



Oversight and Governance

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

Please ask for Hannah Whiting
T 01752 305155
E democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk
www.plymouth.gov.uk
Published 13 February 2024

PERFORMANCE, FINANCE AND CUSTOMER FOCUS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday 21 February 2024
2.00 pm
Warspite Room, Council House

Members:

Councillor Darcy, Chair

Councillor Goslin, Vice Chair

Councillors Allen, Bingley, Blight, Hendy, Moore, Poyser, Ricketts, Stevens, Stoneman, Tofan and Tuohy.

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

Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 22)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2023 and the Budget Scrutiny Select Committee Review meeting held on 6 & 7 December 2023.

4. Chair's Urgent Business

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

5. Financial Monitoring Report: (Pages 23 - 32)

6. Corporate Plan Performance Report & Risk Update: (Pages 33 - 70)

7. Policy Brief: (Verbal Report)

8. HR & Organisational Development Priorities & Update: (Pages 71 - 82)

9. Serious Violence Duty Action Plan and Funding Proposal: (Pages 83 - 204)

10. Petition - Plympton District Car Parks: (Pages 205 - 212)

11. Work Programme: (Pages 213 - 216)

12. Tracking Decisions: (Pages 217 - 218)

Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 15 November 2023

PRESENT:

Councillor Darcy, in the Chair.

Councillor Goslin, Vice Chair.

Councillors Blight, Hendy, Moore, Poyser, Ricketts, Stevens, Stoneman, Tofan and Tuohy.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Allen.

Absent: Councillor Bingley.

Also in attendance: Councillor Lowry, Councillor Penberthy, Rosie Brookshaw-Williams (Democratic Advisor – observing), Matt Garratt (Service Director for Community Connections), Jackie Kings (Community Connections Strategic Manager), David Northey (Interim Section 151 Officer) and Hannah Whiting (Democratic Advisor).

The meeting started at 3.30 pm and finished at 4.33 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel 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.

22. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

23. **Minutes**

The following issues were raised in relation to the minutes of the previous meeting:

- a) Councillor Stoneman questioned the wording of his declaration of interest, and it was agreed the minutes would be edited to make it clear the family member was in the team concerned at the time of the meeting;
- b) Councillor Tuohy questioned her being listed as apologies for the previous meeting, as she believed she was in attendance, but having reviewed the YouTube footage of the meeting, it was concluded she had not attended.

After the amendment was made, the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

24. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

25. **Financial Monitoring Report Month 6**

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

- a) The report covered 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023;
- b) There had been a reduction in the overspend from £7.5 million to £4.76 million;
- c) Most of the issues reported at the previous meeting still existed, particularly within Children's Services where there was a projected overspend of £6 million, equating to 10% of the original budget, and it was not sustainable, but work was being done with improvement partners to better understand the issues and to get some assurance that the measures in place were the best to contain the overspend;
- d) Other areas of overspend included homelessness and school transport for children with special educational needs;
- e) The capital monitoring position revised budget reflected an additional £18.6 million in 2023/24 financial year and a further £18.2 million for 2024/25 to 2027/28;
- f) He was working with officers on a review of the capital programme to ensure its affordability due to increases in interest rates.

The Chair added:

- g) The outturn report would be considered at the City Council meeting the following week;
- h) The report would also help inform the Budget Scrutiny Select Committee Review, scheduled for 6 and 7 December 2023.

In response to questions, supported by David Northey (Interim Section 151 Officer), it was explained:

- i) As a consequence of the COVID19 pandemic, a large number of businesses were unable to pay business rates, and the Government paid that money to the Council instead, but there was an outstanding deficit to the Council of £900,000, which the Council wrote to Government about and had now had paid;
- j) Future reports would include details on the changes that had been made since previous reports so show the variance in different budgets, not just the forecast net variance;

- k) £500,000 had been moved from revenue to capital following review of projects and finding parts of projects that could be included as capital and a detailed explanation of what had been moved would be provided to members;
- l) The Council tried to optimise the money it had in advance for the year to get the highest interest rate possible, and did the same for its reserves, and the treasury management team had overachieved and had been able to release £500,000 to the revenue budget, which would be detailed in the Treasury Management Half-Year Report which would be published shortly for the November meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee;
- m) An external commissioner had been appointed to assist the Council with regards to managing the Children's Services budget and there had been a tremendous amount of progress, but there were still issues to resolve and there was a possibility that the area would see worsening overspend before the end of the financial year;
- n) David Northey was confident that the Council would reach a balanced budget by the end of the financial year.

The Committee 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 that the Capital Budget 2023-2028 was revised to £629.924m as shown in Table 1 and recommended these amendments to City Council for approval.

26. **Homelessness**

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

- a) Homelessness in Plymouth was at an all-time high with record numbers of people approaching the council for housing support;
- b) There were more families than ever before living in temporary accommodation, and the length families were without a permanent home, was increasing;
- c) The increase had been attributed to the cost of living crisis, high interest rates and the long term economic impacts of the COVID19 pandemic;
- d) There was a national housing crisis;
- e) The team at Plymouth had been working hard to increase the provision of resource and temporary accommodation in the city, and although this was

beginning to have a positive impact, lead-in times for building homes etc, were lengthy;

- f) The Homelessness Recovery Board had been set up to work with partners with the aim of ending homelessness, and to get people out of temporary accommodation and into permanent homes;
- g) Prevention work was also important, but difficult as the local housing allowance had been frozen since 2020, something senior government members were lobbying to change, as it should mean that a third of private rented sector properties were within reach of people in receipt of benefits, but it seemed that there were no rented properties in the city within the local housing allowance framework;
- h) Housing providers needed the local housing allowance in order to get mortgages to develop new properties, and without the local housing allowance increase, there was a viability gap because providers were not able to borrow against the difference in their rental income and so new affordable housing provision had slowed at a time where it needed to be increased;
- i) He had set up a Housing Task Force with Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) to involved senior officers from across Plymouth City Council from community connections, finance, commissioning, planning, public health, policy and more to try and provide solutions to the housing crisis within Plymouth;
- j) The team were working with providers to create specialist emergency accommodation to meet different needs for single people, couples, young people and families, providing the right support for people at a challenging time;
- k) Loans had been provided to PATH and Young Devon to enable them to develop temporary housing stock;
- l) There were more than 40 housing developments being supported by council officers, with 3,000 homes, to include provision of affordable homes;
- m) There was more in the pipeline that would be announced in the coming months, including a decision due to be taken at the December 2023 meeting of Cabinet.

Jackie Kings (Community Connections Strategic Manager) added:

- n) The impact of the COVID19 pandemic, could not be underestimated; it had had a significant impact on unemployment as well as health and well-being, and other reasons people had been listing as the reason for becoming homeless included increased in utility costs and increase mortgages rates and rents;
- o) In Plymouth there was a reduced affordable private rented sector market as rents had increased significantly and were unaffordable for many, but in

addition there had been a decrease in properties as landlords were exiting the market due to increased costs, to exit the market altogether, or to enter into something more lucrative such as Airbnb;

- p) No properties were available at an affordable rate in Plymouth;
- q) The numbers of people presenting as homeless and seeking advice had increased significantly year on year since 2021/22;
- r) There were high numbers in temporary accommodation due to a shortage of permanent accommodations, with most in B&B's and nightly holiday lets , which was having a significant impact on the budget;
- s) Section 21 Notices (no fault evictions) were the primary reason for people presenting as homeless, usually because landlords were having to sell their properties or change their business;
- t) A number of people had moved in with family and friends during the COVID19 pandemic, but were finding that goodwill had run out, but they could not afford a property, and therefore, were homeless, but the team did investigate alternative ways to sustain people in that accommodation, rather than moving them into temporary accommodation e.g. provision of storage, or bunk beds;
- u) The third highest reason for people presenting as homeless was people fleeing domestic abuse;
- v) The team had continued to work with Alliance partners to sustain and increase temporary accommodation, increasing single homeless accommodation by 138 rooms from 2020-23, and increasing family accommodation by 88 homes from 2020-23;
- w) The Homelessness Recovery Board had 4 pillars of activity:
 - i. Reducing Demand for Homelessness Services
 - ii. Reducing Reliance on Nightly Paid Emergency Accommodation
 - iii. Creating a more sustainable moving on service
 - iv. Increasing Long Term Housing Solutions

More detail on the work being done within these four areas was detailed on the presentation during the meeting which can be accessed at this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/PerfScrutinyNovPresentation>

In response to questions, supported also by Matt Garrett (Service Director for Community Connections), it was further explained:

- x) The homelessness prevention grant from Government tended to be a last minute add-on and used to be provided during the year, but had recently been given in one sum annually, the amount for 2024/25 was not yet known;

- y) Planning the commissioning of services would be far easier if Government were more clear about long-term homelessness prevention funding;
- z) Five years previous, the budget for pay by night accommodation was £800,000, but this had increased to around £6 million in 2023/24;
- aa) 10's of millions of pounds would be needed to build the number of homes required, but that would only tackle the existing issue and not the continuing increase;
- bb) The waiting list for homes had increased from 8,000 to 12,000 in the last 18 months;
- cc) Floating support was support that went to the people in need to support them wherever they were staying whether it be in temporary accommodation, or at risk of homeless at a family members home;
- dd) Some properties were leaving the affordable rental market because existing or new landlords were renovating homes and then renting them at a higher market rent;
- ee) There had been an increase in people relocating to the South West from the South East as they were able to work from home more;
- ff) A relationship breakdown would cause a need for two homes, rather than one, putting further pressure on the system;
- gg) Airbnb use was increasing in Plymouth and a number of family homes had moved from the private rental market to pay-by-night, but the team had spoken to some Airbnb owners about reducing costs to rent as temporary accommodation for families;
- hh) Plymouth had a higher number of private rented properties than most cities of its size, and far less owner occupied properties;
- ii) Work would be done on reporting to better understand the reasons included under 'other' for people presenting as homelessness;
- jj) Most people fleeing harassment, who presented as homeless, were local, if not from the wider South West;
- kk) Recruitment for supportive roles within the sector was difficult as the wages were not high, but the stress levels were, resulting in a lot of churn within the sector;
- ll) Councillor Penberthy publicly thanked the people working in the sector for their compassion and hard work to find people permanent homes;
- mm) It was the hardest time to have ever worked in homelessness;

- nn) Resourcing was okay, a restructure was being undertaken that was going to lead to more resource within the team;
- oo) One of the largest concerns relating to grant funding and how services would be delivered if grants were not continued;
- pp) Consistency and certainty in terms of government roles and funding from Government would benefit the sector as it was a complicated issue;
- qq) There had been a more person-focused approach and joint working between Community Connections, Children's Social Care and Adult Social Care.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

27. **Work Programme**

The Committee agreed to note its Work Programme.

28. **Tracking Decisions**

The Committee agreed to note its tracking decisions document.

This page is intentionally left blank

Select Committee Review – Budget Scrutiny

Wednesday 6 December 2023 & Thursday 7 December 2023

PRESENT:

Councillor Darcy, in the Chair.

Councillor Murphy, Vice Chair.

Councillors Bingley, Blight, Carlyle, Harrison, Nicholson, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Stephens, Tippetts and Tuffin.

1. Appointment of Vice Chair

The Committee agreed that Councillor Pauline Murphy would be Vice Chair for the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Chairs Urgent Business

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

4. Session One - Welcome and Overview

Also in attendance: Councillor Evans OBE, Councillor Laing, David Draffan (Service Director for Economic Development), Ross Jago (Head of Governance, Performance and Risk), Tracey Lee (Chief Executive), David Northey (Interim Service Director for Finance) and Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place).

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) provided an overview to the process and the conditions under which the budget was set:

- a) The national economy was inflicted with elevated levels of inflation and the associated uplift in the minimum wage was affecting the levels of spending on the council budget;
- b) Increases in costs to Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care, including SEND costs and the increase in cost of transport for these individuals;
- c) As many as one in five councils were on the cusp of bankruptcy;
- d) As a top tier unitary authority with more than 300 services to operate, certain choices would need to be made to between the funding of certain services;

e) There were strategies and funding in place for various projects, such as the Freeport, Levelling up bid, National Marine Park and shore power.

In response to questions, the following was discussed:

- f) The aspirations and rationale of the budget;
- g) The outlook and impact of increased funding in Children's Services;
- h) The impact of the minimum wage increase, pensions and Revenue Support Grant funding;
- i) Support for small schemes of money such as community grants and living streets funds;
- j) The 2% precept uplift for council tax;
- k) The potential savings from the instigation of annual elections;
- l) Workforce Productivity, flexible working and building occupancy;
- m) Risk Management and review of risk management processes;
- n) The Council Tax collection rate;
- o) Accessibility to services, equality and stakeholder engagement and consultation;
- p) Economic development, growth, investments and the quality of, social values of and return on said investments;
- q) The capital programme and the needs and allocated budget and the moving of revenue to capital;
- r) The localness and social values of spending, investment and procurement;
- s) Staff sickness absence, well-being and the use of contractors/temps.

5. **Session Two - Health and Social Care**

Also in attendance: Councillor Aspinall, Councillor Lowry, Emma Crowther (Interim Head of Commissioning), Julie Frier (Consultant in Public Health Medicine), (Ross Jago (Head of Governance, Performance and Risk), David Northey (Interim Service Director for Finance) and Helen Slater (Lead Accountancy Manager).

Councillor Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) gave an overview of the areas budget and discussed:

- a) The 2023/24 Adult Social Care (ASC) budget was £88.859m including £107m for care packages. Budgets were offset by client income and grant funding;
- b) The budget had supported 4,713 people in residential and nursing homes, community settings, and through direct payments;
- c) ASC currently supported 3,620 individuals. Demand for support had approximately returned to pre-pandemic levels however, increased complexity of need and the 'cost of living crisis' had resulted in considerable cost pressures;
- d) Compared to the previous year, average weekly costs of residential care had risen 8.9%, nursing care had risen 18.6%, and domiciliary care packages had risen 10.7%;
- e) The 2024/25 draft budget for ASC was £97 MM, which included a growth of £7.99 MM to reflect inflationary and demand pressures.
- f) £3.448 MM had been added to the budget to cover the rise in the National Minimum Wage however, confirmed figures of 11.44 /hr would require an additional £1.99 MM;
- g) The Local Government Settlement was due on 19 December 2023 however, Government would not be providing financial resources to cover the increase in the National Minimum Wage;
- h) Packages of care were tailor-made to individual's needs, and were subject to review;

In response to questions, the Committee discussed:

- i) The Local Authorities responsibility for ensuring ASC needs were met;
- j) The impact of inflation and the cost of living on providers in the care market;
- k) Close partnership between the PCC commissioning team and care providers to ensure quality and continuity of care;
- l) The establishment of 'Caring Plymouth' to encourage and support people into caring roles;
- m) The Governments' new restrictions on immigration could negatively affect the sector, particularly as many workers could not bring their families;
- n) Positive discharge performance for Devon, Cornwall and Plymouth;
- o) An estimated 6% rise for care fees and charges for those who were financially assessed as required to contribute toward their care;

- p) The Government's withdrawal of previous commitments to the development of the Colin Campbell Court, West End Hub;
- q) The development of a Community Diagnostic Centre on the land at Colin Campbell Court;
- r) Ongoing communications between PCC and NHS Devon ICB to improve the health outcomes of the city. ICB funding was frozen until 2025;
- s) The impact of early intervention and treatment, both for long term wellbeing, and financial efficiency;
- t) A Strategic Needs Assessment had been undertaken to assess the long term future needs of the city;
- u) The recovery of waiting lists for Domiciliary care to 15 people waiting per week, as opposed to over 200 during the COVID19 Pandemic;
- v) The ongoing monitoring of performance and safeguarding metrics, and the role of the CQC in providing regulatory oversight;
- w) An ongoing need to improve 'No Criteria to Reside' performance at University Hospitals Plymouth (UHP), particularly for Cornwall which experienced higher delays;
- x) The expanding use of 'care in the community' and virtual wards to reduce pressure on hospital admissions;
- y) The development of the 'Caring Plymouth' programme;
- z) The need for Plymouth to receive its 'Fair Shares' funding from the ICB;
- aa) Planned zoning for new domiciliary care contract procurement to enable each agency to take the lead for one area within the city;
- bb) Following a rise in adult safeguarding costs due to demand pressures, a review had been commissioned and ongoing training was being provided to staff to ensure referrals were appropriate;
- cc) Ongoing work being undertaken to identify and address health inequalities within the city.

Councillor Aspinall concluded by saying that:

- dd) The team and herself were confident that, despite many pressures and ongoing challenges, the budget gap would be closed;
- ee) Next year's budget was of large concern. PCC were currently awaiting the Local Government Settlement announcement however, the Public Health budget had always been under-financed. Additional funding would be required

to meet challenges caused by the rise in the national minimum wage, inflationary pressures, and rising complexity of need.

6. **Session Three - Children and Young People**

Also in attendance: Councillor Cresswell and Councillor Laing, Nigel Denning (Interim Service Director for Children, Young People and Families), Matt Fulton (Lead Accountancy Manager for Children, Young People and Families), Annie Gammon (Interim Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills), David Haley (Director of Children's Services), Ross Jago (Head of Governance, Performance and Risk), and Louise Jenkins (Lead Accountancy Manager for Education, Participation and Skills).

Councillor Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships) gave an overview of education and highlighted:

- a) There was a budget uplift of £1.37 million for expected cost and volume pressures in Home to School Transport (£1 million) and SEND short breaks (£0.37 million);
- b) There was an overspend of £1.889 million due to an increase in the number of children meeting statutory thresholds at increasing costs related to home to school transport;
- c) The number of children with an Educational Health Care Plan increased by 36%;
- d) Additional funding of £2.42 million would be required in 2024/25 budget due to additional pressures within home to school transport;
- e) The service would be looking to ensure children's needs were being met in a school or specialist provision closer to home;
- f) The Service was delivering the Local Area SEND action plan following a local area inspection in 2023 which would improve inclusion and school attendance and reduce mobility and exclusions;
- g) All other budget pressures were predicted to be balanced for 2023/24;
- h) Long term actions were being planned to control costs in 2024/25 and into the future;
- i) The Council would look to maintain children and young people in their local schools rather than specialist provision;
- j) The Council would increase the number of special schools and places in Plymouth to meet the increased demand into the future;
- k) The Council was evaluating route optimisation for Home to School Transport and reduce single use taxi routes;

Councillor Laing (Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture, Events and Communications) gave an overview of children and young people and highlighted:

- l) Financial pressures for Children's Social Care were due to high cost residential placements and the use of Independent Fostering Agencies;
- m) Additional investment was provided to Children's Social Care to manage capacity within the services;
- n) Additional budget was proposed to provide additional capacity for the predicted number of families requiring a service from the Council;
- o) A recruitment and retention package would be formulated to entice potential foster carers to the Council;
- p) The Council was exploring new ways to help children and young people to live with their families under connected carer arrangements.

In response to questions, the following was discussed:

- q) Good planning of special educational needs provision and lower transport costs;
- r) The Council would look to provide as many placements as possible in mainstream schools;
- s) The Council would be driving early intervention in both services to reduce the number of EHCP applications and to reduce the number of high cost placements for cared for children and young people;
- t) Partnerships across the city would be vital in the delivery of early intervention and the Council would look to implement its Transformation programme to enact the change required;
- u) The Council would look to develop with partners joint resource allocations and joint commissioning arrangements which were not well developed;
- v) The Council would be moving to a locality approach delivered by multi-disciplinary teams in the city;
- w) A training and development programme would be implemented for the service;
- x) A recruitment drive would begin in January 2024 to permanent posts at senior levels to provide stability, endurance and investment for the future;
- y) The Council would prioritise a reduction in caseloads for social workers which would retain social workers as well as the production of good quality work for families in Plymouth;

- z) Travel training for children and young people would be undertaken to promote independence, but also to reduce costs;
- aa) Personal Advisors for care leavers had increased as those young people were concerned at the level of service they had received;
- bb) The Council was targeting some multi academy trusts where special educational needs was weakest by challenging and supporting them;
- cc) The Council would be working hard to drive down the time for assessments for children requiring an EHCP;
- dd) The Council would look to complete more reviews of ECHP's on time and of good quality;
- ee) Initial discussions would take place with a social housing provider to ring-fence accommodation for the use of Care Leavers;
- ff) The Council was engaging its looked after children in independence skills at a much earlier age;
- gg) The number of children and young people in a school that had been rated good or outstanding had increased significantly;
- hh) Plymouth needed to move at pace into a sector led education space;
- ii) Budget allocation for training staff;
- jj) Potential Council Tax exemptions for Plymouth City Council foster carers;
- kk) The Council would be as part of the sufficiency strategy transitions from primary school to secondary school for children that were hearing impaired;
- ll) Schools energy budgets apart from one had been balanced.

7. **Session Four - Homelessness / Cost of Living**

Also in attendance: Councillor Dann, Councillor Penberthy, Ross Jago (Head of Governance, Performance and Risk), Jackie Kings (Community Connections Strategic Manager), Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive), Rachel Silcock (Community Empowerment & Operational Lead), Helen Slater (Lead Accountancy Manager), Chris Squire (Service Director for HROD), Gary Walbridge (Interim Strategic Director for People).

Councillor Dann (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Sport, Leisure and HR & OD) introduced her budget area and highlighted:

- a) The leisure budget was one of the smaller parts of the budget;

- b) Budget pressures on HR & OD;
- c) Pressures on IT to keep the Council safe, within a tight budget;
- d) A budget saving in business support had not been met;
- e) Cost of Living Action Plan.

Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities) introduced his budget area and highlighted:

- f) The areas his portfolio covered;
- g) He wanted to focus on homelessness, which had been rising nationally due to the cost of living crisis, changes to rental legislation;
- h) 2044 households approached the Council for homelessness support in 2019/20, and the forecast for 2022/23 was over 3700;
- i) The increase in demand had led to an increase in the number of households in emergency accommodation and there had been an increase in the cost of nightly paid accommodation;
- j) A homelessness taskforce had been set up to help drive a homelessness recovery plan as well as develop a new plan for homes;
- k) Alternative forms of temporary accommodation;
- l) Increase in homelessness prevention;
- m) New affordable accommodation;
- n) Additional money had been put into the budget for homelessness.

In response to questions, the following was discussed:

- o) Digital access to contact the Council, and provision for those who were not able to contact digitally;
- p) Rough sleeper numbers fluctuated between 10-20 per night;
- q) £1 million savings target was achievable with changes, meaning that costs would be covered by housing benefit;
- r) £10 million was to be spent on family housing to help reduce the cost of temporary accommodation;
- s) Increased affordable housing provision and use of a direct delivery model;

- t) Plan for Homes 4 was due to go to the Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2024 for pre-decision scrutiny;
- u) Refugee and asylum seeker support schemes and partnership working;
- v) Work with partners on housing pipeline;
- w) Utilisation of technology and automation to be used for some administrative tasks to free up members of staff for other, more complex tasks;
- x) Blue badge application support;
- y) No separate budget for gypsy and traveller encampments;
- z) 23 encampments in 2022/23, with an expected drop in 2023/24;
- aa) Targeted hardening of sites of unauthorised encampments;
- bb) Sites in the Joint Local Plan were being focused on within the Plan for Homes 4;
- cc) There were no plans to release any land in 2024/25, so no budget line for income on this matter;
- dd) IT support provision within community sector;
- ee) Modernisation of Plymouth City Council's website;
- ff) Agency workers;
- gg) Senior leadership team vacancies;
- hh) Apprenticeship opportunities;
- ii) Absence rates;
- jj) Mental Health support and prevention;
- kk) Work with partners on homelessness support for young people;
- ll) Plymouth Active Leisure subsidies and work on increasing revenue;
- mm) Corporate property maintenance prioritisation;
- nn) Homelessness register review;
- oo) Strategic partnerships to generate investment and housing projects;

- pp) Additional pay grades, specialist roles;
- qq) Development of a people plan, to include a focus on apprenticeships, recruitment and retention;
- rr) Community centres;
- ss) Lobbying government for longer term, more holistic funding and the household support fund continuation.

