likely to feel safe when out during the day (63%) and people under 19 years were the least likely to feel safe (40%). Respondents identifying as gay, lesbian, or bisexual (46%) were less likely than those identifying as heterosexual/straight (70%) to report feeling safe while out during the day. Over three quarters of respondents (78%) said they felt very or fairly

[8] Violence Against Women and Girls | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK

unsafe when out after dark. The proportion of males who felt very/fairly safe out after dark (58%) was significantly greater than females (8%). The City Centre and parks were cited most often as places where people felt unsafe. People also reported that they did not feel safe where there was poor lighting or in areas where groups of young men ‘hang out’.

In 2021/22, 3,720 pupils in Year 8 (aged 12-13 years) and Year 10 (aged 14-15 years) participated in the biennial Schools Health Related Behaviour Survey that includes questions about perceptions of safety, bullying and violence, and online safety. Most pupils (82%) rated their safety when going out during the day as 'good' or 'very good.' However, 22% percent of all pupils rated their safety when going out after dark as 'poor' or 'very poor'. The ‘poor’ and ‘very poor’ rating was most common among Year 10 girls (27%) and pupils living in St Peter & the Waterfront ward (21%). Eight percent of all pupils rated their safety when going to and from school as 'poor' or 'very poor' and this was significantly higher for pupils living in the most deprived neighbourhoods. Nine per cent of all pupils rated their safety at school as 'poor' or 'very poor’.

Focus points

- Most people feel safe in their local area during the day, but a significant proportion of people do not feel safe in their local area at night.
- Women and younger people are less likely to feel safe outside in their local area after dark than other groups.
- Having limiting health problems or disabilities appears to negatively affect how safe you feel outside in your local area.
- Gay and lesbian people are less likely than heterosexual/straight people to feel safe while out during the day
- Women are less likely than men to feel safe at home
- Young people are more likely to feel unsafe when going out at night than during the day and this is more common among girls and young people from more deprived areas

Experience and impacts of violence

In 2019 people from across Plymouth participated in conversations about the reality and impact of domestic abuse in the city. Victims of domestic abuse revealed that they were isolated and had often lost contact with their family and friends. They described being frightened; frightened that professionals would take their children, that they would lose their homes, frightened that their family and friends would reject them. Ultimately many described being afraid that their abuser would kill them.

> *I had lost all my friends and had no confidence.*

In 2022 the experiences of prostituted women in Plymouth were revealed through conversations hosted by Trevi, a Plymouth based charity working with women and

children and Serio a research unit at University of Plymouth.[9] Many of the women reported neglect, abuse, and trauma in their childhoods and recounted relationships with men who were physically, sexually, and mentally abusive. All the women described never feeling safe when involved in prostitution and said experiences of male abuse and violence were common. They described feeling trapped in relationships with coercive and controlling men that held them back from exiting prostitution and moving forward in their lives.

A review of a small sample of Victim Personal Statements from sexual and domestic abuse offences in 2023 described the profound effects of violence on people's lives. In these statement victims of violent crimes reported long term impacts including being unable to work, health problems and psychological issues including depression and anxiety and poor self-esteem. Shared themes in the statements were living in fear, being afraid to go out and feeling hopeless.

> *I don't like to go anywhere on my own. I'm looking over my shoulder all the time. I have nightmares and flashbacks*

As part of the VAWG Commission for Plymouth evidence gathering young people discussed their views and experiences of violence. Young women and girls felt that violence was a common problem, that it is often fuelled by alcohol, and is worse in areas with a night-time economy including the City Centre and Barbican. They also described their experiences of school feeling unsafe and feeling 'preyed on' by male teachers and students.

> *If you asked any girl they would probably say that they felt unsafe walking after dark.*

The most recent School's Health Related Behaviour Survey provides a valuable insight into young people's experiences of violence. Ten percent of all young people (n. 3,720) reported that they had been a victim of violence or aggression in the area they live in in the previous 12 months. This was higher for young people living in more deprived areas. Additionally, 8% of all young people reported that they don't spend more time outdoors because of 'fear/worry about getting hurt or injured.' Six per cent of all young people said a current or past boyfriend/girlfriend threatened to hit them and 5% said a current or past boyfriend/girlfriend had hit them.

Seven per cent of the young people said there had been violence (e.g., hitting, punching, slapping) in their home 'once or twice' in the last month. A further 2% said this had happened 'once a week' in the last month and 1% of all pupils said it had happened 'every day/almost every day' in the last month.

The Together for Childhood Programme[10] works with partners to make communities

[9] In our words: improving exit pathways for prostituted women in Plymouth. 2022. Serio, University of Plymouth and Trevi.
[10] NSPCC Together for Childhood programme Together for Childhood | NSPCC

safer for children and in Plymouth has a specific focus on preventing child sexual abuse. A Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviour research project carried out between March and September 2022 provided important insights into young people's (n.353) views on sexual abuse and healthy relationships. Young people appeared most knowledgeable about physical (93%) and sexual abuse (89%) but less knowledgeable about grooming (64%), domestic abuse (65%) and spotting the signs of an abusive relationship (67%).

During 2021/22 the Young Devon Peer Action Collective[11] spoke to over 130 young people in Plymouth about their views and experiences of youth violence. They described negative emotional and mental health impacts of witnessing and being involved in violence including depression, anxiety, and self-harm. They also highlighted that victims of violence and those who cause harm can often feel ostracized, 'othered' and isolated due to a lack of understanding and support from parents, guardians, teachers, and the police.

Focus points

- The impacts of violence are long-term and can be debilitating
- Victims of violence frequently describe being living in fear and never feeling safe
- A significant number of young people have been victims of violence and aggression and some regularly witness violence in their homes

Online violence and harms

There is a growing awareness and understanding of the impact of illegal, offensive and harmful content and behaviours in the 'online world'. The draft Online Safety Bill[12] acknowledges the proliferation of content concerned with child sexual abuse, extreme sexual violence, and exploitation as well as online abuse, harassment, and cyberbullying. Issues relating to the 'online world' have featured in many local discussions and personal accounts of serious violence.

The 2021/22 Schools Health Related Behaviour Survey included questions about online behaviours, experiences and safety. Overall 17% of the 3,720 secondary school pupils who responded to the survey said that they had experienced online bullying. This was significantly higher for girls aged 14-15 years with 21% of them reporting experiences of online bullying. Fifteen per cent of all pupils said that they have seen videos or games with violence that they found upsetting. Twenty four percent of male pupils and 26% of female pupils said they experienced sexually explicit images, videos, or games online. Eighteen per cent of male pupils and 4% of female pupils said they use the internet for finding sexually explicit images, videos, or games ('pornography').

As part of the VAWG Commission for Plymouth (2022) young people discussed how safe they felt when online. They described peer pressure to have open social media accounts and endless lists of friends and ineffective checks for minimum age restrictions on social media sites. They specifically discussed the harmful impacts

[11] Young Devon Peer Action Collective Peer Action Collective | Young Devon
[12] Online Safety Bill, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport 2023

of viewing pornography with violent and extreme content and how this contributes to views that 'rough' and violent sex is normal.

> *I get messages from random people all the time. One said he'd rape me and that's meant to be acceptable?*

The VAWG Commission for Plymouth (2022) noted that several organisations who gave evidence to the Commission raised concerns about unrestricted access to online extreme pornography and how this is normalises aggression and violence, including sexual violence.

Focus points

- A significant number of young people have experienced online bullying
- It is common for young people to view violent and sexually explicit content online content online that they found upsetting
- People are concerned that extreme pornography is openly available online and that it is normalising violence and 'rough sex'

Responses to violence

The recent surveys, conversations and local research have all given some focus to how approaches to preventing and reducing violence could potentially be developed further – key themes are highlighted below.

Prevention and early intervention

- Primary prevention approaches are key are essential to achieving change
- There are significant benefits to enhancing an understanding of the 'wider determinants' - those things that make people more at risk of causing harm and being a victim of serious violence
- More and earlier education about healthy and respectful relationships and challenging gender and other stereotypes is key
- Healthy relationships should be taught in smaller groups where discussion and critical thinking is encouraged and supported
- It is important to understand and address victim blaming
- Early recognition and response to all forms of violence is essential and will provide opportunities for timely support to prevent harm and escalation

> *Even if having the discussions and talking about this changes one person's behaviour it's a start in acknowledging this is not acceptable and change is needed*

> *More male led initiatives and groups for men to come together are needed in the city to raise awareness of how men need to change language, behaviours and perceptions of women.*

Supporting vulnerable people

- An understanding of trauma this must be at the centre of preventing and

responding to serious violence
- It is important to recognise the significance of stigma and shame and how this can prevent people talking about both being a victim of violence and being person who is concerned about causing harm
- Consideration should be given to the need for more responsive support services that are available outside of core office hours
- Women only spaces and accommodation are important
- Children who are victims of domestic abuse need specific support
- It is important to provide whole family support e.g., where a child is displaying harmful behaviours
- A structured support offer for people who cause harm is essential to preventing violence

Building personal and community resilience
- There is an opportunity to develop a social movement for behavioural and cultural change that clearly communicates that violence is not acceptable and will be called out
- Male led initiatives could be effective in challenging language, behaviour and culture
- Schools must have clear responses to incidents of violence including sexual harassment and assault
- It is important to develop an understanding of 'online harms' and how to respond to these

> To *end men's violence towards women and girls it is vital to involve men in challenging other men and speaking out about men's violence and holding men accountable for our behaviour*

Public protection
- There is value of providing 'safe spaces' and creating opportunities for developing a sense of safety
- Evening and night-time premises and venues should be equipped to spot early warning signs of violence
- There must be adequate taxis and public transport at night
- An app-based resource for reporting incidents of violence could be beneficial

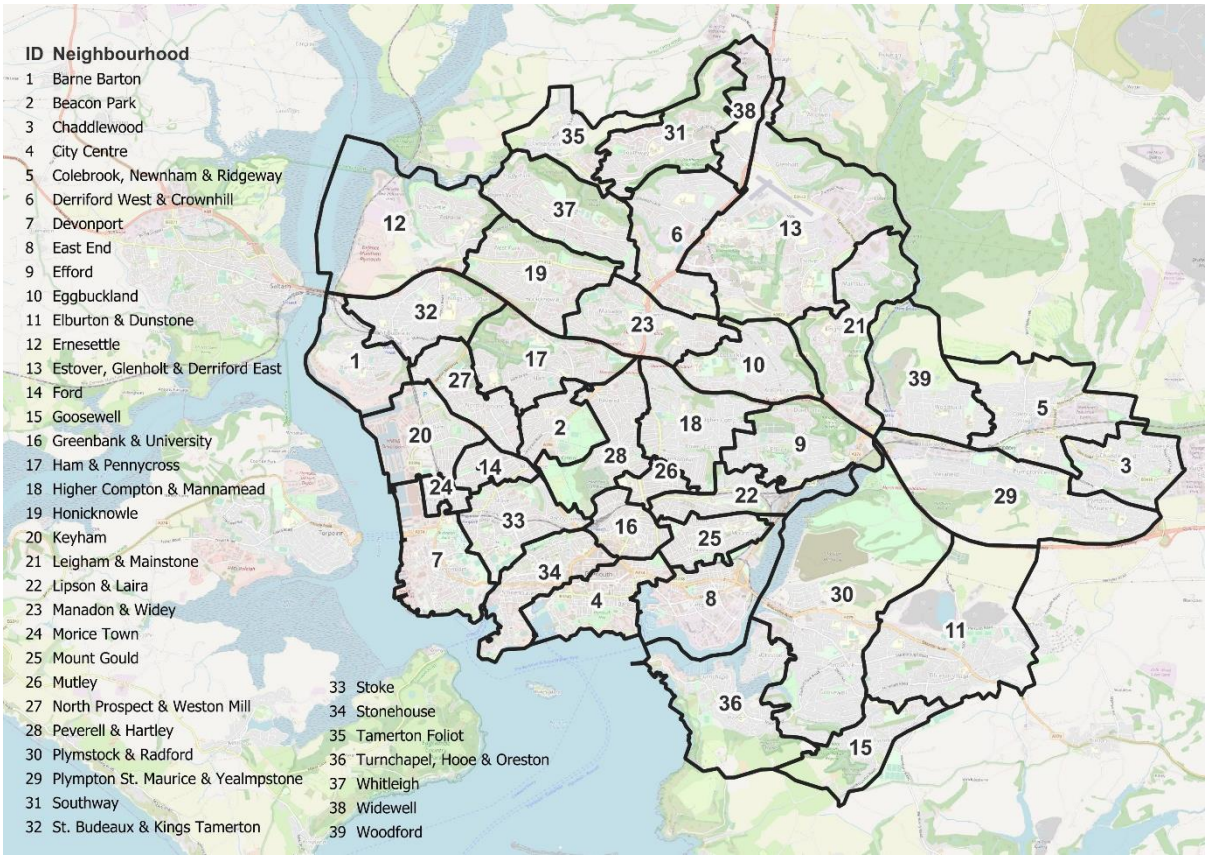
4. The local context – place and population

To understand the profile and impact of violence in a local area it is important to describe the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the population. As part of this it is relevant to consider the breadth of characteristics that may affect the local population's wellbeing and lived experiences. This section provides a brief overview of Plymouth in terms of its geographies and population.

4.1 Plymouth geographies

Plymouth is divided into 39 neighbourhoods. These neighbourhoods are aggregations of the city's 164 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs).[13] As well as existing in their own right, the neighbourhoods can be grouped together to form a variety of local geographies. Plymouth's neighbourhood boundaries are shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Plymouth by neighbourhood



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Basemap: © OpenStreetMap contributors – data available under the Open Database License

[13] LSOAs are part of a geographical framework developed for the collection and publication of small-area statistics. They are not often subject to boundary changes and are of a specified minimum population making them suitable for comparison over time.

4.2 The population

The usual resident population estimate of Plymouth, according to the 2021 Census was 264,693.[14] The population in the city changes during the year; during the summer it is supplemented by many thousands of visitors, whilst in September thousands of students arrive to undertake studies at the higher education facilities in the city. Additionally, a significant number of people commute into Plymouth for work. It is likely that the population swells to in excess of 700,000 at certain times.[15]

4.3 Population diversity

An overview of some of the demographic characteristics of Plymouth is presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Population diversity in Plymouth

	264,693 in 2021 [14] Projected to increase to **270,634** by 2035 [16]
51% (51% England)	**49%** (49% England) [17]
	Large youthful population and a smaller, but growing, older population. 19.5% are aged under 18 (20.8% England) 10.9% are aged 18-24 (8.3% England) 51.1% are aged 25-64 (52.4% England) 17.6% are aged 65-89 (17.5% England) 0.9% are aged 90+ (0.9% England) [14]
	89.5% “White British” (73.5% England) Rising ethnic minority population [18]

[14] Dataset TS007: age by single year, 2021 Census, ONS
[15] Blue Sail Plymouth Visitor Plan 2020-2030, Report for Destination Plymouth and Plymouth City Council, 2019
[16] 2018-based subnational population projections for local authorities, ONS
[17] Dataset TS008: Sex, 2021 Census, ONS
[18] Dataset TS022: Ethnic group (detailed), 2021 Census, ONS

	92.7% speak English as their main language **Over 60** languages are spoken by people in the city **Polish**, **Romanian**, and **Arabic** most commonly spoken languages after English[19]
	9.7% disabled and limited a lot (7.5% England) **12.3%** disabled and limited a little (10.2% England) **78.0%** were not disabled (82.3% England) [20]
 [21]	**42.5%** Christian (46.3% England) **1.3%** Muslim (6.7% England) **0.4%** Buddhist (0.5% England) **48.9%** “no religion” (36.7% England) [22]
LGBTQ+	**89.0%** of people aged 16 years and over in Plymouth identify as “straight or heterosexual” (89.4% England) **4.5%** identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other (3.2% England) [23]
	94.2% aged 16 years and over have a gender identity the same as their sex observed and registered at birth (93.5% England) **0.5%** aged 16 years and over have a gender identity different from their sex observed and registered at birth (0.5% England) [24]

[19] Dataset TS204: Main language (detailed), 2021 Census, ONS
[20] Dataset TS038ASP: Disability age-standardised proportions, 2021 Census, ONS
[21] Image by brgfx on Freepik
[22] Dataset TS031: Religion (detailed), Census 2021, ONS
[23] Dataset TS079: Sexual orientation, Census 2021, ONS
[24] Dataset TS070: Gender identity, Census 2021, ONS

5. Drivers and risk factors for serious violence

Serious violence can affect all people. However, violence is not equally distributed across populations or places and some groups and geographical areas are disproportionately affected. Violence can be both the consequence and the cause of social inequalities. Many of the factors that shape health and health outcomes including education, income, and environment are also determinants of serious violence. These factors **do not specifically cause violence**, but they may contribute to the likelihood of being a victim of violence or of being violent and causing harm. Risk factors can be cumulative and combine to increase risk.

As described in Section 2.4 a social-ecological framework describes the multitude of factors that interact to determine the risk and experience of serious violence. These factors operate at an individual, relationship, community, and societal level and are seen as the determinants of serious violence. In order to prevent and reduce serious violence focus should be given to these factors. Some of these wider determinants are explored in the following sections.

5.1 Deprivation

The correlation between deprivation and serious violence has been explored at length. Studies have shown that people living in more deprived areas have a greater risk of exposure to violence.[25] There is evidence that women who lived in more deprived neighbourhoods during their childhood are at greater risk of intimate partner violence during early adulthood.[26] Deprivation has been shown to increase the likelihood of youth violence and weapon carrying amongst young people.[27] Furthermore, deprivation is associated with poor mental health, inadequate housing conditions, limited employment opportunities, and increased financial pressures all of which are key risk factors for serious violence.

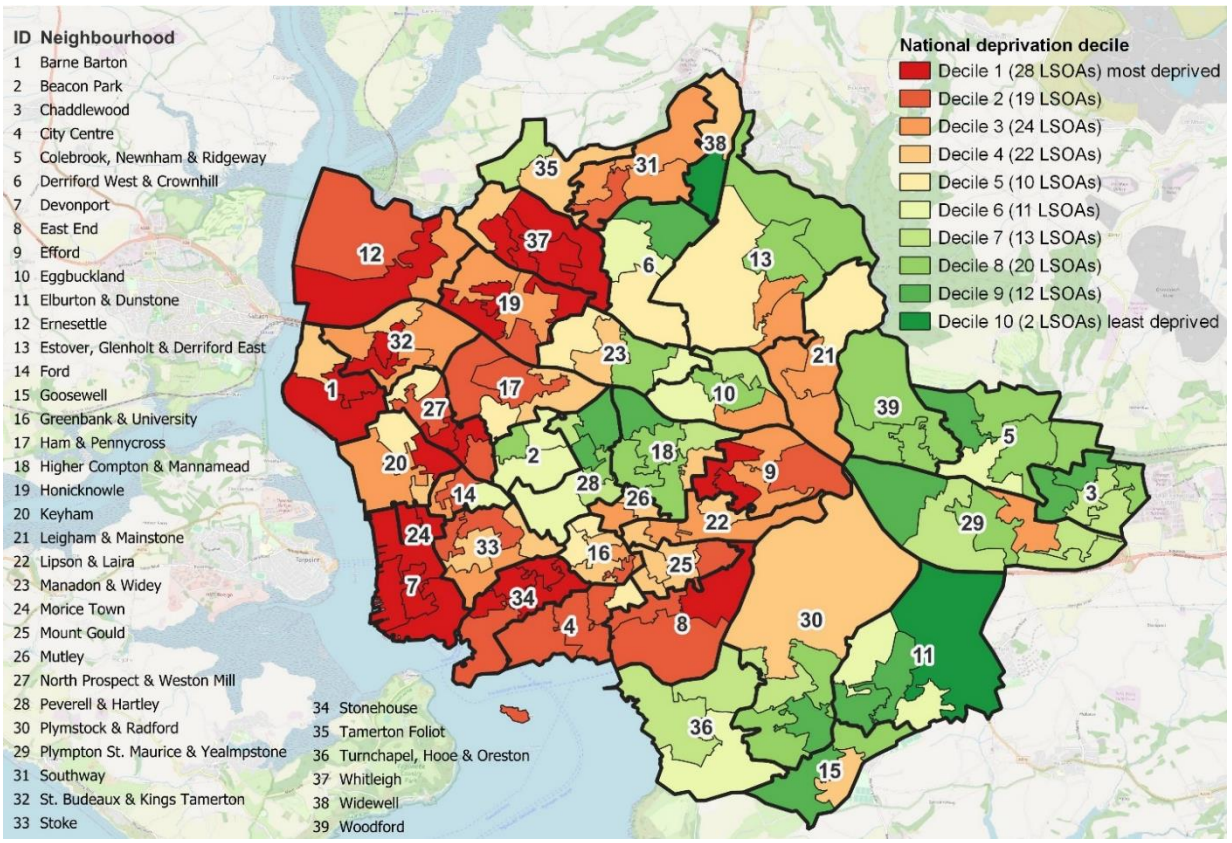
The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD) measures relative levels of deprivation in small geographical areas called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). The IMD groups 39 indicators across seven Indices of Deprivation domains – income, employment, health, education and skills, housing and access to services, crime and living environment (Appendix A). Every LSOA in England is ranked according to its level of deprivation relative to that of other areas, from the most deprived area (1) to the least deprived (32,844). Deciles are calculated by dividing the ranked LSOAs into 10 equal groups. These range from the most deprived 10% of LSOAs nationally (decile 1) to the least deprived 10% nationally (decile 10).

Figure 4 shows the IMD 2019 national deprivation deciles for the LSOAs in

[25] Deprivation and violence in the community: a perspective from a UK Accident and Emergency department. A Howe, M Crilly. 2001. Deprivation and violence in the community: a perspective from a UK Accident and Emergency Department - ScienceDirect
[26] Long-term exposure to Neighbourhood Deprivation and Intimate Partner Violence Among Women: A UK Birth Cohort Study. A Yakubovich et al. 2020. Long-term Exposure to Neighbourhood Deprivation and Intimate Partner Violence Among Women: A UK Birth Cohort Study - PMC (nih.gov)
[27] Getting to the Point? Reframing Narrative on Knife Crime. Simon Harding. 2020. Getting to the Point? Reframing Narratives on Knife Crime (sagepub.com)

Plymouth with neighbourhood boundaries overlaid. (Note this analysis was done on the 161 LSOAs that Plymouth was split into at the time). This shows that 47 of the 161 LSOAs in Plymouth (29.2%) are in the most deprived 20% in England. It also shows that 14 LSOAs (8.7%) are in the least deprived 20% in England.

Figure 4: Plymouth LSOAs by IMD 2019 national deprivation decile with neighbourhood boundaries overlaid.



Source: IMD 2019 data from Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI)
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Basemap: © OpenStreetMap contributors – data available under the Open Database License

Locally derived deprivation scores for the 39 neighbourhoods provide an indication of deprivation at a geography that is more locally relevant. The neighbourhoods are then ranked by highest calculated score (rank 1 most deprived) to the lowest score (rank 39 least deprived).

The 10 most deprived neighbourhoods are: (1) Stonehouse; (2) Devonport; (3) Morice Town; (4) Barne Barton; (5) Whitleigh; (6) East End; (7) North Prospect & Weston Mill; (8) Ernesettle; (9) Honicknowle; and (10) Efford. A full list of ranked neighbourhoods can be found in Appendix B.

In terms of IMD Plymouth is ranked 50 out of the 151 upper-tier local authorities in England (1=most deprived; 151=least deprived). This places Plymouth in decile four nationally i.e., within the 40% most deprived upper-tier local authorities in England.

Figure 5 shows Plymouth's rank and national decile for the seven domains of the IoD (decile 1 most deprived; decile 10 least deprived). Plymouth ranks within the

40% most deprived local authorities for five of the seven domains.

Figure 5: Domains of IoD 2019; Plymouth's rank and national decile

Income	Employment	Health	Education	Barriers to housing and services	Crime	Living environment	
60/151	39/151	29/151	51/151	101/151	88/151	54/151	Rank
4	3	2	4	7	6	4	Decile

As shown in the sections below there are higher rates of violent crimes recorded in neighbourhoods with some of the highest levels of deprivation in Plymouth.