8. **Session Five - Place Services**

Also in attendance: Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change), Councillor Mark Coker (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport), Paul Barnard (Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure), Ross Jago (Head of Governance, Performance and Risk), Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place) and Philip Robinson (Service Director for Street Services).

Councillor Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change) gave an overview of his budget area and highlighted the following points:

- a) Environmental Services, including Environmental Planning and Street Scene, was one of the largest departments in the Council, comprised of nearly 500 staff and had a gross budget of £41 million and a net budget of £21 million;
- b) The largest element of Environmental Services was Street Scene and Waste Services which stood at £8 million net, and included waste recycling collection, street cleansing and grounds;
- c) Environmental Planning had continued to help the Council access external and national funding which would deliver nature and community projects;
- d) The income for Environmental Planning would increase in 2024-25 to £1.9 million;
- e) Statutory services had been carried out to over 123,000 households throughout 2022-23 and the garden waste service had been used by over 26,000 households;
- f) The Climate Impact Assessment Tool had been implemented and applied to all key decisions made by the Council;
- g) Carbon Literacy training had been carried out with officers and Councillors;
- h) A total of over £11 million of grant funding had been secured to aid net zero infrastructure and sustainable transport projects.

Councillor Coker (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport) gave an overview of his budget area and highlighted the following points:

- i) The Department for Transport visited the Bus Section which resulted in a £1.6 million grant for a two year period to maintain and enhance the network;
- j) Active Travel Funding had been successfully acquired and had enabled the delivery of Safer School Street Programmes;
- k) Plymouth was the best Local Authority in the country at delivering cycle training for children in Year 6;
- l) Plymouth had been made the Vice-Chair of the Peninsula Transport Board and Chair of the Rail Task-Force;
- m) Living Streets Budget for Councillors would be reintroduced.

In response to questions, the following was discussed:

- n) All roads in Plymouth were professionally monitored and evaluated and undertook an annual road condition survey;
- o) Section 106 updates for all Councillors would be reintroduced;
- p) Plymouth City Council were working towards a silver accreditation as a carbon literate organisation;
- q) Ongoing contract negotiations were considered in the budget;
- r) The awarded funding from the Department for Transport (DFT) was awarded contractually to the Council to spend on bus services;
- s) A Bus Champion had been introduced to be the go between the bus companies and members of the public;
- t) Plymouth City Council had worked directly with Plymouth Energy Community resulting in an additional £3 million of grant funding, which was directed towards providing insulation and clean heating improvements;
- u) Plymouth City Council wanted to deliver one of the biggest community owned and led solar farms in the country;
- v) By the end of 2024, Plymouth City Council aimed to have the majority of it's electricity sourced from renewables, with the goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2030;
- w) An additional £300,000 had been factored into the budget for grass-cutting;
- x) Plymouth City Council was the first in the country to set up a habitat bank;

- y) The carbon measurement and impact on the climate was considered when using a velocity machine to repair road defects;
- z) Upon responding to fly-tipping reports, the surrounding area would undergo inspection for additional waste;
- aa) Individual officers would be appointed to be responsible for street cleaning hotspots;
- bb) Staff members were put in place to educate schools on waste management;
- cc) Highways did a flooding and severe weather preparation task annually;
- dd) Plymouth City Council was only responsible for 1% of Plymouth's carbon emissions.

9. **Recommendations**

Requests of Government

Highlight the difficulty of operating services in the financial climate and:

1. Request a multi-year finance settlement for the Council against demand-led costs;
2. Request appropriate financial uplifts to deal with the Living Wage and inflation;
3. Request a review of Adult Social Care Funding, so that funding is allocated on need/demand rather than the ability of Councils to raise Council Tax;
4. A long-term strategic funding solution for Homelessness;
5. Welcome an increase in Local Housing Allowance and request that the calculation of the 30th percentile of market value is undertaken in April 2024;
6. Request continuation of the Household Support Fund;
7. Reconsider recently announced changes to immigration rules given the significant impact this is likely to bring to bear on the Social Care workforce;
8. Review home to school transport eligibility and additional options which could mitigate costs to the Local Authority;
9. Highlight that the additional funding for highway maintenance (£366k in 23/24 and 24/25) is insufficient for current requirements.

Recommendations to Cabinet

- I 0. Recommend that work is undertaken to assess the impact upon all council budgets of dealing with unauthorised encampments (UE) and consider a centralised budget to deal with costs so that service budgets are not impacted by UE;
- I 1. Welcome continuation of current Community Grant Scheme and recommend an increased back to £5,000 per member;
- I 2. Re-profile the Capital programme to ensure that the programme is affordable for the revenue budget;
- I 3. Recommend an expansion of the housing programme for Care Leavers;
- I 4. Recommend that a cross party working group is established to consider contractual arrangements for major projects and the methodology for procurement.

Congratulate the Cabinet on

- I 5. Additional Funding provided in the budget for Grass Cutting;
- I 6. The commitment to a new Living Streets programme;
- I 7. Increased involvement of Ward Councillors in discussion related to Section 106 Monies;
- I 8. Commitment to not implementing Car Park charges where they are not currently in place;
- I 9. The new Bus Service Improvement Plan.

This page is intentionally left blank

Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting: 21 February 2024

Title of Report: **Finance Monitoring Report December 2023**

Lead Member: Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)

Lead Strategic Director: David Northey, (Interim Service Director for Finance)

Author: Helen Slater, Lead Accountancy Manager
Wendy Eldridge, Lead Accountancy Manager (Capital and Treasury Management)

Contact Email: David.Northey@plymouth.gov.uk

Your Reference:

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the revenue and capital monitoring position of the Council forecast to the end of the financial year 2023/24 at Period 9.

Recommendations and Reasons

That the Committee notes:

1. The forecast revenue monitoring position at Period 9 as set out in this report in the sum of £1.204m.
Reason: controlling the outturn within budget is essential to maintain financial control.
2. The Capital Budget 2023-2028 is revised to £723.701m as shown in Table 1 and note these will form part of recommended amendments to Full Council for approval at end of quarter 3.
Reason: controlling the outturn within budget is essential to maintain financial control with full transparency on the Capital Investments.

Alternative options considered and rejected.

There are no alternative options – our Financial Regulations require us to produce regular monitoring of our finance resources.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The report is fundamentally linked to delivering the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan. Allocating limited resources to key priorities will maximise the benefits to the residents of Plymouth.

Implications for the Medium-Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Robust and accurate financial monitoring underpins the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The Council's MTFP is updated based on on-going monitoring information, both on a local and national context. Any adverse variations from the annual budget will place pressure on the MTFP going forward and require additional savings to be generated in future years.

Financial Risks:

Financial risks concerning period 9 reporting are discussed in the body of the report and relate to the attainment of a balanced budget position in financial year 2023/24.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

There are no impacts directly arising from this report.

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

The reducing revenue and capital resources across the public sector has been identified as a key risk within our Strategic Risk register. The ability to deliver spending plans within budget is paramount to ensuring the Council can achieve its objectives

Appendices

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

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) <i>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.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	CH 02.02.24 0912	Leg	LS/000 01312/ 1/AC/1 /2/24	Mon Off		HR		Assets		Strat roc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Northey (Interim Service Director for Finance)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 01/02/2024											
Cabinet Member approval: Leader of the Council, Councillor Tudor Evans OBE											
Date approved: 01/02/2024											

SECTION A: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**Table 1: End of year revenue forecast**

	Budget £m	Forecast £m	Variance £m
Total General Fund Budget	218.440	219.644	1.204

1. This report highlights the monitoring position at Month 9 (December 2023) of £1.204m over budget. This is a reduction of £3.050m since Month 8. A breakdown of this is set out in Table 2.
2. Considerable work will be required to reduce spend and increase income, including the use of one-off reserves.
3. The planned in-year savings targets amount to £23.435m. A review of the delivery of these savings has taken place and an update of this is included below. Officers will continue to pursue these savings to ensure delivery by the end of the financial year.

SECTION B: Directorate Review**Table 2: End of year revenue forecast by Directorate**

Directorate	Budget £m	Forecast £m	Forecast Net Variance £m	Status
Executive Office	6.403	6.787	0.384	over
Customer and Corporate Services	51.219	50.528	(0.691)	under
Children's Directorate	63.493	74.280	10.787	over
People Directorate	96.345	100.066	3.721	over
Public Health	2.829	2.629	(0.200)	under
Place Directorate	29.469	29.469	0.000	nil variance
Corporate Account & Council wide items	(31.318)	(44.115)	(12.797)	under
Total	218.440	219.644	1.204	over

Executive Office

Executive Office	Variance £m
Pressures	
3 x By Elections	0.080
Additional special responsibility payments	0.028
Resource pressures within Legal Department Children's Team	0.067
Shortfall on Efficiency/Vacancy Targets	0.081
Shortfall on 2023/24 Savings	0.128
	0.384

Executive Office pressure is due to 3 by-elections which were not budgeted and the decision for planned subscriptions savings being reversed. The reported pressure at M9 remains the same as M8 at £0.384m which includes pressures relating to resourcing and shortfalls on delivery plans to reorganise responsibilities within Policy and Performance and Marketing and Design teams. Work is underway to find management savings to offset this pressure.

Customer and Corporate Services Directorate (CCS)

Customer and Corporate Services	Variance £m
Pressures	
Legacy savings from 2022/23 ICT £1.1m / Contact Centre £0.8m	1.882
Offset by savings:	
Revenue moved to Capital	(0.500)
Release of savings on Energy Costs	(0.600)
One off Council Tax Surplus	(1.473)
	(0.691)

The Directorate is forecasting an overall pressure of £1.882m which is unchanged from Month 8. This is due to legacy savings, budgets brought forward from 2022/23 relating to ICT, Business Support and in-year Directorate savings. The Directorate has identified savings to offset this pressure and will continue to seek ways to further offset the overall Council pressure. Work is also ongoing to mitigate potential pressures against blue badges due to the high cost of issuing badges and other pressures within the service.

Children's Directorate

Children's	Variance £m
-------------------	------------------------

Pressures	
Home to School Transport	1.859
CYPF - High cost children's placements and pending SGO judicial review	4.116
CYPF - Shortfall on 2023/24 Savings	4.220
CYPF – BAU/Agency Pressures	0.592
	10.787

Within Children's Social Care, December has seen an increase of £0.366m in Placements budgets due to increased Supported Living numbers and new Residential and Bespoke Placements. Within the Service additional Agency Worker costs have increased the forecast by £0.486m. Delivery plan targets totalling £4.220m have been flagged as unachievable, this is an increase of £0.225m against Month 8.

The service is working with an Improvement Partner on outcomes for children plus a Children's Service Transition Board, chaired by the Chief Executive which meets regularly to review the finances of the department.

The Home to School Transport pressure has remained the same as Month 8. There is a significant amount of work ongoing with the service to review all routes to identify any potential savings.

People Directorate

People	Variance £m
Pressures	
Strategic Commissioning Care Packages	1.298
Community Connections – additional demand / cost pressures	2.423
	3.721

People Directorate is forecasting a net overspend at Month 9 of £3.721m which is unchanged from Month 8. ASC care packages show a pressure of £3.499m, this is offset by an increased forecast for client income of an extra (£0.301m) plus grant funding offset (£1.900m) which brings a net pressure of £1.298m.

Community Connections are reporting no change to the pressure of £2.423m relating to BAU pressures within emergency accommodation for homelessness. This is a national issue, with rising demand and falling supply. For Plymouth, a full review is underway to fully understand the drivers of the financial pressures and to look at short, medium and long-term remediations.

Office of the Director of Public Health (ODPH)

ODPH	Variance £m
Forecast savings – additional income from non-PH departments	(0.200)
	(0.200)

Savings are forecast at £0.200m for the year end. The net budget now includes Registration Service (previously CCS) and Leisure Management (previously People).

Place Directorate

Place	Variance £m
Pressures	
Risk of shortfall in 23-24 Savings Delivery Plans. This includes through route optimisation, mediation pending on adjudication sums, & lack of clarity on funding support linked to the Environment Act.	1.359
Net BAU savings from Management actions	(0.137)
Offset by Savings Management actions are in place and being pursued which will monitor all spend profiles, to seek additional and new income, to minimise spend and to re-negotiate commercial contracts to seek higher income	(1.222)
	0.000

The December 2023 Place DMT monitoring projection, is a net nil variation to revenue budget.

Corporate Items & Council wide

Corporate Items	Variance £m
Savings	
Social Care contingency	(1.000)
Contingency Services held corporately	(0.300)
Budget savings identified corporately	(0.986)
Contingency Budget (pensions / Treasury Management)	(3.528)
Treasury Management	(0.500)
In year Business Rates Pool gain	(1.500)
Business Rates S3I grants	(0.900)
Increased NNDR income – NNDR I return	(3.753)
Reserve contribution for pay award	(0.330)
	(12.797)

A saving of £12.797m is being reported for this Month 9 report, which reflects the further release of £3.528m contingency budget in month. The savings are itemised above and include additional Business Rates Pool gain £1.500m; additional treasury management savings of £0.500m; and the release of the £1.3m service contingencies. The impact of the pay award has been confirmed and funding released to offset the additional pressure. It must be noted that the drawdown of reserves

and contingencies has an impact on our flexibility in future years to cover any emerging pressures.

These allocations can only be drawn down once.

Savings Budgets

The budget includes £23.435m of savings to be delivered in 2023/24. The table below sets out the position at month 9.

Table 3 Savings Status

Savings Proposals 2023/24	Budget 2023/24 £m	Achievable 23/24	Not Achievable 23/24	Mitigations against unachievable plans
Customer & Corporate Services	(3.898)	(2.774)	(1.124)	(1.124)
Chief Executives Office	(0.601)	(0.473)	(0.128)	0.000
Childrens	(4.575)	(0.355)	(4.220)	0.000
People	(5.780)	(5.780)	0.000	0.000
ODPH	(0.542)	(0.542)	0.000	0.000
Place	(7.289)	(5.930)	(1.359)	(1.359)
Corporate Items	(0.750)	(0.750)	0.000	0.000
Total Savings 23/24	(23.435)	(16.604)	(6.831)	(2.183)

- Customer & Corporate Services is reporting a shortfall on delivery plans of £1.124m, relating to Customer Services, HROD, accommodation and IT delivery plans. These pressures have been mitigated by additional savings within the Directorate.
- The Chief Executive's Office is reporting £0.128m of unachievable delivery plans, as part of an overall pressure of £0.384m. This relates to licenses and performance and communications delivery plans.
- The Childrens Directorate is reporting £4.220m of unachievable delivery plans which is contributing to the overall pressure for the Directorate of £10.787m. The plans which have not been achieved related to reduction in new admissions to the care system and additional placement step downs.
- The Place Directorate has a £1.359m risk against delivery plans, but these are offset by savings within the service. Both the delivery plan risks and savings are detailed in the table above showing the Month 9 position.

Capital

The approved Capital Budget (representing forecast resources) includes the Capital Programme made up of approved projects and future funding assumptions. These assumptions include the estimates of capital funding requests the Council could receive in the future or has received and is awaiting business case approval to add to the capital programme.

The forecast for the Five-Year Capital Budget 2023-2028 is £398.200m as at 31st December 2023, compared to the forecast of £373.765m as at 30th September 2023. This shows an increase to the Capital Programme of £24.435m with main approvals for purchasing homes for the emergency housing programme, reprovisioning of the Vines & Colwill Lodge and the Freeport (Sherford).

Future funding assumptions add a further £325.501m to the budget and the revised Capital Budget for approval for 2023 to 2028 is £723.701m. The budget approved in February 2023 included future funding assumptions to 2027 totalling £227.547m, having now increased by £97.954m. The increase is mainly attributed to:

- £53.431m New grant funding announcements (Levelling Up fund £19.946m and Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas Scheme 2 £33.482m.
- £29.636m Incorporating 2027/28 in 5 year range (Manadon road improvements)
- £7.480m 5 year forecast Better Care Fund assumption for Disabled Facility adaptations (previously 2 year assumption).
- £10.472m recognition of capital forecast for Improvements to Corporate Estate and Health & Safety works being factored into revenue budget setting as priority pipeline projects financing corporate borrowing.

Capital Programme Movement

Table 1 The Capital Budget consists of the following elements:

Description	£m
Capital Programme as at 30 September 2023 for 5 year period 2023 - 2028	373.765
New Approvals – September to December see Annex 1 for breakdown	26.954
Variations – September to December 2023	-2.583
<i>Re-Profiling into future years outside 5 year programme</i>	0.064
Capital Programme as at 31 December 2023	398.200
Future Funding Assumptions	325.501
Total Revised Capital Budget for Approval (2023/24 -2027/28)	723.701

A breakdown of the current approved Capital Budget by directorate and by funding is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Capital Programme by Directorate

Directorate	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Children's Services	3.540	0.304	0.130	-	-	3.974
People	8.764	21.506	9.030	0.220	-	39.520
Place - Economic Development	22.994	50.562	33.427	26.232	10.415	143.630
Place - Strategic Planning & Infrastructure	36.503	79.843	13.142	3.291	0.622	133.401
Place - Street Services	28.081	19.462	1.768	0.105	0.044	49.460
Customer & Corporate Services	4.718	5.166	2.206	-	-	12.090
Office for Director of Public Health	11.580	4.440	0.105	-	-	16.125
Total	116.180	181.283	59.808	29.848	11.081	398.200
Finance by:	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Capital Receipts	4.306	3.587	1.414	0.245	0.611	10.163
Grant Funding	53.783	74.934	2.136	0.023	0.022	130.898
Corporate Funded borrowing	30.211	54.820	15.023	0.478	0.043	100.575
Service dept. supported borrowing	23.809	44.283	38.826	25.987	10.373	143.278
Developer contributions	2.859	3.526	2.323	3.071	0.032	11.811
Other Contributions	1.212	0.133	0.086	0.044	-	1.475
Total	116.180	181.283	59.808	29.848	11.081	398.200

Based on the latest 2023/24 forecast totalling £116.180m, actual spend as at 31 December 2023 was £58.290m which equates to 50.17% of the forecast figure of the Capital Programme for 2023/24.

As at 30 September 2023 the forecast Capital Programme for 2023/24 was £154.342m. Main reprofiling occurred in November through a capital programme review totalling £33.954m transferring forecasts from 2023/24 to future years and a further £3.261m reprofiling captured in December.

Analysing historical monthly actual figures to overall outturn for years 2018 – 2022 has identified a percentage spend as of 31 December averaging 69.12% of final outturn.

Applying this to current year actual spend with a 10% contingency threshold would indicate a 2023/24 outturn forecast closer to £90m. This is consistent with the November analysis.

Finance officers continue to work with Project Officers reviewing forecasts to ensure any necessary reprofiling is reported.

Of the 5-year programme, £100.575m is forecast to be funded from corporate borrowing which equates to 25.26% of the programme. Work is ongoing to update the capital pipeline which will identify further corporate borrowing requirements. The affordability of the capital programme and future funding assumptions is under review. Continuing high interest rates against the borrowing requirement to finance the current programme will create a revenue pressure in 2024/25 if action is not taken to limit borrowing now.

Service / Directorate	Governance	New Approvals Q3	5 Year Programme Approvals
			£m
SPI	Executive Decision	Charlton Road	0.850
SPI	Executive Decision	Heat Sourcing in Corporate Buildings (Big 4 + Next 7)	0.438
SPI	Executive Decision	City Centre Public Realm Old Town St/ New George St	2.765
SPI	Executive Decision	PCC LED Lighting Replacement Programme	0.014
SPI	S151	Civic Square	0.087
SS	S151	MOVA Tavistock Road – Upgraded Traffic Signals	0.167
SS	Executive Decision	Ocean City Biodiversity - Ply Habitat Bank	0.500
ED	S151	West End Options Study	0.100
ED	Executive Decision	39 Tavistock Place	0.353
ED	Executive Decision	Plymouth & South Devon Freeport Project: Land	3.500
ED	S151	Mount Edgcumbe Deerfield Carriages	0.058
ED	Executive Decision	Nudge Community Builders	0.265
ED	Executive Decision	Four Greens	0.118
PE	Executive Decision	Purchasing Temp Homes Programme	15.000
PE	Executive Decision	Re-provision of Vines and Colwill Lodge	2.301
CS	S151	Ham Drive - Access to Work	0.026
CS	S151	Foster Home Adaptation	0.003
CS	S151	Tor Bridge Primary - Wall	0.048
CCO	S151	Chelson Meadow – Pedestrian Access	0.111
CCO	S151	Remediation works to Raglan Court	0.100
CCO	S151	Toilet Demolition St Levans Road & Masterman Road	0.010
CCO	S151	Arnold's Point Repairs (Rowing Club)	0.140
Total Capital Approvals			26.954

Directorate Legend

SPI	Strategic Planning & Infrastructure
SS	Street Services
ED	Economic Development
PH	Public Health
PE	People
CS	Children's Services
CCO	Customer & Corporate Services

Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	21 February 2024
Title of Report:	Corporate Plan Performance Report, Quarter Three 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:	CPRUQ3.2324
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report provides the Committee 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 December 2023 against these Corporate Plan priorities.

The key performance indicators (KPIs) and their associated targets detailed in this report are for the third quarter of 2023/24 (October to December 2023).

Where it has been possible, a longer time series of data points has been used to prepare for greater utilisation of control charts. Control charts will help us to establish whether performance is stable and operating within expected variation or experiencing abnormal variation. This will prevent overreaction to normal performance variability whilst prompting quick response to anomalies.

In addition, we have used various data sources (E.g. Department for Education Statistics and LG Inform) to provide comparators (local, national or CIPFA comparator group) to provide contextual reference points for evaluating our performance. This is currently available for –

- Public Satisfaction with Traffic Flow (Annual comparator - National Highways and Transport Network average)
- KS4 pupils achieving 5+ in English and Maths (Annual comparator - Southwest and national Average)
- Employment Rate – (Quarterly comparator – Southwest, national and CIPFA averages)
- Social Care Quality of Life Impact (Annual Comparator – Southwest and national averages)
- People who easily find information on care services (Annual Comparator – Southwest and national averages)

- Repeat Child Protection Plans – (Annual Comparator – CIPFA comparator mean at Q1)
- Children in Care rate per thousand - (Annual Comparator – CIPFA comparator mean at Q1)
- Adult social care users who feel safe (Annual Comparator – National Average)
- Adult social care users who are satisfied (Annual Comparator – CIPFA Mean)
- Percentage of two years olds benefiting from funded early education - (Annual Comparator – Southwest and national averages)

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:

- The employment rate has risen by 2.3%, since quarter one and is in line with our CIPFA comparator group and the national average.
- The number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the Council has decreased by 104 over the last quarter.
- The number of young people aged 16-17 in education, employment and training has had its first significant increase from the 2021 baseline with 3% more 16-17 years olds in EET
- Repeat child protection plans have reduced by 2% in the last quarter.
- 332 households were prevented from becoming homeless in the last reporting period, an increase of 115 on the last quarter.

Performance challenges are:

- Percentage of people accessing the stop smoking service who have quit reached its peak in Q4 of 2022/23 and has since reduce by 6% at Q2.
- KS4 pupils achieving 5+ in English and Maths - At year end of 2021 Plymouth was slightly outperforming the southwest and national average. Since then, performance has dropped back below those comparators and shows a decline of c. 10%.
- Dental waiting lists – An additional 30 children and 315 adults have been added to the dental waiting lists in Q3.

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 the Committee notes the Corporate Plan Performance Report, Quarter Three 2023/24.

Reason: To update the committee 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) <i>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.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Corporate Plan Performance Report, Quarter Three 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) <i>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.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	DJN. 23.24. 189	Leg	LS/00 0013 12/1/ AC/7/ 2/24	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Asset s	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
-----	-----------------------	-----	---	------------	-----	----	-----	------------	-----	---------------	-----

Senior Leadership Team approval: Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive) Date approved: 26/01/2024
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet member for Housing, Co-operative Development and Communities) Date approved: 06/02/2024

Corporate Plan Performance Report Quarter Three 2023/2024

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 third quarter of 2023/24 (September to December 2023).

OUR PLAN

BUILD A BETTER PLYMOUTH



CITY VISION: Britain’s Ocean City

One of Europe’s most vibrant waterfront cities, where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone



OUR MISSION:

Making Plymouth a fairer, greener city, where everyone does their bit

WE BELIEVE IN:

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

WE WILL:

Make Plymouth a great place to grow up and grow old

Minimise the impact of the cost of living crisis

OUR 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

DOING THIS BY:

-  Providing quality public services
-  Trusting and engaging our communities
-  Focusing on prevention and early intervention
-  Spending money wisely
-  Empowering and engaging our staff
-  Being a strong voice for Plymouth

www.plymouth.gov.uk/ourplan

Priority	Key performance indicators	2022/23 Baseline	Previous performance	Latest performance	
Working with the Police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour	Number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the Council (Q)	543	236	132	▼
	Number of early interventions to anti-social behaviour (Q)	222	44	41	▼
	Crime rate per 1,000 residents (Q)	22.59	22.97	22.70	▼
Fewer potholes, cleaner, greener streets and transport					
	Cleanliness Index (APSE) (Q)	84.3%	77.5%	77.1%	▼
	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	▲
	Total new affordable homes (gross) (A)	115	50	115	▲
	Employment rate (Q)	73.2%	71.9%	74.2%	▲
Green investment, jobs, skills and better education	Percentage of young people aged 16 to 17 going to, or remaining in, education, employment or training (EET) (Q)	92.4%	90.4%	93.0%	▲
	Pupils attending schools judged as good or better by Ofsted (Q)	81.0%	85.1%	87.6%	▲
	Corporate scope 1 and scope 2 CO ₂ e emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e) (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	Number of No Criteria to Reside patients at an acute setting (daily average during the quarter) (Q)	36	32	34	▲
	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	▲
	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%	22.9%	▼
	Children in care (rate per 10,000) (Q)	94.0	94.1	100.7	▲
	Percentage of closed adult safeguarding enquiries where the desired outcomes have been fully or partially achieved (Q)	98.6%	94.9%	93.7%	▼
	Adult Social Care service users who feel safe and secure (A)	87.9%	87.9%	87.5%	▼
	Residents who feel safe (during the day) (A)	89%	90%	89%	▼

Summary - Doing this by

Enabler	Key performance indicators	2022/23 Baseline	Previous performance	Latest performance	
Providing quality public services	Stage one complaints resolved within timeframe (Q)	80.6%	82.8%	84.7%	▲
	Percentage of people who receive social care who are satisfied (A)	67.0%	67.0%	66.8%	▼
Trusting and engaging our communities	Percentage of eligible adults registered to vote in local elections (A)	91.2%	91.2%	92.2%	▲
	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	3,407	3,801	▲
	Number of MASH referrals received (Q)	2,347	1,071	1,023	▼
	Repeat MASH referrals to Children's Social Care (rolling 12 months) (Q)	19.4%	18.3%	20.5%	▲
	Number of households prevented from becoming homeless or relieved of homelessness (Q)	828	217	332	▲
	Percentage of people accessing the Stop Smoking Service who have quit (Q)	54%	48%	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%	82.5%	71.0%	▼
	Child obesity at Year 6 (A)	35.1%	35.1%	33.6%	▼
	Percentage of <u>two year olds</u> 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	▼
	Council tax revenue per dwelling (A)	£1,283	£1,283	£1,359	▲
	Social care <u>spend</u> 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	9.33	10.31	▲
Being a strong voice for Plymouth	Advocacy / Lobbying Update				



Our Priorities

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 Committee

Progress Update

A new multi-agency working group with a focus on predatory and high-risk males within the evening and night-time economy, and in areas frequented by women selling sex, has been formed to try and prevent VAWG offences taking place. Intelligence around high risk or predatory behaviour is reviewed on a four-weekly basis and tools and powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 are utilised where appropriate. As these are civil tools and powers, they require a lower evidential burden of proof, and they can also include exclusions from certain areas.

Hate Crime Awareness Week took place from 14th – 21st October 2023. During this week, the team visited Piety Mosque, the Red Cross, and the Synagogue to develop their relationships further with some of our diverse communities. They also attended Blue Light Day to engage with those who have learning disabilities, their parents, and carers.

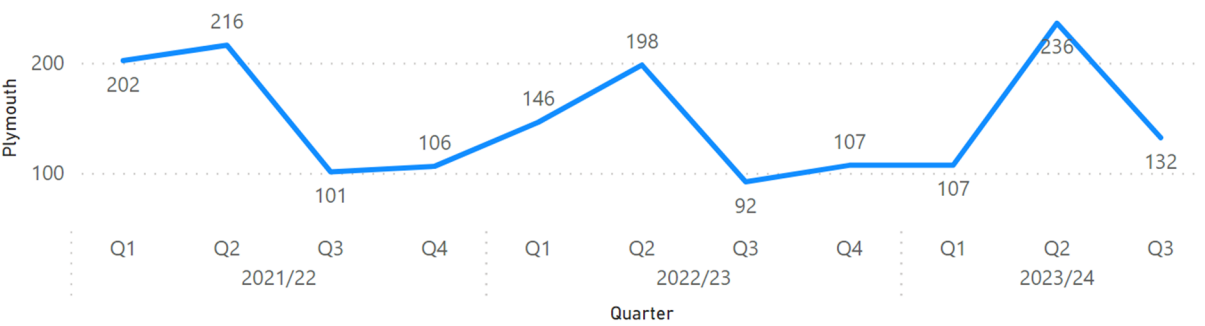
Op Tarlac was the police operation set up to monitor community tensions linked to the conflict in Israel and Gaza. PCC Safer Communities team liaised regularly with the police Diverse Communities Team to understand any tensions within the city and to engage proactively with relevant communities.

Further information was released from the Home Office in relation to the Criminal Justice Bill and proposed changes to ASB tools and powers. Conversations have started to take place with partners to understand what approach will be taken in the city and how we can ensure that a consistent approach to tackling ASB continues to be taken in a trauma-informed and proportionate way.

PCC’s Youth Service continued to utilise detached youth workers to engage with young people out and about across the city each day. Where there were pockets of youth-related anti-social behaviour, they have deployed teams to engage with young people and offer opportunities for diversion into more meaningful activities. A number of home visits were also carried out by the team to discuss young people’s behaviour and offer support.

Plymouth’s Prevent Partnership have focused on three key areas highlighted within the review of Prevent – training, communication and engagement. Contact has been made with other areas within the Peninsula to understand their approach. An improvement action plan will be created and presented to the next Prevent Partnership Board for discussion and sign off.

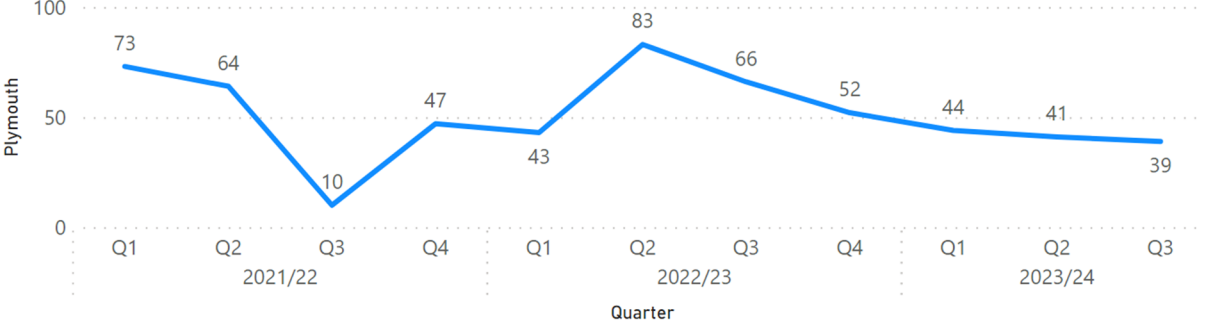
Number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the Council



This is 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.

There was a significant uplift in the number of incidents reported between Q1 - Q2 2023/24, however over the last quarter number of incidents has nearly halved.

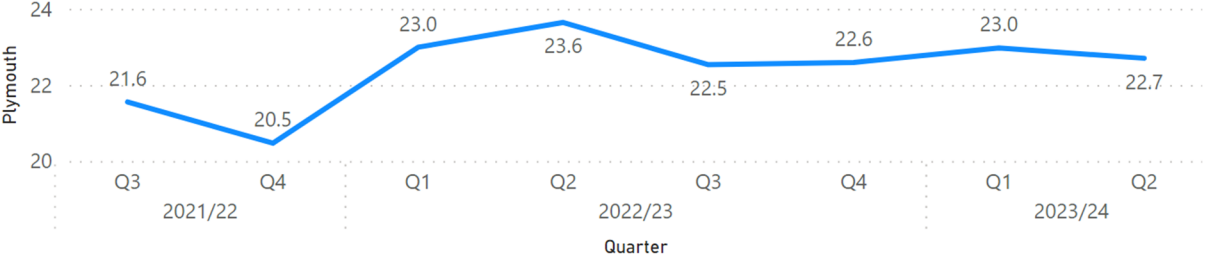
Number of early interventions to anti-social behaviour



This indicator shows 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.

The level of early interventions have remained steady throughout 2023/24, and in the last quarter the number fell very slightly by two.

Crime rate per 1,000 residents



This indicator shows all crime recorded as a rate per 1,000 population.

The data is nationally published crime data submitted by Devon and Cornwall Police.

The crime rate has remained at around 23 crimes per thousand since quarter one of 2022. The most recent quarter available shows a slight drop of 0.3.

Lead Cabinet Members	Councillor Tom Briars Delve, Councillor Mark Coker
Lead Officer	Philip Robinson, Service Director for Street Scene
Enabling Plans	Plan for Plastics, Highways Maintenance Plan, Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP), Plan for Trees, Local Transport Plan.
Relevant Scrutiny Panel	Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Progress Update

The road patching system trial using the **Velocity patching technology** has now been completed, we achieved circa 10,000 repairs. As there is no requirement to excavate the road surface, this reduced the need for road closures, waste generation and sped up repair process. We are now reviewing the quality and durability of works delivered together with cost effectiveness.

The **research for alternative methods to repair Highway defects** continue. We have reviewed process that that re-heats existing Asphalt that enables redressing without removing existing surfacing, this may provide a solution for Coal tar bound surfacing and we are looking at alternative processes which include site reco-foam treatment that could negate the need of removing contaminated material from site.

The Council have **invested in a new fleet 10 small mechanised sweepers** to replace old equipment. These machines will be rolled out the week commencing 22 January 2024. The machines benefit from integrated weed brushes; power wash attachments; and suction hoses which operatives will use to target tricky dirt and litter traps between parked cars. One of these machines will be dedicated to the City’s key roads providing a higher frequency of sweep on footpaths. Another machine will be dedicated to rear lanes. This machine has specially fitted steel brushes designed to tackle weeds in cobbled areas. The targeted deployment of these machines will help reduce the use of weed spraying in these locations. A further fleet of 3 x large mechanical road sweepers have been ordered and are expected to be delivered in February and March.

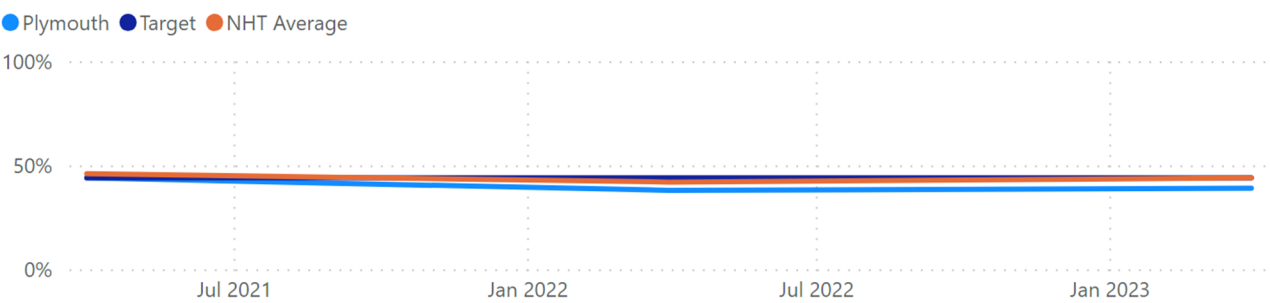
All public bins in the City Centre shopping areas have been replaced with new units. A programme is in place to regularly wash the bins and remove stickers etc. Regular surface washing continues, specifically targeting high footfall areas, outside food outlets and following events. A new Team Leader for the City Centre has been appointed to give additional focus on keeping the areas clean and tidy.

The cleansing service have deployed 5 x barrow rounds in high demand areas around the City. A further round will be added in February for Lipson and Mount Gould areas following increasing volumes of complaints and observed issues around litter etc.

The cleansing service continue to work closely with Enforcement colleagues to target areas and are continuing to work together to secure the **Defra funded investment in 5 x moveable cameras to target rear lane fly-tipping**. A contractor has been commissioned to undertake a full litter pick of the entire A38 within the Plymouth boundary. This will be undertaken in late March.

Awaiting data from SWH - Verbal update to be provided.

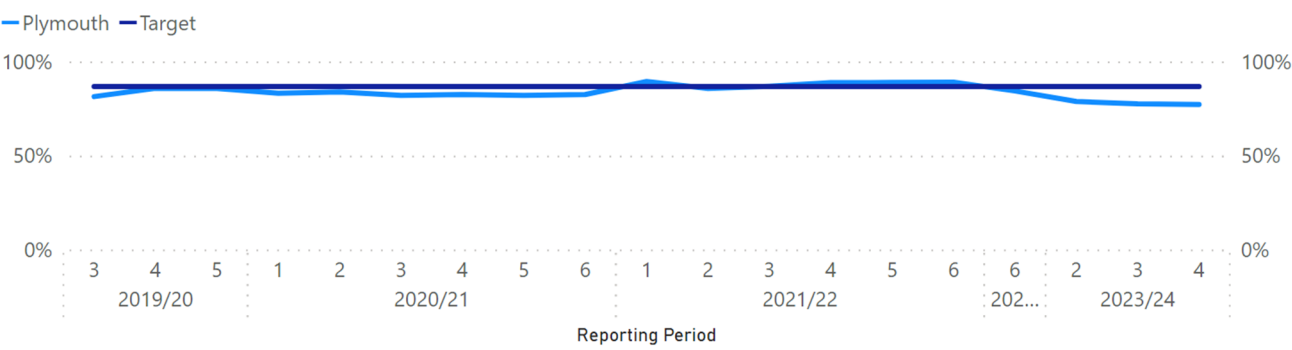
Public satisfaction with traffic flow



Public satisfaction with traffic levels and congestion on Plymouth’s roads, collected via the National Highways and Transport (NHT) Network annual survey. This is annual data which will be updated for 2024 in the coming weeks.

Plymouth has seen a downward trajectory since July 2021, although this is a slight reduction and in line with both target and NHT average.

Cleanliness Index (APSE)



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.

Changes to the local delivery of the inspection process are complete, training has been delivered to our inspectors and the new process for inspection is in place. Whilst the new inspection regime is established further, movement in this indicator can be expected but is likely to be in within acceptable range of the target.

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 Committee

Progress Update

Hillcrest – Following working together with Plymouth Community Homes and Homes England on the acquisition of 86 vacant ex-MOD family homes, refurbishment works are now underway to bring the homes up to decent homes standard ready for occupation as affordable housing at social rent and shared ownership. The first homes are due to be refurbished and ready for occupation by February 2024. These homes will make a significant contribution to meeting the housing needs of many households, including providing permanent accommodation to families currently living in temporary accommodation.

Bath Street – working in partnership with Plymouth Community Homes and Homes England to unlock this brownfield site, planning permission has now been secured for phase 1 of 81 affordable homes, to provide a mix of social rented and for low cost home ownership. A contractor has now been appointed with a projected start on site for construction of the new homes in October 24. Such partnership working and funding to help unlock this stalled site will provide another key part of the regeneration of Millbay and wider city centre regeneration ambitions.

St Peters Close – working with Westward Housing a start on site has been achieved for a scheme of 5 bungalows for social rent. These homes will provide opportunities for downsizing for older households as well as and much needed wheelchair accessible accommodation. The completion of these bungalows is expected by late summer 24.

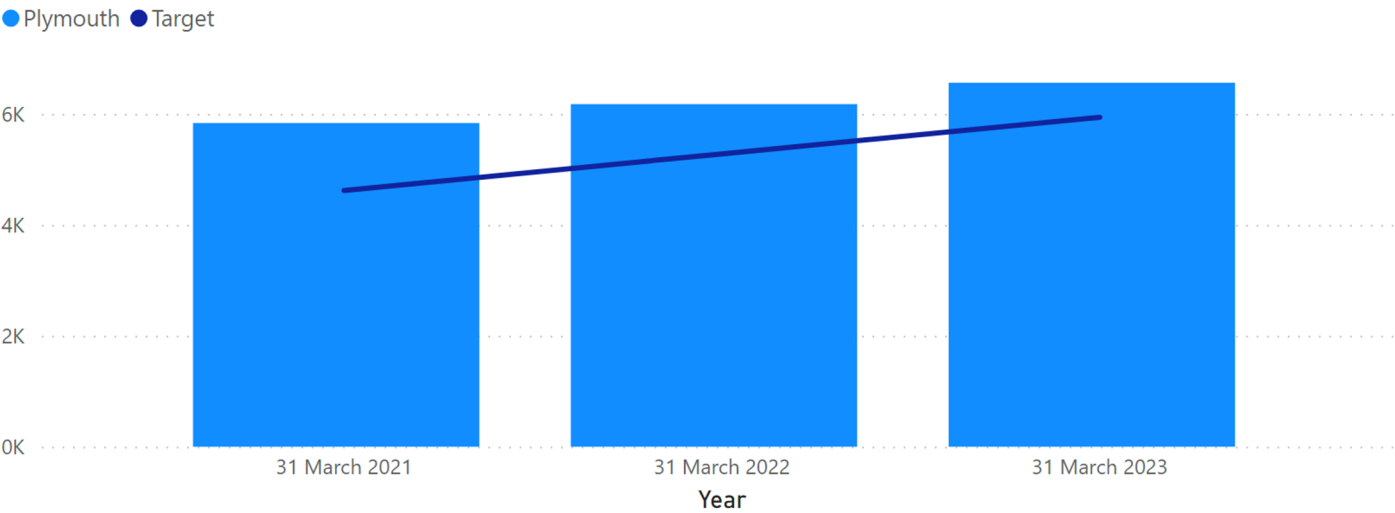
A specialist housing scheme in Efford has just been completed by the Council for 2 bungalows providing respite accommodation for adults with severe learning difficulties.

Barne Barton Regeneration programme is progressing on 2 projects with Clarion Housing Group and Sanctuary Housing, including the next phase of demolitions and a start on site on the construction of 159 affordable homes at phase 1. Overall planning permission has been secured for 328 new homes as part of the programme.

Reported activity over past 12 months on bringing 19 long term empty properties (empty for over 6 months) back into use. Current activity includes preparing two long term empty homes for CPO action due to go to Cabinet in March.

Plan for Homes Four - Work is well underway on the development of the next stage of our award winning Plan for Homes. Further information on the Plan for Homes will be announced at a future Cabinet meeting.

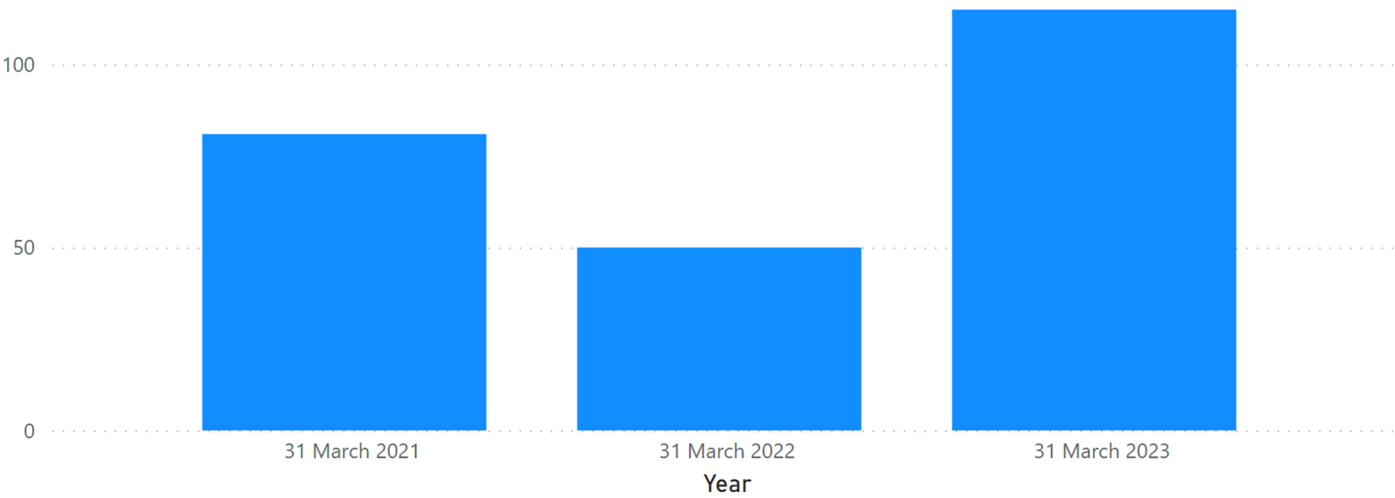
Net Additional Homes (Cumulative)



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.