5.2 Employment, income, and poverty

Violence is strongly associated with poverty at a household and neighbourhood level.[28] A lack of economic opportunity and financial hardship is reported as a driver for involvement in violence.[29] Research indicates that children growing up in poverty are seven times more likely to be involved in violent crimes as young adults and this risk is elevated the longer a child lives in poverty.[30]

Plymouth has a marginally higher employment rate than nationally (75.5 per cent compared to 75.1 per cent) and a slightly lower economic activity rate (75.9 per cent compared to 78.2 per cent). Plymouth's pay currently stands at 92.3% of the UK average.[31] However economic inactivity due to poor health appears to be a specific issue for Plymouth. The most recent Annual Population Survey showed that in 2022/23 long term sickness accounted for 39.5% of economic inactivity in Plymouth compared to 25.5% in England.[32]

In the 2022 Plymouth Health Visitor Caseload Survey of 8,296 families with children under-5, the major wage earner being unemployed was noted in 14.2% (1,176 families) whilst 23.0% (1,911 families) were classified as low income, dependent on benefits.[33]

There are a number of measures used to indicate levels of poverty. The Income

[28] Evidence and policy review: Domestic violence and poverty. 2016. University of Bristol. Evidence and policy review: Domestic violence and poverty — University of Bristol
[29] Causes and Impact of offending and criminal justice pathways: follow-up of the Edinburgh Study cohort at age 35. 2022. ESYTC Report (4.3.22) (nuffieldfoundation.org)
[30] Family income inequalities and trajectories through childhood and self-harm and violence in young adults. Mok, P. et al. 2018. Family income inequalities and trajectories through childhood and self-harm and violence in young adults: a population-based, nested case-control study - The Lancet Public Health
[31] Plymouth Report. 2023. Plymouth Report 2023
[32] Annual Population Survey: economic inactivity by reasons, 2022/23, NOMIS.
[33] Health Visitor Caseload Survey 2022, Public Health, Plymouth City Council

Domain Affecting Children Index – a 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation highlighted that in Plymouth 16.4% of children under 16 years (7,594 children) were living in income deprived households. In some neighbourhoods more than eight out of 10 children were affected by income deprivation.

Latest data shows that in 2021 16.3% of children under 19 years (9,866 children) were living in relative low-income families, before housing costs are removed. The majority of relative low-income families with children (70%) were in work.[34]

5.3 Gender inequalities

Violence can affect anyone, but it does not affect people and communities equally. Violence is highly gendered with men committing the majority of violent crime. Domestic abuse and sexual violence disproportionately affect women and girls. The reasons for this are complex and are driven by societal factors including gender inequalities, gender stereotyping, and harmful norms about masculinity.[35]

These disparities are illustrated in the data reported as part of the Crime Survey for England and Wales (2022).[36]

- In the year ending March 2022 the victim was female in 74.1% of domestic abuse reported crimes
- Between the year ending March 2019 and the year ending March 2021, 72.1% of victims of domestic homicide were female
- Crimes recorded by the police in year ending March 2022 show that the victim was female in 86% of sexual offences[37]

They are further illustrated in Section 6 of this report that provides a profile of violent crime in Plymouth.

The Plymouth City Survey 2022 found that 60% of respondents agreed that violence against women and girls is a problem, while only 9% disagreed. Younger people aged 16-24 years were significantly more likely to agree (82%) as were females (63% compared to 56% of males).[38]

5.4 Education – school readiness, engagement, exclusions, and attainment

Regular school attendance is part of giving children and young people the best start

[34] Plymouth Report. 2023. Plymouth Report 2023
[35] Tackling Violence against Women and Girls. 2021. HM Government. Tackling violence against women and girls (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[36] Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2022. Office for National Statistics. Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
[37] Sexual offences victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2022. Office for National Statistics. Sexual offences victim characteristics, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
[38] Plymouth City Survey 2022 Report, 2023. Marketing Means. Plymouth City Survey Report

in life. Engagement in education is a strong protective factor against the risk of involvement in serious violence. Additionally, schools have an important role in preventing violence through identifying vulnerable young people, working in partnership with police and children's services and providing universal and targeted interventions.[39]

5.4.1 School readiness

School readiness is a measure of how prepared a child is to succeed in school; cognitively, socially, and emotionally. It has an impact on overall educational attainment and broader life chances. The following school readiness measures were reported for Plymouth children in 2021/22:[40]

- 63.5% of children achieved a good level of development at the end of Reception – this was lower than the rate for England (65.2%).
- 78.3% of children achieved at least the expected level in communication and language skills at the end of Reception – this was not significantly different to England (79.5%).
- 65.5% of children achieved at least the expected level in communication, language, and literacy at the end of Reception; the third lowest value in the South West but not significantly different to England (67.1%).

5.4.2 School absenteeism

School absenteeism has a negative impact on the social, emotional, and educational development of young people. It is also a key risk factor for violence and injury. Analysis by the Department of Education and the Ministry of Justice shows the percentage of pupils convicted or cautioned for serious violence offences is significantly higher among pupils who have been permanently excluded from school.[41] Research indicates an association (not causation) between regular school absence and serious violence, including knife and other weapon possession offences in young offenders.[42]

The school absence rate is the total number of sessions missed due to absence for all pupils as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions for all pupils. One session is equal to half a day.

[39] Good practice in youth violence prevention: A mapping and horizon scanning review. 2020. CASCADE, Cardiff University. Mapping-and-horizon-scanning-review-of-youth-violence-prevention.pdf (violencepreventionwales.co.uk)
[40] Child and Maternal Health Profiles, Fingertips Public Health Data, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
[41] Education, children's social care and offending. 2022. Department for Education. Education, children's social care and offending (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[42] Working together to improve school attendance. 2022. Department for Education. Working together to improve school attendance (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Table 1: Recorded absence in pupils in Plymouth schools, 2022/23[43]

% of pupils / School type	Overall absence		Unauthorised absence		Persistent absence*	
	Plymouth	England	Plymouth	England	Plymouth	England
Primary	6.1	6.0	1.7	1.7	17.4	17.2
Secondary	10.4	9.3	3.8	3.5	32.4	28.3
Special school	13.0	13.1	3.4	3.1	41.7	38.7

*A pupil enrolment is identified as persistently absent if they have missed 10% or more of their possible sessions in the year to date.

5.4.3 School exclusions

The Timpson Review of School Exclusion (2019) reported that exclusion from school is a marker for being at higher risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of crime.[44] Further studies have explored the links between school exclusion and serious youth violence and highlighted that many young people excluded from education often have a range of other vulnerabilities including exposure to violence in the home, neglect, and loss. The link between being at risk of school exclusion and at risk of criminal exploitation has also been acknowledged.[45]

Between 2018/19 and 2022/23 there were 4,303 **fixed term exclusions** (suspensions) in 68 primary and 26 secondary schools in Plymouth specifically relating to violence (damage, physical assault, and threat/use of a weapon). This represents nearly 53% of the overall fixed term exclusions in primary schools and 17.5% of the overall fixed term exclusions in secondary schools. This contrast reflects the difference in percentages relating to physical assault of an adult. Seventy-seven per cent of the overall fixed term exclusions for violence were in male pupils and 34% of the pupils had special educational need support. The highest numbers of fixed-term exclusions were seen in schools in the neighbourhoods of City Centre (1,116), St. Budeaux & Kings Tamerton (512), Stonehouse (274), Whitleigh (266), and Stoke (248).

Between 2018/19 and 2022/23 there were 102 **permanent exclusions** in primary and secondary schools in Plymouth specifically relating to violence (damage, physical assault, and threat/use of a weapon). This represents nearly 49% of the overall permanent exclusions in primary schools and 31% of the overall permanent exclusions in secondary schools. Seventy-seven per cent of the overall permanent exclusions for violence were in male pupils and nearly 40% of the pupils had special educational need support. The highest numbers of permanent exclusions

[43] Pupil attendance in schools; pupil attendance since week commencing 12 Sept – Academic year 2022/23, published 10 Aug 2023, Explore Education Statistics, Department for Education Create your own tables, Table Tool – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)
[44] Timpson Review of School Exclusion, 2019
[45] Back to School? Breaking the link between school exclusions and knife crime. 2019 All-Party Parliamentary Group on Knife Crime. APPG-on-Knife-Crime-Back-to-School-exclusions-report-FINAL.pdf (preventknifecrime.co.uk)

were seen in schools in the neighbourhoods of Stoke (19), Devonport (10), St Budeaux & Kings Tamerton (10), Lipson & Laira (8), and Whitleigh (7).

5.4.4 Attainment

Academic attainment is evidenced to have several benefits including enhanced health outcomes and life expectancy, and improved access to employment. Academic achievement is identified as a protective factor against involvement in youth violence and gangs.[46]

In 2021/22 59% of pupils in Plymouth met the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths (combined) for key stage 2 attainment. This compares to 57% in the South West and 58% in England.[47]

Attainment 8 measures the results of pupils at state funded mainstream schools in England in 8 GCSE-level qualifications and provides an indication of how well they do in key stage 4 (15-16 years). In 2021/22 the average attainment 8 score of all pupils in Plymouth was 47.5. This compares to the England score of 48.8.[48]

5.4.5 Young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET)

Young people who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) are at greater risk of a range of negative outcomes, including poor health, depression, or early parenthood. In 2021 in Plymouth 6.4% of 16- to 17-year-olds were not in education, employment, or training (or whose activity was not known); the third highest value in the South West and significantly higher than England (4.7%).[49]

5.4.6 Speech, language, and communication

Speech, language, and communication skills are crucial to young people's overall development and to establishing relationships and emotional regulation. Research has found that pre-school children exposed to domestic violence are likely to be at significant risk of developing significant speech and language problems.[50] Speech and language difficulties can act as a barrier for victims and perpetrators of violence seeking help and support.

It is estimated that 33.2% of 0-18 year olds in Plymouth have a speech, language, and communication need (SLCN) including developmental language disorders, autism and learning disabilities.[51]

Speech, language, and communication needs are recognised as a risk factor for

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[46] Preventing Gang and Youth Violence. 2015. Early Intervention Foundation. Preventing-gang-and-youth-violence-risk-protective-factors (1).pdf
[47] Key stage 2 attainment. 12 September 2023. Key stage 2 attainment, Academic year 2022/23 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)
[48] Key stage 4 performance. Updated 1 February 2023. Key stage 4 performance, Academic year 2021/22 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)
[49] 16 to 17 year olds not in education, employment, or training (NEET) or whose activity was not known. 2021. Indicator ID 93203. Fingertips Public Health Data. OHID
[50]Safeguarding children with communication needs factsheet-safeguarding-children-with-communication-needs.pdf (rcslt.org) Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
[51] Provided by NHS Devon ICB. November 2023. Predicted levels of SLCN calculated using a formula created by Better Communication CIC

offending and people with these needs are disproportionally represented in the criminal justice system across adult and youth populations.[52] An assessment by the Youth Justice Board found that 71% of children in England sentenced in the youth justice system had speech, language, and communication difficulties.[53] In 2022/23 24.2% of young people being supported by the Plymouth Youth Justice Service were assessed as having autism or some literacy problem or difficulty. This was an increase from 2018/19 when 18.8% were identified with these needs.

5.5 Exposure to violence in the home

Exposure to violence in the home has a number of significant impacts. For children and young people it can result in a range of emotional and behavioural responses including delayed development, conduct disorders and depression. It can disrupt their schooling and the quality of their educational experience and can lead them to feeling isolated and stigmatised.[54]

Although many young people who experience violence in the home do not go on to commit crime there is evidence to support a link between family violence and involvement in future offending and violence.[55] Similarly, there is some evidence that exposure to domestic abuse in childhood and adolescence increases the likelihood of being a victim of domestic abuse in later life[56].

It is difficult to quantify the extent of violence within home settings. However, there are a number of sources of intelligence that provide some indication. The Plymouth Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey carried out during the academic year 2021/2022 revealed that 33% (n.1,228) of Year 8 and 10 pupils responding to the survey said that there had been either shouting and arguing or violence between adults at home at least once or twice in the last month. Ten per cent (n.370) reported that there had been violence (e.g., hitting, punching, slapping) at home at least once or twice in the last month.

In the 2022 Plymouth Health Visitor Caseload Survey of 8,296 families with children under-5, violence in the family was noted in 5.8% (483 families).[57]

Data from Plymouth City Council Children's Social Care (CSC) Service, and described below, relate to individual children. A description of the data, violence-related factors, and associated caveats are given in Appendix C.

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[52] The importance of screening for speech, language and communication needs in police custody. 2023. Howard Journal of Crime and Justice Volume 2, Issue 3.
[53] Assessing the needs of sentenced children in the Youth Justice System 2019/20. 2021. Ministry of Justice. experimental-statistics-assessing-needs-sentenced-children-youth-justice-system-2019-20.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[54] Impacts of domestic violence on children and young people. March 2012. Research in Practice impacts_of_domestic_violence_on_children_and_young_people.pdf (proceduresonline.com)
[55] The relationship between family violence and youth offending. June 2018. Local Government Association. 15 34 - The relationship between family violence and youth offending-V4_1.pdf (local.gov.uk)
[56] Office for National Statistics. 2017. People who were abused as children are more likely to be abused as an adult - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
[57] Health Visitor Caseload Survey 2022, Public Health, Plymouth City Council

In 2018/19 1,329 children referred into and assessed by Plymouth City Council's Children's Social Care service were considered to have current violence-related factors in their environment as recorded at first assessment after referral.[58] In 2022/23 this number had dropped by 22.0% to 1,037 children. Using the highest percentage group to determine likelihood, children undergoing social care assessment where violence-related factors were a concern, and recorded at first assessment after referral, were more likely to be:

- female (50.2%), aged 0-4 years (36.9%), and of a White British* ethnicity (87.6%) in 2018/19.
- Male (51.2%), aged 10-14 years (29.7%), and of a White British ethnicity (83.9%) in 2022/23

Further analysis of this data shows:

- By far the most common factor recorded in both 2018/19 and 2022/23 were concerns around domestic abuse of parent(s)/carer(s) (62.6% and 62.7% respectively).
- Children undergoing social care assessment where domestic abuse of parent(s)/carer(s) was a concern, in both 2018/19 and 2022/23, were more likely to be male (51.2% & 52.3%), aged 0-4 years (44.2% & 34.3%), and of White British ethnicity (87.4% & 86.9).
- The second most common factor recorded in both 2018/19 and 2022/23 were concerns around physical abuse (34.3% and 35.4% respectively).
- Children undergoing social care assessment where physical abuse was a concern, in both 2018/19 and 2022/23, were more likely to be male (53.7% & 50.1%), aged 0-4 years in 2018/19 (32.7%) and 10-14 years (28.9%) in 2022/23, and of White British ethnicity (84.8% & 77.3).
- The overall proportion of males and females is similar across both years, but risks from child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse disproportionately affect females, whilst gang-related risks and child criminal exploitation disproportionately affect males.
- The age-profile of children has changed over the last five years. There has been a substantial decrease in proportion of children aged 0-4 year olds referred and assessed with violence related factors, and an increase in the proportion of children aged 10-17 years.
- The ethnicity profile has also seen a change over the last five years. White British and any other non-white ethnic group comprised 87.6% and 5.9% respectively in 2018/19. In 2022/23, White British had reduced to 83.9% whilst any other non-white ethnic group had increased to 9.7%.
- All violence related factors, apart from gangs and sexual abuse, have seen a

[58] Data extracted from Care First System, Plymouth City Council, Childrens Social Care Service, August 2023
* White British (White British, White English, White Welsh, White Scottish, White Northern Irish)

decrease in number from 2018/19 to 2022/23. Yet as the total number of children with violence-related factors have also decreased over this period, some proportions have increased, primarily “physical abuse” (34.3% to 35.4%).

- Although only small numbers, the proportion of children with concerns around harm from involvement in/with gangs has more than doubled between 2018/19 and 2022/23 (1.1% to 3.1%).
- The neighbourhoods of Barne Barton, Devonport, Efford, Honicknowle, St Budeaux & Kings Tamerton, Southway, Stonehouse, and Whitleigh appear repeatedly in the top five neighbourhoods across both years. These areas are all within the most deprived 13 (of 39) neighbourhoods in the city.

Reporting from the Plymouth Youth Justice Service shows that 27.3% of young people being supported by the service in 2022/23 were identified as victims of domestic violence.

Intelligence from Plymouth City Council Adult Safeguarding service provides further insight into violence in home settings. This shows that in 2020 9%, or 143 of 1,594 of overall adult safeguarding referrals[59] were due to domestic abuse. Of these 143 referrals 82.5% were female and the most common support need was physical disability. In 2022 10.2% of overall referrals were due to domestic abuse. Of these 92 referrals 80% were female and the most common support need was physical disability.

Between April 2021 and March 2022 Plymouth City Council received 2163 applications for housing assistance. This increased to 2226 applications between April 2022 and March 2023. Where people are seeking housing assistance the primary cause of homelessness and the main reason for losing the last settled accommodation is recorded. This data for April 2021 to March 2023 is shown in Table 2 and

Table 3 and indicates that domestic abuse is the primary cause of homelessness in an increasing proportion of overall applications for housing assistance.

Table 2: Primary cause of homelessness, number and percentage of total applications

[59] Referrals triaged as requiring a safeguarding response where the person meets the Care Act definition as an adult at risk, i.e., have need for care and support and are experiencing, or are at risk of abuse or neglect and are unable to protect themselves from the risk of experience of abuse or neglect.

Year	Fleeing domestic abuse	Fleeing harassment
2021/22	205 (9.4%)	91 (4.2%)
2022/23	263 (11.8%)	92 (4.1%)

Table 3: Main reason for losing last settled accommodation, number and percentage of total applications

Year	Domestic abuse - victim	Racially motivated violence or harassment	Other motivated violence or harassment
2021/22	222 (10.2%)	10 (0.4%)	73 (3.3%)
2022/23	255 (11.4%)	8 (0.3%)	63 (2.8%)

5.6 Drugs and alcohol

The use of drugs and alcohol are inextricably linked to violence and are recognised as risk factors for being a victim and perpetrator of violence. Whilst alcohol does not cause violence it can affect physical and cognitive functioning, the ability to process information and recognise the usual warning signs of violence.[60] There is some evidence to indicate that young people who start drinking at a younger age, use alcohol frequently and consume large qualities are at increased risk of being a perpetrator and victim of serious violence.[61]

The government's 2018 Serious Violence Strategy highlights that a 'substantial proportion of serious violence' is linked in some way to alcohol.[62] Alcohol is reported as a factor in 40% of all crimes in England.[63] Home Office analysis of 124 domestic homicide reviews (with 127 victims) for the 12 months from October 2019 found that 28% of domestic homicide victims were identified as having problem alcohol use and 22% were known to use illicit drugs. Thirty percent of the

[60] Protecting people, Promoting Health. A public health approach to violence prevention in England. 2012. Department of Health. Violence-prevention.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[61] Youth violence and alcohol. 2006. World Health Organisation. youth-violence-and-alcohol.pdf (who.int)
[62] Serious Violence Strategy. 2018. HM Government. Home Office – Serious Violence Strategy, April 2018 (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[63] Local Alcohol Profiles for England. Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Local Alcohol Profiles for England - Alcohol and crime - OHID (phe.org.uk)

perpetrators of these homicides were noted to use illicit drugs and 33% to have problem alcohol use.[64]

Between April 2021 and March 2022, 20.8% (4,681) of overall crimes reported in Plymouth were flagged as alcohol related. This increases to 30.8% of the recorded domestic abuse related crimes and 38% of the 3,704 recorded violence with injury crimes (see Sections 6.2 and 6.4 for more detail).

In 2018/19 24.4% of young people being supported by the Plymouth Youth Justice Service were recorded as drug users and 7.8% had family drug and alcohol abuse issues. In 2022/23 this had risen to 37.9% of young people recorded as drug users and 15.1% with family drug and alcohol abuse issues.

The links between illegal drugs and violence are well documented. The illegal market for heroin and crack cocaine has an estimated annual value of £5.1 billion.[65] Violence is an inherent part of illegal drugs market and can be categorised into

- Psychopharmacological violence – that committed by people under the psychoactive influence of drugs
- Economic-compulsive violence – that committed by people using drugs in order to fund their drug use – this can include robberies and burglaries
- Systemic violence committed by people involved in the sale of drugs often to enforce payment of debt, resolve competition, and punish informants.

In England and Wales drugs are shown to be a major driver in the recent increases in serious violence. Around 50% of the increase in homicides between 2013/14 and 2017/18 were due to cases involving a drug related motive.[66]

Further details of drug markets and related crime are provided in Sections 5.9 and 6.9.

5.7 Mental health

The relationship between mental health and violence is complex. Due to a research focus on high-risk populations the relationship between mental health, criminal and violent behaviour may be over-estimated and may lead to incorrect associations being made. There is some evidence that people with severe mental health conditions such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder have an increased risk of perpetrating violence – particularly where additional vulnerabilities such as substance misuse are present.[67] Adults with mental illness are more likely to be a

[64] Key findings from analysis of domestic homicide reviews: October 2019 to September 2020. Updated April 2023. Home Office. Key findings from analysis of domestic homicide reviews: October 2019 to September 2020 (accessible) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[65] From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives. Updated April 2022. HM Government. From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[66] Review of Drugs. 2020. Dame Carol Black. PowerPoint Presentation (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[67] People with severe mental illness as the perpetrators and victims of violence: time for a new public health approach. 2020. The Lancet, Public Health. People with severe mental illness as the perpetrators and victims of violence: time for a new public health approach - The Lancet Public

victim than a perpetrator of violence. One study estimated that women with severe mental illness were 10 times more likely to be a victim of assault than women without severe mental illness.[68]

Poor mental is a recognised consequence of experiencing domestic abuse and violence in adults and children and having poor mental health can make people more vulnerable to violence and abuse.[69] Domestic abuse is associated with depression, anxiety, and substance misuse in the general population. Exposure to domestic violence can have a significant impact on young people's mental health and studies have found links with poorer educational outcomes.[70]

There are opportunities to improve understanding of the links between mental health and violence locally. The Devon and Cornwall Local Criminal Justice Board Mental Health Partnership intends to commission a strategic needs assessment of the current and long-term issues affecting or likely to affect mental health services and Criminal Justice Services. The scope of this work is expected to include drivers of offending/reoffending and complex needs.[71]

5.8 Neurodiversity and brain injury

The links between neurodiversity, brain injury, and violence are complex. Children with neurodevelopment conditions appear to be at higher risk than other children of all forms of violence, including abuse and neglect by parents/carers, peers and others.[72] A recently published evidence review[73] suggested that young people with neurodiversity are vulnerable to violence through criminal exploitation such as County Lines and cuckooing that specifically targets vulnerable young people. The review also highlighted that women with autism are nearly three times more likely than other women to be victims of sexual abuse. The reasons for this are not clear but are likely to include challenges in understanding social norms and recognising dangerous situations.

Neurological conditions, including autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and acquired brain injury are reportedly three times more predominant in the criminal justice system than in the general population. Fifteen percent of young people in custody present with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) compared to 0.6-

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Health

[68] At risk yet dismissed: the criminal victimisation of people with mental health problems. 2012 (PDF) At risk, yet dismissed: the criminal victimisation of people with mental health problems (researchgate.net)

[69] Safe and Well: Mental health and domestic abuse. 2019. Safe Lives. Spotlight 7 - Mental health and domestic abuse.pdf (safelives.org.uk)

[70] Domestic violence: statistics. Mental Health Foundation Domestic violence: statistics | Mental Health Foundation

[71] LCJB · Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner (devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk)

[72] Children with neurodevelopmental disabilities. 2021 Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer. Chief Medical Officer annual report 2012: children and young people's health - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[73] Neurodiversity and violence. 2022. Rocket Science. report-neurodiversity-and-violence.pdf (westyorks-ca.gov.uk)

1.2% in the general population.[74]

There is evidence that traumatic brain injury that compromises neurological functions for self-regulation and social behaviour is a risk factor for earlier and for more violent offending.[75] Similarly research indicates an increased risk of offending in people who have experienced traumatic brain injury and a very high prevalence of traumatic brain injury in offenders in custody when compared to the general population.[76]

Taking a public health approach to violence prevention presents an opportunity to further develop understanding of the complex relationship between neurodiversity and brain injury and violence.

5.9 Drugs markets

Drug markets are made up of multiple and dynamic factors including drug type, location and operating model. As a covert trade and business model there are significant intelligence gaps in the nature and extent of all aspects of drug markets. Drug trafficking and drug markets are strongly associated with violence and characterised by intimidation, coercion, and retribution for debts.[77]

A profile produced by Devon and Cornwall Police in April 2023 (unpublished) provides a baseline assessment of the drug market across the Force area. This indicates that all major drug types are likely to have a market in the Force area. It is almost certain that most drug supply comes from major urban hubs of Merseyside, London, and the West Midlands. Devon and Cornwall's drug supply includes Lone dealers, County Lines, and Dangerous Drug Networks. County Lines and Dangerous Drugs Networks are usually associated to Class A supply, whereas Lone Dealers are usually associated to Class B. Drugs are advertised for sale through messages from graft phones (mobile phone lines), although there is growing use of internet-based messaging apps and social media by younger people. It is highly likely that the graft line is the dominant method for the sale of heroin and crack cocaine whilst the recreational drugs market is likely to be dominated by online platforms. It is highly likely that the majority of drugs are exchanged face-to-face in 'open' markets, i.e., streets or public spaces.

Drug trafficking and possession offence are more likely to occur in deprived areas. The number of violent crimes 'tagged' as drug related across the Force area increased by 80% from 2019-2021.

5.9.1 County lines

[74] Another Sign. Neurodiversity and the Criminal Justice System. 2022. Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership and The Brain Charity. Another-Sign-The-Brain-Charity-report-on-neurodiversity-and-the-criminal-justice-system.pdf (thebraincharity.org.uk)
[75] Traumatic brain injury: a potential cause of violent crime? 2018. Lancet Psychiatry.
[76] Traumatic Brain Injury. 2021. HM Inspectorate of Probation. Academic Insights. Traumatic brain injury (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)
[77] National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime. 2021. National Crime Agency. file (nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk)

County Lines is a term used to describe the transportation of illegal drugs from one area to another involving organised criminal networks and gangs. The ‘county line’ is a dedicated phone line used to deal drugs. In order to establish themselves the networks are known to use coercion, intimidation, and violence (including sexual violence) to exploit young people and vulnerable adults to store and move drugs and money. The criminal networks can pose a threat to local communities where they ‘cuckoo’ vulnerable people’s addresses and use the property to store and deal drugs. Violence can also be seen where the networks enforce debts related to drug supply and where networks compete for territory and ‘customers’. There are also links between county lines and the increased use of weapons, modern slavery, and human trafficking. The profile of county lines drug supply is dynamic and changes frequently to avoid police detection.[78]

A 2021 Devon and Cornwall Police County Lines Partnership Intelligence Report (unpublished) detailed an overview of County Lines criminality across the Force area. This identified that Organised Crime Group activity related to drug trafficking and County Lines sits within the context of a shift in drug crime from large cities to towns and rural areas as drug gangs seeks to exploit new markets. The report highlighted that this is resulting in increased risk to vulnerable young people and adults who are being recruited into criminal activity. The Devon and Cornwall Police Partner Agency Sharing reporting system provides a mechanism for partners to report information about vulnerability and crime. In the six months between June and November 2020 there were 145 submissions from the Plymouth area and 22% of these related to concerns about County Lines and/or Dangerous Drug Networks.

5.10 Child Criminal Exploitation

The Home Office has defined child criminal exploitation as:

“Child criminal exploitation…occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate, or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.” [79]

The power imbalance can be due to a range of factors including age, gender, cognitive ability, status, and access to money or other resources. Where it is the victim who is offered, promised, or given something they need or want, the exchange can include both tangible (money, drugs, or clothes) and intangible rewards (status, protection, or perceived friendship or affection). The receipt of something by a young person or vulnerable adult in such a situation does not make them any less of a victim. It should be noted that the prevention of something negative, for example a young person engaging in criminal activity to prevent someone carrying out a threat to harm their family, can also fulfil the requirement for exchange.[79]

[78] Criminal exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults. County Lines. 2023 Home Office.
[79] Guidance: Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines, Home Office, Updated Feb 2020

Data from Childrens Social Care[80] for 2022/23 (at first assessment after referral) identified 59 children that may be at risk of harm due to child criminal exploitation. Males were disproportionately affected (42; 71.2%) with 10-14 year olds (23; 39.0%) and15-17 year olds (33; 55.9%) the most prevalent age-groups. Most of these children were White British (52; 89.7%). The top five neighbourhoods of residence of these 59 children were Efford (12), Stonehouse (9), Barne Barton (5), Devonport (4), and Whitleigh (4). These neighbourhoods all rank within the top 10 (of 39) most deprived neighbourhoods in Plymouth.

The REACH Plymouth service works with young people who go missing and are at risk of sexual and criminal exploitation. Recent policy and practice guidance has informed a greater understanding of the risks of criminal exploitation among young people. Data from the REACH service shows that the percentage of young people reported missing who are identified as high risk of criminal exploitation has increased from 2.6% to 10% between 2020/21 and 2022/23.

5.11 Digital and online technologies

There is a growing awareness of the role that digital and online technologies (smart devices, online platforms, and mobile phone apps) are playing in serious violence. A 2021 Home Office Report[81] described an increasing number of reports of technology facilitated domestic abuse and intimate partner surveillance. These include creating fake online accounts to abuse, harass, and impersonate victims, stalking and controlling victims via local apps and geo-location on social media, and image based sexual abuse (also known as revenge porn). The report highlights how digital tools are being used to monitor, threaten, and humiliate victims and asserts that these behaviours are no less harmful than physical abuse and violence and are often used as part of wider patterns of domestic abuse.

It is difficult to quantify the scale of technology facilitated domestic abuse. However, many of the tools used are readily available technologies that often do not require specific technical proficiency. Participants in the Home Office report, including Police and domestic abuse support service providers, expected technology to feature in the majority of cases of domestic abuse, stalking, and coercive and controlling behaviour.

The Children's Commissioner for England has given focus to understanding how young people are impacted by online content and cultures including pornography, misogynistic trolling and non-consensual sharing of intimate images. A report to the Online Safety Commission in 2022 raised serious concerns about young people's exposure to online pornography and the impact of this on serious cases of peer-on-peer sexual violence.[82] Subsequent research by the Children's Commissioner[83]

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[80]

[81] Computer Misuse as a Facilitator of Domestic Abuse, May 2021. Home office FINAL report .docx

[82] Children's Commissioners Office (2022) Online Safety Commission from Government: Out recommendations or making the online world safer for children. cco-online_safety_commission_from_government_our_recommendations_for_making_the_online_world_safer_for_children_report_mar_2022.pdf (childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

[83] Children's Commissioners Office. 2023. 'A lot of it is actually just abuse' Young People and

further examined online pornography and found that pornography consumption is widespread among young people who are frequently exposed to violent content depicting degradation, sexual coercion, and exploitation. Young people involved in the research reported concerns that this is informing harmful attitudes towards women and girls and condoning sexual aggression and coercion.

The new Online Safety Act 2023[84] places legal duties on social media platforms to keep the internet safe for young people and give adults more choice about what they see online. This includes preventing and rapidly removing illegal content such as revenge pornography and stopping children seeing material that is harmful such as content depicting or encouraging serious violence.

As online and offline lives become more integrated, violence and harms overlap in physical and digital spaces. Approaches to violence prevention need to be responsive to this rapid emergence of digital and online technologies and associated harms.

5.12 Impact of COVID-19

It is acknowledged that COVID-19 and its associated lockdowns brought about a range of impacts upon crime, both directly and indirectly. The pandemic also had an impact on the reporting and recording of some data including the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) that shifted from face-to-face interviews to a telephone survey to understand people's experiences of crime.

Analysis from the Centre for Economic Performance[85] highlighted that police in England and Wales recorded fewer crimes overall in the pandemic but violent crimes did not decrease during that time.

Intelligence from the Crime Survey for England and Wales and the Office for National Statistics shows an increase in the number of domestic abuse cases during the pandemic.[86] A report from Women's Aid revealed how COVID-19 and the associated restrictions intensified existing domestic abuse, made it harder to flee abusers, and reduced access to support options for many people.[87]

The COVID-19 pandemic, including lockdowns and social distancing measures, accelerated people's use of digital technologies and increased the number of online interactions and contacts. A 2022 study by Women's Aid explored the experiences

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pornography cc-a-lot-of-it-is-actually-just-abuse-young-people-and-pornography-updated.pdf (childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

[84] Online Safety. 2023. UK children and adults to be safer online as world-leading bill becomes law - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[85] Covid-19 and local crime rates in England and Wales – two years into the pandemic. March 2022. Centre for Economic Performance. cepcovid-19-027.pdf (lse.ac.uk)

[86] Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2020. Office for National Statistics Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

[87] Women's Aid. 2020. A Perfect Storm: The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Domestic Abuse Survivors and the Services Supporting Them. Bristol: Women's Aid. A-Perfect-Storm-August-2020-1.pdf (womensaid.org.uk)

of domestic abuse survivors during the COVID-19 pandemic and found that 'tech abuse' started or escalated for a significant number of survivors of domestic abuse.[88]

Overall recorded crime in Plymouth increased by 8.0 per cent (1,610 crimes) in the 12-month period to end March 2021 compared with the same period the previous year. Sexual offences, violence with injury, violence without injury, homicide, robbery, and possession of weapons all increased over the same period. This increase in crime may have been affected by the impacts of the pandemic and the associated lockdowns in the previous years.

[88] Technology and domestic abuse. Women's Aid. 2022. 4.-Technology-domestic-abuse-and-Covid-19-1.pdf (womensaid.org.uk)

6. Profile of serious violence

This section draws on intelligence from several sources to provide an analysis of serious violence in Plymouth. Sources of data include

- Devon and Cornwall Police crime data (iQuanta and the Universal Dataset (UDS)
- Devon and Cornwall Police DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Honor-based violence) risk identification system
- Real time suicide surveillance data
- MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference)
- Local domestic abuse and sexual violence services
- Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Plymouth Youth Justice Service
- South West Probation Service
- Hospital Emergency Care Department
- South West Ambulance Service
- Hospital Episode Statistics (HES)

6.1 Police data

This needs assessment draws on police data for the Plymouth Community Safety Partnership (CSP) taken from both iQuanta and the UDS for the year 2021/22 but also references data and changes in data from 2019/20. These datasets are drawn from recorded crime and incident data but are extracted at different points in time. As crime recording is dynamic (for example, after initial recording a crime may subsequently be reclassified as a different type of crime or “no-crimed”) the numbers may not match exactly. For more detail on the police data see Appendix D.

Plymouth has 39 neighbourhoods that have been defined according to community identity and natural boundaries. These neighbourhoods and boundaries are recognised by all services across Plymouth (Police, Health, Fire, and the Council). The names of the police neighbourhoods in the UDS do not exactly match those 39 Plymouth City Council neighbourhoods. As such, where needed the nearest match has been selected (Table 4).

Table 4: Police and Plymouth City Council neighbourhood names

Police neighbourhood listed in UDS	Plymouth City Council neighbourhood used
Colebrook & Newnham	Colebrook, Newnham, & Ridgeway
Ham, Weston Mill, & Pennycross	Ham & Pennycross
Manadon	Manadon & Widey
North Prospect	North Prospect & Weston Mill

6.2 Crime snapshot tables

Each “snapshot table” in Section 6 takes a “what does the crime look like, where is it happening, and who is involved” approach and contains:

- key facts including Plymouth's position in its Most Similar Group (see detail on next page) and "most likely" victims and offenders (likelihood determined by highest percentage groups)
- a line chart and description of trends from April 2019 to March 2022
- a breakdown of crime types
- a breakdown of crimes that were flagged as domestic abuse-related, alcohol-related, child sexual exploitation, or a hate crime
- a breakdown of alcohol, drug, mental health, or hate crime flags in the DASH (domestic abuse, stalking and honour-based violence questionnaire) data
- a graph depicting levels of crime by neighbourhood (of those with a location recorded)
- a table highlighting the five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of crimes and the neighbourhood deprivation rank out of 39 (rank 1/39 = most deprived neighbourhood; rank 39/39 = least deprived neighbourhood)
- the proportion of crimes considered related to the Night Time Economy (NTE) i.e., occurring on a road or in a licensed premises (recorded as casino, cinema, club, discotheque, entertainment place, hotel, licensed premises, restaurant, or social club) wholly between 9pm and 5am (of those with a location recorded)
- victim and offender demographics (of those with age, gender, or ethnicity recorded). Both groups might include non-Plymouth residents. An age group was listed if its percentage occurrence was >10.0%.

Most Similar Groups (MSGs) are groups of local areas that have been found to be the most similar to each other using statistical methods, based on demographic, economic, and social characteristics which relate to crime. MSGs are designed to help make fairer comparisons between areas. It is more meaningful to compare an area with the other areas which share similar socio-economic characteristics.

Plymouth is part of the MSG of Community Safety Partnerships that comprises Cardiff, Luton, Gateshead, Sheffield, Stevenage, Ipswich, Salford, Kirklees, Bolton, Northampton, Coventry, Lincoln, Derby, and Leeds.

It is worth noting that offender data reflects the records available in the UDS, the majority of which are incomplete. Therefore, demographics detailed in the tables in this section should be seen as indications of "who offenders are" rather than definitive intelligence.

Any data with a count of less than five has had its data suppressed to avoid identifying individuals. In some cases, to avoid disclosure by differencing, the cell with the next smallest number has also been suppressed.

The full crime table, showing figures of major types of crime in the city for the past two years, as well as their MSG ranking, can be found in the Appendix E.

6.1 Overall crime in Plymouth

SNAP SHOT Plymouth - all recorded crime (ONS)

Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)

Key facts

22,477 crimes / 84.9 crimes per 1,000 residents

This is an increase of 8% (1,610 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 5% (285 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).

Rate of crime is below average for Most Similar Group (107.4 per 1,000) and is the lowest in the group (out of 15).

(Source: iQuanta)

The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of crimes in 2021/22 (3,171).

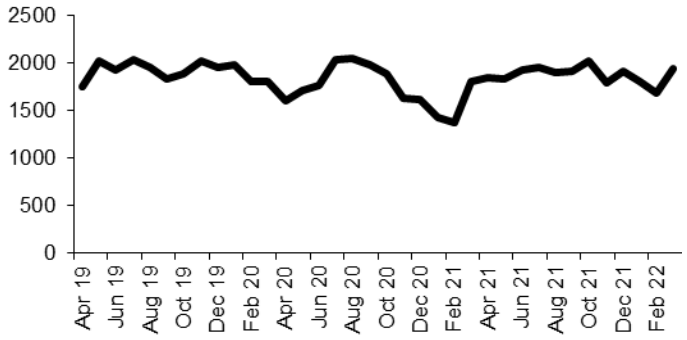
Victims were more likely to be female, aged 25-29 years, and of a White British ethnicity.

The available data indicates offenders were more likely to be male, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.

(Source UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Trends

iQuanta volume chart – all recorded crimes
April 2019 to Mar 2022



Between Apr 2019 and Jun 2020 crime levels were between 1,500 and 2,000 with an overall increase over this time.

From a high of 2,045 in Aug 2020 there was a decrease until Feb 2021 (1,300).

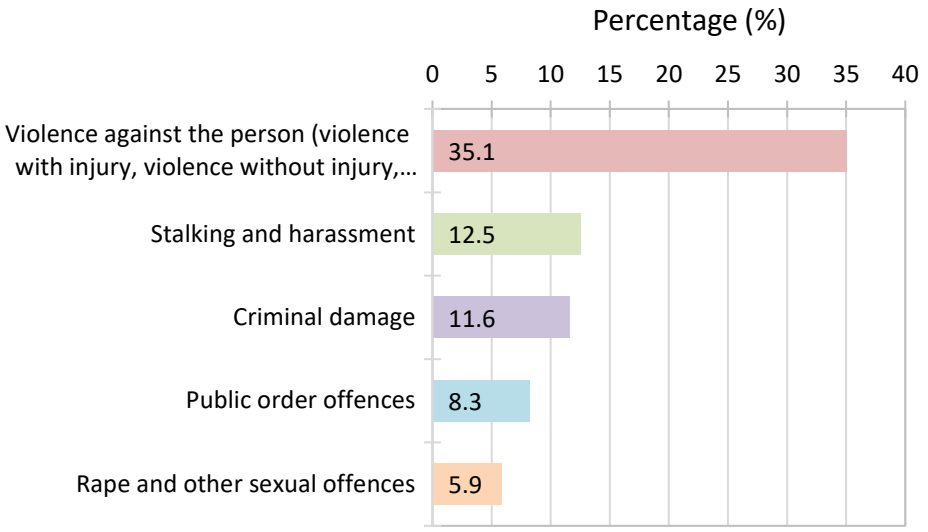
Since then, levels have been on an increasing trend back up to near the Aug 2020 peak.

Source: iQuanta

Crimes

Of the 22,531 crimes:
The top five highest crime types:

- Violence against the person 35.1% (7,905 crimes)
- Stalking and harassment 12.5% (2,826 crimes)
- Criminal damage 11.6% (2,612 crimes)
- Public order offences 8.3% (1,865 crimes)



- Rape and other sexual offences 5.9% (1,321 crimes)

Other crimes related to serious violence:

- Possession or trafficking of drugs 5.5% (1,233 crimes)
- Possession of weapons 1.7% (379 crimes)
- Robbery 0.9% (202 crimes)

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Flags

Of the 22,531 crimes:

- 21.7% (4,884 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related
- 20.8% (4,681 crimes) were considered alcohol-related
- 0.6% (132 crimes) were considered to be child sexual exploitation
- 2.6% (587 crimes) were considered a hate crime

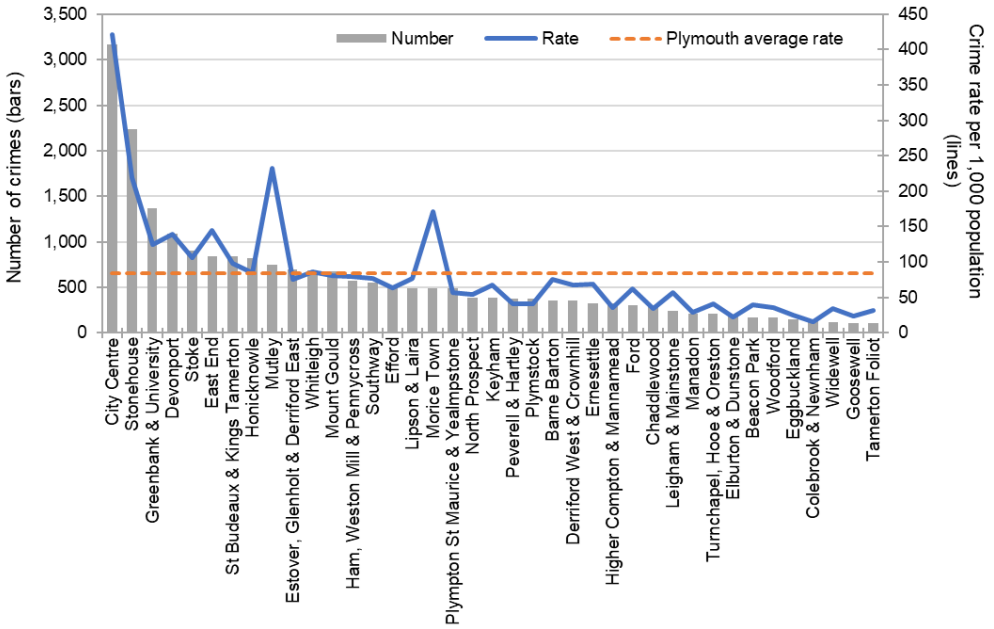
Using the DASH data (4,034 records):

- 24.7% (996 crimes) were considered alcohol-related
- 28.2% (1,136 crimes) were considered drug-related
- 33.0% (1,332 crimes) were considered mental health-related
- 8.1% (326 crimes) were considered alcohol, drug, and mental health-related

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Location

All recorded crime: numbers and rates by neighbourhood



Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of recorded crime

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	3,171	420.8	12/39
Stonehouse	2,240	219.3	1/39
Greenbank & University	1,369	124.0	22/39
Devonport	1,088	139.7	2/39
Stoke	904	106.6	15/39

2,022 crimes (9.0%) were considered related to the NTE.

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022; rates and deprivation ranks calculated by Plymouth City Council Public Health)

Demographics

Victims:

- 53.6% female; 46.4% male
- 47.0% were aged 20-39 years (20-24 years 12.2%; 25-29 years 12.4%; 30-34 years 12.3%; and 35-39 years 10.1%)
- 90.9% were White British; 4.1% any other White background; 5.0% any other ethnic group.

Offenders:

- 18.9% female; 81.1% male
- 81.2% were aged 15-44 years (15-19 years 11.2%; 20-24 years 13.8%; 25-29 years 16.4%; 30-34 years 17.5%; 35-39 years 12.6%; and 40-44 years 10.2%)
- 92.2% were White British; 4.0% any other White background; 3.8% any other ethnic group.

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

6.2 Domestic violence

In addition to recorded crimes that are flagged as domestic abuse-related there are many incidents that are domestic abuse-related that do not result in a crime being recorded. In 2021/22 there were 2,212 episodes of this nature.

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – domestic abuse-related crimes	
Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise) Definition: all recorded crimes with a domestic abuse flag	
Key facts	No iQuanta data available for domestic abuse. 4,884 crimes. This is a decrease of 1.5% (72 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The Stonehouse neighbourhood saw the highest number of domestic abuse crimes in 2021/22 (416). Victims were most likely to be female, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity. The available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 35-39 years, and of a White British ethnicity. (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)
Trends	Of the 19,713 total recorded crimes in 2020/21: • Domestic-abuse related crimes accounted for 25.1% (4,956 crimes) (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)
Crimes	Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes: • Domestic abuse-related crimes accounted for 21.7% (4,884 crimes) (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Flags

Of the 4,884 domestic abuse-related crimes:

- 30.8% (1,504 crimes) were considered alcohol-related
- <0.1% (<5 crimes) were considered to be child sexual exploitation
- 0.6% (27 crimes) were considered a hate crime

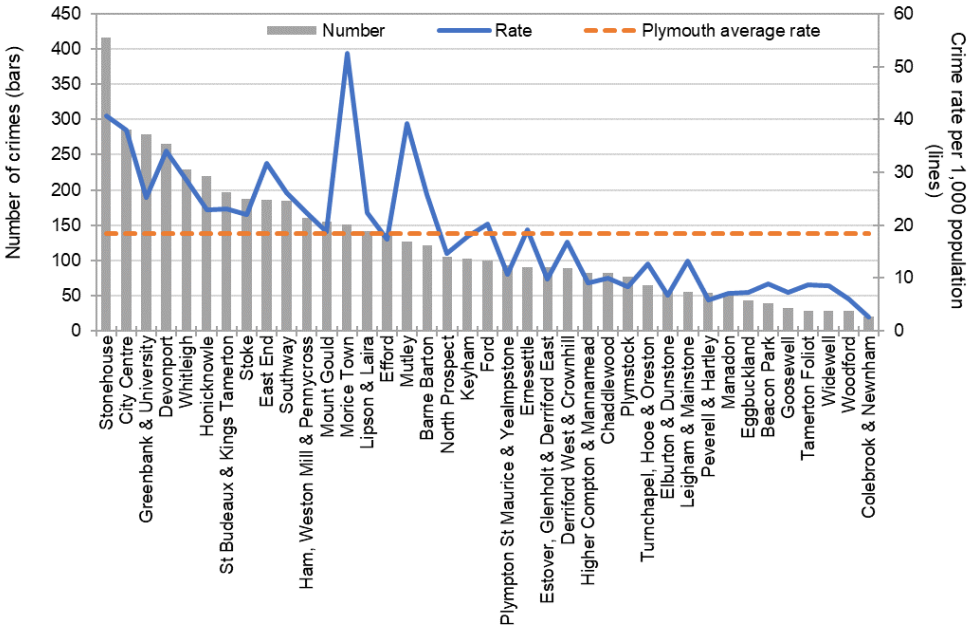
Using the DASH data (1,281 records):

- 43.2% (554 crimes) were considered alcohol-related
- 28.2% (361 crimes) were considered drug-related
- 32.2% (413 crimes) were considered mental health-related
- 12.7% (163 crimes) were considered alcohol, drug, and mental health-related

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Location

Domestic abuse-related crimes: numbers and rates by neighbourhood



Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of domestic abuse-related crime

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
Stonehouse	416	40.7	1/39
City Centre	286	38.0	12/39
Greenbank & University	279	25.3	22/39
Devonport	265	34.0	2/39
Whitleigh	229	28.7	5/39

134 domestic abuse related crimes were considered related to the NTE.