The Council continues to maintain performance exceeding target year on year.

Affordable Homes Delivered (Actual)



This annual measure shows 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.

Lead Cabinet Members	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE, Councillor Mark Lowry, Councillor Tom Briars Delve, Councillor Sally Cresswell
Lead Officer	Anthony Payne, Strategic Director for Place / David Haley, Strategic Director for Children's Services
Enabling Plans	Net Zero Action Plan, Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Plymouth's Plan for Economic growth, Plymouth SEND Strategy, Child Poverty Action Plan.
Relevant Scrutiny Panel	Growth and Infrastructure / Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Progress Update

Green Action Plan

A draft Green Skills Action Plan has been developed and shared with the Employment and Skills Board for feedback It has also been shared internally with Economic Development and the Net Zero Delivery Team. The plan for Green jobs has been integrated into the Economic strategy update. A Green Skills Coordinator joined the skills team in December (funding through SPF Year 2 until 31 March 2024). Her current priorities are:

- mapping and understanding the demand for green jobs in city
- engagement with local providers to map current green skills and training provision and completing a gap analysis.
- engaging local people to enter into the green skills sector through training and/ or employment
- develop a training directory, materials and website content to promote career/ job/skills and training opportunities in the green economy/ net zero economy

Special Educational Needs and Disability

Work is progressing to address the concerns raised in the June 2023 Local Area Inspection undertaken jointly by the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted. The inspection found provision and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (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 actions have already been carried out. This has included ensuring social care teams have thorough and robust oversight of the small number of children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) 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 families are being fully supported.

A children’s version of the plan has been co-produced and circulated by Youth Ascends. Work is well under way to agree and publish ordinarily available provision and the graduated approach to underpin and bring consistency to the work of mainstream schools for children with SEND. This will be published and launched in the Summer term. A conference for headteachers and SENCo’s welcomed the graduated approach, advice on relationship based approaches in schools and looks forward to a training plan being implemented.

Green investment, jobs, skills and better education

School Attendance, Mobility and Inclusion

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

Investing in Net Zero

The City Council is highly proactive in identifying and realising opportunities for net zero investments, both corporately in support of the drive to be a net zero organisation by 2030, and at a city-level, working with the Plymouth Net Zero Partnership. This includes, for example, renewable energy schemes such as that now in operation at Theatre Royal car park, retrofit of corporate estate, working with the Plymouth Energy Community to retrofit housing for residents in fuel poverty, and Connect Plymouth with over 500 Beryl Bikes now in operation. Additionally, Plymouth has been incorporated into the Government's Advanced Zoning Programme to accelerate the roll out of heat networks to decarbonise heat in the city, drawing in significant investment.

To date we have successfully secured over £111m of grant funding for a range of net zero infrastructure and sustainable transport projects, delivering a total investment of over £212m. We are also using the planning process to good effect, securing over £5m for carbon offset and net zero funding from the s106 and Community Infrastructure Levy process, and are actively working on a range of innovative solutions to bringing funding to Plymouth, including local offsetting options that anyone will be able to invest in. We are developing local solutions which 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 on a housing retrofit offer for carbon offsetting. Alongside these investments, we have introduced a climate impact assessment tool to help mainstream net zero considerations into the consideration of future investments and project delivery.

The work of the Council was recognised at COP28 in December 2023, when we were awarded with a Green Solutions Awards Grand Prize and also Sustainable Infrastructure Grand Prize for our approach to district heating and cooling.

Shared Prosperity Funding

We have issued 4 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 the next 4 months, but two calls have been awarded to Nudge and Four Greens Community Trust. 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 the image.

Green Jobs

We launched an inward investment fact sheet and a targeted event has been delivered on offshore wind with the University. Funding has been allocated for clean shore power for the ice-cream vans on the Hoe. Work is underway on a feasibility study to expand Cattewater capacity.

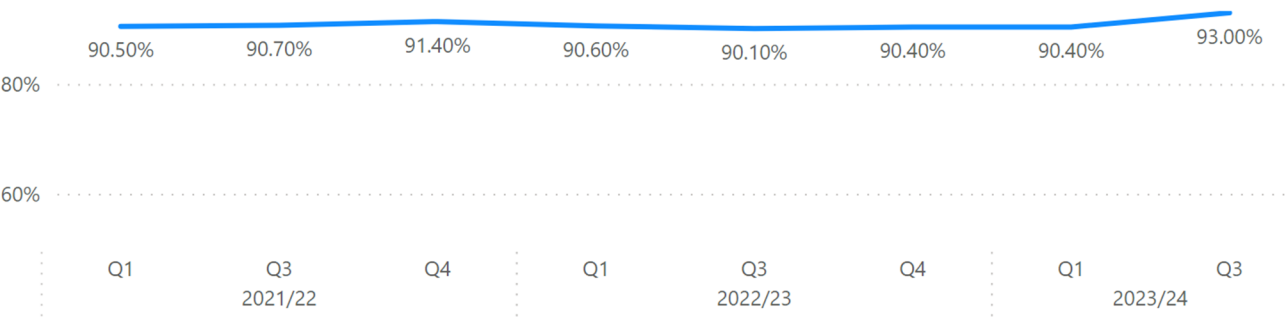
Devonport and Innovation

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% social value in MOD contracts. Further updates will be provided in future reports. Both the Regulatory pioneer fund project to look at the regulation around autonomous vessels and the sub sea Smart Sound project have formally started and signed contracts.

New Direct development

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

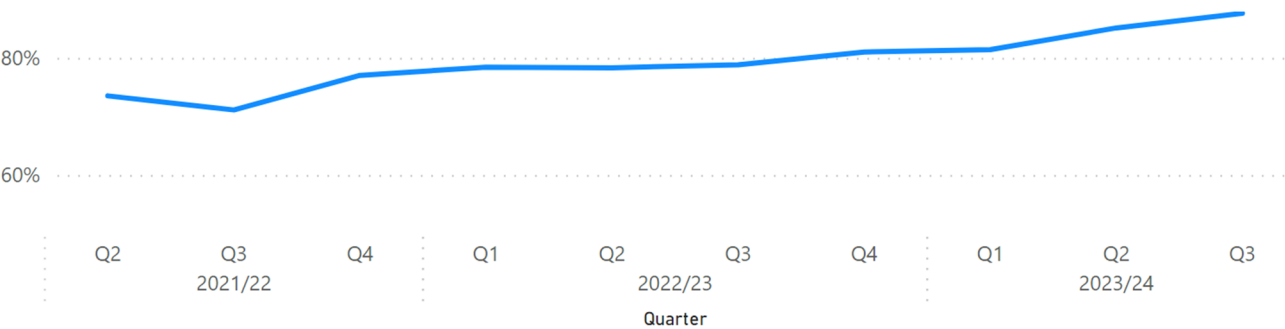
Young people aged 16-17 in education, employment or training



This is a quarterly measure which shows 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).

Between Q1 and Q3 2023/23 there has been a 3% increase to the numbers of young people going to / remaining in EET.

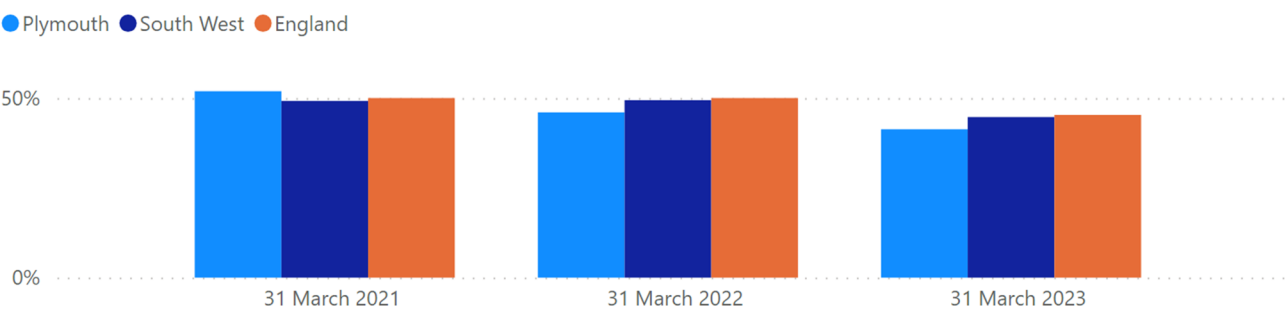
Pupils attending Plymouth schools judged as good or better by Ofsted



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.

Since Q1 2023/24 this measure has been on an upward trend with the number of Children attending a good school increasing by 6%.

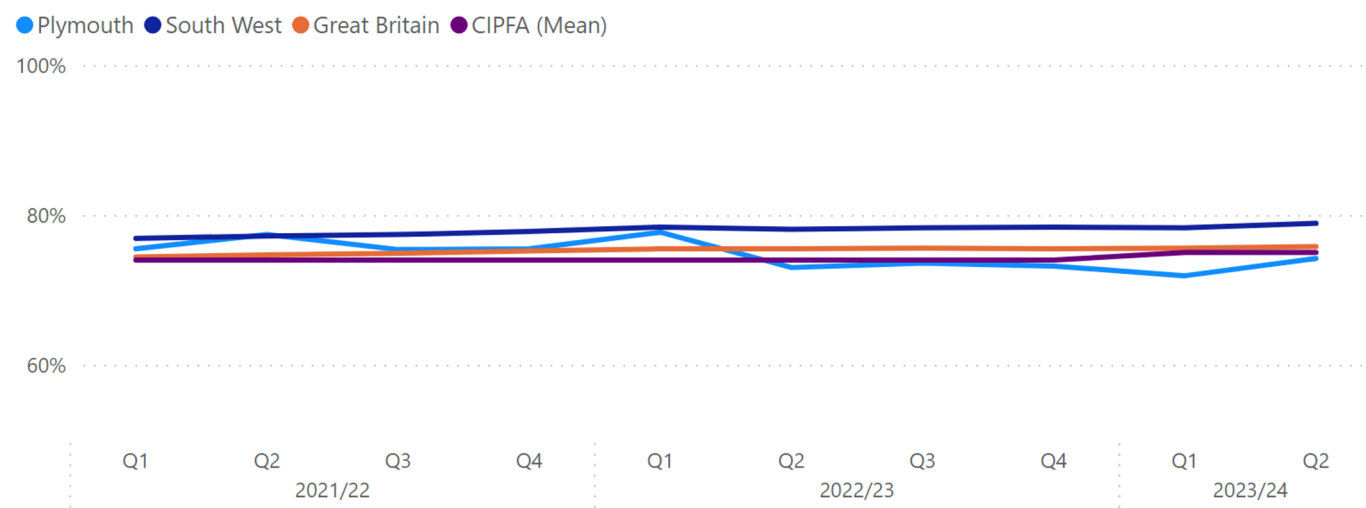
KS4 pupils achieving 5+ in English and Maths



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.

At year end of 2021 Plymouth was slightly outperforming the south west and national average. Since then performance has dropped back below those comparators and shows a decline of c. 10%.

Employment Rate

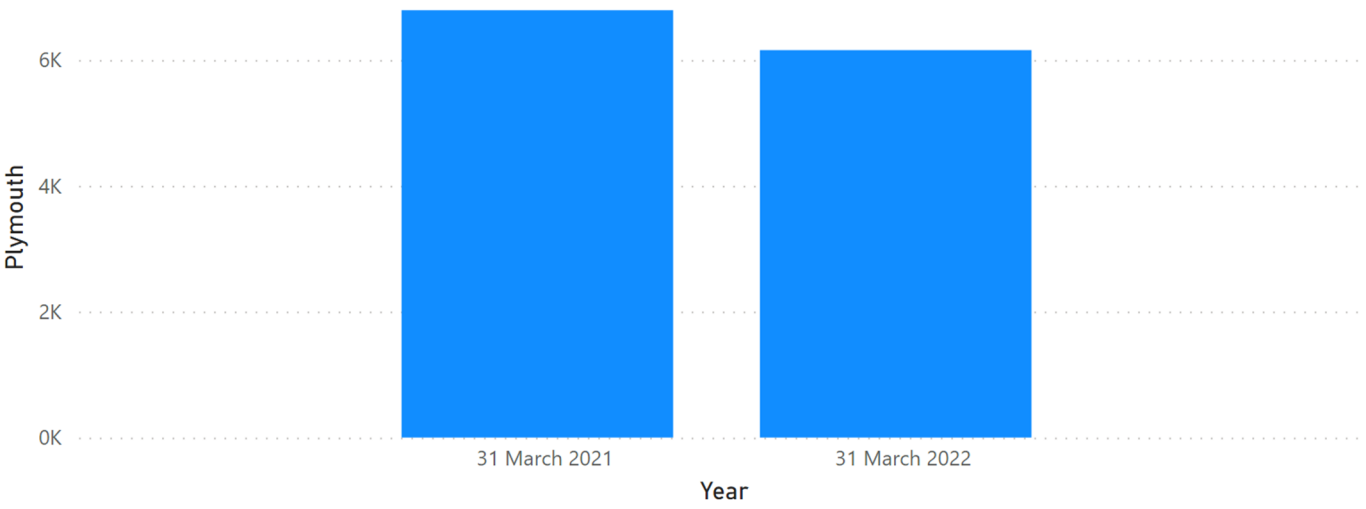


This measure is record anyone aged 16-64 years who did some paid work in the reference period, whether as an employee or self-employed; had a job that they were temporarily away from; on government-supported training and employment programmes; or were doing some unpaid family work.

The employment rate reduced significantly reduced in the early part of 2022/23. Despite a slight rise the rate dropped again from September 2022.

There has been a recovery in the rate of employment from the second quarter bringing it into line with the Council's CIPFA family group.

Corporate scope 1 and scope 2 CO2e emissions (tonnes CO2e)



This annual measure records the combined amount of scope 1 and scope 2 CO2 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.

Between 2021 and 2022 the Council reduced its overall carbon emissions by c. 600 tonnes.

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, Thrive Plymouth, Community Mental Health Framework, One Devon Partnership Interim Integrated Care Strategy and Child Poverty Action Plan

Relevant Scrutiny Panel

Growth and Infrastructure / Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Progress Update

Dental Taskforce

Plymouth City Council has established a Dental Taskforce to address this and other dental access issues. The Dental Taskforce 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 and chaired by Councillor Mary Aspinall.

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 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 Dental Taskforce is supporting this initiative and is encouraging NHS Devon ICB (the new commissioner of NHS dental services) to do likewise.

The Expression of Interest process

In direct response to the challenges highlighted at the Dental Taskforce 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).

Progress Update

The Schools’ Offer

NHS dental appointments are now being to children at Whiteleigh 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.

The Letter to the Secretary of State

One of the actions from the September Dental Taskforce 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.

The three Priorities

At the November meeting of taskforce its was agreed that a set of priorities that would form the basis of any public facing work that the Dental Taskforce carries out. This was agreed by the other members of the Dental Taskforce. One of the actions from that meeting was therefore to review the draft priorities suggested with a view to the final set being agreed by mid-December. These have been agreed as follows

- Deliver a new dental facility in the City Centre run by the Dental School and aligned to the oral health needs in the city.
- Provide additional funding to Plymouth City Council to enable it to enhance the oral health improvement (prevention) offer available in the city.
- Use some of Plymouth’s annual NHS dental underspend to commission new services for high priority groups and those who don’t have access to an NHS dentist.

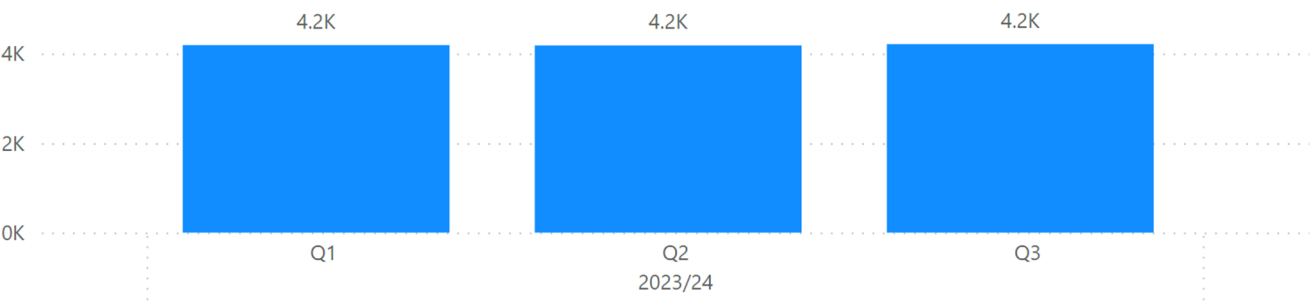
Pharmacy

Pharmacy services play a vital role in supporting local communities across the United Kingdom. They provide a critical role in access to health and care, delivering medication management and health promotions among many other services. In Plymouth, there is a planned further reduction in service by some providers, in addition to the cuts already made in recent years. Councillor Aspinall has written to the Minister for Primary Care and Public Health, to urge her to intervene and ensure these vital local services remain open for public use

Caring Plymouth

The Council has set up a partnership called "**Caring Plymouth**" which is working on behalf of care sector employers to connect people to skills training and jobs. A city-wide recruitment campaign will be launched to highlight the job opportunities within the care sector.

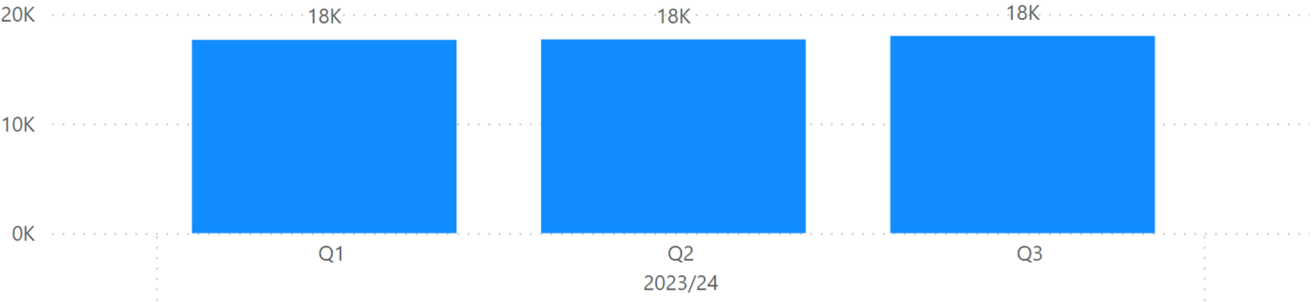
Number of children (<16 years) on the NHS dental waiting list



This measure records the number of young people in Plymouth on Dental waiting lists. The Data provided on a quarterly basis by the South West Collaborative Commissioning Hub Dental Team.

Despite a reduction of eight to the waiting list between Q1 and Q2, there has been an increase of 30 to the waiting list at Q3.

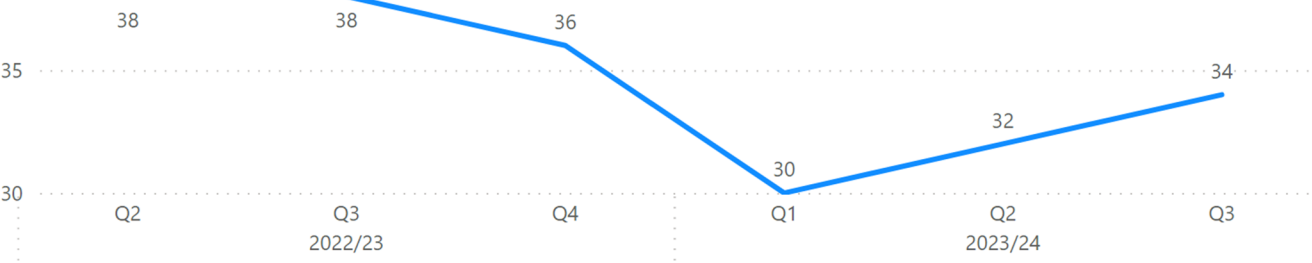
Number of adults (>16 years) on the NHS dental waiting list



This measure records the number of adults in Plymouth on Dental waiting lists. The Data provided on a quarterly basis by the South West Collaborative Commissioning Hub Dental Team.

There was an increase of 47 to the waiting list between Q1 and Q2 and the trend continues into Q3 with a further 315 added to the waiting list.

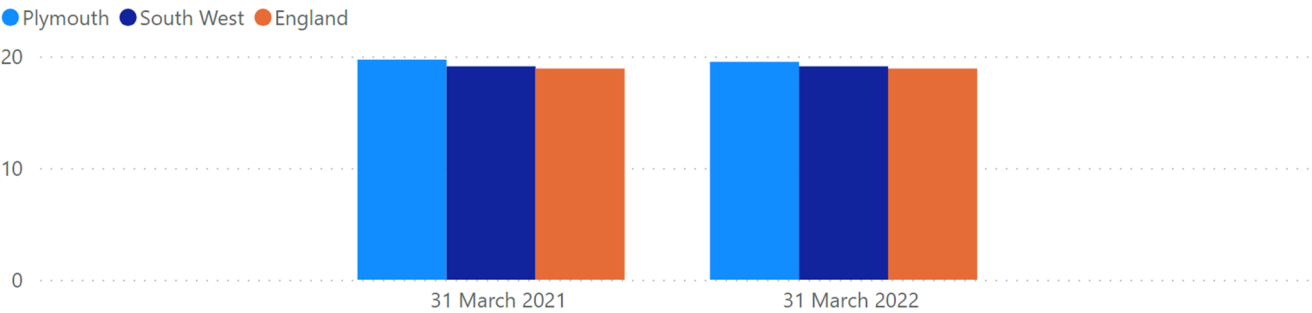
Number of No Criteria to Reside patients at an acute setting (daily average during the quarter)



This data is taken from the Integrated Commissioning operational pressures data book, published internally daily by NHS Devon. It 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

Performance around delays at UHP are much improved. During December 2023 the daily average number of delays of more than 24 hours was 24, compared to 38 in November.

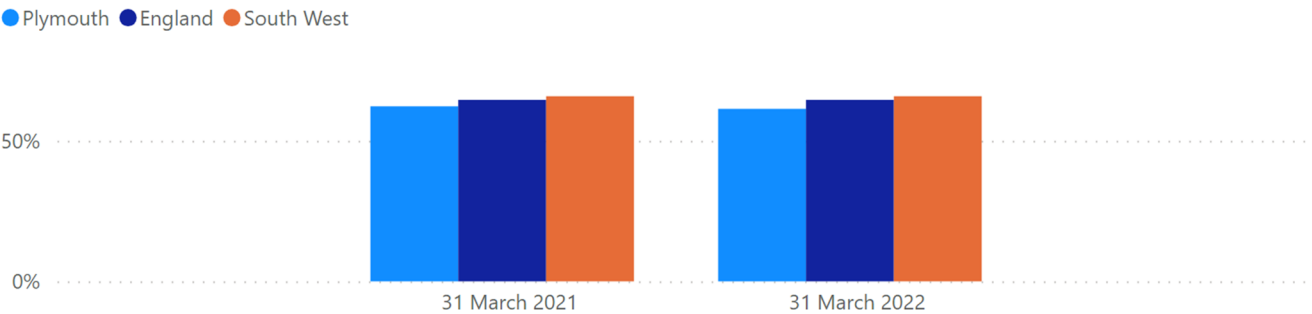
Social care-related quality of life impact of Adult Social Care services



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.