- 0.6% of the 22,531 total crimes
- 2.7% of the 4,884 domestic abuse crimes

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022; rates and deprivation ranks calculated by Plymouth City Council Public Health)

Demographics	
	Victims: • 73.6% female; 26.4% male • 66.8% were aged 20-44 years (20-24 years 13.1%; 25-29 years 15.1%; 30-34 years 16.4%; 35-39 years 12.2%; and 40-44 years 10.0%) • 92.9% were White British; 3.7% were any other white background; 3.4% were any other ethnic group. Offenders: • 12.0% female; 88.0% male (309 records) • 76.1% were aged 25-49 years (25-29 years 12.3%; 30-34 years 13.9%; 35-39 years 22.3%; 40-44 years 15.9%; and 45-49 11.7%) (309 records) • 91.9% were White British; 5.0% were any other White background; 3.1% were any other ethnic group (259 records). (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Sudden Self-Inflicted Deaths (SSIDs)

Real-time suicide surveillance data collects information around sudden self-inflicted deaths (SSIDs) of Plymouth residents including drug overdose data and suspected suicides. The dataset does not reflect official suicide numbers, as a suicide is not confirmed until a coronial process is concluded. It is likely that some of the deaths captured in the dataset will be confirmed as an accidental or drug-related death.

Sudden self-inflicted deaths can reflect all forms of violence and can potentially be a consequence of pre-existing violence in the victim's life. Evidence of potential drug use and mental health markers are an important dimension in understanding the distribution of violence within Plymouth.

From March 2022, information regarding whether the decreased person was known to be a victim or perpetrator of domestic abuse has been included in this real-time suicide surveillance data.

From March 2022 to June 2023, there were 75 Plymouth residents whose deaths were included in real-time suicide surveillance data around sudden self-inflicted deaths (SSIDs). Of which:

- 6.7% were known to be victims of domestic abuse (60.0% female and 40% male)
- 16.0% (all males) were known to be or suspected to be perpetrators of domestic abuse
- 16.0% were known as both perpetrators/suspects and victims (58.3% female and 41.7% male)
- For young people aged under 25, 20.0% of SSIDs were victims of domestic abuse compared to 8.0% perpetrators/suspects and 8.0% known as both perpetrators/suspects and victims.

Responding to domestic abuse

MARAC – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference is a local fortnightly meeting where information is shared about the highest risk domestic abuse cases i.e., those assessed as high risk either through scoring 15 or more in a DASH risk assessment or professional judgement. Safe Lives, a UK wide charity, collates MARAC data from approximately 290 areas across the UK.

Table 5: Safe Lives MARAC data, 2019 to 2022

Year	Number of cases discussed	Number of repeat cases[89] (percentage of cases discussed)	Number of children in household in cases discussed	Number of male victims
2019	526	188 (35.7)	617	25
2020	554	177 (31.9)	653	20
2021	534	201 (37.6)	568	13
2022	434	117 (27.0)	581	21

Source: Safe Lives MARAC Data Collection, Sept 2023

The number of cases discussed at MARAC from 2019 to 2021 were similar, between 526 and 554. In 2022 the number dropped to 434, a 18.7% decrease from the previous year.

Repeat cases made up around one third of all cases discussed in 2019 and 2020. 2021 saw a slight increase in repeat cases (37.6%) whilst the latest year of data saw a decrease to the lowest of the four tabulated years (27.0%).

The total number of children in the households of those cases discussed ranged from a high of 653 in 2019 to a low of 568 in 2021.

The number of male victims in those cases discussed ranged from a high of 25 in 2019 to a low of 13 in 2021.

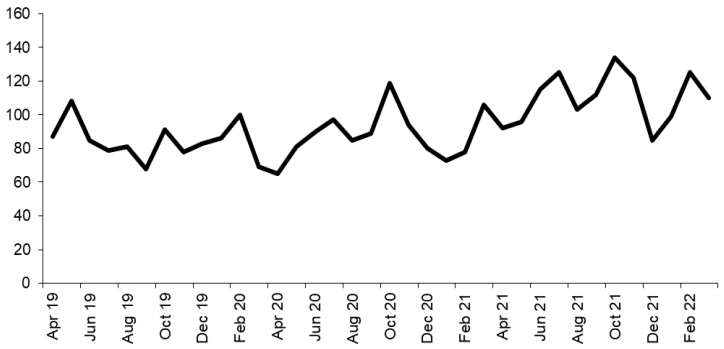
A snapshot analysis of Plymouth MARAC cases between 26th July 2022 – 22nd August 2023 indicated that 35 perpetrators (out of total 429) had two or more adult victims. In total these 35 repeat perpetrators were known to have 131 victims over the specified time period.

Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service (PDAS) provides accommodation and support to

[89] 'Repeat' is any instance of abuse between the same victim and perpetrator(s) within 12 months of the last referral to MARAC and includes any direct or indirect contact from the perpetrator, breach of police or court bail conditions or any civil court order and any dispute between victim and perpetrator including over child contact, property and divorce and separation proceedings.

victims of domestic abuse. In the 12 months between April 2021 and March 2022 they received 2,953 referrals and 1,191 or 40% of overall referrals engaged with the service. Between April 2022 and March 2023 the number of referrals decreased slightly from the previous year to 2,903 and 870 or 30% of overall referrals engaged with the service.

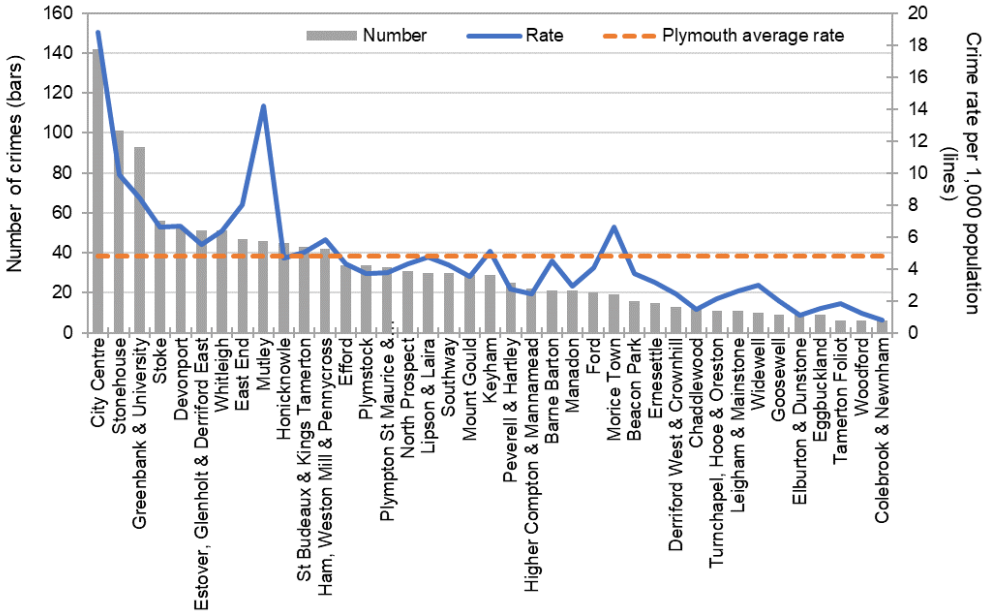
6.3 Sexual assault

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – sexual offences (ONS)	
Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise) Definition: rape and other sexual offences	
Key facts	1,318 crimes / 5.0 crimes per 1,000 residents This is an increase of 25% (261 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 2% (7 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021). Rate of crime is above average for Most Similar Group (4.0 per 1,000) and is the third highest in the group (out of 15). (Source: iQuanta) The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of sexual offence crimes in 2021/22 (142). Victims were most likely to be female, aged 10-14 years, and of a White British ethnicity. Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 55-59 years, and of a White British ethnicity. (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)
Trends	iQuanta volume chart – sexual offences Apr 2019 to Mar 2022  In Apr 2019 there were 87 recorded sexual offences. Overall there was a decreasing trend from Apr 2019 to Apr 2020 (65 crimes). From this point onwards numbers of sexual offences have risen overall with a peak in Oct 2021 of 134 crimes Source: iQuanta

Crimes	Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes: • Rape accounted for 2.0% (447 crimes) • Other sexual offences accounted for 3.9% (874 crimes) Of the 1,321 sexual offence crimes: • Rape accounted for 33.8% (447 crimes) • Other sexual offences accounted for 66.2% (874 crimes) (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)
Flags	Of the 1,321 sexual offence crimes: • 19.8% (261 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related • 18.1% (239 crimes) were considered alcohol-related • 6.8% (90 crimes) were considered to be child sexual exploitation • 0.4% (5 crimes) were considered a hate crime Of the 447 rapes: • 36.0% (161 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related • 20.1% (90 crimes) were considered alcohol-related • 3.4% (15 crimes) were considered to be child sexual exploitation • <1.0% (<5 crimes) were considered a hate crime Of the 874 other sexual offences: • 11.4% (100 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related • 17.0% (149 crimes) were considered alcohol-related • 8.6% (75 crimes) were considered to be child sexual exploitation • <0.6% (<5 crimes) were considered a hate crime Using the DASH data (179 records) • 27.9% (50 crimes) were considered alcohol-related • 25.7% (46 crimes) were considered drug-related • 34.1% (61 crimes) were considered mental health-related • 9.5% (17 crimes) were considered alcohol, drug, and mental health-related (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Location

Sexual offences: numbers and rates by neighbourhood



Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of sexual offences

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	142	18.8	12/39
Stonehouse	101	9.9	1/39
Greenbank & University	93	8.4	22/39
Stoke	56	6.6	15/39
Devonport	52	6.7	2/39

73 sexual offence crimes were considered related to the NTE.

- 0.3% of the 22,531 total crimes
- 5.5% of the 1,321 sexual offence crimes

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022; rates and deprivation ranks calculated by Plymouth City Council Public Health)

Demographics

Victims:

- 84.3% female; 15.7% male
- 59.2% were aged 10-24 years (10-14 years 26.6%; 15-19 years 20.7%; 20-24 years 11.9%)
- 95.0% were White British; 2.4% any other white background; 2.6% any other ethnic group.

Offenders:

- 2.3% female; 97.7% male (43 records)
- 69.8% were aged 25-39 years and 55-59 years (25-29 years 16.3%; 30-34 years 14.0%; 35-39 years 16.3%; and 55-59 years 23.3%) (43 records)
- 97.0% were White British; 3.0% any other white background (33 records).

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Responding to sexual violence

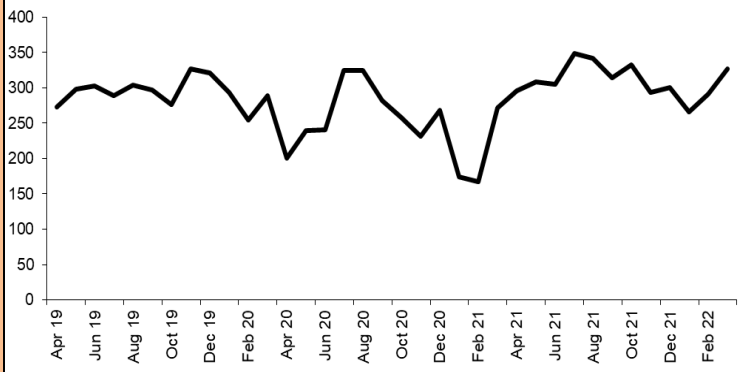
First Light provides counselling and therapy to people in Plymouth who have been affected by sexual violence. Between April 2022 and March 2023:

- There were 528 adult referrals to the service with 497 meeting the criteria for a service. Of these 245 people reported a history of rape and 252 reported a history of sexual assault.
- There were 158 children and young people referrals to the service with 155 meeting the criteria for a service. Of these 56 children and young people reported a history of rape and 99 reported a history of sexual assault

First Light also provides an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service providing support to people seeking justice through the criminal justice service. Between April 2022 and March 2023, the First Light ISVA service in Plymouth received:

- 103 acute adult sexual abuse and violence referrals and 187 historic adult sexual abuse and violence referrals
- 39 acute children and young people sexual abuse and violence referrals and 87 historic children and young people referrals

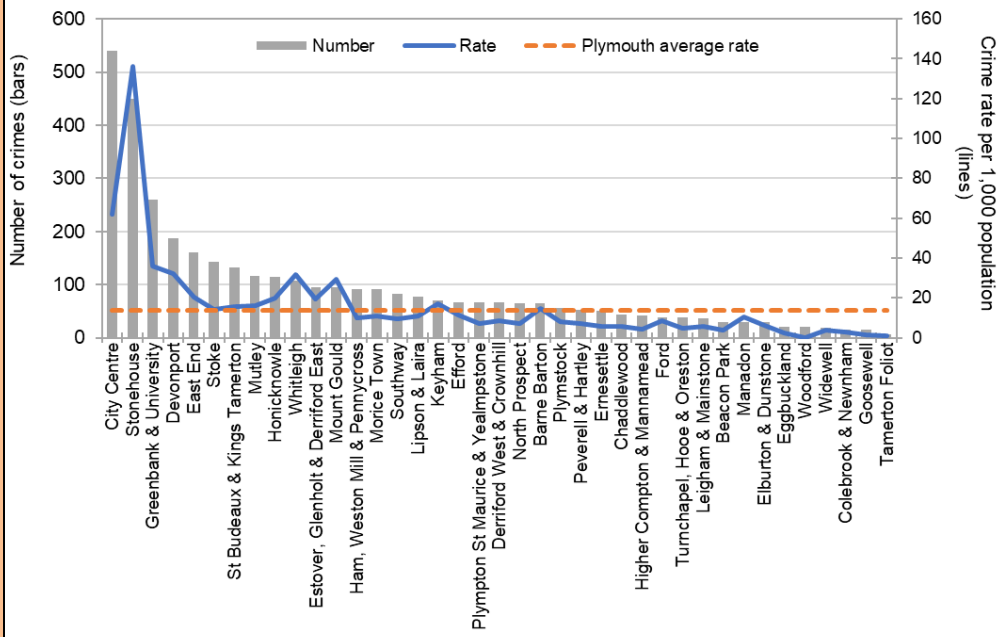
6.4 Assaults

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – violence against the person violence WITH injury (ONS)	
Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)	
Key facts	3,724 crimes / 14.1 crimes per 1,000 residents This is an increase of 25% (742 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 4% (41 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021). Rate of crime is above average for Most Similar Group (11.5 per 1,000) and is the second highest in the group (out of 15). (Source: iQuanta) The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of violence with injury crimes in 2021/22 (540). Victims were more likely to be male, aged 20-24 years, and of a White British ethnicity. Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity. (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)
Trends	iQuanta volume chart – violence with injury Apr 2019 to Mar 2022  In Apr 2019 there were 273 crimes Despite some peaks in Nov 2019 and Jul 2020 overall there has been a decreasing trend from Apr 2019 to Feb 2021 (167). Since Feb 2021 levels have been on an increasing trend with a peak of 349 in Jul 2021. Source: iQuanta

Crimes	Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes: • Violence with injury accounted for 16.4% (3,704 crimes) Of the 7,905 violence against the person crimes: • Violence with injury accounted for 46.9% (3,704 crimes) (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)
Flags	Of the 3,704 violence with injury crimes: • 33.8% (1,251 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related • 38.1% (1,411 crimes) were considered alcohol-related • <0.2% (<5 crimes) were considered to be child exploitation • 1.5% (55 crimes) were considered a hate crime Using the DASH data (1,105 records) • 25.6% (283 crimes) were considered alcohol-related • 28.2% (312 crimes) were considered drug-related • 31.2% (345 crimes) were considered mental health-related • 8.0% (88 crimes) were considered alcohol, drug, and mental health-related (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Location

Violence with injury crime: numbers and rates by neighbourhood



Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of violence with injury crime

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	540	61.9	12/39
Stonehouse	450	136.3	1/39
Greenbank & University	260	36.1	22/39
Devonport	188	32.1	2/39
East End	160	20.4	6/39

595 violence with injury crimes were considered related to the NTE.

- 2.6% of the 22,531 total crimes
- 16.1% of the 3,704 violence with injury crimes

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022; rates and deprivation ranks calculated by Plymouth City Council Public Health)

Demographics

Victims:

- 46.0% female; 54.0% male
- 52.2% were aged 15-34 years (15-19 years 11.8%; 20-24 years 14.0%; 25-29 years 13.3%; and 30-34 years 13.1%)
- 91.6% were White British; 3.3% were any other white background; 5.1% were any other ethnic group.

Offenders:

- 25.2% female; 74.8% male (290 records)
- 64.0% were aged 15-34 years (15-19 years 13.7%; 20-24 years 16.1%; 25-29 years 16.4%; and 30-34 years 17.8%) (292 records)
- 92.0% were White British; 4.2% were any other White background; 3.8% were any other ethnic group (237 records).

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – violence against the person violence WITHOUT injury (ONS)

Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)

Key facts

4,173 crimes / 15.8 crimes per 1,000 residents

This is an increase of 16% (586 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 18% (195 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).

Rate of crime is below average for Most Similar Group (17.3 per 1,000) and is the fifth lowest in the group (out of 15).

(Source: iQuanta)

The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of violence without injury crimes in 2021/22 (630).

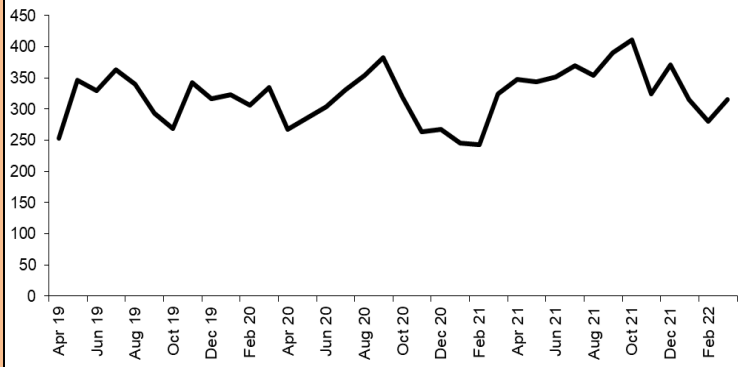
Victims were more likely to be female, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.

Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Trends

iQuanta volume chart – violence without injury
Apr 2019 to Mar 2022



Despite some peaks, most notably in Sept 2020 (383) the volume of crime between Apr 2019 (253) and Feb 2021 (243) has remained similar.

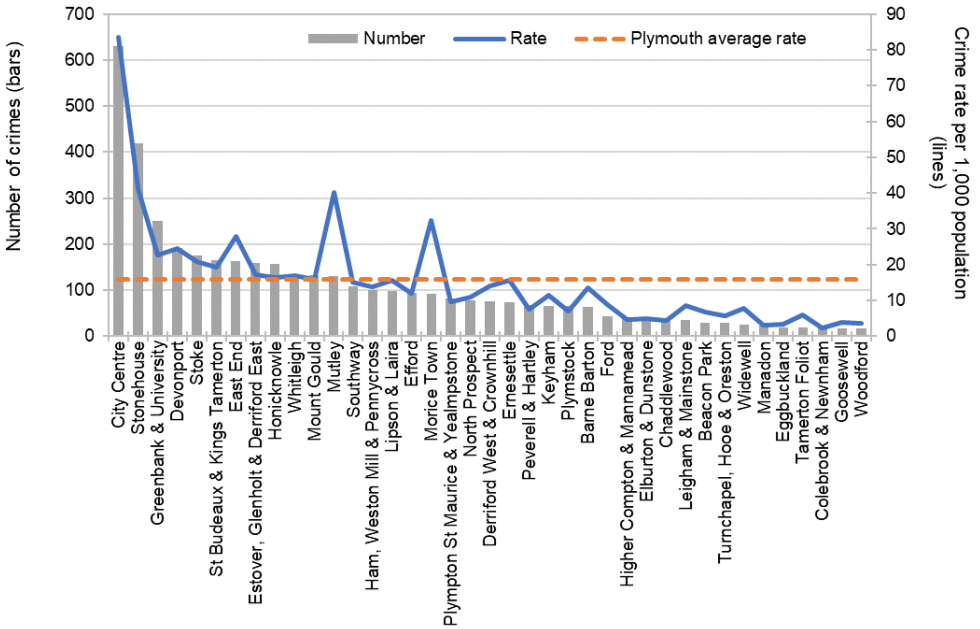
Since this point there was an increase up to a high of 411 in Oct 2021. with a decreasing trend from that point.

Source: iQuanta

Crimes	Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes: • Violence without injury accounted for 18.6% (4,193 crimes) Of the 7,905 violence against the person crimes: • Violence without injury accounted for 53.0% (4,193 crimes) (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)
Flags	Of the 4,193 violence without injury crimes: • 32.3% (1,354 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related • 32.6% (1,368 crimes) were considered alcohol-related • <0.2% (<5 crimes) were considered to be child sexual exploitation • 1.9% (80 crimes) were considered a hate crime Using the DASH tool data (1,156 records) • 23.4% (271 crimes) were considered alcohol-related • 22.8% (263 crimes) were considered drug-related • 33.6% (388 crimes) were considered mental health-related • 7.3% (84 crimes) were considered alcohol, drug, and mental health-related (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Location

Violence without injury crimes: numbers and rates by neighbourhood



Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of violence without injury crime

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	630	83.6	12/39
Stonehouse	420	41.1	1/39
Greenbank & University	251	22.7	22/39
Devonport	191	24.5	2/39
Stoke	176	20.7	15/39

460 violence without injury crimes were considered related to the NTE.

- 2.0% of the 22,531 total crimes
- 11.0% of the 4,193 violence without injury crimes

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022; rates and deprivation ranks calculated by Plymouth City Council Public Health)

Demographics

Victims:

- 50.9% female; 49.1% male
- 48.6% were aged 20-39 years (20-24 years 12.2%; 25-29 years 12.6%; 30-34 years 13.2%; and 35-39 years 10.6%)
- 91.0% were White British; 4.1% were any other White background; 4.8% were any other ethnic group.

Offenders:

- 29.5% female; 70.5% male (397 records)
- 83.4% were aged 15-44 years (15-19 years 13.9%; 20-24 years 13.6%; 25-29 years 15.4%; 30-34 years 19.1%; 35-39 years 11.3%; and 40-44 years 10.1%) (397 records)
- 92.9% were White British; 4.4% were any other White background; 2.37 were any other ethnic group (297 records).

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

6.5 Homicides

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – violence against the person homicide

Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)

Definition: murder and manslaughter

Key facts

8 crimes / 0.03 crimes per 1,000 residents

This is an increase of 300% (6 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw an increase of 100% (1 crime) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).

Rate of crime is above average for Most Similar Group (0.015 per 1,000) and is the highest in the group (out of 15).