Plymouth consistently out performs both the South West and England average, based on 2022 data.

Proportion of people who use services who find it easy to find information about services



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.

Plymouth is currently slightly behind both the South West and England average, based on 2022 data.

GP access - patient satisfaction with appointments offered



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? The percentage is based on an average of scores by Primary Care Networks covering the Plymouth City Council area. National benchmarking available via the GP Patient Survey.

Between 2022 and 2023 this indicator has reduced by one percentage point.

Lead Cabinet Members	Councillor Jemima Laing, Councillor Mary Aspinall
Lead Officer	Gary Walbridge, Interim Strategic Director for People / Ruth Harrell, Director of Public Health / David Haley, Strategic Director for Children's Services
Enabling Plans	Safer Plymouth Plan, Plymouth Safeguarding Adults Partnership Plan, Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Partnership Plan and PSCP Plan on a Page 2022 - 2023 and Child Poverty Action Plan
Relevant Scrutiny Panel	Health and Adult Social Care / Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Progress Update

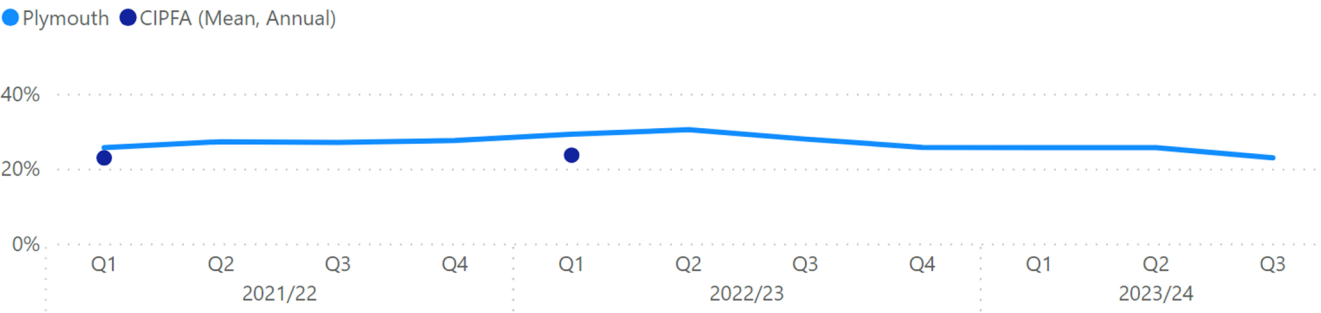
Repeat child protection plans within a child's lifetime (rolling 12 months)

Children made the subject of a child protection within a child's lifetime over a rolling 12 months for Q3 was 22.9%. This is at a level lower than the last four year-end positions. During the last 12 months, 61 children/young people have started repeated Child Protection Plans (within their lifetime), this is an improvement on the 103 reported for the reporting year of 2021/22 and four less than our published figure for 2022/23 (reported at 65). The current percentage is lower than the statistical neighbour and the England averages. Improvements to practice, increased effectiveness of management oversight is expected to continue to reduce repeat child protection plans.

Children in care (rate per 10,000)

On 31 December 2023, there were 523 children/young people in care. This is a net increase of 23 children/young people compared to the published figure for 2022/23 and 33 children/young people more than the published figure of 490 for 2021/22. The current rate per 10,000 for Plymouth is 100.7 which is above the statistical neighbour average of 94.5 (2021/22) and above the National Average of 70.0 (2021/22). The 2022/23 National and statistical neighbour rates of children/young people who are in care is yet to be published.

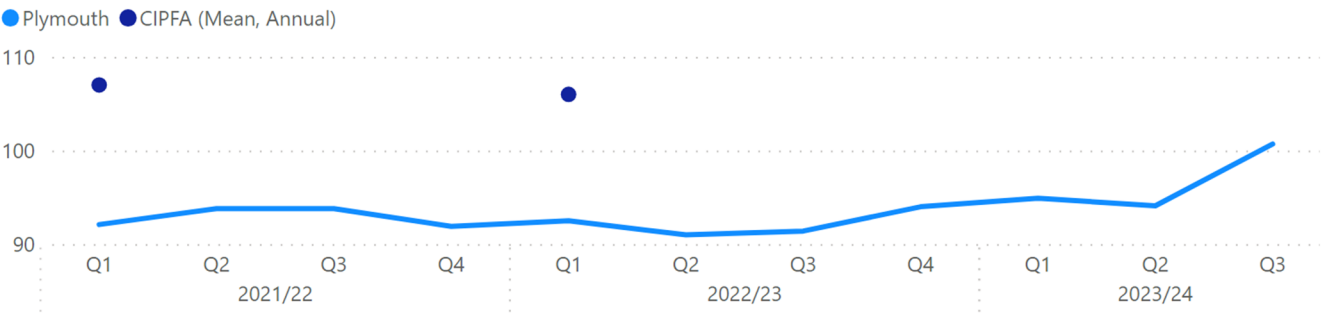
Repeat child protection plans within a child’s lifetime (rolling 12 months)



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.

The number of repeat plans has fallen by 2% over the last quarter.

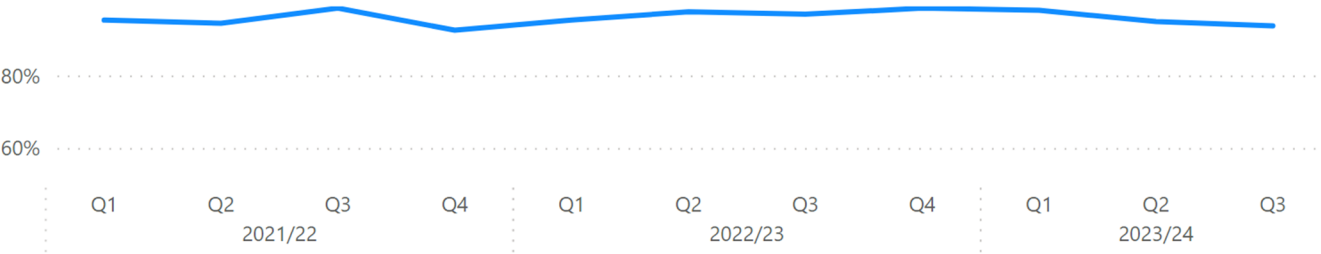
Children in care (rate per 10,000)



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.

Whilst the number of Children in Care has increased in the last quarter it remains below the CIPFA comparator (mean, annual) measure in 2022.

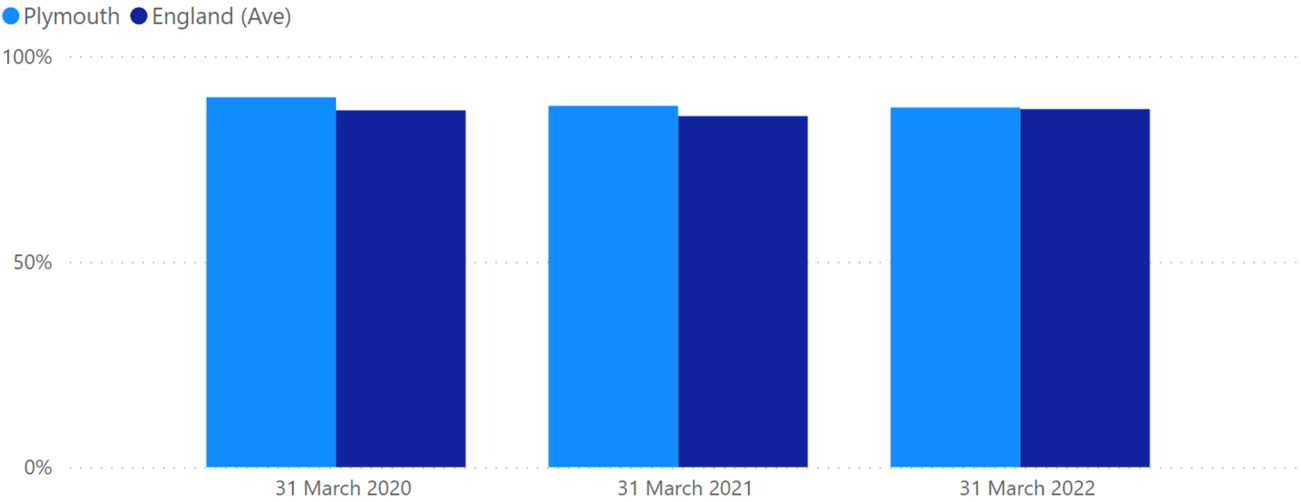
Percentage of closed adult safeguarding enquiries where the desired outcomes have been fully or partially achieved



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.

This position has worsened over the last quarter by 1.2%.

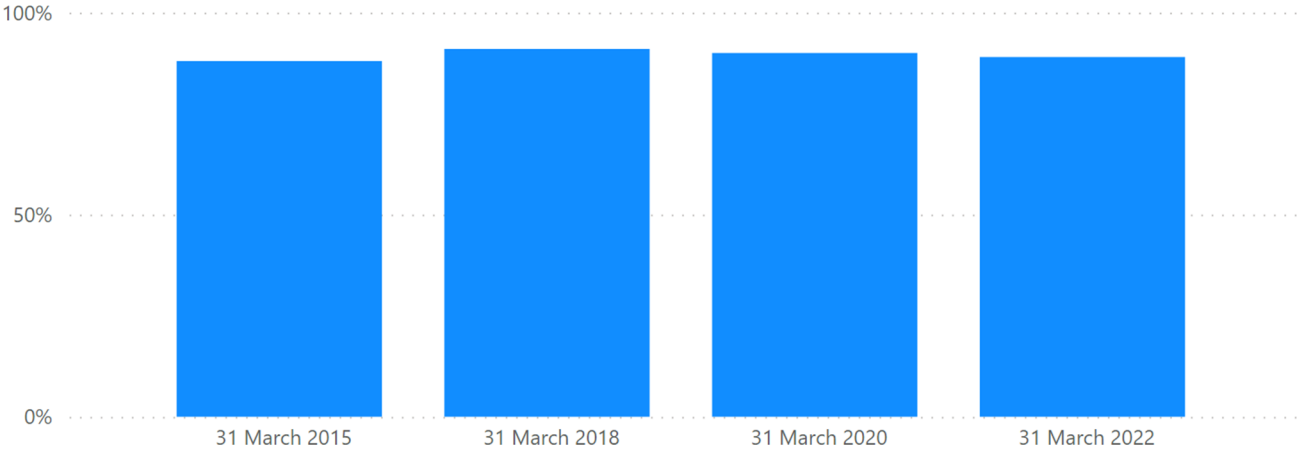
Adult Social Care service users who feel safe and secure



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.

Since 2020, the measure has seen a drop of around 2%.

Residents who feel safe (during the day)



The percentage of Plymouth City Survey respondents who feel fairly safe or very safe when outside in their local area during the day.

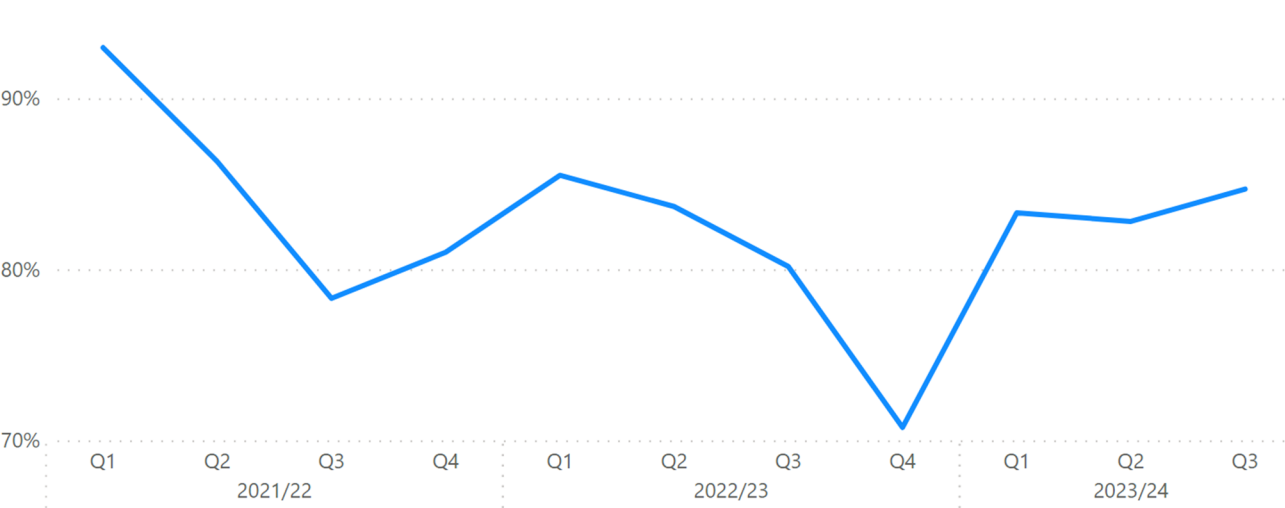
These results of from the City Survey, the portfolio holder is currently reviewing the approach to the next survey.



Doing this by

Doing this by - Providing Quality Public Services

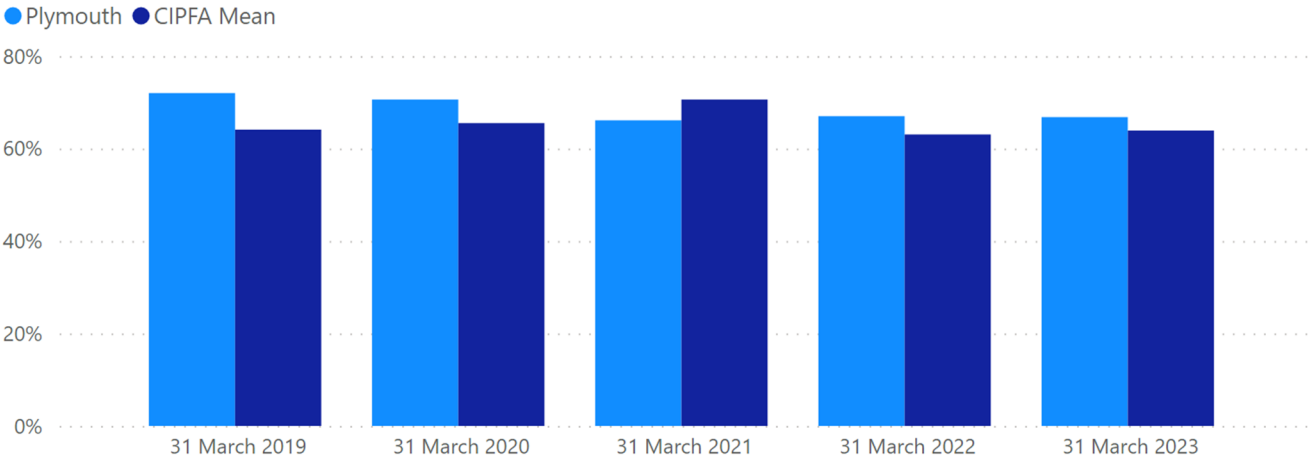
Stage one complaints resolved within timeframe



This measure records the percentage of stage one customer complaints resolved within the period that are resolved within the timeframe of 10 working days.

Despite a downward trend at the end of 2022/23, performance has now improved with a 2% increase in resolution within time frame in the last quarter.

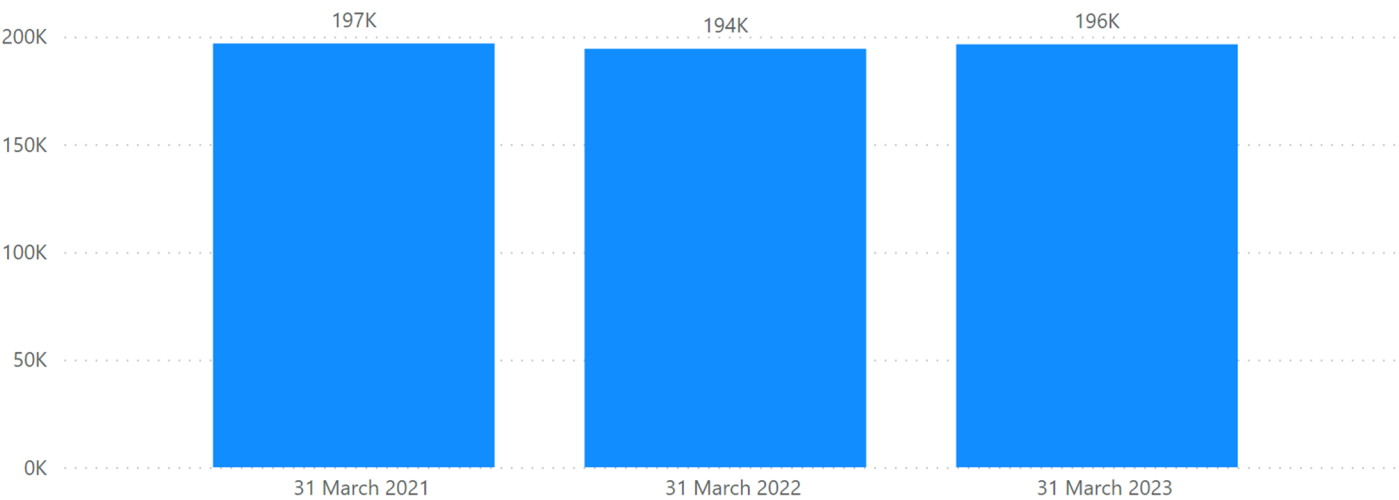
Percentage of people who receive social care who are satisfied



This is a measure from the statutory annual survey of Adult Social Care users that measures how satisfied users are with the services they receive.

Plymouth outperformed its CIPFA comparator group in 2022/23 by 2%.

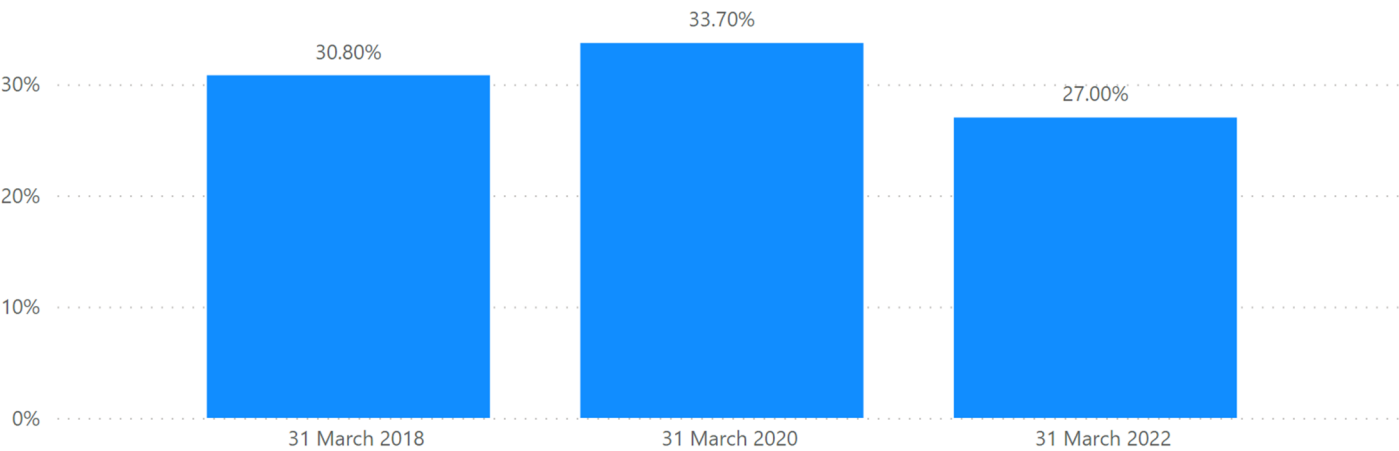
Number of adults registered to vote in local elections



This measure records the number of adults (aged 18+ years) who are eligible to vote who are registered to vote in the local elections.

In the region of 2,000 voters were added to the register between 2022/23.

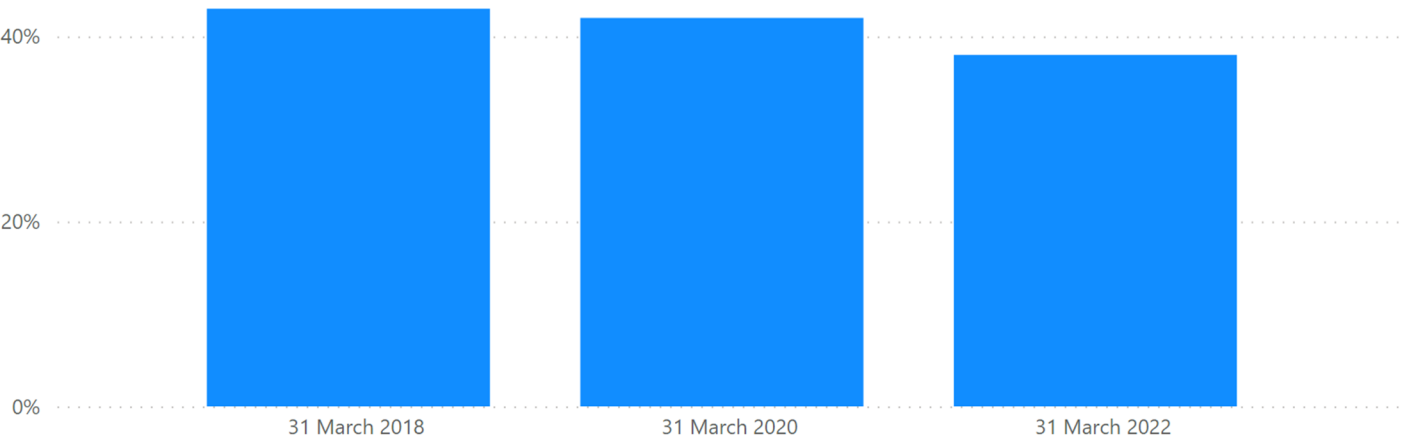
Residents who know how to get involved in local decisions



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).

This measure, along with others from the City Survey, are under review by the portfolio holder.

Percentage of Plymouth City Survey respondents who volunteer or help out

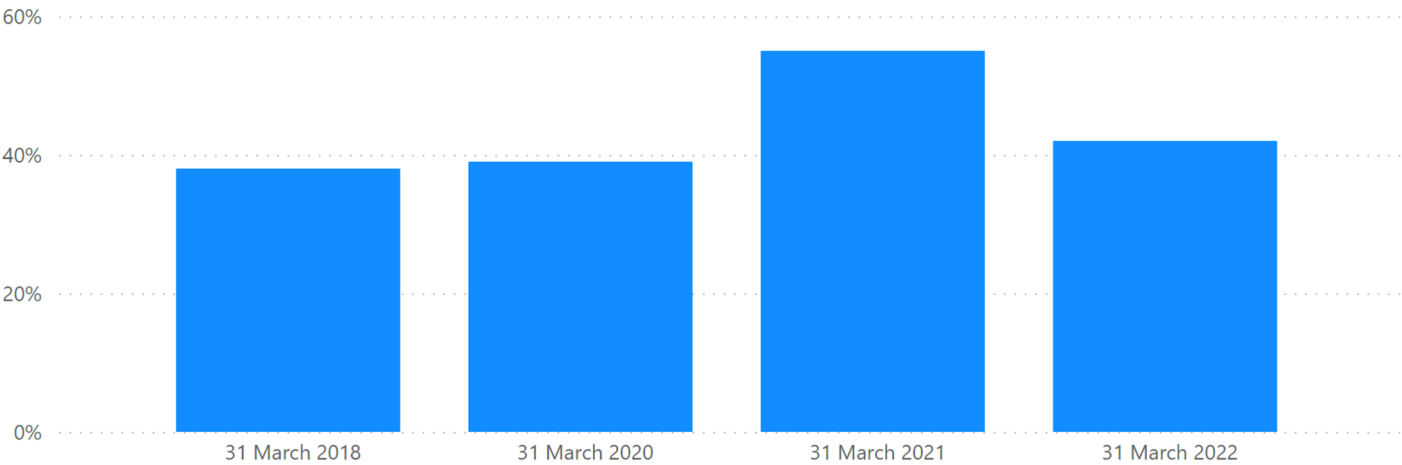


The percentage of Plymouth City Survey respondents who volunteer or help out in the city, which includes formal volunteering (e.g. for a charity or community group) or informal helping out (e.g. a neighbour).

This measure, along with others from the City Survey, is under review by the portfolio holder.

Page 61

Residents who think people from different backgrounds get on well

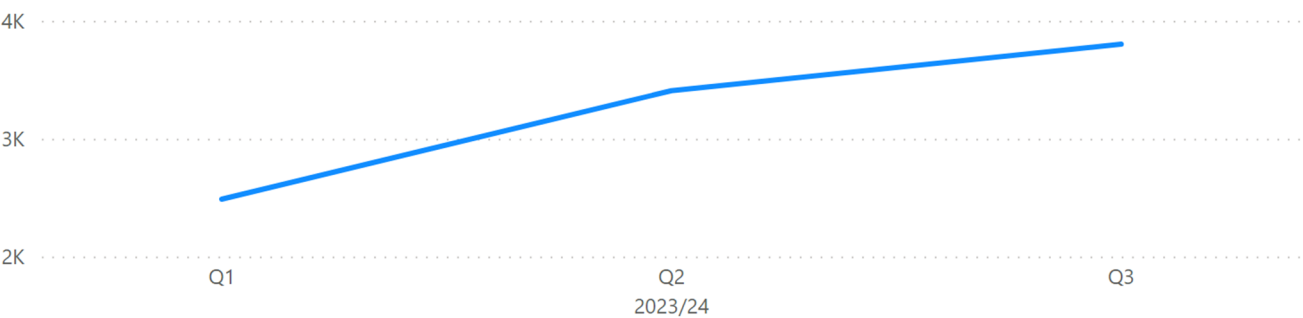


The percentage of Plymouth City Survey respondents who agreed with the statement 'my local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together'. This is a measure of community cohesion.

This measure, along with others from the City Survey, is under review by the portfolio holder.

Doing this by - Focusing on Prevention and Early Intervention

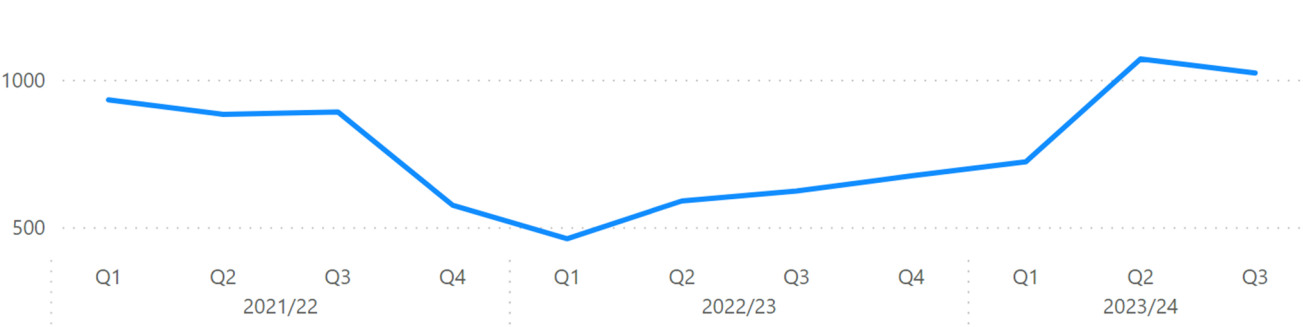
Number of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) contacts received



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.

There has been an increase of 400 contacts in the last reporting period.

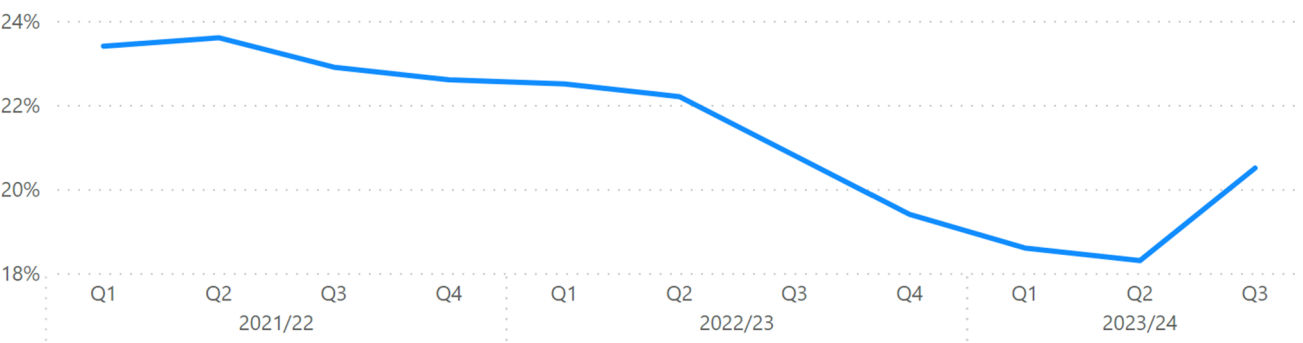
Number of MASH referrals received



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.

In the last reporting quarter referrals have reduced by 48.

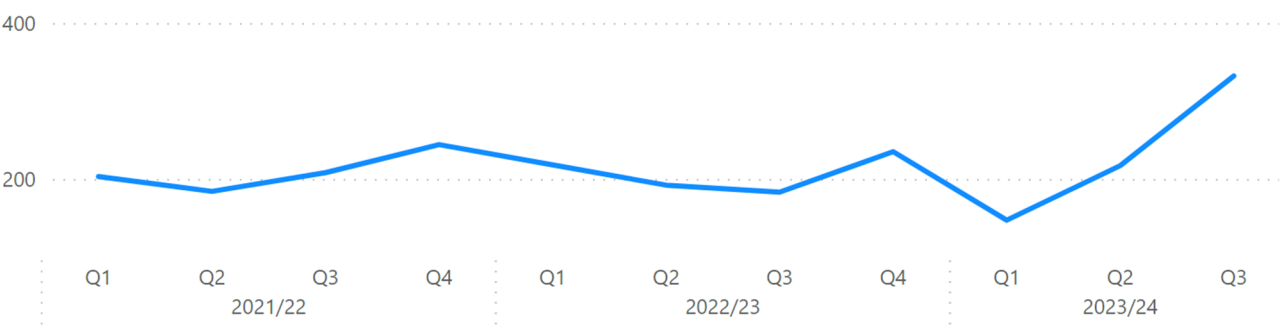
Repeat MASH referrals to Children's Social Care (rolling 12 months)



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.

In the last reporting quarter repeat referrals have increase by 2.2%.

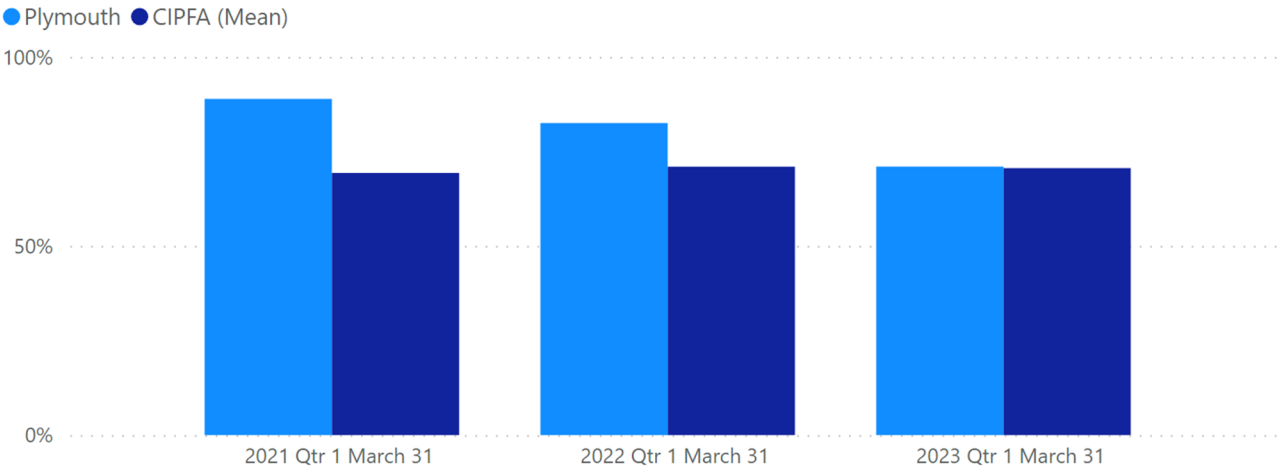
Number of households prevented from becoming homeless or relieved of homelessness



This measure records the number of households prevented from becoming homeless or relieved of homelessness by the Council.

332 households were prevented from becoming homeless in the last reporting period, an increase of 115 on the last quarter.

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



The Council provides 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.

The last reported data is from the end of the 2022/23 year and shows that Plymouth is in line with its CIPFA comparator group.

Doing this by - Focusing on Prevention and Early Intervention

Percentage of people accessing the Stop Smoking Service who have quit

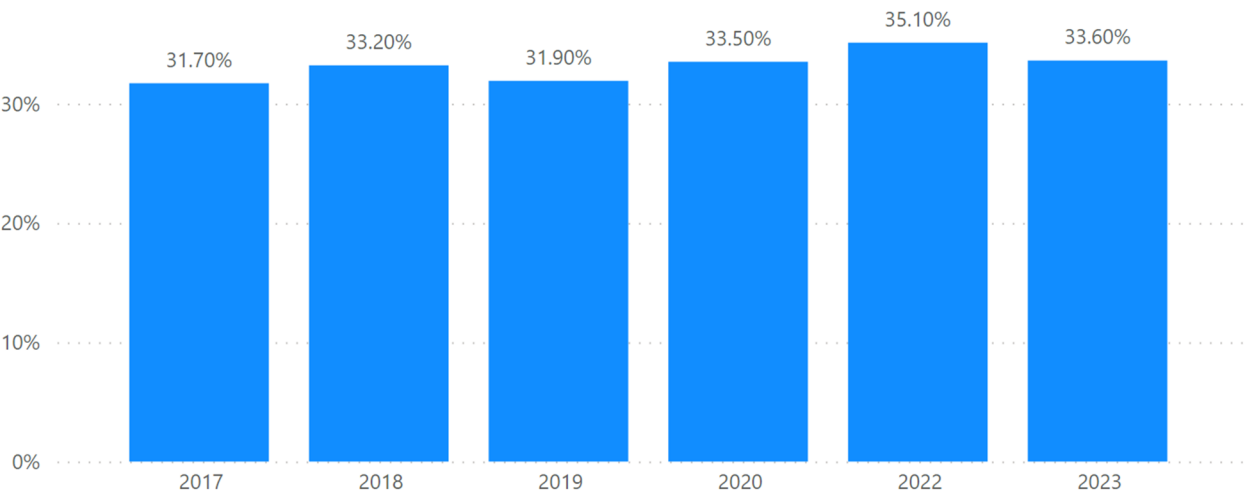


This measure records the number of people who engage with the Stop Smoking Service and set a quit date, with successful quit attempts measured at four weeks.

Data is reported one quarter in arrears. Between Q1 and Q2 23/24 the number of successful quit attempts has plateaued at 48%.

Our Public Health Team recently established a referral pathway from the Mobile Lung Health Check programme, currently located in Plymouth and including all people registered with GP as smoking tobacco and expect this to increase numbers of referrals into our specialist service.

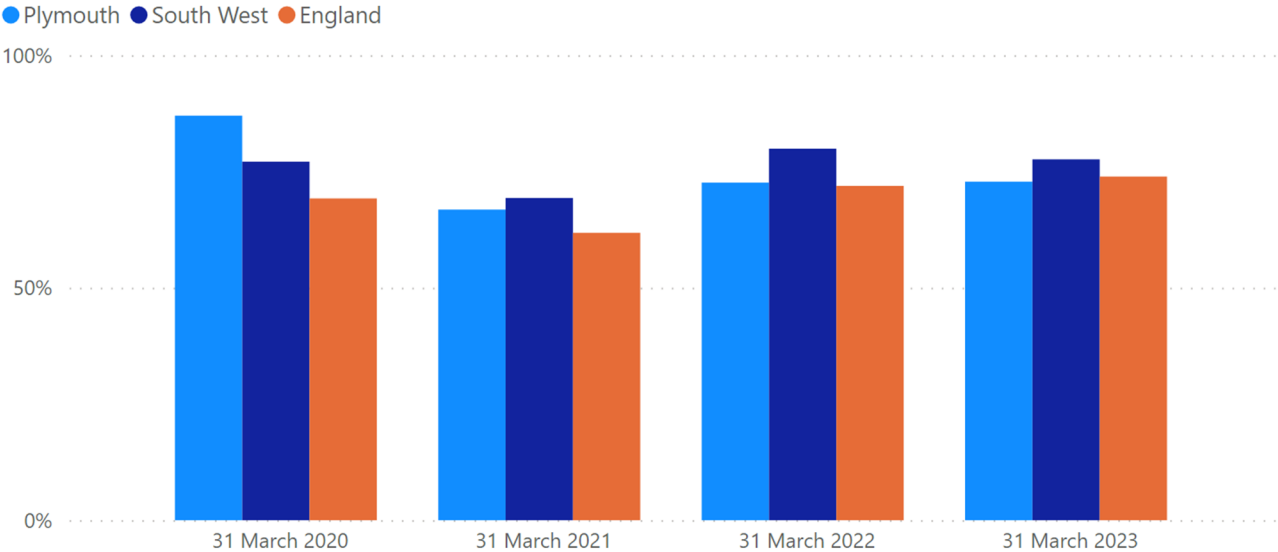
Excess weight in 10-11 year olds



This measure records 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.

Between 2022 and 2023 the prevalence reduced by 2.5%.

Percentage of two year olds benefiting from Funded Early Education



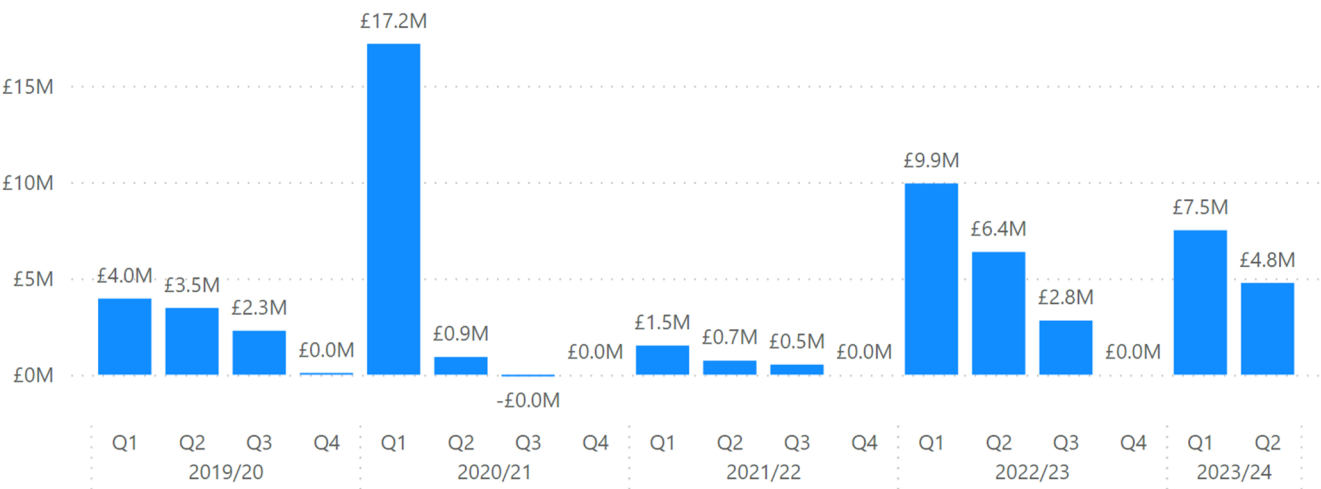
This measure records the proportion of 2 year olds benefiting from funded early education.

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.

The measure has been at 72% since the end of 2021/22, below both the South West and England average.

Doing this by - Spending Money Wisely

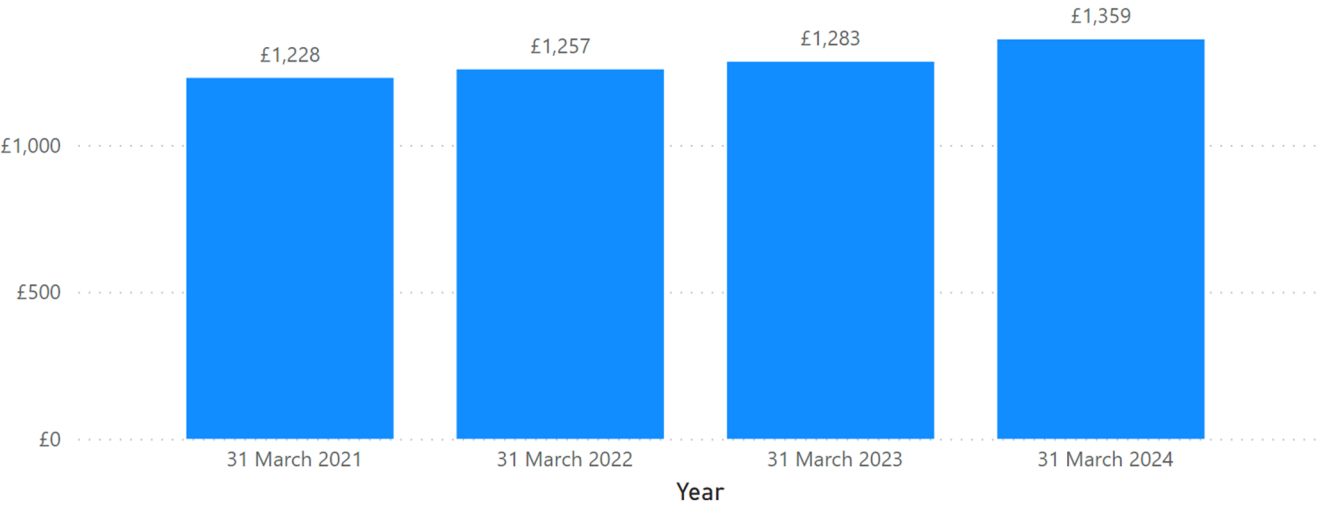
Forecast spend against budget (£million)



This measure records the projected balance remaining against the Council's overall budget at the end of the financial year, updated monthly.

In the last reported quarter forecast overspend reduced by £2.7million.

Average council tax revenue per dwelling



This measure records the average Council Tax charge per dwelling in the City.

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.

Doing this by - Empowering and Engaging Our Staff

Progress Update

Plymouth City Council provides a transparent and fair approach to rewarding our employees through our pay, terms and conditions and benefits. Over the course of quarter three the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 was prepared for Cabinet and Council Approval.

Plymouth City Council continues to adopt the principles of the Real (previously Foundation) Living Wage, with the lowest paid worker (excluding apprentices) earning £23,151 per FTE (£12.00 per hour) from 1 April 2024, an increase of 41 pence per hour from the current lowest pay scale of £11.59 per hour.

The ratio between the lowest paid (£23,151) and highest paid (£173,828) employee will be 1:7.5 from 1 April 2024 (pay award pending), which is a reduction on last year (1:7.99) and a continued reduction from 2012 when the ratio was 1:14.

The average number of working days lost due to sickness per full-time equivalent (FTE) employee at Plymouth City Council, 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. Over the last reporting quarter the figure has increased by one working day.

Our new Service Director for Human Resources and Organisational Development joined the Council in November. Over the past few years Chris Squire's work has included children's social care improvement, workforce strategies, leadership development, apprenticeships, culture, and leadership to the people side of the Somerset unitary programme. Chris will take the lead role in the refresh of the **People Strategy (2020-24)** and will make reports to the relevant scrutiny committee on progress.

On refresh of the People Strategy key performance indicators will be developed and included in future iterations of the performance report.

Doing this by - Being a strong voice for Plymouth

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. In particular, this has focused on levelling up and developing relationships with government departments and agencies such as the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Homes England to drive forward the next stage of Plymouth's regeneration.

October – On the 18 September 2023 the City Council debated and agreed a number of Motions on Notice which resulted in the following correspondence to Ministers:

- The Leader wrote to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing) to raise concerns about nursery provision and the financial viability of the early years and childcare sector in Plymouth. A response was received from the Minister on the 20 November 2023.
- The Leader wrote to the then Minister of State (Department for Science, Research and Innovation) and the then Minister of State (Department of Health and Social Care, to consider increased funding for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) research, linked with a campaign to raise awareness of the impact of this devastating decision. The Leader also wrote to the then Minister of State Department for Work and Pensions to ask that the government considers providing more targeted energy support for households affected by MND.
- The Leader wrote to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request that English local authorities have the option to hold council meetings remotely in order to encourage greater democratic participation.
- The Director of Public Health wrote to the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Primary Care and Public Health) on the impact of vaping on young people and to ask that the government's response to the consultation around vaping in young people is published rapidly and the recommended measures implemented swiftly.

November – The Minister for Levelling Up, wrote to the Leader to provisionally award the Council up to £19,946,417 for the Plymouth and South Devon Freeport – Accelerating Plymouth's Waterfront Regeneration, following the Council's bid to the Levelling Up Fund Round 3.

- The Leader has also written to the Interim Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer, 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 December explaining the planned trajectory for achieving weighted capitation over the next four years across Devon.
- Furthermore, the Leader wrote to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to ask them to consider raising the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) by an amount equal to or above comparable year on year increases that match the Consumer Price Index level. A response was received from the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work in December and referenced the Chancellor's announcement in the Autumn Statement confirming the uprating of the LHA rates to the 30th percentile of local market rents.
- Notable visits to the city in November included the Shadow Minister for Children and Early Years who met with Councillor Cresswell, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships to discuss support for care leavers in the city. The Deputy Director for Youth and Skills at the DWP also visited Skills Launchpad Plymouth to see the work being delivered to support young people into training and work.

Doing this by - Being a strong voice for Plymouth

Contd.