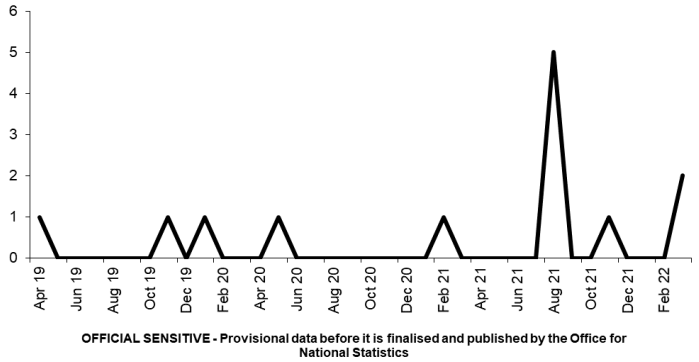
(Source: iQuanta)

The Keyham neighbourhood saw the highest number of homicides in 2021/22 (5 crimes).

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Trends

iQuanta volume chart – homicide
Apr 2019 to Mar 2022



Homicide is uncommon in Plymouth.

In Apr 2019 there was one recorded homicide.

A peak of five homicides were seen in August 2021 all relating to the incident in Keyham. Throughout the rest of 2021/22 there were three more homicides.

Source: iQuanta

Crimes

Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:

- Homicide accounted for <0.1% (8 crimes)

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Flags

Of the 8 homicides:

- 12.5% were considered domestic abuse-related
- None were considered alcohol-related
- None were considered to be related to child sexual exploitation
- None were considered a hate crime

No DASH tool data available

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Location

Neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of homicides

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
Keyham	5	0.52	14/39
Estover, Glenholt, & Derriford East	<5	<0.6	23/39
Ham & Pennycross	<5	<0.7	16/39

No homicides were considered related to the NTE.

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022; rates and deprivation ranks calculated by Plymouth City Council Public Health)

Demographics

Data for victims and offenders are not shown due to small numbers of records.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

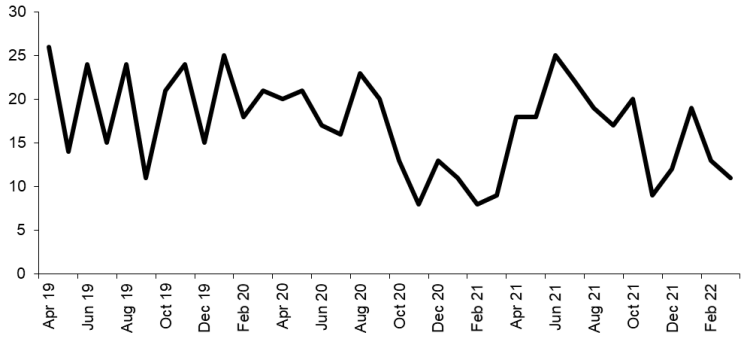
Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) are multi-agency reviews that consider the circumstances in which the death of someone aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse, or neglect; by a person to whom they were related, or with whom they had an intimate relationship, or where they were a member of the same household. Reviews also take place where a victim took their own life (suicide) and the circumstances give rise to concern. The process for carrying out DHRs is defined in Home Office guidance.[90]

Since 2020 there have been ten referrals for DHRs in Plymouth. Of these, four cases were recorded as homicides and six were recorded as suspected suicides. To date seven of these cases have progressed to DHRs. Analysis of all the referrals shows that:

- Nine of the victims were female and one was male
- Victims were most likely to be in their 30's or 50's
- All the alleged perpetrators of domestic homicides were men
- In all cases of suspected suicide where domestic abuse was recorded the alleged perpetrators were male

[90] Domestic Homicide Reviews: statutory guidance. Updated 2016. Home Office. Domestic homicide reviews: statutory guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

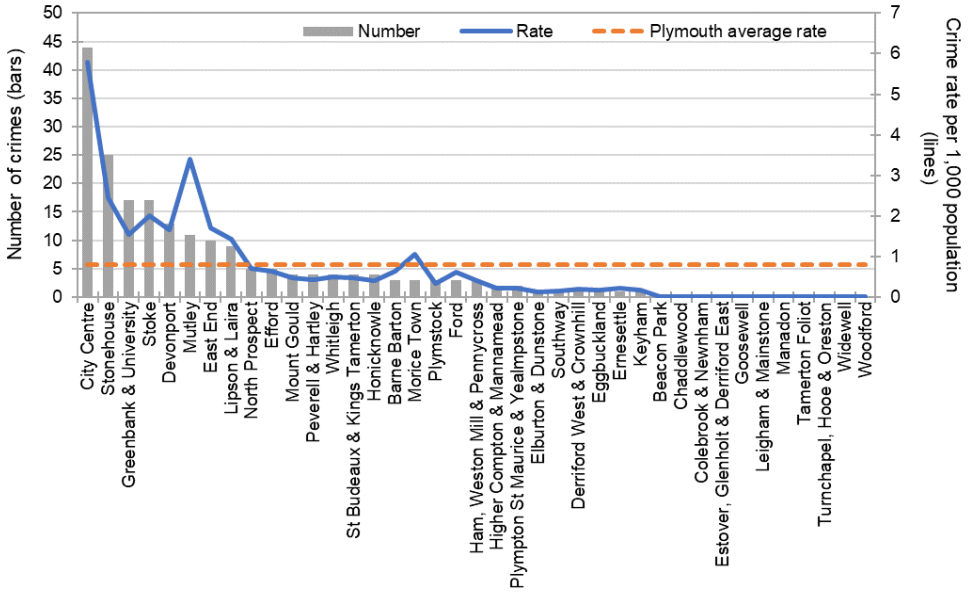
6.6 Robbery

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – robbery (ONS)	
Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise) Definition: robbery of business property and robbery of personal property	
Key facts	203 crimes / 0.8 crimes per 1,000 residents This is an increase of 13% (24 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw an increase of 5% (2 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021). Rate of crime is below average for Most Similar Group (1.2 per 1,000) and is the fourth lowest in the group (out of 15). (Source: iQuanta) The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of robberies in 2021/22 (44). Victims were most likely to be male, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity. Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 25-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity. (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)
Trends	iQuanta volume chart – robbery Apr 2019 to Mar 2022  In Apr 2019 there were 26 recorded robberies. There has been an overall decreasing trend from Apr 2019 to Mar 2022 (11 crimes) with a low of eight crimes in both Nov 202 and Feb 2021. Source: iQuanta

Crimes	Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes: • Robbery accounted for 0.9% (202 crimes) (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)
Flags	Of the 202 robberies: • 8.9% (18 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related • 21.3% (43 crimes) were considered alcohol-related • None were considered to be related to child sexual exploitation • <2.5% (<5 crimes) were considered a hate crime Using the DASH data (18 records) • 44.4% (8 crimes) were considered alcohol-related • 61.1% (11 crimes) were considered drug-related • 44.4% (8 crimes) were considered mental health-related • 33.3% (6 crimes) were considered alcohol, drug, and mental health-related (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Location

Robberies: numbers and rates by neighbourhood



Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of robberies

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	44	5.8	12/39
Stonehouse	25	2.4	1/39
Greenbank & University	17	1.5	22/39
Stoke	17	2.0	15/39
Devonport	13	1.7	2/39

37 robberies were considered related to the NTE.

- 0.2% of the 22,531 total crimes
- 18.3% of the 202 robberies

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022; rates and deprivation ranks calculated by Plymouth City Council Public Health)

Demographics

Victims:

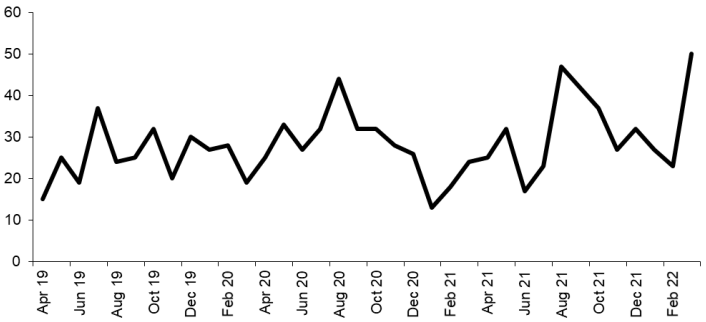
- 27.3% female; 72.7% male
- 64.5% were aged 15-34 years and 40-44 years (15-19 years 11.5%; 20-24 years 13.0%; 25-29 years 13.5%, 30-34 years 15.0%; and 40-44 years 11.5%)
- 91.0% were White British; 5.1% were any other White background; 3.9% were any other ethnic group.

Offenders:

- 17.2% female; 82.8% male (29 records)
- 93.1% were aged 15-19 years and 25-44 years (15-19 years 17.2%; 25-29 years 27.6%; 30-34 years 27.6%; 35-39 years 10.3%; and 40-44 years 10.3%) (29 records)
- 95.7% were White British; 4.3% were any other ethnic group (23 records).

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

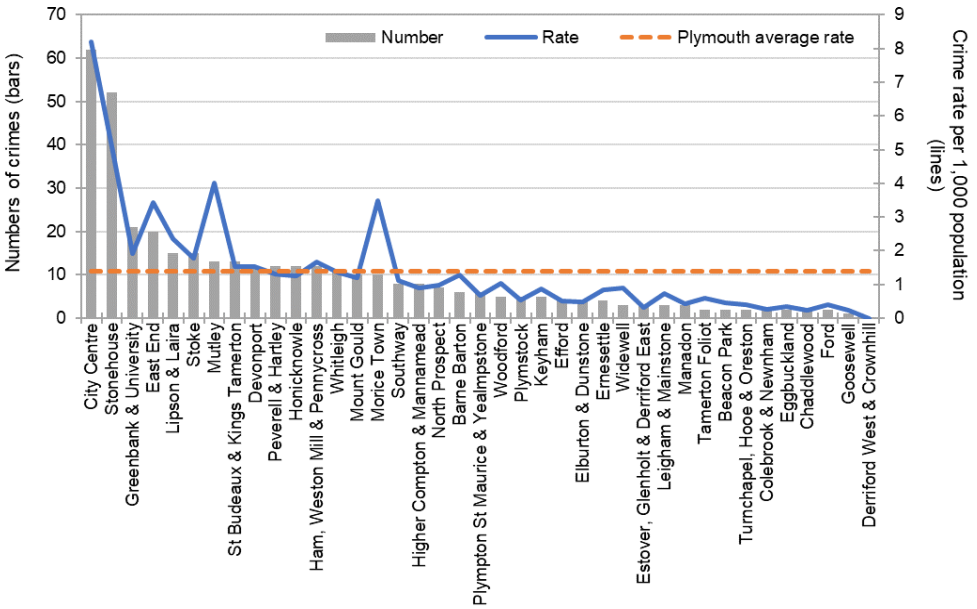
6.7 Possession of weapons

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – possession of weapons (ONS)	
Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)	
Key facts	382 crimes / 1.4 crimes per 1,000 residents This is an increase of 14% (48 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw an increase of 4% (4 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021). Rate of crime is above average for Most Similar Group (1.2 per 1,000) and is the fifth highest in the group (out of 15). (Source: iQuanta) The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of possession of weapon crimes in 2021/22 (62). Victims were most likely to be male, aged 10-14 or 25-29 years, and of a White British ethnicity. Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 30-39 years, and of a White British ethnicity. (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)
Trends	iQuanta volume chart – possession of weapons Apr 2019 to Mar 2022 In Apr 2019 there were 25 recorded possession of weapon crimes.  There has been an overall increasing trend from Apr 2019 to Mar 2022 (50 crimes), with a low of 13 crimes in Jan 2021. Source: iQuanta

Crimes	Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes: • Possession of weapons accounted for 1.7% (379 crimes) Of the 379 possession of weapons crimes: • Possess/threaten with a blade/sharply pointed article accounted for 50.1% (190 crimes) • Possess/threaten with a blade/sharply pointed article on school premises accounted for 1.1% (4 crimes) • Possess/threaten with a firearm/imitation firearm accounted for 8.7% (33 crimes) • Possess/threaten with any weapon on school premises accounted for 1.3% (5 crimes) (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)
Flags	Of the 379 possession of weapon crimes: • <1.3% (<5 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related • 22.4% (85 crimes) were considered alcohol-related • None were considered to be related to child sexual exploitation • <1.3% (<5 crimes) were considered a hate crime No DASH data available (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Location

Possession of weapons crimes: numbers and rates by neighbourhood



Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of possession of weapon crime

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	62	8.2	12/39
Stonehouse	52	5.1	1/39
Greenbank & University	21	1.9	22/39
East End	20	3.4	6/39
Lipson & Laira and Stoke	15 and 15	2.4 and 1.8	18/39 and 15/39

70 possession of weapons crimes were considered related to the NTE.

- 0.3% of the 22,531 total crimes
- 18.5% of the 379 possession of weapons crimes

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022; rates and deprivation ranks calculated by Plymouth City Council Public Health)

Demographics	<u>Victims:</u> • 26.6% female; 73.4% male • 62.6% were aged 10-19 years, 25-29 years, and 35-39 years (10-14 years 17.7%; 15-19 years 15.6%, 25-29 years 17.7%; and 35-39 years 11.5% • 89.2% were White British; 4.1% were any other White background; 6.8 were any other ethnic group. <u>Offenders:</u> • 12.8% female; 87.2% male (125 records) • 75.2% were aged 15-39 years (15-19 years 13.6%; 20-24 years 12.8%; 25-29 years 15.2%; 30-34 years 16.8%; and 35-39 years 16.8%) (125 records) • 89.1% were White British; 6.9% were any other White background; 4.0% were any other ethnic group (101 records). (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

6.8 Stalking and harassment

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – stalking and harassment (ONS)

Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)

Key facts

2,813 crimes / 10.6 crimes per 1,000 residents

This is a decrease of 2% (71 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 1% (8 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).

Rate of crime is below average for Most Similar Group (14.4 per 1,000) and is the third lowest in the group (out of 15).

(Source: iQuanta)

The Stonehouse neighbourhood saw the highest number of stalking and harassment crimes in 2021/22 (231).

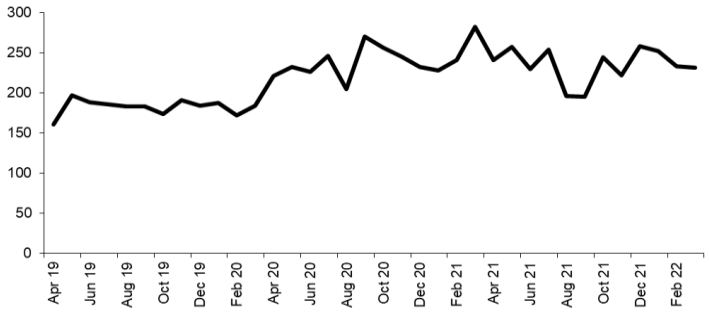
Victims were most likely to be female, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.

Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 25-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Trends

iQuanta volume chart – stalking and harassment
Apr 2019 to Mar 2022



In Apr 2019 there were 161 recorded stalking and harassment crimes.

There has been an overall increasing trend from Apr 2019 to Mar 2022 (231 crimes), with a peak of 282 crimes in Mar 2021.

Source: iQuanta

Crimes

Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:

- Stalking and harassment accounted for 12.5% (2,826 crimes)

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Flags

Of the 2,826 stalking and harassment crimes:

- 44.4% (1,255 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related
- 7.0% (199 crimes) were considered alcohol-related
- <0.2% (<5 crimes) were considered to be child sexual exploitation
- 4.4% (125 crimes) were considered a hate crime flag

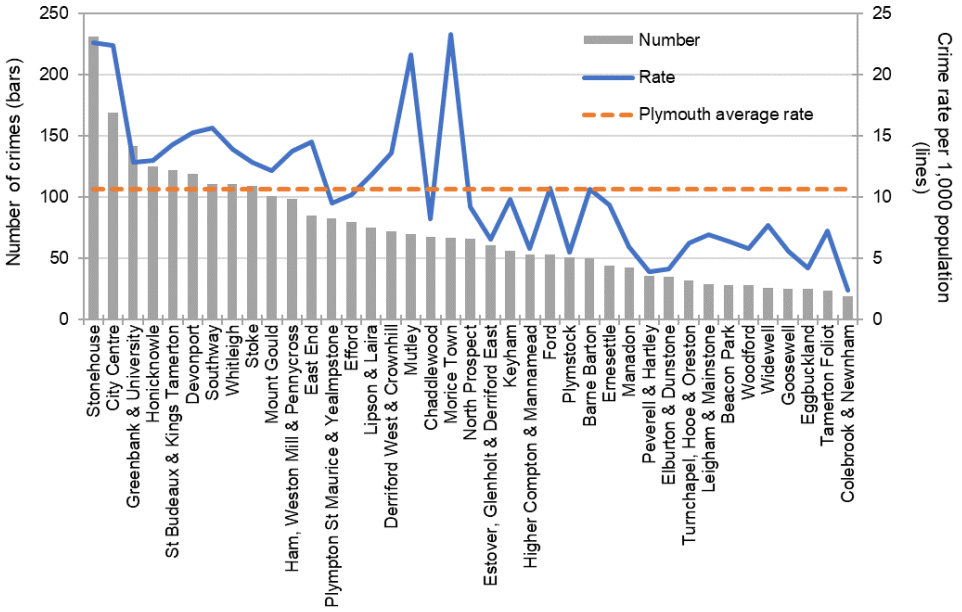
Using the DASH data (978 records)

- 23.5% (230 crimes) were considered alcohol-related
- 31.6% (309 crimes) were considered drug flag-related
- 32.9% (322 crimes) were considered mental health-related
- 8.1% (79 crimes) were considered alcohol, drug, and mental health-related

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Location

Stalking and harassment crimes: numbers and rates by neighbourhood



Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of stalking and harassment crime

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
Stonehouse	231	22.6	1/39
City Centre	169	22.4	12/39
Greenbank & University	142	12.9	22/39
Honicknowle	125	13.0	9/39
St Budeaux & Kings Tamerton	122	14.3	11/39

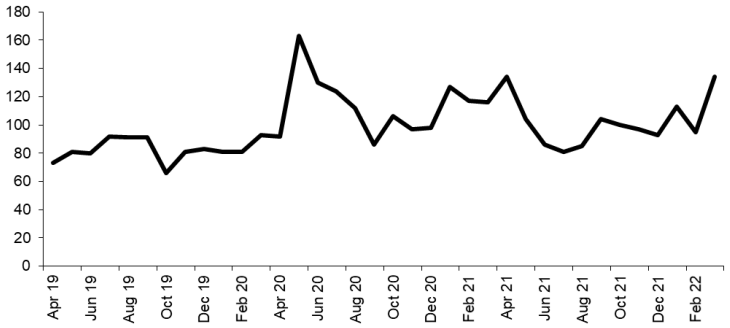
13 stalking and harassment crimes were considered related to the NTE.

- <0.1% of the 22,531 total crimes
- 0.5% of the 2,826 stalking and harassment crimes

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022; rates and deprivation ranks calculated by Plymouth City Council Public Health)

Demographics	<u>Victims:</u> • 68.9% female; 31.1% male • 62.9% were aged 20-44 years (20-24 years 12.1%; 25-29 years 14.7%, 30-34 years 15.6%; 35-39 years 10.5% and 40-44 years 10.0%) • 92.1% were White British; 3.7% were any other White background; 4.2% any other ethnic group. <u>Offenders:</u> • 17.7% female; 82.3% male (113 records) • 57.5% were aged 25-44 years (25-29 years 17.7%; 30-34 years 17.7%; 35-39 years 10.6%; and 40-44 years 11.5%) (113 records) • 89.2% were White British; 7.5% were any other White background; 3.2% were any other ethnic group (93 records). (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

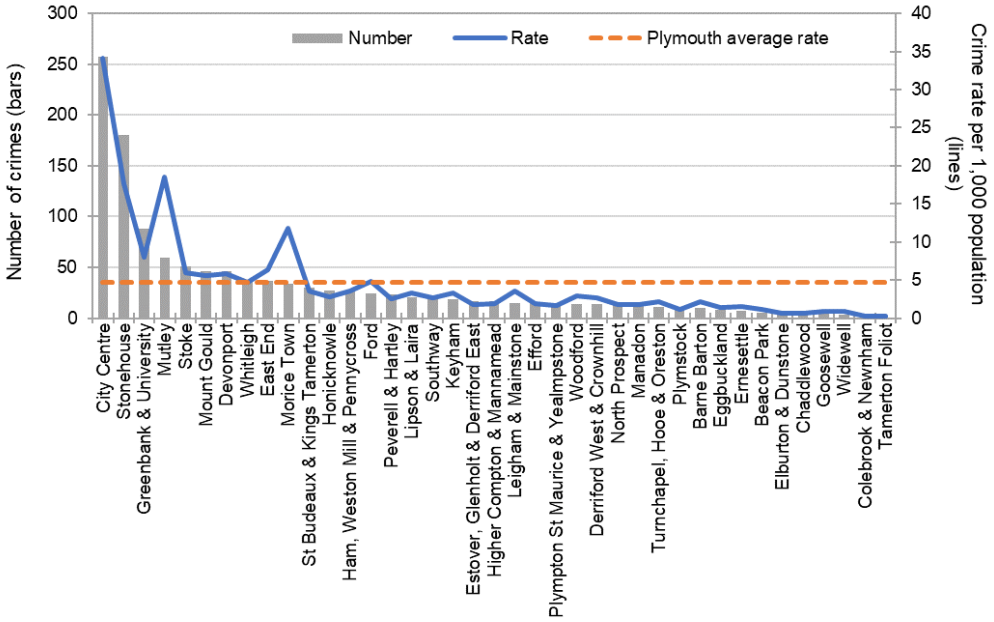
6.9 Drug offences

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – drug offences (ONS)	
Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise) Definition comprises: possession of drugs and trafficking of drugs	
Key facts	1,226 crimes / 4.6 crimes per 1,000 residents This is a decrease of 10% (142 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw an increase of 18% (52 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021). Rate of crime is above average for Most Similar Group (3.4 per 1,000) and is the highest in the group (out of 15). (Source: iQuanta) The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of drug offences in 2021/22 (257). Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 25-29 years, and of a White British ethnicity. (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)
Trends	iQuanta volume chart – drug offences Apr 2019 to Mar 2022  In Apr 2019 there were 73 recorded drug offences. There has been an overall increasing trend from Apr 2019 to Mar 2022 (134 crimes), with a peak of 163 crimes in May 2020. Source: iQuanta

Crimes	Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes: • Possession of drugs accounted for 4.3% (975 crimes) • Trafficking of drugs accounted for 1.2% (258 crimes) Of the 1,233 drug offence crimes: • Possession of drugs accounted for 79.1% (975 crimes) • Trafficking of drugs accounted for 20.9% (258 crimes) (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)
Flags	Of the 1,233 drug offence crimes: • <0.4% (<5 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related • 13.4% (165 crimes) were considered alcohol-related • None were considered related to child sexual exploitation • None considered a hate crime DASH data not shown due to small number of records (Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Location

Drug offences: numbers and rates by neighbourhood



Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of drug offences

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	257	34.1	12/39
Stonehouse	180	17.6	1/39
Greenbank & University	88	8.0	22/39
Mutley	60	18.5	17/39
Stoke	51	6.0	15/39

184 drug offences were considered related to the NTE.

- 0.8% of the 22,531 total crimes
- 14.9% of the 1,233 drug offences

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022; rates and deprivation ranks calculated by Plymouth City Council Public Health)

Demographics

There are no recorded victims for drug offences.

<u>Offenders:</u>

- 16.1% female; 83.9% male (527 records)
- 81.6% were aged 15-39 years (15-19 years 13.3%; 20-24 years 19.9%; 25-29 years 20.3%; 30-34 years 17.6%; 35-39 years 10.6%) (528 records)
- 90.7% were White British; 4.7% were any other White background; 4.7% were any other ethnic group (429 records).

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

6.10 Youth crime

To get an indication of the levels of youth crime, and because offender data is recorded in less than 10% of violent crimes, this section includes crimes where the primary offender's age is under 25, plus crimes where the primary offender's age is unknown, but the victim's age is under 25 (1-24 years). Victims are used as a proxy in this case based on the broad assumption that crimes tend to occur within peer groups, although it is acknowledged that this isn't always true. The data is reported in two groups, those aged under-18 and those 18-24 years. Due to the way youth crime has been calculated, reporting the data available on gender would be misleading, therefore gender splits are not given in this section.

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – youth crime
Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise) Definition: crimes where the victim or offender is identified to be under 25 years Source for all data: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022

All recorded crime

Under-18

- 2,723 crimes
- Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes, those involving under-18s can be considered to account for 12.1%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 93.9% were White British; 2.4% were any other White background; 3.7% were any other ethnic group.

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of crimes involving under-18s

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	249	33.0	12/39
St Budeaux & Kings Tamerton	169	19.8	11/39
Honicknowle	167	17.4	9/39
Stonehouse	144	14.1	1/39
Devonport	141	18.1	2/39

18-24 years

- 3,335 crimes
- Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes, those involving 18-24 year olds can be considered to account for 14.8%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 92.5% were White British; 2.1% were any other White background; 5.4% were any other ethnic group.

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of crimes involving 18-24 year olds

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	623	82.7	12/39
Greenbank & University	433	39.2	22/39
Stonehouse	418	37.9	1/39
East End	163	27.9	6/39
Mutley	144	44.5	17/39

Domestic abuse

Under-18

- 274 crimes
- Of the 4,884 domestic abuse crimes, those involving under-18s can be considered to account for 5.6%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 92.5% were White British; 3.2% were any other White background; 4.3% were any other ethnic group.

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of domestic abuse crimes involving under 18s

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
Honicknowle	27	2.8	9/39
Devonport	16	2.1	2/39
Ham & Pennycross	16	2.2	16/39
Greenbank & University	13	1.2	22/39
City Centre	13	1.7	12/39

18-24 years

- 886 crimes
- Of the 4,884 domestic abuse crimes, those involving 18-24 year olds can be considered to account for 18.1%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 94.3% were White British; 2.3% were any other White background; 3.4% were any other ethnic group.

Top six neighbourhoods with the highest number of domestic abuse crimes involving 18-24 year olds

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
Stonehouse	93	9.1	1/39
Greenbank & University	79	7.2	22/39
City Centre	77	10.2	12/39
Devonport	47	6.0	2/39
Stoke	40	4.7	15/39
Whitleigh	40	5.0	5/39

Sexual offences

Under-18

- 612 crimes
- Of the 1,321 sexual offences, those involving under-18s can be considered to account for 46.3%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 97.6% were White British; 1.5% were any other White background; 0.9% were any other ethnic group.

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of sexual offences involving under 18s

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	37	4.9	12/39
Ham, Weston Mill & Pennycross	29	4.0	16/39
Devonport	28	3.6	2/39
St Budeaux & Kings Tamerton	28	3.3	11/39
Stonehouse	28	2.7	1/39

18-24 years

- 249 crimes
- Of the 1,321 sexual offences, those involving 18-24 year olds can be considered to account for 18.8%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 95.7% were White British; 2.1% were any other White background; 2.1% were any other ethnic group.

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of sexual offences involving 18-24 year olds

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	51	6.8	12/39
Greenbank & University	38	3.4	22/39
Stonehouse	31	3.0	1/39
East End	15	2.6	6/39
Estover, Glenholt, & Derriford East	12	1.3	23/39

Violence with injury

Under-18

- 616 crimes
- Of the 3,704 violence with injury crimes, those involving under-18s can be considered to account for 16.6%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 94.2% were White British; 2.5% were any other White background; 3.3% were any other ethnic group.

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of violence with injury crimes involving under 18s

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	59	7.8	12/39
Honicknowle	47	4.9	9/39
St Budeaux & Kings Tamerton	41	4.8	11/39
Devonport	37	4.8	2/39
Stonehouse	34	3.3	1/39

18-24 years

- 762 crimes
- Of the 3,704 violence with injury crimes, those involving 18-24 year olds can be considered to account for 20.6%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 92.2% were White British; 1.9% were any other White background; 5.8% were any other ethnic group.

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of violence with injury crimes involving 18-24 year olds

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	169	22.4	12/39
Stonehouse	111	10.9	1/39
Greenbank & University	110	10.0	22/39
East End	58	9.9	6/39
Devonport	30	3.8	2/39

Violence without injury

Under-18

- 721 crimes
- Of the 4,193 violence with injury crimes, those involving under-18s can be considered to account for 17.2%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 92.4% were White British; 2.7% were any other White background; 4.9% were any other ethnic group.

Top six neighbourhoods with the highest number of violence without injury crimes involving under 18s

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	70	9.3	12/39
Honicknowle	53	5.5	9/39
St Budeaux & Kings Tamerton	46	5.4	11/39
Stonehouse	45	4.4	1/39
Devonport	43	5.5	2/39
East End	43	7.3	6/39

18-24 years

- 724 crimes
- Of the 4,193 violence with injury crimes, those involving 18-24 year olds can be considered to account for 17.3%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 92.6% were White British; 2.2% were any other White background; 5.2% were any other ethnic group.

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of violence without injury crimes involving 18-24 year olds

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	165	21.9	12/39
Stonehouse	92	9.0	1/39
Greenbank & University	90	8.2	22/39
Stoke	32	3.8	15/39
Mutley	28	8.7	17/39

Robbery

Under-18

- 21 crimes
- Of the 202 robberies, those involving under-18s can be considered to account for 10.4%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 93.8% were White British; 6.3% were any other white background

Top four neighbourhoods with the highest number of robberies involving under 18s

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	5	0.7	12/39
Peverell & Hartley	<5	<0.6	35/39
Plympton St Maurice & Yealmpstone	<5	<0.7	30/39
St Budeaux & Kings Tamerton	<5	<0.7	11/39

18-24 years

- 37 crimes
- Of the 202 robberies, those involving 18-24 year olds can be considered to account for 18.3%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 96.3% were White British; 3.7% were any other White background

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of robberies involving 18-24 year olds

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	12	0.2	12/39
Greenbank & University	<5	<0.6	22/39
Mutley	<5	<1.6	17/39
East End	<5	<1.0	6/39
Stonehouse	<5	<0.6	1/39

Possession of weapons

Under-18

- 46 crimes
- Of the 379 possession of weapons crimes, those involving under-18s can be considered to account for 12.1%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 96.7% were White British; 3.3% were any other White background

Top six neighbourhoods with the highest number of possession of weapon crimes involving under 18s

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	5	0.7	12/39
East End	<5	<0.9	6/39
St Budeaux & Kings Tamerton	<5	<0.7	11/39
Honicknowle	<5	<0.6	9/39
Stonehouse	<5	<0.6	1/39
Woodford	<5	<1.1	39/39

18-24 years

- 26 crimes
- Of the 379 possession of weapons crimes, those involving 18-24 year olds can be considered to account for 6.9%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 93.3% were White British; 6.7% were any other White background

Top four neighbourhoods with the highest number of possession of weapon crimes involving under 18-24 year olds

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	7	0.9	12/39
East End	5	0.9	6/39
Greenbank & University	<5	<0.6	22/39
Higher Compton & Mannamead	<5	<0.7	34/39
Mount Gould	<5	<0.7	20/39
Stonehouse	<5	<0.6	1/39

Stalking & Harassment

Under-18

- 329 crimes
- Of the 2,826 stalking and harassment crimes, those involving under-18s can be considered to account for 11.6%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 93.0% were White British; 1.4% were any other white background; 5.6% were any other ethnic group

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of stalking and harassment crimes involving under 18s

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
Honicknowle	23	0.24	9/39
Plympton St Maurice & Yealmpstone	17	0.20	30/39
Southway	17	0.24	13/39
St Budeaux & Kings Tamerton	15	0.18	11/39
Stoke	15	0.18	15/39

18-24 years

- 471 crimes
- Of the 2,826 stalking and harassment crimes, those involving 18-24 year olds can be considered to account for 16.7%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 94.6% were White British; 1.4% were any other White background; 4.0% were any other ethnic group

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of stalking and harassment crimes involving 18-24 year olds

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
Stonehouse	54	5.3	1/39
Greenbank & University	41	3.7	22/39
City Centre	31	4.1	12/39
Devonport	26	3.3	2/39
Stoke	22	2.6	15/39

Drug offences

Under-18

- 29 crimes
- Of the 1,233 drug offence crime, those involving under-18s can be considered to account for 2.4%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 100% were White British

Neighbourhood data is not shown due to small numbers of records.

18-24 years

- 150 crimes
- Of the 1,233 drug offence crimes, those involving 18-24 year olds can be considered to account for 12.2%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 90.6% were White British; 3.9% were any other White background; 5.5% were any other ethnic group

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of drug offence crimes involving 18-24 year olds

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	28	3.7	12/39
Stonehouse	27	2.6	1/39
Greenbank & University	15	1.4	22/39
Mutley	10	3.1	17/39
East End	9	1.5	6/39

6.9.1 Youth justice

In Plymouth in 2022 the rate of first-time entrants to the youth justice system (juveniles receiving their first conviction, caution, or youth caution) was 138.2 per 100,000 10-17 year olds; a value not significantly different to England (148.9 per 100,000).[91] This was a significant decrease from 2021 when the rate was 247 per 100,000 population aged 10-17 year olds.

Data provided by Plymouth's Youth Justice Team (YJT) describes all individuals on the YJT caseload that had an offence date occurring in the financial years 2018/19 and 2022/23 (Table 6 and Table 7). The list comprises both those who have been charged with a crime and those that are considered linked to a possible crime, all of which have a logged "offence type".

Five offence records were removed from the overall dataset because age at offence was calculated to be greater than 18.0 years. Some individuals will have more than one record (offence) in the same year, each offence will have been counted to get total number of offences, whilst each individual will have been counted only once to get total number of individuals. Some individuals may appear in more than one column. Age breakdowns may not sum to total individuals (or 100%) as clients ages might have changed between offences.

Postcode was used to link neighbourhood of residence to each individual. To prevent neighbourhoods being counted multiple times by repeat offenders a neighbourhood was counted once per individual. If an individual had records linked to more than one neighbourhood these were counted separately.

Overall the total number of individuals on the Youth Justice caseload decreased by 26.7%, from 90 in 2018/19 (Table 6) to 66 in 2022/23 (Table 7). The number of offences these individuals were responsible for decreased by 28.6%, from 304 to 217, over the same period.

In 2018/19, of the 90 individuals on the caseload, 63 (70.0%) were responsible for 117 violent offences. The majority of clients were male, aged 13-15 years, and were White British. Weapon offences accounted for 3.3% of the total number of offences.

In 2022/23, of the 66 individuals on the caseload, 41 (62.1%) were responsible for 85 violent offences. The majority of clients were male, aged 16-17 years, and were White British. Weapon offences accounted for 6.0% of the total number of offences.

[91] Indicator B04: First time entrants to the youth justice system crude rate per 100,000, 2022. PHOF, Fingertips.

Table 6: Youth Justice clients with an offence date occurring in 2018/19

Demographic	Number of offences and individuals (percentage)				
	Total offences	Violence-related*	Knife /blade*	Gun /firearm*	Other weapon*
Number of offences	304	117 (38.5)	9 (3.0)	<5	<5
Number of individuals	90	63 (70.0)	9 (10.0)	<5	<5
Males	64 (71.1)	42 (66.7)	5 (55.6)	<5	<5
Females	25 (27.8)	20 (31.7)	<5	<5	<5
Not stated	1 (1.1)	1 (1.6)	<5	<5	<5
12 and under at offence	8 (8.9)	3 (4.8)	<5	<5	<5
13-15 at offence	53 (58.9)	39 (61.9)	<5	<5	<5
16-17 at offence	35 (38.9)	21 (33.3)	<5	<5	<5
White British**	83 (92.2)	57 (90.5)	7 (77.8)	<5	<5
Other white background***	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Any other ethnic group	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Top three neighbourhoods of client residence (violence-related offences)	1. Stonehouse 2. Devonport 3. Mount Gould				
Total number of violence-related offences: 117					
Top five violence-related offences	1. Assault by beating; 28 (23.9%) 2. Assault a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm; 26 (22.2%) 3. Common assault; 17 (14.5%) 4. Assault a constable in the execution of his/her duty; 9 (7.7%) 5. Use threatening/abusive insulting words/behaviour; 4 (3.4%)				

* A full list of the offences included are given in Appendix F.
<5: any cell with a count of less than five (except “not stated”) has had its data suppressed to avoid identifying individuals. In some cases, to avoid disclosure by differencing, the cell with the next smallest number has also been suppressed.

Table 7: Youth Justice clients with an offence date occurring in 2022/23

Demographic	Number of offences and individuals (percentage)				
	Total offences	Violence-related*	Knife /blade*	Gun /firearm*	Other weapon*
Number of offences	217	85 (39.2)	9 (4.1)	<5	<5
Number of individuals	66	41 (62.1)	8 (12.1)	<5	<5
Males	59 (89.4)	37 (90.2)	8 (100)	<5	<5
Females	7 (10.6)	<5	<5	<5	<5
Not stated	0	<5	<5	<5	<5
12 and under at offence	6 (9.1)	5 (12.2)	<5	<5	<5
13-15 at offence	31 47.0)	18 (43.9)	6 (75.0)	<5	<5
16-17 at offence	31 (47.0)	19 (46.3)	<5	<5	<5
White British	56 (84.8)	38 (92.7)	8 (100)	<5	<5
Other white background	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Any other ethnic group	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Top three neighbourhoods of client residence (violence-related related offences)	1. Efford 2. East End 3. Keyham St Budeaux & Kings Tamerton				
Total number of violence-related offences: 85					
Top five violence-related offences	1. Common assault; 20 (23.5%) 2. Assault a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm; 14 (16.5%) 3. Assault by beating; 13 4. Use threatening/abusive insulting words/behaviour; 7 (8.2%) 5. Possess knife/blade or sharply pointed article; 5 (5.9%)				

* A full list of the offences included are given in Appendix F.
<5: any cell with a count of less than five (except “not stated”) has had its data suppressed to avoid identifying individuals. In some cases, to avoid disclosure by differencing, the cell with the next smallest number has also been suppressed.

6.9.2 Probation

Data from the South West Probation Service details probation cases by South West Courts for a serious violent offence between 01/04/22 and 31/03/2023 and managed by the Plymouth service. Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS) offence categories used to determine serious violent crime were sexual offences (against a child), sexual offences (not against a child), and violence. There may be duplicate individuals within the data. Certain sentences have been excluded. 14% of cases were non-Plymouth residents.

A total of 757 offences were managed during 2022/23, with serious violence accounting for 311 (41.1%). Of the 311 serious violent offences, sexual offences against a child, sexual offences not against a child, and violence accounted for 25 (6.8%), 21 (6.8%), and 265 (85.2%) respectively.

Males accounted for 280 offences (90.0%) whilst females accounted for 31 (10.0%). The majority of offences were committed by those of a White British ethnicity (89.4%).

Of the 311 offences:

- Domestic abuse was recorded in 138 cases (44.4%) (103 where offenders were perpetrators; 35 historic abuse).
- Mental health issues were recorded in 85 cases (27.3%)
- A registered sex offender was recorded in 48 cases (15.4%)
- Child protection was recorded in 10 cases (3.2%) (child at risk of harm directly from offender or where offender lives is an environment where child is deemed to be at risk of harm from others – child subject to child protection plan)
- Child concerns were recorded in 24 cases (7.7%) (child at risk of harm directly from offender or where offender lives is an environment where child is deemed to be at risk of harm from others – child NOT subject to child protection plan)

The majority of cases had offenders that were aged 34-37 years (51; 16.4%), 26-29 years (46; 14.8%), and 30-33 years (46; 14.8%), 42-49 years (34; 10.9%), and 38-41 (31; 10.0%).

The majority of offences committed by males for violence were under the age of 46 (84.2%) whereas for sexual offences the percentage was lower (67.4%).

7. Health intelligence

7.1 Hospital Emergency Care Department assault data

A high proportion of assault victims presenting at Emergency Care Departments (ECDs) do not report these assaults to the Police – therefore many incidents will not be reflected in reported crime statistics. Assault data collected at Derriford Hospital ECD provides a valuable source of intelligence about the scale and nature of violence in the city.

From April 2018 to March 2023, a total of 3,394 assaults (61% alcohol-related, 39% non-alcohol related) were seen at Derriford Hospital ECD. A total of 413 assaults were seen in 2021/22 (COVID-19 year) compared to an annual average of 745 assaults per year. This includes assaults that took place outside the Plymouth area. Key findings from analysis of the data for assaults that occurred only in the Plymouth area is shown in following table.

Time period: April 2018 to March 2023		
FACTS		• Total 1,941 assaults occurred in Plymouth over last five years (67% alcohol-related, 33% non-alcohol related). • Average 255 alcohol-related and 133 non-alcohol related assaults per year over last five years. • During 2020/21 (COVID-19 lockdowns), alcohol-related assaults seen by Plymouth ECD decreased by 52% and non-alcohol related assaults by 14% on the previous year. During 2021/22 (when restrictions lifted), alcohol-related assaults increased by 67% and non-alcohol related assaults by 40**%** compared to pre-pandemic levels. • 733 (57%) of all alcohol-related assaults took place at weekends, compared to 185 (28%) non-alcohol related assaults over the last five years. • 980 (77%) of all alcohol-related assaults occurred between the hours of 21:00-02:59 and 325 (49%) of all non-alcohol related assaults occurred between 15:00-20:59.
WEAPONS		• Total of 1,281 alcohol and non-alcohol related incidents involved a part of the body (fist, foot, head etc.) to assault a victim. • Glass/bottles were used as weapons in 13.7% of alcohol-related and 5.6% non-alcohol related assaults in the last 5 years. • Knives were used in 6.3% of alcohol-related and 4.8% of non-alcohol related assaults.
ASSAILANTS		• 683 (54%) of alcohol-related and 381 (57%) of non-alcohol related assaults involved one assailant. • 737 (58%) of alcohol-related and 268 (40%) non-alcohol related assaults involved strangers. • Alcohol-related assaults involving partners/ex-partners was reported by 2% of males and 20% of females. For non-alcohol related assaults this was reported by 2% of males and 17% of females.

PREMISES		• 231 alcohol-related assaults took place at the top 10 premises (accounting for 18% of the city's alcohol-related assaults). Of these assaults, 196 (85%) were aged 18-30 years. There were 7 alcohol-related assaults on under 18 year olds at premises in the city.
LOCATIONS		**Neighbourhoods** • The City Centre neighbourhood had the highest percentage of alcohol-related and non-alcohol related assaults (31%) The surrounding neighbourhoods of Stonehouse, Greenbank & University, and the East End also feature in the highest 4 neighbourhoods. • At 12%, Estover, Glenholt, & Derriford East had the second highest percentage of non-alcohol related assaults. 68% of these assaults were at Derriford Hospital. **Streets** • 522 (41%) of alcohol-related assaults occurred on the street, 442 (35%) took place either in or outside a pub/club and 223 (17%) at home. • 267 (40%) of non-alcohol related assaults occurred on the street, 173 (26%) at home and 62 (9%) at work. **Park/open spaces** • 25 (2%) of all alcohol-related assaults took place in a park/open spaces, 60% of which were by a stranger and 32% by an acquaintance. • 59 (9%) of all non-alcohol related assaults occurred in a park/open space, 54% of which were by a stranger and 36% by an acquaintance. **At work** • 15 (1%) of all alcohol-related assaults took place at work, 67% of which were by **a** stranger and 37% by an acquaintance. • 63 (9%) of all non-alcohol related assaults occurred at work, 56% of which were by a stranger and 40% by an acquaintance. In/outside home • 228 (18%) of all alcohol-related assaults took place in/outside home (57% male victims and 43% female). • Of the 228 alcohol-related assaults, 32% were by a partner/ex-partner or relative of the victim. • The no. of alcohol-related assaults that took place in/outside home increased from 10 in 2018/19 to 76 in 2022/23. • 177 (27%) of all non-alcohol related assaults occurred in/outside home (51% male victims and 49% female). • Of the 177 non-alcohol related assaults, 38% were by a partner/ex-partner or relative of the victim. • The non-alcohol related assaults that took place in/outside home increased from 10 in 2018/19 to 63 in 2022/23.

7.2 Spotlight on Ambulance data

Snapshot data from the South Western Ambulance Service details 1,041 calls to the service during September 2023 that were considered "violence-related".[92]

[92] The South Western Ambulance Service Public Health Dataset for Violence Prevention & Reduction, September 2023 report, South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

Across the Trust there were 56 records (5.4% of the total) with a Plymouth postcode that were related to violence. Each of the records were assigned to one of the four broad categories in Table 8.

Table 8: Number (and percentage) of violence-related calls to SWAST in Sept 2023

Despatch code type	Total	Call outcome		
		Hear & treat	See & treat	See & convey
Assault (no weapon mentioned)	37 (66.1)	11 (29.7)	14 (37.8)	12 (32.4)
Assault (stabbing)	4 (7.1)	1 (25.0)	2 (50.0)	1 (25.0)
Assault (other weapon mentioned)	5 (8.9)	3 (60.0)	2 (40.0)	0 (0.0)
Mental health/illness-related violence	10 (17.9)	2 (20.0)	5 (50.0)	3 (30.0)
Total	56	17 (30.4)	23 (41.1)	16 (28.6)

Of the 56 relevant calls, the majority (66.1%) were assaults not involving weapons. Assault by a weapon of any kind accounted for 16.1% of calls.

Of the 56 calls patients were:

- 60.7% male; 32.1% female; 7.1% gender not recorded
- Mainly aged 16-20 (14.3%), 21-25 (16.1%), 36-40 (8.9%), and 41-45 (12.5)

The majority of calls were recorded as being in the City Centre neighbourhood (16.1%), Stonehouse (12.5%), Greenbank & university (10.7%) and Southway (8.9%).

Of the 16 see and convey outcomes, all but one were transferred to Derriford Emergency Care Department.

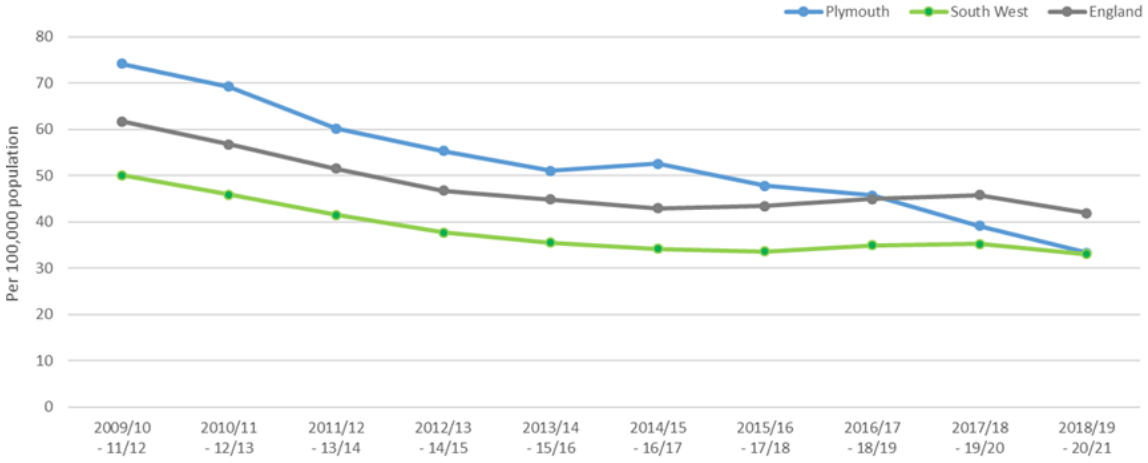
7.3 Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data

This section describes emergency hospital admissions for violence. Emergency hospital admissions for violence are categorised using the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10).

Figure 6 shows that in 2018/19 to 2020/21 the rate of emergency hospital admissions for violence in Plymouth was 33.3 per 100,000 standardised population. This is similar to the South West rate of 33 but lower that the England average of 41.9 per 100,000 standardised population.

The trend shows a decrease in rate of emergency hospital admissions for violence from 74.2 per 100,000 (2009/10 to 2011/12) to 33.3 per 100,000 (2018/19 to 2020/21).

Figure 6: Rate of emergency hospital admissions for violence (external causes: ICD10 codes X85 to Y09), directly age standardised rate per 100,000 population (Plymouth, South West and England), 2009/10 to 2011/12 to 2018/19 to 2020/21



Source: HES data (NHS Digital) and ONS population data

Between 2018/19 and 2020/21 there were a total of 265 emergency hospital admissions for violence in Plymouth.