December – The Leader wrote to the recently appointed Minister of State (Minister for Science, Research and Innovation) to extend an invitation to visit the city and to see first-hand some of the cutting-edge work that is taking place in Plymouth around innovation in the marine and maritime sectors. The Leader also wrote to the recently appointed Secretary of State for Health and Social Care with an invitation to visit to discuss the challenges faced in health and social care and how we are working to address them in Plymouth.

In addition, the Leader has also written to the Shadow Secretary of State for Education and the Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care inviting them to visit Plymouth.

Councillor Briars-Delve, Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change wrote to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Water and Rural) regarding food waste recycling. The letter asked for clarity as to whether the new burdens funding for food waste allocated to local authorities would cover costs associated with introducing electric refuse collection vehicles and associated charging infrastructure.

Councillor Penberthy, Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities, wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to express disappointment that the Government has no plans to continue the Household Support Fund beyond the 31 March 2024 and that there are no plans to replace it with a longer-term comparable alternative.

The Leader also received a response from the Minister for the School System and Student Finance further to correspondence in September regarding reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in Plymouth. The response outlined that there were no confirmed or suspected cases of RAAC in Plymouth and provided a link to the full list of schools affected.

This page is intentionally left blank

Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	21 February 2024
Title of Report:	HR & Organisational Development Priorities & Update
Lead Member:	Councillor Sue Dann (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Sport, Leisure and HR and OD)
Lead Strategic Director:	Tracey Lee (Chief Executive)
Author:	Chris Squire (Service Director HR & Organisational Development)
Contact Email:	Chris.squire@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To present to the Committee the priorities for the Human Resources & Organisational Development (HROD) team and update on key themes and trends.

Recommendations and Reasons

- I. That the Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- I. No alternative options as this is an update report for the Committee.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The work of the HROD team directly supports council services to deliver the Corporate Plan, by enabling staff to work effectively and to flourish in their roles. Specific to the Plan, this work empowers and engages our staff and is directly linked to the People Strategy.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

There are no additional implications for the MTFP from this overview report.

Financial Risks

There are no additional financial risks to be noted from this overview report.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

This report has no environmental implications.

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.

The outcomes from this work will reinforce a culture of health & safety. A focus within the programme is equalities, particularly with regard to people who share protected characteristics. This will help to position Plymouth City Council as a place where people aspire to work and develop their careers.

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.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	DJN. 23.24. 192	Leg	LS/00 0010 75/1/ AC/1 3/2/2 4	Mon Off		HR		Asset s		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Chris Squire											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Tracey Lee - Yes											
Date agreed: 12/02/2024											

Cabinet Member approval:



Date approved: 12/02/2024

PERFORMANCE, FINANCE AND CUSTOMER FOCUS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –

Human Resources & Organisational Development Briefing

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to brief the Committee on the following:

- The priorities for the Human Resources & Organisational Development Team (HROD) for 2024-25.
- Key workforce trends and data.
- Actions relating to the Big Listen Staff Survey.
- The status of current programmes.

The work links directly to Plymouth City Council's People Strategy.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. Plymouth City Council's People Strategy was agreed in 2020. It set the vision for how the authority would support and develop its employees, underpinning the Council mission to make Plymouth a fairer city where everyone does their bit. The strategy sets out four broad objectives:

- Everyone feels welcome.
- Aspire to be the best.
- Attract and keep the right people.
- Be well led.

The past four years have been challenging financial times for all local authorities, however we continue to prioritise high quality services, led and delivered through the hard work of our staff. The ambition coming from the People Strategy has to be creating and maintaining Plymouth City Council as a high-quality and exemplar employer in the city and the South West.

2.2. The current Service Director for HROD started in post in November 2023.

2.3. The Big Listen Staff Survey took place in June-July 2022. Several programmes of work came from the survey and updates are described in Section 4.4.

3. HR-OD Priorities for 2024-25

The HR-OD team has experienced significant change in recent years, due to factors including local government financial challenge, changes in leadership, service restructures and adapting (as a team and leading the workforce) to a post-pandemic working environment. Following the appointment of the new Service Director of HROD, the service has identified key issues that impact on the work of the team and the workforce. There are several conclusions as a result of this work, which have informed the priorities for the team for 2024-25. These conversations also highlighted strengths of the current team and issues affecting it.

3.1. Strengths Impacting on HR & the Workforce

The HROD team has identified the following strengths that impact on the service and the workforce.

- Ambitious administration that cares for the workforce.
- Senior Leadership Team mostly established.

- Real track record of delivering for Plymouth.
- Workforce that really cares about what it delivers.
- Established policy framework and supporting tools.
- A history of strong workforce practices & programmes.
- A strong City-Brand.

3.2. Issues Impacting on HR & the Workforce

The HROD service has identified the following issues that impact the team and workforce.

- Pay & Reward – pressures similar across local government, however local issue with senior grades and pressures elsewhere (e.g. corporate service roles, street services).
- Recruitment & retention in Children's Services.
- Current HR & Payroll system.
- Bureaucracy around current processes.
- Increasing sickness absence rate across PCC.

All of the above are now being addressed, and progress is described in Section 4 of this report.

3.3. Priorities for the HR-OD Team

Based on the points presented in 3.1 and 3.2, above, the HR-OD team has been tasked with an immediate focus on the following:

- Recruitment & Induction – ensuring efficient processes, attractive recruitment advertising, recruitment strategies & plans, revamped induction process.
- HR/Payroll system – re-tender of current system in anticipation of expiry of current contract in March 2025.
- Establishment Control – ensuring we have an accurate view of vacancies against budgeted posts, across Payroll and the Financial Ledger.
- Staff Wellbeing – focus on individual cases and overall wellbeing programmes.
- Workforce Planning – ensuring we have described workforce plans across the Council, to look at key areas such as apprenticeships, succession planning and workforce risks.
- Training Needs Analysis – collating corporate training needs from across the Council.
- Leadership & Management Development – CMT, SLT, 'The Plymouth Manager', Family of Companies – ensuring we have development for managers at all levels of the organisation, together with programmes for colleagues who aspire to management and leadership positions.
- Senior Manager grades – Ensuring that we remain competitive in our offer for senior managers, leaders and subject matter experts, based on analysis and benchmarking with local authorities, other public sector and private sector organisations locally, regionally and nationally.
- Children's & Street Services – focused attention on these areas, to embed work described above which will subsequently be rolled out across Plymouth City Council.

4. Current Projects

4.1. Recruitment

Sprint Project

As part of Plymouth City Council's transformation programme and focus on organisational effectiveness, the HR-OD and Transformation teams established a 'sprint project' to focus on reducing bureaucracy and improving recruitment processes. This project was closed in December 2023, with the outcomes including:

- Recruitment authorisation delegated to services.
- Clearer formats, forms, terminology.
- Improved quality assurance of recruitment requests.

A new recruitment project has now been started, looking at how PCC presents itself as an employer-of-choice to prospective candidates (and current staff) and the tools needed to achieve this. This work is directly linked to the Children's Services Improvement Programme, and includes development of our own recruitment pages (members of the committee are invited to view our Children's Services careers' pages - [Careers in children's services | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/careers-in-childrens-services)) as well as the use of tools such as LinkedIn. This has seen creative and effective work across teams, including Communications, Children's Services, Transformation, Finance and HR-OD.

Recruitment statistics show the scale of this challenge:

- Since April 2023 – direct PCC employment:
 - 435 recruitment requests.
 - Circa 30 – 40 new starters per month.
 - Establishment Changes within the HR & Payroll system - to date 2,500.
 - Disclosure & Barring Service processes including self-declarations - to date 1,400.
- Temporary Recruitment last 12-months (via Matrix):
 - 716 placements in total.
 - Currently - 22 placements recorded as 'Interim' – day rate placements.
 - 258 active placements.

The focus on workforce planning within Children's and Street Services will reduce the number of agency staff used.

Chief Officer Appointments

The HR-OD team has run several chief officer appointments processes in recent months, supported by monthly meetings of the Chief Officer Appointments Panel. Successful appointments include:

- Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
- Service Director Human Resources & Organisational Development
- Strategic Director for Children's Services
- Service Director Education, Partnerships & Skills
- Interim Service Director Children, Young People & Family Services

4.2. Management Development

A development programme for managers has been written, covering people management skills. The purpose of this is to ensure consistency of practice across the organisation, as well as develop networks and share good practice. The areas covered are:

- Managing Performance
- Managing Attendance and sickness absence in the workplace

- Managing Disciplinary
- Managing Grievance
- Recruitment and selection for managers

Delivery of this programme will start in Children's Services, followed by Street Services and then rolled out across PCC.

4.3. Welcome Event and Induction

Plymouth City Council has circa 30-40 new starters per month, it is therefore critical we undertake effective and welcoming induction for all staff.

The HROD team has reviewed the welcome event for all new starters within the Council. This event is led by the Chief Executive, with guest speakers to introduce all the key aspects of working life in the council, the role of Members, the role of the trade unions, the employee benefits and the experience they should receive. The first of these new events was held on 8th February 2024.

The team is also reviewing the induction programme from pre-employment through the first 3 months of employment, for employees and managers. Also known as 'on-boarding', this recognises that induction isn't a one-off event, rather a process that takes place in advance of someone starting with the Council and supporting them through their first few months here.

4.4. The 'Big Listen' Staff Survey

The creation of an Engagement Champion Network was the principal action from the last staff survey ('The Big Listen'). The purpose of the network is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be heard; that their ideas are given fair consideration and actions are taken that make Plymouth City Council a better place to work.

Membership and Role

There are currently 19 members so far from across our services and the intention is to increase this number so that every department has a representative. Introductory welcome sessions with the Champions ran on Thursday 30th November and Tuesday 5th December 2023.

Areas of Focus

The Champions have focused first on two of the main themes that came out of our 2022 Big Listen Staff Survey: Communication and Change Management. Using a framework, they will gather the views from their teams/departments on the realistic actions and solutions that could be taken to improve in these areas. \

The next area of focus for the Champions will be Employee Recognition, and work on this will start in Spring 2024.

4.5. Apprenticeships

The Council currently has 89 active learners, studying & working for an apprenticeship qualification. The Council is in an extremely strong position to launch an apprenticeships campaign, highlighting the opportunities for the recruitment of external apprentices, as a pipeline of talent for all areas of the organisation. This includes the focus on Children's and Street Services, referred to under HR Priorities.

HROD work with Street Services has seen a focus on succession and development at Prince Rock, with 9 recent enrolments out of 13 places on PCC's team leader apprenticeship programme coming from that team. Apprenticeship pay is being aligned to the NJC pay-scales, which will promote the Council as an employer of choice within the apprentice job market.

Work by the HROD team identifies appropriate vacancies suitable for apprenticeships and managers will continue to be encouraged to consider offering an apprenticeship wherever possible.

4.6. Pay & Reward

New pay grades ('M & N') for senior managers, leaders and subject matter experts were approved by Full Council in 2023 and are part of the Pay Policy Statement. The HR-OD team is currently running a project to re-evaluate all posts at grade L, to assess which ones may be in scope for placing in the new grades. This work will also see the implementation of the Recruitment & Retention Strategy, that was agreed in March 2023.

Once completed, the team will then start a project to assess the viability of our current job evaluation system for senior roles.

4.7. Sickness Absence

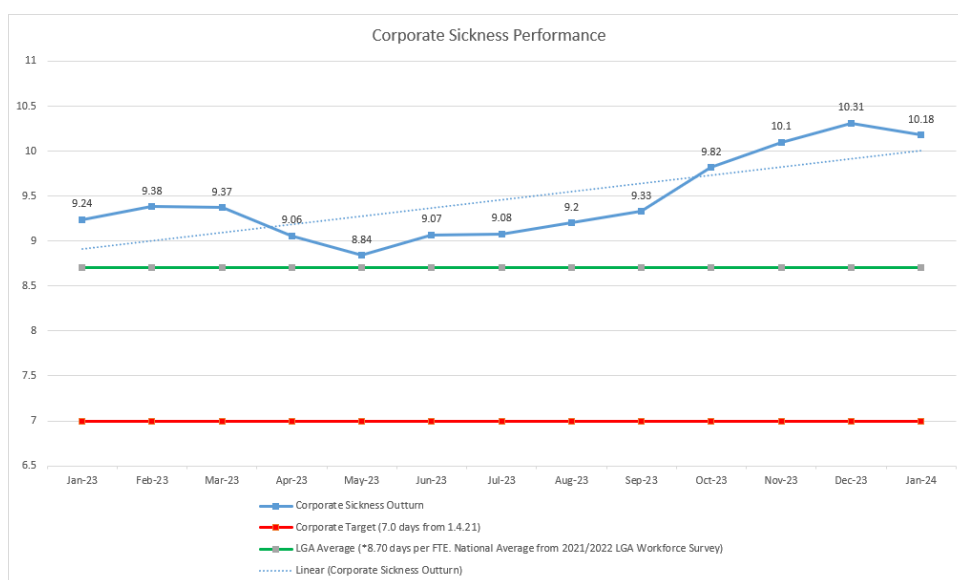
The HR team is working very closely with directors, managers and individual members of staff on sickness absence. This includes a focus on the 'Top 100' and those with frequent periods of absence and is done in an open and supportive way. Processes are supported by Occupational Health, our Employee Assistance Programme, trade union representatives and new line manager training (as described in section 4.2).

Increased absence levels in Plymouth City Councils are due to musculo-skeletal and stress & anxiety. We are seeing positive results from interventions in areas such as Independence at Home and Street Services.

It should be noted that increasing levels of sickness absence are being seen across the UK, notably due to stress & anxiety.

The increase in sickness absence can be seen in figure 1:

Figure 1 - Sickness Absence



5. Data Analysis

Workforce data is now presented in a 'flashcard' format for the Council and individual services. An example of this (reflecting corporate data) can be seen in Appendix One, service area flashcards include brief analysis of the figures. This data is discussed at senior team meetings within each service area, with strategic directors discussing implications and actions monthly at the Corporate Management Team meeting.

6. Link to the People Strategy

The priorities and programmes of work described in this paper link directly to the delivery of the People Strategy and will inform its next iteration. This is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2 - Links to People Strategy

<div> <div>Link to People Strategy</div>  </div>	
Everyone Feels Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment & Induction Staff Networks Staff Engagement – Survey & Awards Culture Programme 	Aspire to be the Best <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CoreHR Replacement Programme Establishment Control Organisational Training Needs Analysis HR 'Surgeries' HR-OD leading on M365 adoption Monthly Development Sessions for HR-OD Organisational Effectiveness Programme
Attract & Keep the Right People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Wellbeing – Analysis & Report Workforce Planning Recruitment & Retention analysis & report Pay & Grading Review Young People Strategy Ways of Working (inc. Hybrid) 	Be Well Led <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership & Management Development – CMT, SLT, 'The Plymouth Manager', Family of Companies Regular 1-1s with Directors Development Sessions for trade union representatives, managers & HR staff Senior Manager Grades

7. Conclusion

The priorities for the Human Resources & Organisational Development Team, together with current and planned programmes of work, show the clear development of the existing People Strategy for Plymouth City Council and set the way ahead for its next iteration. Good progress has been made across all areas, however we do not underestimate the amount and quality of work that is needed in order to support the workforce required to deliver the Plymouth Plan.

Chris Squire, Service Director Human Resources & Organisational Development

Appendix One – Workforce Flashcard

QUARTER 3 – 2023/24 HEADLINES	
<p>Total Headcount 2,538</p> <p>Council headcount: 2,538 Council FTE: 2,166.34</p>	<p>Sickness absence 10.31 days lost per FTE (RYTD) December days lost per FTE: 0.89 <u>Top 3 Reasons for sickness RYTD</u> Short term: Cold/Flu, Stomach/ Gastric/ Liver, COVID Long term: Stress – Personal, Anxiety/ Depression/ Psych – Personal, other musculoskeletal (exc. Back and neck)</p>
<p>Change since 31/3/23: +32</p>	<p>National Avg: 8.7 days lost per FTE (LGA 2022)</p>
<p>Vacancies</p> <p>Work in progress – establishment cleanse currently taking place to remove all unbudgeted, vacant posts from the establishment.</p>	<p>Annual Turnover (RYTD) 11.33% % Turnover in month: 0.67% <u>Top 3 reasons for leaving RYTD:</u> Resignation, Retirement, Dismissal</p>
<p>National Avg: 14% median vacancy rate (council-wide) (LGA 2021/22)</p>	<p>National Avg: 13.4% (LGA 2021)</p>
<p>Cost of agency workers: £1,084,768.39 per month (December) Agency Workers 314 % of Headcount: 11.0% % of pay bill: 11.77% Full year forecast: £9,329,337.43</p>	<p>23/24 Apprentices 41 Total Apprentices 88 Internal development starting 23/24: 20. External appointments starting 23/24: 21.</p>
<p>National Avg: 6% (22/23) FOI response</p>	<p>National and PCC annual target: 58 (2.3%)</p>
<p>Agency Placements over 36 months: 15 Placements 13 - 24 months: 45 Placements 25 - 36 months: 10 Total number of placements: 314</p>	<p>Formal HR Casework 35 Attendance: 6 Disciplinary: 15 Performance: 2 Grievance: 8 Employment Tribunal: 3</p>
<p>National Avg: N/A</p>	<p>National Avg: N/A</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	21 February 2024
Title of Report:	Serious Violence Duty Action Plan and Funding Proposal
Lead Member:	Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Cemeteries & Crematoria)
Lead Strategic Director:	Gary Walbridge (Interim Strategic Director for People)
Author:	Tracey Naismith
Contact Email:	Tracey.naismith@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	TN Feb 24
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to share the DRAFT Serious Violence Action Plan and funding schedule. They are both DRAFT documents as they need to be signed off by the Safer Plymouth Partnership who is responsible for the governance and delivery of the Serious Violence Duty.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. Endorse the Action Plan and funding schedule

Reason: The Serious Violence Action Plan and corresponding funding schedule, is designed to facilitate the delivery of the key priorities of working with the Police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and keeping children, adults, and families safe. The success of these objectives is contingent upon effective collaboration with the other specified authorities responsible for fulfilling the Serious Violence Duty. The partnership approach is emphasized in the action plan by placing a strategic approach of prevention and early intervention as recommended in the corporate plan approach.

Alternative options considered and rejected

None.

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.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The allocated funding covers a 12-month period exclusively. Specified Authorities were mandated to submit a funding form outlining their approach to maintaining financial sustainability in the event of requiring funding after the 12-month period.

Financial Risks

There are no known financial risks. As the response to Serious Violence is embedded, we will understand more detail any future funding opportunities or risks.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

There are no direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

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.*

No other implications

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>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.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	SV Draft Action Plan							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment							
C	SV Funding budget							
D	SV Strategic Needs Assessment							
E	SV Strategy							

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) <i>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.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Sign off:

Fin	CH 31.01. 24 1224	Leg	LS/00 0010 75/1/ AC/5/ 2/24	Mon Off	Click here to enter text.	HR	Click here to enter text.	Asset s	Click here to enter text.	Strat Proc	Click here to enter text.
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Matt Garrett											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: Date.30/01/2024											
Cabinet Member approval: Sally Haydon approved by email Date approved: Date.30/01/2024											

This page is intentionally left blank

Safer Plymouth Serious Violence Action Plan 2024- 2028

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.

Safer Plymouth members will take every opportunity to support partners across the city to continue to:

- 1. challenge harmful and cultural and social norms,
- 2. adopt trauma responses approaches and practice,
- 3. share responsibility for supporting victims and people who cause harm; and
- 4. expand relational based programmes and initiatives.

Serious Violence Pillar	Prevention response	Target	Action	Timeframe	Lead Body
Building Personal and Community Resilience	Establish a Healthy Relationships Alliance to support social, emotional and life skills development in all	N.1 N.2 N.3 L.1 L.2 L.3 L.4 L.5 L.6	Coordinate and deliver whole school approach to cover respectful behaviour, healthy relationships and gender equality across Plymouth schools and further education providers.	March 25	DA/VAWG Sub Group

	schools and youth settings.				
	Challenging harmful cultural and social norms	N.1 N.2 N.3 L.1 L.2 L.4	<p>Commission Bystander training to build knowledge, skills and confidence to intervene. Including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Co-production young people's programme: engage with at least 2 schools, NSPCC Advisory Group and Youth Parliament to develop schools-based programme. 2. Co-production community bystander programme: host at least 4 sessions with community members and partners; engage with peer researchers and community builders to co-host sessions. 3. Mapping of current practice, research and interventions locally, regionally and nationally. 4. Development of Plymouth specific Bystander Intervention training package – that can be delivered in person/online. 5. Development of Plymouth specific Train the Trainer package 6. Test/pilot delivery of Bystander Intervention programme in the community to at least 60 participants. 7. Test/pilot delivery of Bystander Intervention young people's programme in 1 school. 8. Delivery of 3 Train the Trainer sessions in schools and communities with a target of 18 trainers trained. 9. Delivery of city-wide Plymouth Bystander communications campaign. 	March 25	DA/VAWG Sub Group
			Develop a shared narrative and community awareness campaign to drive attitudinal change.	March 25	Safer Families Sub Group

			<p>Develop our understanding and approach to people who may sexually harm children. Including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of impressions from AdMessages – target 400,000 impressions. 2. Number of people from Plymouth contacting the Stop it Now helpline and website to increase by 175% over the period (in line with 2022 campaign). 3. Number of professionals trained – 75. 		
			<p>Extend Male Allyship Network to promote and develop positive male cultures. Including</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivery of an annual conference. 2. Delivering a series of Podcasts and awareness raising sessions across Plymouth. 	March 25	Man Culture
Responding to harm	Establish a Co-ordinated Community Response for people who harm through enforcement, disruption and behaviour change initiatives.	N.1 N.2 N. 3 L. 1 L. 2 L.4	Strengthen our Coordinated Community Response by working towards CCR accreditation.	March 25	DA/VAWG Sub Group

	Respond to immediate harm by expanding capacity for trauma informed services for victims and survivors of violence	N.1 N.2 N.3 L. 1 L. 2 L.4	Plymouth City Council will commission a new Domestic Abuse service for Plymouth drawing on our learning from those with lived experience.	March 25	DA/VAWG Sub Group
		N.1 N.2 N.3 L. 1 L. 2 L.4	Improve responses in Primary Care through implementation of the NHS commissioned Interpersonal Trauma Response Service (ITRS)	March 25	DA/VAWG Sub Group
		N.1 N.2 N.3 L. 1 L. 2 L.4	Improve Plymouth's responses to prostituted women including developing clear exit pathways building on our work as a partnership and learning from the Sparks project	March 25	DA/VAWG Sub Group
		N.1 N.2 N.3 L. 1 L. 2 L.4	Review Plymouth's system response to sexual violence in line with peninsula approach and NHSE Sexual Violence Pathfinder Project	March 25	DA/VAWG Sub Group
	Build capacity and expertise across core services for early identification of and response to violence.	N.1 N.2 N.3 L.2 L.3 L.4 L.5	Youth Justice Service Impact Project including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce the number of first-time entrants into the youth justice system by 15% 2. Maintain the Re-offending rate to below the national average. 	March 25	Youth Justice Service