- Residents in the most deprived and upper middle groups[93] accounted for 61.5% of the 265 emergency hospital admissions for violence.
- 73.2% of all emergency admissions for violence were male (of which 21.5% were under 25 years). This compares to 26.8% and 7.5% respectively for females.
- The highest percentage age group for emergency admissions for violence for males was age 31-40 (14.7%) and for females was it those aged under 18 (5.3%).
- 89.4% of the 265 Plymouth emergency admissions for violence were White British and 7.5% from ethnic minorities.
- 133 of the 265 emergency hospital admissions for violence were caused by assault by bodily force (ICD10 code Y04). This was the highest cause of emergency hospital admissions for violence (50.2%). Of these 133 admissions for assault by bodily force, 54.9% occurred in an unspecified place, 18.0% on a street and highway and 11.3% at home.
- 33 of the 265 emergency hospital admissions for violence were caused by other maltreatment (ICD10 code Y07). This was the second highest cause of emergency hospital admissions for violence (12.5%). Of these 33 admissions for other maltreatment, 54.5% were by parent, 21.2% by other specified persons and 15.2% by spouse or partner.
- 30 of the 265 emergency hospital admissions for violence were caused by assault by sharp object (ICD10 code Y99). This was the third highest cause of

[93] Five neighbourhood deprivation groups most deprived, upper middle, middle, lower middle and least deprived categorised based on levels of material deprivation.

emergency hospital admissions for violence (11.3%). Of these 30 admissions for assault by sharp object, 73.3% were in an unspecified place and 20.0% at home. 18.4% of Plymouth emergency hospital admissions for violence caused by assault by sharp object were aged 18-24. There were no emergency hospital admissions for violence caused by assault by sharp object in those aged under 18.

- 72 of the 365 emergency hospital admissions for violence were substance misuse related. Of these 81.9% were male and 18.1% female.

8. Informing a public health model for violence prevention

The data, intelligence, and insights described in this needs assessment supports a shared understanding of the types, distribution, and extent of serious violence in Plymouth. It illustrates the complex nature of violence and reinforces the need for a partnership approach to preventing serious violence. To further support understanding and inform future action Safer Plymouth has also undertaken further work briefly described below.

A mapping of current interventions, services, and initiatives directed to violence prevention and reduction across the city shows the breadth of approaches operating at primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention levels. This ranges from Family Hubs and the Start for Life Programme, providing support for parenting and early language skills, to the Probation Service programmes for people who have committed violent crimes, to targeted policing initiatives that direct resources to the ten streets with the highest levels of street violence.

An online survey with schools indicates that some schools have initiatives in place both focused on violence prevention and responding to violence in these settings. The survey responses indicated an opportunity for developing a consistent approach to serious violence prevention and reduction in education settings across the city.

A rapid review of the published evidence from a number of existing systematic reviews provides some direction in developing a local model for violence prevention and reduction. It highlights approaches where the evidence shows a high and moderate impact on reducing and preventing violence and focuses on approaches that are viable at a local level.

Through a series of system conversations over 200 people from communities, services and organisations across the city were invited to consider the intelligence and insights, reflect on current approaches to reducing and preventing violence and envision how the system collectively builds motivation and action for change.

All of this has contributed to a model for serious violence prevention that proposes multiple and reinforcing strategies to address both the drivers of violence and respond to the harm caused by violence.

Appendix A: The Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD)

The Indices of Deprivation (IoD) compiles a series of 39 indicators, across seven distinct domains of deprivation which are then weighted to form a composite Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). They are therefore a set of relative measures, rather than an absolute measure of deprivation, at a population-level, calculated at every Lower Super Output Area (LSOA). These seven domains of deprivation are as follows, with associated 'weights' in brackets:

- **Income deprivation (22.5%)** measures the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation due to low income, including those that are out-of-work and those in work with low earnings.
- **Employment deprivation (22.5%)** measures the proportion of the working age population involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including people who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.
- **Education, skills, and training (13.5%)** measures the lack of attainment and skills in the population.
- **Health and disability (13.5%)** measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of health through poor physical or mental health.
- **Crime (9.3%)** measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.
- **Barriers to housing and services (9.3%)** measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, including proximity of local services and issues such as housing affordability and homelessness.
- **Living environment (9.3%)** measures the quality of both the 'indoor' and 'outdoor' local environment.

Appendix B: Neighbourhood rank and scores, IMD 2019

Neighbourhood	Rank	Score
Stonehouse	**(most deprived) 1**	56.3
Devonport	**2**	51.7
Morice Town	**3**	51.0
Barne Barton	**4**	44.7
Whitleigh	**5**	42.9
East End	**6**	42.1
North Prospect & Weston Mill	**7**	42.1
Ernesettle	**8**	39.9
Honicknowle	**9**	39.7
Efford	**10**	38.7
St Budeaux & Kings Tamerton	**11**	35.8
City Centre	**12**	34.2
Southway	**13**	31.8
Keyham	**14**	30.8
Stoke	**15**	30.7
Ham & Pennycross	**16**	28.9
Mutley	**17**	28.0
Lipson & Laira	**18**	27.5
Ford	**19**	26.6
Mount Gould	**20**	26.2
Leigham & Mainstone	**21**	25.3
Greenbank & University	**22**	24.9
Estover, Glenholt & Derriford	**23**	19.4
Manadon & Widey	**24**	17.6
Tamerton Foliot	**25**	17.3
Eggbuckland	**26**	16.2
Derriford West & Crownhill	**27**	15.0
Widewell	**28**	14.4
Turnchapel, Hooe & Oreston	**29**	14.3
Plympton St Maurice &	**30**	14.2
Beacon Park	**31**	13.2
Plymstock & Radford	**32**	12.7
Goosewell	**33**	12.4
Higher Compton &	**34**	11.7
Peverell & Hartley	**35**	11.4
Colebrook, Newnham &	**36**	10.7
Elburton & Dunstone	**37**	10.3
Chaddlewood	**38**	10.3
Woodford	**(least deprived) 39**	10.2

Appendix C1: Plymouth City Council Children's Social Care data

Data was extracted from both the Plymouth City Council CareFirst and Eclipse systems in August 2023 for children under-18 that had:

- A referral to Childrens Social Care started within the specified financial year.
- A violence-related factor (see Appendix C2) identified within the first assessment of the specified care episode.

Some children had more than one episode of CSC involvement (and therefore more than one assessment) during the financial year. To count each child only once but ensure all relevant violence-related factors (vulnerabilities) from the child's environment at time of first assessment were noted, if factors differed between each first assessment, one new record was created to include all the factors present in all the first assessments. In these cases, postcodes and ages were taken from the first assessment for the first episode of care of the year. If the postcode was blank the postcode from the first assessment of the next episode of care was used.

Some children will have had more than one factor marked at assessment and so will appear in more than one column.

Some children will appear in both the 2018/19 table and the 2022/23 table.

There will also be occasions where individuals form part of a family group and so the number of families experiencing these factors will be less than the individual totals.

Reporting of factors is continually improving so changes over time might not necessarily reflect increases in absolute numbers of children with each specified factor.

Appendix C2: Violence-related factors identified during first assessment after referral to Plymouth City Council Children's Social Care

These are additional factors that social workers record as being relevant in a case. Most children have more than one factor recorded for each episode of need. It should be noted that not all episodes have factors recorded, but this has improved over time. Nonetheless, there can be differences in the recording practices between local authorities therefore this data should be treated with a degree of caution.

Domestic abuse victim: child	Concerns about the child being the subject of domestic abuse.
Domestic abuse victim: parent	Concerns about the child's parent(s) being the subject of domestic abuse.
Domestic abuse victim: other	Concerns about another person living in the household being the subject of domestic abuse.
Child Sexual Exploitation	Concerns that services may be required, or the child may be at risk of harm due to child sexual exploitation.
Trafficking	Concerns that services may be required, or the child may be at risk of harm due to trafficking.
Gangs	Concerns that services may be required, or the child may be at risk of harm because of involvement in/with gangs.
Physical abuse	Concerns that services may be required, or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm due to abuse or neglect by another child or an adult.
Sexual abuse	Concerns that services may be required, or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm due to abuse or neglect by another child or an adult.
Female genital mutilation	Concerns that services may be required, or the child may be at risk due to female genital mutilation.
Child Criminal Exploitation	Concerns that services may be required, or the child may be at risk of harm due to child criminal exploitation.

Source: Children in Need Census 2023 to 2024: Guide of Local Authorities version 1.0, Oct 2022, Department for Education.

Appendix D: Police data

In November 2022 Devon and Cornwall Police began transitioning to a new record management system (Niche), which will provide enhanced functionality and analytical capability. The change will deliver a significant uplift in their ability to record and report crime and incident data. During the transition period, however, the information that they can provide will be limited as reliable quantifiable data is not available. Officers can view crime and intelligence records; however, a range of process and data issues means that providing strategic information is not possible. The police are working at pace to identify and resolve the issues and will resume sharing information with partners as soon as they are confident that it meets the quality standards expected.

Police data used in this needs assessment is provided in two key formats:

• High level crime figures and comparators with the “most similar family group” of forces/Community Safety Partnerships are taken from the published performance data on the iQuanta website. This is a secure access data sharing facility used by police forces and community safety partnerships across England and Wales and is essentially static after the data has been provided by individual police forces.

• Data downloaded from the police crime system to provide monthly and annual Universal Datasets for each of the partnerships.

Both data sets are drawn from recorded crime and incident data but are extracted at different points in time. As crime recording is dynamic (for example, after initial recording a crime may subsequently be reclassified as a different type of crime or “no-crimed”) the numbers may not match exactly.

The police performance website iQuanta allows comparisons of levels of crime and general trends with the average for partnerships and police force areas with similar characteristics nationally (known as our ‘most similar family group’). The most similar family groupings are regularly reviewed. There are two main ways to compare performance with the most similar family – incidence of crime (crime rate) and change in crime over time. If performance is significantly different from the most similar family group, this indicates that local factors, rather than national trends, are driving the changes.

Appendix E: Summary of crime types

Summary of all crime and disorder types in the Plymouth Community Safety Partnership area for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Crime type	2020/21	2021/22	% change	2021/22 rank within MSG group (1 highest rate, 15 lowest rate)
All crime	20,867	22,477	7.7	15/15
Arson	87	101	16.1	11/15
Bicycle theft	135	95	-29.6	15/15
Burglary - business and community	314	196	-37.6	14/15
Burglary - residential	471	361	-23.6	15/15
Criminal damage	2,452	2,604	6.2	9/15
Homicide	2	8	300.0	1/15
Miscellaneous crimes against society	505	510	1.0	11/15
Other sexual offences	652	871	33.6	2/15
Possession of drugs	1,060	969	-8.6	1/15
Possession of weapons offences	334	382	14.4	5/15
Public order offences	1,639	1,848	12.8	15/15
Rape	405	447	10.4	5/15
Robbery of business property	6	2	-66.7	15/15
Robbery of personal property	173	201	16.2	11/15
Shoplifting	861	873	1.4	15/15
Stalking and harassment	2,884	2,813	-2.5	13/15
Theft from the person	106	146	37.7	13/15
Trafficking of drugs	308	257	-16.6	8/15
Vehicle offences	676	575	-14.9	15/15
Violence with injury	2,982	3,724	24.9	2/15
Violence without injury	3,587	4,173	16.3	11/15
ASB*	8,347	6,316	-24.3	n/a
Domestic abuse crimes*	4,956	4,884	-1.5	n/a
Domestic abuse non-crime incidents*	2,020	2,212	9.5	n/a
Hate crime*	548	587	7.1	n/a

Source: Iquanta except those marked * which come from the UDS

Appendix F: Youth Justice offence types

Violence-related offences
(blue knife/blade offence; green firearm offence; red any other weapon offence)

Assault a boy under 13 years of age by penetration
Assault a constable in the execution of his / her duty
Assault a girl under 13 by touching - SOA 2003
Assault a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm
Assault by beating
Assault by beating of an emergency worker
Assault person assisting constable in execution of
Assault with intent to commit robbery
Attempt sexual assault on a male person
Attempt murder - victim aged 1 year or over
Attempt rape of a girl under 13 - SOA 2003
Attempt to cause grievous bodily harm with intent
Attempt to engage in a penetrative sexual activity
Cause / incite a girl 13 to 15 to engage in sexual activity
Cause unnecessary suffering to a protected animal
Choke / suffocate / strangle to render unconscious
Common assault of an emergency worker
Common assault
Harassment - put in fear of violence
Kidnap - common law
Possess a loaded / unloaded air weapon in a public
Possess an imitation firearm in a public place
Possess an offensive weapon in a public place
Possess an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence
Possess article with blade / sharply pointed article
Possess a weapon for the discharge of a noxious liquid
Possess knife blade / sharp pointed article in a public place
Possess offensive weapon on school premises
Possess knife blade or sharply pointed article
Possess written material which is threatening abusive
Racially / religiously aggravated assault / assault
Racially aggravated common assault
Racially / religiously aggravated intentional harassment
Racially / religiously aggravated fear / provocation
Racially / religiously aggravated harassment with
Rape a girl under 13
Rape a girl aged 13 / 14 / 15 - SOA 2003
Rape of a boy under 13 - SOA 2003
Rape a woman 16 years of age or over - SOA 2003
Robbery
Section 18 - attempt wounding with intent
Section 18 - grievous bodily harm with intent
Section 18 - wounding with intent
Sexual assault on a female
Stalking involving serious alarm / distress (02/04
Threats to kill
Threaten a person with a blade / sharply pointed article
Use threatening / abusive words / behaviour likely to cause harassment alarm or distress
Use threatening / abusive / insulting words / behaviour
Wound / inflict grievous bodily harm without intent
Use violence to secure entry to premises
Wound / inflict grievous bodily harm without intent

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Cabinet

Date of meeting:	11 December 2023
Title of Report:	**Purchase of Temporary Accommodation**
Lead Member:	Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development, and Communities)
Lead Strategic Director:	Gary Walbridge (Interim Strategic Director for People)
Author:	Jackie Kings
Contact Email:	Jackie.kings@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	JK 1
Key Decision:	Yes
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The report sets out the business case for Community Connections to undertake £10,000,000 service borrowing and apply for up to £5,000,000 Homes England Affordable Homes Programme grant in order to acquire accommodation to provide short term temporary homes for homeless households.

As homelessness has increased, the use of temporary accommodation has increased also. At the same time the move on options to affordable housing have reduced as the private rented sector has become unaffordable and social housing availability has reduced and fails to meet demand. This has resulted in existing temporary accommodation becoming blocked and more utilisation of unsuitable bed and breakfast and expensive nightly paid alternatives (holiday lets). This has created an in year service budget pressure of £2.4 million and demand is forecast to continue to increase.

Recommendations and Reasons

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approve the Business Case to enable the purchase of properties to
   a) provide appropriate supported temporary accommodation for homeless households as an alternative to bed and breakfast and other high cost nightly paid accommodation, and;
   b) support reduction of temporary accommodation costs;

2. Allocate £10,000,000 for the project into the Capital Programme funded by service borrowing;

3. Allocate up to £5,000,000 of Homes England grant to the Capital Programme, subject to successful bid;

4. Delegate the approval of individual and bulk purchases to the Service Director for Community Connections for all purchases within the approved financial envelope in consultation with the

cross departmental Strategic Steering Group, Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities and Cabinet Member for Finance.

5. Authorises the Service Director for Community Connections to approve business cases and award contracts relating to this project where they would otherwise not have authority to do so.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. Do not increase level of temporary accommodation – rejected as there is a growing demand and a need to meet homelessness statutory duties and reduce related budget pressures
2. Borrow less and purchase fewer units – rejected as this would not provide sufficient accommodation to meet the demand and manage the budget pressure
3. Ask partner Registered Providers to provide more emergency temporary accommodation- rejected as no partner currently has capacity or appetite to provide this option currently and this is not a time effective option in the current climate

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Policy HEA8 of the Plymouth Plan aims to ensure everyone has access to a decent, safe and affordable home, achieved through identifying sites and delivery programmes to develop a range of new and affordable homes to rent and buy.

Section 4.71 of the Plymouth Plan further outlines the significant need for more affordable homes in Plymouth.

Policy DEV7 of the JLP outlines the need to ensure there is a broad range of housing available to suit households with specific needs, including large family homes.

This project will refurbish properties to an EPC C rating by improving the energy efficiency of homes and supporting plans to improve the energy efficiency of homes in Plymouth supporting the Net Zero Action Plan

The Corporate Plan priorities of building more homes – for social and affordable ownership and keeping children, adults and communities safe are supported in the delivery of this plan.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
Growth has been built in to the MTFP for future years in line with anticipated demand within the service. This plan has been taken into consideration and supports management of the budget pressures moving forwards.

Financial Risks

All financial risks are contained within the Part II accompanying report. The project is a key mitigation of Homelessness Strategic Risks as detailed in the Strategic Risk Register.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

Bringing temporary accommodation within the Council's portfolio of assets will increase the Council's corporate carbon footprint in the short term. In the long term, this offers the opportunity to improve the energy efficiency of these properties and add renewable energy capacity which will support the city's net zero trajectory and reduce the impact on corporate emissions.

In the short term, the intention is to source A-C EPC rated accommodation, and we are mandated to improve that if properties fall below 'C'. At a city level, the climate impacts are likely to be minimal due to sourcing from existing housing stocks rather than new build. Steps will also be taken to ensure selected sites provide access to public and active modes of travel and are within walking distance of amenities as much as possible.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

Equalities Impact Assessment complete and attached

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	**Exemption Paragraph Number** (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
A	Capital Investment Business Case Part I							
B	EIA							
C	Capital Investment Business Case Part II			x				
D	Acquisition and Delivery Strategy			x				

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	**Exemption Paragraph Number** (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**

Sign off:

Fin	DJN. 23.24. 160	Leg	LS/000013 12/3/AC/30/11/23	Mon Off		HR		Assets		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Matt Garrett (Service Director for Community Connections)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 24/11/2023											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development, and Communities) Date approved: 25/11/2023											

CAPITAL INVESTMENT BUSINESS CASE

PURCHASE OF ACCOMMODATION IN RESPONSE TO THE HOMELESSNESS DEMAND AND BUDGET PRESSURES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary is a short summary of the Business Case and should be the last section you complete, this will enable you to extract or only the key facts from relevant sections i.e., 'project on a page'.
The summary is a 'snapshot' of the business case which will need to tell the story and sell the proposal.

This Business Case outlines Plymouth City Council's intention to purchase units of accommodation in response to the homelessness crisis and to support temporary accommodation budget pressures.

This approach is required in response to the consequences of the national and local challenges faced in recent times leading to an increase in homelessness and use of expensive nightly paid accommodation to meet statutory duties. Notably there is:

- A declined private rented sector as landlords exit the market/ increase rents to unaffordable levels
- Declining social housing market due to disposals, delayed development and regeneration
- Increase in homelessness
- Increase in demand for temporary and short term accommodation
- Silted up temporary accommodation provision as move on options are reduced
- Households are in temporary accommodation for longer periods
- Expensive nightly paid accommodation is accessed to meet statutory duties

The proposal is to utilise £10million of service borrowing and additional grant from Homes England of £3-£5 million (subject to bid outcomes) to: -

- Provide homes to meet current and future local need
- Deliver housing that is affordable
- Support Council strategic direction and priorities
- Reduce temporary accommodation costs by an estimated £1.010m per year

The average annual cost of a Bed and Breakfast (B&B) room is **£21,797.**

There is an estimated annual revenue cost per property purchased of **£8,194**. (There will be some variations on this dependent upon grant rates, purchase price, remedial costs, and rental levels.)

Therefore, the estimated annual saving per property purchased is **£13,603.**

It is calculated that estimated service revenue savings will be **£1,009,917** per annum when offset against current costs which includes utilisation of higher rate nightly paid accommodation (holiday lets) and B&B costs.

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This project also supports the Council being compliant in meeting its statutory homelessness accommodation duties.

The financial modelling shows the project to be viable, providing significant savings whether grant funding is achieved, or the purchases are via service borrowing only. The annual costs remain considerably less than the cost of nightly paid accommodation.

The preferred option is to access newly built properties as this :-

- Does not impact existing housing stock
- Provides 10-year building guarantee
- Provides a good standard of accommodation
- Reinvigorates building in the City

This is a good capital investment as it:

- Supports health and wellbeing needs of homeless households
- Meets the statutory duties of the Council
- Increases the local authority ability to provide affordable supported short term accommodation for homeless households
- Attracts 'Affordable Homes Programme' capital grant from Homes England
- Reduces the revenue budget pressures of providing statutory temporary accommodation

Once the properties have been acquired, there will be a requirement to have a housing management and maintenance service. The costs of the management and maintenance services via a managing agent have been built into the financial modelling.

In the long term, it is expected that these properties will become available for general needs social housing. If successful in our grant application, Homes England will have funded a proportion of the purchase price, however, the houses will be 100 per cent council owned assets and there is no clawback of grant funding if the houses are transferred into general needs use.

Should the housing be used for anything other than affordable housing, any Homes England grant will need to be recycled back into affordable housing provision.

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SECTION 1: PROJECT DETAIL			
Project Value (indicate capital or revenue)	£10,000,000 - £15,000,000	**Contingency (show as £ and % of project value)**	N/A
Programme	Housing	**Directorate**	People
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Chris Penberthy, Housing and Co-operative Development	**Service Director**	Matt Garrett (Community Connections)

Senior Responsible Officer (client)	Jackie Kings Strategic Manager Community Connections	**Project Manager**	Ruth Tune-Holmes Technical Lead Community Connections
Address and Post Code	Citywide	**Ward**	Citywide

Current Situation: *(Provide a brief, concise paragraph outlining the current situation and explain the current business need, problem, opportunity or change of circumstances that needs to be resolved)*

Nationally, homelessness continues to rise as a result of the global and national challenges faced in recent times, i.e. Covid, Ukraine War, Cost of Living crisis. These have significantly impacted the housing market and people's ability to meet day to day bills (rent, mortgage, utilities, food, travel etc). The health and wellbeing impact on people is also reflected in the level of need of those presenting as homeless.

This picture is directly reflected in Plymouth where the continued impact of rising inflation and the lack of affordable housing across all housing tenures has resulted in further demand for housing and homelessness services.

The private rented sector in Plymouth has historically provided affordable housing. This provision has shrunk significantly as landlords exit the market or increase rents to the point where there is very little affordable private sector accommodation available.

The number of available social housing lets has also declined, reducing by 36% over the last 5 years. In 2022/23, the number of households in significant need of an affordable home (Band B and C on Devon Home Choice) outstripped supply by 2575.

Key consequences are the increasing number of households presenting as homeless or at risk of homelessness and staying in statutory temporary accommodation for longer. As existing temporary accommodation has become silted up, households are increasingly placed in costly night paid accommodation. The health and wellbeing impact on households is significant as B&B is not suitable for a sustained period of time. The budgetary impact is significant to the local authority with a forecast £2.4 million financial pressure in 23/24.

There has been a 158% increase in demand on temporary accommodation since 2019/20 (as a maximum snapshot - from160 households in 2019 to 413 households in 2023) and the number of families in temporary accommodation is increasing.

Linear forecasting has identified a demand gap of just over 300 units of accommodation to meet increasing demand. Whilst linear forecasting has limitations the demand is projected to continue and there is a clear business case to intervene as proposed.

The initiative within this business case will utilise £10 million service borrowing and apply for grant funding (Homes England Affordable Homes Programme) up to £5 million to purchase houses and provide an alternative to B&B and other nightly paid accommodation currently accessed by homeless households.

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Proposal: *(Provide a brief, concise paragraph outlining your scheme and explain how the business proposal will address the current situation above or take advantage of the business opportunity)* **and**
(What would happen if we didn't proceed with this scheme?)

It is proposed that significant action is required to meet the statutory homelessness and temporary accommodation demand and reduce the related budget pressures.

Community Connections proposes to undertake service borrowing of £10 million and apply to Homes England Affordable Homes Programme for additional capital to purchase properties to provide temporary accommodation with support for homeless households.

It is anticipated that £3 to £5million in capital grant funding could be made available from Homes England Affordable Homes Programme. The Capital Programme will be amended dependant on the grant value received.

If the Council is awarded capital grant, this will result in more properties being able to be purchased. If capital grant funding is not received, this will not stop the delivery of this project as the project remains viable without grant funding. The cost of the service borrowing is significantly less than the cost of providing expensive, unsuitable, nightly paid accommodation and will reduce the budget pressure.

Homes acquired through this initiative will meet the statutory duties of the Council to provide temporary accommodation for homeless households who would otherwise have placements in B&B and other nightly paid accommodation. If families are in B&B for over 6 weeks, this is a breach of our statutory duty.

The purchase of these properties directly and positively addresses the budget pressures faced by the Council as well as improving the health and wellbeing outcomes for homeless households by providing them with affordable, self-contained accommodation with support to meet their needs until they move on to a suitable affordable home.

If we do not proceed, the spend on statutory temporary accommodation will continue to rise resulting in; unsustainable budget pressures, households being accommodated in unsuitable accommodation with the negative effects on health and wellbeing, and breach of statutory duties. The potential of capital grant funding from Homes England would also be lost.

Why is this your preferred option: *(Provide a brief explanation why this option is preferred)* **and** *(Explain why this is a good capital investment and how this would be an advantage for the Council)* **and** *(explain how the preferred option is the right balance between the risks and benefits identified below).*

Acquiring homes is the preferred option as it is in line with Plymouth City Council's strategic direction to meet the demand for affordable housing and temporary accommodation.

This is a good capital investment as it:

- Supports health and wellbeing needs of homeless households
- Meets the statutory duties of the Council
- Attracts 'Affordable Homes Programme' capital grant from Homes England

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- Reduces the revenue budget pressures of providing statutory temporary accommodation

The *Affordable Homes Programme* capital grant regime sets out to fund a proportion of the purchase costs, providing the opportunity to deliver affordable homes. It aims to increase overall financially viability in both the short term and long term by reducing borrowing costs and increasing the Council's fixed assets.

It is anticipated that on successful application, Homes England will fund around 40% of the purchase price, and the houses will be 100% Council owned assets. There is no clawback of grant funding should the property be transferred into general needs use. In the long term it is expected that these properties will become available for general needs as the need for temporary accommodation reduces.

Where Homes England provides grant through the Affordable Homes Programme, the properties are required to be either affordable general needs or affordable supported accommodation. The properties acquired for this programme will be classified as supported accommodation and the Council is required to provide a family support service. There is an existing Family Support Team provided by the Plymouth Alliance and this will be extended and funded through existing funding streams to:

- Identify needs and deliver holistic family support
- Strengthen family stability through improved relationships, financial stability and seeking secure housing
- Build personal and family strengths through signposting to early years development, education, mental and physical health and tackling addiction
- Tap into other families support funding and services, such as children's services, health agencies, domestic abuse services, safeguarding and other community-based services
- Increase family safety by diverting families from crime, safe from domestic abuse, and children safe from abuse or exploitation

There has been wide ranging consultation with registered providers and other similar organisations over the delivery of supported and temporary housing to meet the homelessness demand. There is little appetite to deliver temporary or supported accommodation due to competing priorities and capacity within partner organisations already delivering extensive projects in the city.

An acquisition strategy supports this proposal with capacity and contingency built into the finance and rent modelling to support the end to end programme management and delivery.

The Acquisition Strategy takes into consideration :-

- Grant funding bids
- Meeting reporting requirements for Homes England
- Co-ordinating meetings with Homes England, PCC and external stakeholders
- Identification of and negotiation on property costs
- Development and agreement of specifications and schedules of work
- Development and agreement of key performance measures and milestones

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- Engaging and monitoring of specialist companies to acquire and refurbish as required
- Working across Council teams to secure legal, surveying, and procurement resource
- Budget reporting
- Development of management agreements and related schedules in partnership with the legal team
- Engagement and monitoring of the managing agent
- Development of key end to end processes and documentation, including letting of properties

The strategy identifies the following resource requirements :-

- A Programme Manager will be engaged to oversee/coordinate the Programme
- Existing capacity in Community Connections, the Housing Delivery, and Finance Teams are supporting the programme.
- Council resources in Legal, Land and Property, Strategic Developments and Procurement will be backfilled or newly acquired to support delivery of the purchases.
- A delivery partner will be engaged to deliver the management and maintenance of the properties

Option Analysis: (*Provide an analysis of* ***'other'*** *options which were considered and discounted, the options considered must be a 'do Nothing' and 'do minimum' and 'viable alternative' options. A SWOT – Strength, Benefit, Opportunity, Threat analysis could be attached as an appendix).*	
Do Nothing Option	Do not increase level of temporary accommodation
List Benefits:	No borrowing required
List Risk / Issues:	Budget pressures will continue to rise as homeless households will continue to be accommodated in expensive nightly paid temporary accommodation and the Council will continue to fail to meet its statutory duty.
Cost:	Growing pressure on current £2.4 million budget pressure
Why did you discount this option	There is a requirement to respond to the increase in homelessness and the related budget pressure. To do nothing would not support the need to meet statutory homelessness duties or the need to reduce the related budget pressure.
Do Minimum Option	Borrow less and purchase fewer units
List Benefits:	Less borrowing required
List Risk / Issues:	Budget pressures will continue to rise as homeless households continue to be accommodated in expensive nightly paid temporary accommodation and the Council will continue to fail to meet its statutory duty.
Cost:	At least existing £2.4 million pressure

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Why did you discount this option	This would not provide sufficient accommodation to meet the demand and manage the budget pressure
Viable Alternative Option	Ask partner Registered Provider (RP) organisations to provide more emergency temporary accommodation
List Benefits:	No borrowing required
List Risk / Issues:	No capacity in RP partners to do this. No control over the speed of delivery. Change of use of existing stock impacts and reduces the number of general needs properties which is already failing to meet demand.
Cost:	Any viability gap requests to support RP partners to provide additional accommodation
Why did you discount this option	No partner currently has capacity or appetite to provide this option. This is not a time effective option in the current climate

Strategic Case:	
Which Corporate Plan priorities does this project deliver?	keep young people, children and adults protected
	focus on prevention and early intervention
	reduced health inequalities
	people feel safe in Plymouth

Milestones and Date:		
Contract Award Date	Start On Site Date	Completion Date
Executive Decision	As soon as possible	When full allocation has been spent

SECTION 2: PROJECT RISK, OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

Risk Register: *The Risk Register/Risk Log is a master document created during the early stages of a project. It includes information about each identified risk, level of risk, who owns it and what measures are in place to mitigate the risks (cut and paste more boxes if required).*

Potential Risks Identified		***Likelihood***	***Impact***	***Overall Rating***
Risk	Stock conditions in Plymouth due to considerable volume of older stock could be a challenge in acquiring suitable properties.	Low	Medium	Medium
Mitigation	Newer properties will be the preferred option within 10-year NHBC (National House Building Council) Surveys will be carried out prior to a decision to purchase.	High	Medium	High

	Any additional mitigation will be dealt with through the acquisition strategy (Part 2 commercially sensitive)				
Calculated risk value in £ (Extent of financial risk)	Commercially sensitive information	***Risk Owner***	Jackie Kings		
Risk	Unable to identify sufficient properties capable of being refurbished to a high enough standard		Low	Medium	Medium
Mitigation	Newer properties will be preferred option. Any additional mitigation will be dealt with through the acquisition strategy (Part II commercially sensitive)		Medium	Medium	Medium
Calculated risk value in £ (Extent of financial risk)	Commercially sensitive information	***Risk Owner***	Jackie Kings		
Risk	Sales falling through near the final stages in acquisition resulting in abortive costs impacting revenue budget.		Low	Medium	Low
Mitigation	• Vacant properties and new to market properties are part of preferred option. • Costs will be absorbed into savings from capital delivery across this project and built into Service revenue budgets. • Any additional mitigation will be dealt with through the acquisition strategy (Part II commercially sensitive)		Medium	Medium	Medium
Calculated risk value in £ (Extent of financial risk)	Commercially sensitive information	***Risk Owner***	Jackie Kings		
Risk	House prices and/or borrowing costs increase		Low	Medium	Medium
Mitigation	Current indications are that house prices are falling, and interest rates have stabilised. If either prediction is incorrect this will result in fewer homes being purchased or a greater number of smaller, therefore cheaper, homes.		High	Medium	High
Calculated risk value in £ (Extent of financial risk)	£0	***Risk Owner***	Jackie Kings		

Outcomes and Benefits

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List the outcomes and benefits expected from this project. *(An **outcome** is the result of the change derived from using the project's deliverables. This section should describe the anticipated outcome)* *(A **benefit** is the measurable improvement resulting from an outcome that is perceived as an advantage. Benefits are the expected value to be delivered by the project, measurable whenever possible)*	
Financial outcomes and benefits:	**Non-financial outcomes and benefits:**
Increase in PCC's accommodation to meet statutory duties	Additional affordable, suitable temporary accommodation for homeless families. In the future, these properties can be used for general needs.
Reduced nightly paid accommodation costs to meet statutory homelessness duties reducing the existing £2.4 million pressure	Households are in good quality temporary accommodation with support that meets their needs, whilst they wait for an offer of an affordable longer-term home
Increased health and wellbeing outcomes for households reducing impact on wider council and partner resources in the short, medium and long term	Children are less impacted through homelessness as a result of being in a temporary home
	Freeing up hospitality accommodation to increase visitor spend in the city

SECTION 3: CONSULTATION			
Does this business case need to go to CMT	Yes	**Date business case approved by CMT** *(if required)*	31/10/2023

Climate Impact Assessment

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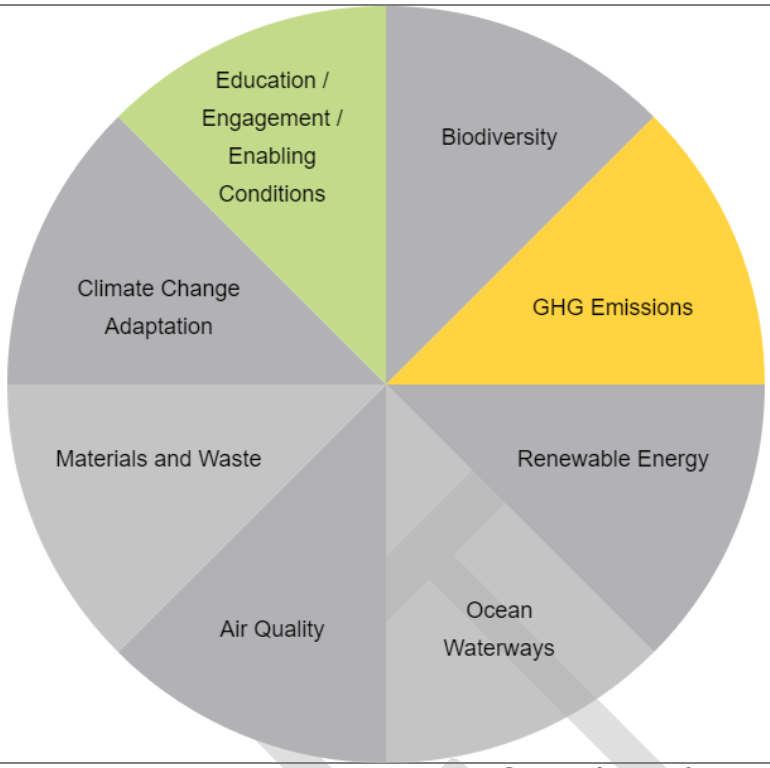
Upload Climate Impact Wheel	
Summary of the anticipated impact of the proposal on the climate (including any proposed mitigations and impacts beyond 2030)	Bringing temporary accommodation within the Council's portfolio will increase the Council's corporate carbon footprint in the short term. In the long term, this offers the opportunity to improve the energy efficiency of these properties and add renewable energy capacity which will support the city's net zero trajectory and reduce the impact on corporate emissions. In the short term, the intention is to source A-C EPC rated accommodation, and we are mandated to improve that if properties fall below 'C'. At a city level, the climate impacts are likely to be minimal due to sourcing from existing housing stocks rather than new build. Steps will also be taken to ensure selected sites provide access to public and active modes of travel and are within walking distance of amenities as much as possible. Meanwhile - providing homeless residents with accommodation increases their agency to adopt climate friendly behaviours.

Have you engaged with Procurement Service?	Yes
Procurement route options considered for goods, services or works	Framework or full tender process if required
Procurements Recommended route.	TBC if required
Who is your Procurement Lead?	Kim Kingdom
Is this business case a purchase of a commercial property?	No

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If yes, then provide evidence to show that it is not 'primarily for yield'	

Which Members have you engaged with and how have they been consulted *(including the Leader, Portfolio Holders and Ward Members)*	Cllr Penberthy, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities and Cllr Lowry, Portfolio Holder for Finance both through Portfolio Holder meetings and the Homelessness Workshop.

Confirm you have taken necessary Legal advice, is this proposal State Aid compliant, if yes please explain why.	**Yes – no subsidy control issues**
Who is your Legal advisor you have consulted with?	Alison Critchfield

Equalities Impact Assessment completed *(This is a working document which should inform the project throughout its development. The final version will need to be submitted with your Executive Decision)*	Yes

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT: *In this section the robustness of the proposals should be set out in financial terms. The Project Manager will need to work closely with the capital and revenue finance teams to ensure that these sections demonstrate the affordability of the proposals to the Council as a whole. Exact amounts only throughout the paper - not to be rounded.*

Capital Costs and Financing are commercially sensitive and contained within Part II of this report.

CAPITAL COSTS AND FINANCING								
Breakdown of project costs including fees surveys and contingency	**Prev. Yr.** £	**23/24** £	**24/25** £	**25/26** £	**26/27** £	**27/28** £	**Future Yrs.** £	**Total** £
Total capital spend			**15,000,000**					

Provide details of proposed funding: ***Funding to match with Project Value***								
Breakdown of proposed funding	**Prev. Yr. £**	**23/24 £**	**24/25 £**	**25/26 £**	**26/27 £**	**27/28 £**	**Future Yrs. £**	**Total £**
Service Borrowing			10,000,000					
Grant (subject to bid)			5,000,000					
Total funding			**15,000,000**					

S106 or CIL *(Provide Planning App or site numbers)*	N/A
Which alternative external funding sources been explored	Homes England Affordable Homes Programme Grant
Are there any bidding constraints and/or any restrictions or conditions attached to your funding	RP Investment Partner Status with Homes England needs to be submitted and if successful, grants will require property purchased to be on an affordable or social rent model. This is in line with our approach and financial modelling. Homes England stipulate that a social rent or an affordable rent model must be applied to the rent and service charge of each of the properties and that they must meet regulatory standards. If these properties are no longer used as affordable homes, the Council will be required to recycle or pay back the grant contribution.
Tax and VAT implications	The receipt of rental income from the residential properties will relate to a VAT-exempt activity of the Council. This means that the VAT incurred by the Council on costs relating to the purchase of the properties, and the future ongoing revenue costs, will need to be included in the Council's partial exemption review and so the expenditure will need to be identified and closely monitored to ensure that the VAT is fully recoverable by the Council. Since the properties will be used for a residential purpose, the Council will be unable to opt to tax the properties to be able to exclude the VAT on costs from the partial exemption calculation. It might be necessary, therefore, to obtain external VAT advice.
Tax and VAT reviewed by	Sarah Scott

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Will this project deliver capital receipts? *(If so, please provide details)*	There will be no immediate capital receipts however the homes purchased could potentially be sold to provide capital receipts in the future should the need for them reduce. Any Homes England funding would need to be recycled into affordable housing provision.

REVENUE COSTS AND IMPLICATIONS	
Cost of Developing the Capital Project *(To be incurred at risk to Service area)*	
Total Cost of developing the project	£0
Revenue cost code for the development costs	2887/6401
Revenue costs incurred for developing the project are to be included in the capital total, some of the expenditure could be capitalised if it meets the criteria	Y
Budget Managers Name	Jackie Kings

Full revenue costs and implications are commercially sensitive and contained in Part 2.

Version Control: *(The version control table must be updated and signed off each time a change is made to the document to provide an audit trail for the revision and update of draft and final versions)*		
Author of Business Case	**Document Version**	**Date**
Ruth Tune Holmes	v 1.0	02/10/2023
Liz Dunster	v 2.0	06/10/2023
Anna Leigh Selvester	v 3.0	10/10/2023
Jackie Kings	v 4.0	13/10/23
Jackie Kings	v 5.0	26/10/2023
Jackie Kings	v 6.0	10/11/2023
Jackie Kings	v 7.0	28/11/2023

SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATION AND ENDORSEMENT

Recommended Decision

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Approve the Business Case to enable the purchase of properties to
  a) provide appropriate supported temporary accommodation for homeless households as an alternative to bed and breakfast and other high cost nightly paid accommodation, and;
  b) support reduction of temporary accommodation costs;

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- Allocate £10,000,000 for the project into the Capital Programme funded by service borrowing;

- Allocate up to £5,000,000 of Homes England grant to the Capital Programme, subject to successful bid;

- Delegate the approval of individual and bulk purchases to the Service Director for Community Connections for all purchases within the approved financial envelop in consultation with the cross departmental Strategic Steering Group, Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities and Cabinet Member for Finance.

- Authorises the Service Director for Community Connections to approve business cases and award contracts relating to this project where they would otherwise not have authority to do so.

Cllr Penberthy		***Service Director Matt Garrett***	
Either email dated:	*25/11/2023*	**Either email dated:**	*24/11/2023*
Or signed:		**Signed:**	
Date:		**Date:**	

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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – PURCHASE OF ACCOMMODATION TO MEET HOMELESSNESS DEMAND AND MANAGE BUDGETARY PRESSURES

SECTION ONE: INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Author(s): This is the person completing the EIA template.	Jackie Kings	**Department and service:**	Community Connections	**Date of assessment:**	04 October 2023
Lead Officer: Please note that a Head of Service, Service Director, or Strategic Director must approve the EIA.	Matt Garrett	**Signature:**		**Approval date:**	30 November 23
Overview:	Plymouth City Council is facing increased demand from people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and in turn is expending significant resources on providing emergency and temporary accommodation. This project will directly delivering good quality and affordable temporary accommodation in Plymouth for homeless families. . • PCC aims to buy properties • PCC will use £10m of service borrowing • PCC will bid for capital grant from Homes England and the Department of Levelling Up, Homes and Communities				
Decision required:	1. Approve the Business Case to enable the purchase of properties to a) provide appropriate supported temporary accommodation for homeless households as an alternative to bed and breakfast and other high cost nightly paid accommodation, and; b) support reduction of temporary accommodation costs; 2. Allocate £10,000,000 for the project into the Capital Programme funded by service borrowing;				

	3. Allocate up to £5,000,000 of Homes England grant to the Capital Programme, subject to successful bid; 4. Delegate the approval of individual and bulk purchases to the Service Director for Community Connections for all purchases within the approved financial envelope in consultation with the cross departmental Strategic Steering Group, Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities and Cabinet Member for Finance. 5. Authorises the Service Director for Community Connections to approve business cases and award contracts relating to this project where they would otherwise not have authority to do so.

SECTION TWO: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL

Potential external impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact service users, communities or residents with protected characteristics?	**Yes**		**No**	x
Potential internal impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact Plymouth City Council employees?	**Yes**		**No**	x
Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (if you have answered yes to either of the questions above then a full impact assessment is required and you must complete section three)	**Yes**		**No**	x
If you do not agree that a full equality impact assessment is required, please set out your justification for why not.	Full EIA not required as the purchase and provision of supported accommodation is inclusive to those experiencing homelessness in line with legislation. There is no risk of discrimination.			

SECTION THREE: FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Protected characteristics (Equality Act, 2010)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and consultation feedback)	Adverse impact	Mitigation activities	Timescale and responsible department

Age	Plymouth • 16.4 per cent of people in Plymouth are children aged under 15. • 65.1 per cent are adults aged 15 to 64. • 18.5 percent are adults aged 65 and over. • 2.4 percent of the resident population are 85 and over. South West • 15.9 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14, 61.8 per cent are aged 15 to 64. • 22.3 per cent are aged 65 and over. England • 17.4 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14. • 64.2 per cent of people are aged 15 to 64. • 18.4 per cent of people are aged 65 and over. (2021 Census)			
Care experienced individuals (Note that as per the Independent Review of Children's Social Care recommendations,	It is estimated that 26 per cent of the homeless population in the UK have care experience. In Plymouth there are currently 7 per cent of care leavers open to the service (6 per cent aged 18-20 and 12 per cent of those aged 21+) who are in unsuitable accommodation. The Care Review reported that 41 per cent of 19-21 year old care leavers are not in			

Plymouth City Council is treating care experience as though it is a protected characteristic).	education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 12 per cent of all other young people in the same age group. In Plymouth there are currently 50 per cent of care leavers aged 18-21 Not in Education Training or Employment (54 per cent of all those care leavers aged 18-24 who are open to the service). There are currently 195 care leavers aged 18 to 20 (statutory service) and 58 aged 21 to 24 (extended offer). There are more care leavers aged 21 to 24 who could return for support from services if they wished to.			
Disability	9.4 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited 'a lot' because of a physical or mental health problem. 12.2 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited 'a little' because of a physical or mental health problem (2021 Census)			
Gender reassignment	0.5 per cent of residents in Plymouth have a gender identity that is different from their sex registered at birth. 0.1 per cent of residents identify as a trans man, 0.1 per cent identify as non-binary and, 0.1 per cent identify as a trans women (2021 Census).			
Marriage and civil partnership	40.1 per cent of residents have never married and never registered a civil partnership. 10 per cent are divorced, 6 percent are widowed, with 2.5 per cent are separated but still married. 0.49 per cent of residents are, or were, married or in a civil partnerships of the same			

	sex. 0.06 per cent of residents are in a civil partnerships with the opposite sex (2021 Census).			
Pregnancy and maternity	The total fertility rate (TFR) for England was 1.62 children per woman in 2021. The total fertility rate (TFR) for Plymouth in 2021 was 1.5.			
Race	In 2021, 94.9 per cent of Plymouth's population identified their ethnicity as White, 2.3 per cent as Asian and 1.1 per cent as Black (2021 Census) People with a mixed ethnic background comprised 1.8 per cent of the population. 1 per cent of the population use a different term to describe their ethnicity (2021 Census) 92.7 per cent of residents speak English as their main language. 2021 Census data shows that after English, Polish, Romanian, Chinese, Portuguese, and Arabic are the most spoken languages in Plymouth (2021 Census).			
Religion or belief	48.9 per cent of the Plymouth population stated they had no religion. 42.5 per cent of the population identified as Christian (2021 Census). Those who identified as Muslim account for 1.3 per cent of Plymouth's population while Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish or Sikh combined totalled less than 1 per cent (2021 Census).			
Sex	51 per cent of our population are women and 49 per cent are men (2021 Census			

Sexual orientation	88.95 per cent of residents aged 16 years and over in Plymouth describe their sexual orientation as straight or heterosexual. 2.06 per cent describe their sexuality as bisexual, 1.97 per cent of people describe their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian. 0.42 per cent of residents describe their sexual orientation using a different term (2021 Census).			

SECTION FOUR: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Human Rights	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
		Not applicable	

SECTION FIVE: OUR EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

Equality objectives	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
Celebrate diversity and ensure that Plymouth is a welcoming city.		Not applicable	
Pay equality for women, and staff with disabilities in our workforce.		Not applicable	
Supporting our workforce through the implementation of Our People Strategy 2020 – 2024		Not applicable	
Supporting victims of hate crime so they feel confident to report incidents, and working with, and		Not applicable	

through our partner organisations to achieve positive outcomes.			
Plymouth is a city where people from different backgrounds get along well.		Not applicable	

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The following relates to exempt or confidential matters (Para(s) 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Govt Act 1972). Any breach of confidentiality could prejudice the Council/person/body concerned & might amount to a breach of the councillors /employees codes of conduct.

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