		L.6	<p>3. Work with 468 children and young people over the 12 month period of the project.</p> <p>4. Work with 5 secondary schools where ASB is prevalent to reduce the impact on the community.</p>		
Feeling safe	Improve opportunities for reporting violence.	L.1	Safer Plymouth will create opportunities for ongoing conversations and co-production with local communities, particularly with communities and groups most affected by violence including, LGBTQ?, Black and Minority Ethnic Groups, Disabled People.	March 25	Safer Plymouth
	Improve communications with communities to encourage feelings of safety.	L.1	Launch Safer Plymouth website and utilise along with leveraging social media channels, to enhance feelings of safety. This includes disseminating general advice on crime prevention, along with providing links to external resources such as Crime Stoppers.	June 24	Safer Plymouth
	Strengthen violence prevention activity in the evening and nighttime economy	N.1 N.2 N.3 L.1 L.2 L.4	Implementation of the Purple Flag Accreditation Scheme that helps to create a safe and thriving Night Time Economy	March 25	Safer Communities Sub Group
Learning and understanding	Optimise opportunities of conversations and co-production with communities, including those	L.1 L.2 L.4 L.5 L.6	Explore adopting a Human Learning Systems Approach to Serious Violence	March 25	Safer Plymouth

	most affected by serious violence.				
	Enhance our understanding and insights through regular spotlight enquiries.	L.1 L.2 L.4	Improve our responses to prostituted women including developing clear exit pathways building on our work as a partnership and learning from the Sparks project	March 25	DA/VAWG Sub Group
		L.1 L.2 L.4	Embed Appreciative Enquiry and learning from those with lived experience of serious violence including domestic abuse and sexual violence across the Safer Plymouth Partnership and Sub Groups.	March 25	Safer Plymouth
		N.1 N.2 N.3 L.1 L.2 L.3 L.4 L.5 L.6	Actively support people, teams and services across the city understand what their role could be to embed primary prevention and deliver the serious violence duty including leadership, systems change and practical advice and guidance including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. challenging harmful and cultural and social norms, 2. adopting trauma responses approaches and practice, 3. sharing responsibility for supporting victims and people who cause harm; and 4. expanding relational based programmes and initiatives. 	March 28	Safer Plymouth
	Establish research and learning partnerships to further develop evidence and evaluation.	L.1 L.2 L.4	Feasibility study for implementation of HARP community prevention programme for people with enduring sexual thoughts about children including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detailed delivery plan including clear timeframes for set up, implementation, delivery model (including staffing structure), detailed budget plus evaluation specification 	March 25	The Together for Childhood HARP Task and Finish Group

			<p>2. Scoping report capturing city readiness conditions for implementation of HARP Prevention Programme, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic and political commitment to support successful implementation ○ Partnership support for effective delivery and system approach ○ Referral pathway and conditions for referrals (robust and sensitive and safe) defined and agreed. ○ Information sharing processes / agreements in place. ○ Disclosure pathway defined and agreed (ref Plymouth pathway) ○ Broader support identified for family members impacted by someone disclosing and accessing the HARP service. ○ Community engagement evidenced – including communication about the benefits of this approach in wider community. ○ Requirements of strategic and operational partners defined and agreed. <p>3. Communications plan to include media to consider both advertising and risk management</p> <p>4. Potential funding sources summary plan</p>		
		<p>N.1 N.2 N.3 L.2 L.4</p>	<p>Create a robust and collectively owned response to people who harm including those that pose High Risk and cause High Harm through consideration of national research and best practice, review of local data and response.</p>	March 25	Safer Plymouth

National indicators

N.1 Reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with knife or sharp object

N.2 Reduction in knife and sharp object enable serious violence recorded by the police

N.3 Reduction in homicides recorded by the police

Local indicators

L.1 Improved perceptions of safety (with a specific focus on protected characteristics)

L.2 Reduction in number of recorded violent crimes

L.3 Reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system

L.4 Reduction in re-offending of violent crimes

L.5 Reductions in school exclusions and persistent absence

L.6 Reduction in number of 16-17 year olds not in education, employment and training

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY AND MODEL FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

SECTION ONE: INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Author(s): This is the person completing the EIA template.	Laura Juett	Department and service:	Public Health, ODPH	Date of assessment:	January 2024
Lead Officer: Please note that a Head of Service, Service Director, or Strategic Director must approve the EIA.	Matt Garrett, Service Director, Community Connections	Signature:		Approval date:	
Overview:	<p>The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced a new statutory Serious Violence 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.</p> <p>The Duty requires local areas to publish a serious violence strategic needs assessment and response strategy. A needs assessment has been written and brings together data and intelligence from a number of sources and also includes the perceptions, views and experiences of people drawn from surveys, conversations and local research. The needs assessment provides a shared understanding of how violence impacts the city and informs a collective approach to addressing these issues.</p> <p>The Serious Violence Strategy and model for Violence Prevention is informed by the needs assessment, an audit of current responses and a review of the published evidence about what is effective in reducing and preventing violence. It is also shaped by conversations with over 200 people from services, organisations and communities who were invited to consider how we collectively build motivation for change.</p> <p>The overall vision for the Serious Violence Strategy and model for Violence Prevention 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</p>				

	<p>multiple and reinforcing approaches that both address the drivers of violence and respond to the harm caused by violence. The model for violence prevention has three distinct tiers as described below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Building on existing approaches including those led by the Serious Violence Duty <i>specified authorities</i>, the Office for Police and Crime Commissioner and the Violence against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Local Partnership Board.2. Realising the potential for violence prevention in the broader range of local policies, programmes and services e.g., Community Youth Services, Family Hubs and Belong in Plymouth, through<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Challenging harmful cultural and social norms• Adopting trauma responsive approaches and practice• Sharing the responsibility for supporting victims and people who cause harm• Expanding relational based programmes and initiatives3. Initiating 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. The key areas of focus here are<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Building Personal and Community Resilience</i> - including a Healthy Relationships Alliance and multiple approaches to challenging harmful cultural and social norms• <i>Responding to Harm</i> - including the development of a Co-ordinated Community Response to people who harm through enforcement, disruption and behaviour change initiatives• <i>Feeling Safe</i> – including improving opportunities for reporting violence and strengthening violence prevention activity in the evening and night time economy• <i>Learning and Understanding</i> – including spotlight enquiries into specific issues and conversations and coproduction with communities most affected by violence
Decision required:	For information on behalf of the Safer Plymouth partnership

SECTION TWO: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL

Potential external impacts:	Yes		No	
-----------------------------	-----	--	----	--

Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact service users, communities or residents with protected characteristics?				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	X	No	
If you do not agree that a full equality impact assessment is required, please set out your justification for why not.				

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	<p>Plymouth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p>South West</p>	<p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Serious Violence Response Strategy will disadvantage any specific age groups.</p> <p>Most recent crime data for Plymouth shows that younger age groups are more impacted by serious violence</p>	<p>The focus of some of the responses in the strategy will be on certain age groups who are evidenced to be more impacted by violence including younger people.</p> <p>This includes establishing a Healthy Relationships Alliance to support</p>	<p>Community Connections and members of the statutory Community Safety Partnership, Safer Plymouth across 2024-2028.</p> <p>By March 2025</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>(2021 Census)</p> <p>Of the 22,531 total crimes recorded in Plymouth between April 2021 and March 2022, those involving under-18s (as a victim and perpetrator) can be considered to account for 12.1% and those involving 18-24 year olds can be considered to account for 14.8%. For violence with injury offences between April 2021 and March 2022 those involving 0-24 year olds (as a victim and perpetrator) can be considered to account for 37.2% and for sexual offences 65%</p>	in particular violence with injury and sexual violence.	<p>social, emotional and life skills development in schools and youth settings and challenging harmful cultural and social norms through bystander training.</p> <p>The Youth Justice Services are one of the <i>specified authorities</i> for the Serious Violence Duty and as such are part of the core response to serious violence in the city. They will enhance their early intervention work with younger people who have come to the attention of the police (pre-crime) through clear, structured work around prevention and early intervention.</p>	Across 2024-2028
<p>Care experienced individuals</p> <p>(Note that as per the Independent Review of Children's Social Care recommendations,</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The Care Review reported that 41 per cent of 19-21 year old care leavers are not in</p>	<p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Serious Violence Response Strategy will disadvantage care experienced people.</p> <p>We know that care experienced people are more likely than other population groups to have experienced</p>	<p>We are taking a Human Learning Systems approach to violence prevention that prioritises learning and adaptation. This will support the system to develop a better understanding of how</p>	<p>Community Connections and all Safer Plymouth Partners and Serious Violence Duty <i>specified authorities</i> across 2024-2028</p>

<p>Plymouth City Council is treating care experience as though it is a protected characteristic).</p>	<p>education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 12 per cent of all other young people in the same age group.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>abuse and neglect and that this can include being a victim of violence and a person who causes harm at some point in their lives.</p>	<p>care experienced people are affected by violence. We will do this through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spotlight enquiries • Embedding appreciative enquiry and learning from those with experience in all our work and • Optimise opportunities for conversations and co-production with people who have experience of the care system 	
<p>Disability</p>	<p>9.4 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited 'a lot' because of a physical or mental health problem.</p> <p>12.2 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited 'a little' because of a physical or mental health problem (2021 Census)</p> <p>A Public Health England report published in 2015 found that people with disabilities who experience domestic abuse may face broader risk factors than other domestic abuse victims. Vulnerability resulting from a disability may make a disabled person less able to recognise, report or escape domestic abuse. Disabled people experience higher rates of domestic abuse and they also experience more barriers to accessing</p>	<p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Serious Violence Response Strategy will disadvantage people with disabilities.</p> <p>However we know from the Plymouth City Survey 2022 that people with disabilities that 'limit them a lot' are less likely than the general population to report feeling safe when outside in their local area during the day.</p> <p>People with disabilities, including learning disabilities, may be less likely to report</p>	<p>The Serious Violence Strategy includes a specific priority around improving opportunities for reporting violence.</p> <p>A new Safer Plymouth website and social media channels will provide advice on crime and violence prevention and reporting mechanisms.</p> <p>There will be specific conversations with communities and groups most affected by serious violence to understand</p>	<p>Community Connections and all Safer Plymouth Partners and Serious Violence Duty <i>specified authorities</i> across 2024-2028</p> <p>June 2024</p> <p>By March 2025</p>

	<p>support, such as health and social care services and domestic abuse services.</p> <p>Research by Victim Support (2016) reported that people with a limiting disability or illness are almost three and a half times more likely to suffer serious violence than other groups in the population.</p>	crime including serious violence.	how people are affected and what improvements can be made to facilitate reporting of concerns.	
Gender reassignment	<p>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).</p> <p>A 2023 Home Office Report highlighted that in the year ending March 2023 there was an 11% increase on the previous year in the number of hate crimes against transgender people in England and Wales. Hate crimes on the basis of transgender identity are likely to involve violence or threats of violence.</p>	<p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Serious Violence Strategy will disadvantage people who have a gender identity that is different from their sex registered at birth.</p> <p>However we recognise that our understanding of violence based on transgender and non-binary identities is not well developed and that national debates and narratives about these identities and communities can be divisive.</p>	<p>The Serious Violence Strategy includes a specific priority around improving opportunities for reporting violence and this will be informed through conversations with diverse community groups including people from transgender and non-binary communities.</p> <p>A priority in the Serious Violence Strategy is to enhance our understanding of the impact of violence on diverse communities through conversations, co-production and enquiries.</p>	<p>Community Connections and all Safer Plymouth Partners and Serious Violence Duty <i>specified authorities</i> across 2024-2028</p> <p>By March 2025</p> <p>Across 2024-2028</p>
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.	We do not anticipate that the Serious Violence Strategy will disadvantage people due to their marriage or civil partnership status.		

	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	<p>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.</p> <p>The Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health examined maternal deaths in England and Wales between 2000-2002 and identified domestic abuse as one of eight key risk factors for maternal death.</p> <p>Research has evidenced pregnancy to be a time when domestic abuse can start or worsen.</p>	We do not anticipate that the Serious Violence Strategy will disadvantage however, we recognise the increased risk of domestic abuse and violence to pregnant women.	The Serious Violence Strategy includes a focus on supporting a wider range of services including Family Hubs and Community Youth Services to share the responsibility for supporting victims of violence and people who cause harm. This includes collectively improving how we identify and intervene with perpetrators of violence and prioritising multi-agency practice to share information, manage risk and prioritise safety.	Community Connections All Safer Plymouth Partners and Serious Violence Duty <i>specified authorities</i> across 2024-2028
Race	<p>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)</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Serious Violence Strategy is likely to disadvantage people due to their race.</p> <p>However we recognise that some people from Black and other minority ethnic groups may be less likely to report</p>	The Serious Violence Strategy includes a specific priority around improving opportunities for reporting violence and this will be informed through conversations with diverse community groups including people	<p>Community Connections and all Safer Plymouth Partners and Serious Violence Duty <i>specified authorities</i> across 2024-2028</p> <p>By March 2025</p>

	<p>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).</p> <p>The Serious Violence Needs Assessment does not specifically identify that people from diverse communities are adversely affected by violence in Plymouth. However we recognise that our intelligence and understanding is incomplete. We also acknowledge the broader body of data and research showing that people from Black and other minority ethnic communities are adversely affected by violence.</p>	being a victim of violence and may be less likely to seek support.	<p>from Black and other minority ethnic groups</p> <p>The Serious Violence Strategy has prioritised improving our understanding of the impact of violence on diverse communities. This will be developed through conversations, co-production and spotlight enquiries.</p> <p>The Strategy also has a focus on building personal and community resilience through challenging harmful cultural and social norms. This will include bystander training and extending the current Male Allyship Network to promote and develop positive male cultures.</p>	Across 2024-2028
Religion or belief	<p>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).</p> <p>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).</p>	Overall, we do not anticipate that the Serious Violence Strategy is likely to disadvantage people from specific religion or belief groups.	<p>The Serious Violence Strategy includes a specific priority around improving opportunities for reporting violence and this will be informed through conversations with diverse community groups including people</p>	<p>Community Connections and all Safer Plymouth Partners and Serious Violence Duty <i>specified authorities</i> across 2024-2028</p> <p>By March 2025</p>

	<p>We recognise that national reporting and research provides evidence of hate crimes (a broader range of offences than serious violence) that are related to religion. In 2018 to 2019 8% of hate crimes reported in England and Wales were related to religion.</p>		<p>from diverse religious and cultural groups.</p> <p>The Serious Violence Strategy has prioritised improving our understanding of the impact of violence on diverse communities. This will be developed through conversations, co-production and spotlight enquiries.</p>	<p>Across 2024-2028</p>
Sex	<p>51 per cent of our population are women and 49 per cent are men (2021 Census).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Serious Violence Strategy is likely to disadvantage people due to their sex.</p> <p>We recognise the gendered nature of violent crime and the Serious Violence Strategy, aligned to the broader work of Safer Plymouth, specifically seeks to address male violence through building a Co-ordinated Community Response for people who harm through enforcement, disruption and behaviour change initiatives.</p>	<p>The Serious Violence Strategy is supporting work towards a Healthy Relationships Alliance to support social, emotional and life skills development in schools and youth settings.</p> <p>The Strategy also has a focus on building personal and community resilience through challenging harmful cultural and social norms. This will include bystander training and extending the current Male Allyship Network</p>	<p>Community Connections and all Safer Plymouth Partners and Serious Violence Duty <i>specified authorities</i> across 2024-2028</p> <p>By March 2025</p> <p>By March 2025</p>

			to promote and develop positive male cultures.	
Sexual orientation	<p>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).</p> <p>There is currently a limited understanding of how serious violence affects LGBTQ+ communities. This is due to limitations in recording and to underreporting from these communities.</p> <p>A 2023 Home Office Report highlighted that hate crimes (a broader crime group than serious violence but some crimes will include violence) on the basis of sexual orientation increased by 112% in the five years to March 2023 in England and Wales.</p>	<p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Strategy is likely to disadvantage people due to their sexual orientation.</p> <p>We recognise that some people from LGBTQ+ communities may be less likely to report being a victim of violence and may be less likely to seek support.</p>	<p>The Serious Violence Strategy includes a specific priority around improving opportunities for reporting violence and this will be informed through conversations with diverse community groups including people from diverse religious and cultural groups.</p> <p>The Serious Violence Strategy has prioritised improving our understanding of the impact of violence on diverse communities. This will be developed through conversations, co-production and spotlight enquiries</p>	<p>Community Connections and all Safer Plymouth Partners and Serious Violence Duty <i>specified authorities</i> across 2024-2028</p> <p>By March 2025</p> <p>Across 2024-2028</p>

SECTION FOUR: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Human Rights	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
	No adverse impacts are anticipated. The developments initiated through the Serious Violence Duty and Serious Violence Strategy are intended to improve human rights.		

SECTION FIVE: OUR EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

Equality objectives	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
Celebrate diversity and ensure that Plymouth is a welcoming city.	No adverse implications. The Serious Violence Duty and Strategy are specifically directed towards making Plymouth a safer city for all. This includes ensuring that we understand the impact of violence on all diverse communities.		Safer Plymouth Partnership members and Community Connections across 2024-2028
Pay equality for women, and staff with disabilities in our workforce.	No adverse implications anticipated through the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty and Strategy.	To ensure that procurement and social value processes associated with the Serious Violence Duty support efforts towards pay equality for women and disabled staff. To promotes these values to Safer Plymouth partners and Serious Violence Duty specified authorities.	Safer Plymouth Partnership members and Community Connections across 2024-2028
Supporting our workforce through the implementation of Our People Strategy 2020 – 2024	No anticipated implications. The Serious Violence Duty and Strategy are aligned to the values and priorities in the Our People Strategy		
Supporting victims of hate crime so they feel confident to report incidents, and working with, and through our partner organisations to achieve positive outcomes.	The Serious Violence Duty and Strategy is specifically directed to making Plymouth a safer place for everyone. We recognise that violence adversely affects some people and that they are structural barriers for	The Serious Violence Strategy includes specific priorities to improving opportunities for reporting violence. These improvements will be informed through conversations with	Safer Plymouth Partnership members and Community Connections across 2024-2028

	reporting incidents of violence and for accessing help and support	diverse community groups. Additionally we aim to collectively enhance our understanding of the impact of violence on diverse communities through conversations, co-production and enquiries. This work is aligned to and builds on existing work to address hate crimes in the city.	
Plymouth is a city where people from different backgrounds get along well.	We recognise that violence disproportionately affects specific groups in the population including women and younger people. The Serious Violence Duty and Strategy are specifically designed to address this and to prevent and reduce the impact of violence in groups and communities most affected.	The Serious Violence Duty and Strategy overall aim is for Plymouth to be a place where everyone can lead their lives free from violence and the fear of violence. It includes a number of priorities directed to building personal and community resilience and establishing a Co-ordinated Community Response for people who cause harm through enforcement, disruption and behaviour change initiatives.	Safer Plymouth Partnership members and Community Connections across 2024-2028

--

Income	Allocation	
Labour Grant	£38,521	
Non-Labour	£125,814	
Total	£164,335	
Non Labour Expenditure		
Purple Flag	£3,000	
Community Projects	£17,000	
Male Allyship MAN Culture	£11,000	
Targeted Speech and Language Therpay trainign and systems change for children and young people at the risk of exclusion.	£15,000	
Impact Project	£33,950	
Serious Violence Bystander Training	£22,500	
Preventing Offending in Child Sexual Abuse	£15,700	
HARm Prevention Phase 2	£7,650	
Non Labour Total	£125,800	
Remaining	£14	

Proposed Serious Violence Funding Allocation 24/25

Serious Violence Pillar	Key A
Feeling Safe	Strengthen violence prevention activity in the evening and nighttime economy.
Responding to Harm	Optimise opportunities for conversations and co-production with communities, including those most affected by violence.
Feeling Safe	Improve opportunities for reporting violence particularly for diverse and excluded groups.
Building Personal and Community Resilience	Challenging harmful cultural and social norms through developing a shared narrative and community awareness campaign to drive attitudinal and culture change.
Responding to Harm	Build capacity and expertise across core services for early identification of and response to violence.
Responding to Harm	Build capacity and expertise across core services for early identification of and response to violence.
Building Personal and Community Resilience	Challenging harmful cultural and social norms through bystander training to build knowledge, skills and confidence to intervene
Responding to Harm	Build capacity and expertise across core services for early identification of and response to violence.
Responding to Harm	Enhance our understanding through regular spotlight enquiries.

--

ction
Enhance our understanding through regular spotlight enquiries.
Challenging harmful cultural and social norms through extending male allyship network to promote and develop positive male cultures

This page is intentionally left blank



SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2024-2028

January 2024



1.	Executive summary.....	4
2.	Introduction	5
2.1	Purpose of the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA)	5
2.2	Definition of serious violence.....	5
2.3	Legislative context.....	5
2.4	A public health approach.....	6
2.5	Human Learning Systems	7
2.6	Trauma Informed.....	7
3.	Community Focus and Lived Experience – views from our communities.....	8
4.	The local context – place and population.....	12
4.1	Plymouth geographies.....	12
4.2	The population	12
4.3	Population diversity	13
5.	Drivers and risk factors for serious violence.....	14
5.1	Deprivation	14
5.2	Employment, income, and poverty.....	16
5.3	Gender inequalities.....	16
5.4	Education – school readiness, engagement, exclusions, and attainment.....	17
5.4.1	School readiness.....	17
5.4.2	School absenteeism.....	17
5.4.3	School exclusions.....	17
5.4.4	Attainment.....	18
5.4.5	Young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET)	19
5.4.6	Speech, language, and communication.....	20
5.5	Exposure to violence in the home.....	20
5.6	Drugs and alcohol.....	20
5.7	Mental health	21
5.8	Neurodiversity and brain injury	21
5.9	Drugs markets.....	21
5.9.1	County lines.....	22
5.10	Child Criminal Exploitation.....	22
5.11	Digital and online technologies.....	23
5.12	Impact of COVID-19.....	23



6.	Profile of serious violence.....	24
6.1	Police data.....	24
6.2	Crime snapshot tables.....	24
6.3	Overall crime in Plymouth.....	24
6.4	Domestic violence.....	25
6.5	Sexual assault.....	31
6.6	Assaults.....	35
6.7	Violence against the person without injury.....	37
6.8	Homicides.....	39
6.9	Robbery.....	41
6.10	Possession of weapons.....	43
6.11	Stalking and harassment.....	45
6.12	Drug offences.....	47
6.13	Youth crime.....	49
	6.13.1 Youth justice.....	58
6.14	Probation.....	61
7.	Health intelligence.....	62
7.1	Hospital Emergency Care Department assault data.....	62
7.2	Spotlight on Ambulance data.....	64
7.3	Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data.....	64
8.	Informing a public health model for violence prevention.....	66
	Appendix A: The Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD).....	67
	Appendix B: Neighbourhood rank and scores, IMD 2019.....	68
	Appendix C1: Plymouth City Council Children's Social Care data.....	69
	Appendix C2: Violence-related factors identified during first assessment after referral to Plymouth City Council Children's Social Care.....	70
	Appendix D: Police data.....	71
	Appendix E: Summary of crime types.....	72
	Appendix F: Youth Justice offence types.....	73

Prepared by Sarah Macleod, Carol Harman and Laura Juett. Office of the Director of Public Health.

For queries relating to this document please contact: saferplymouth@plymouth.gov.uk

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank everyone who contributed to this report.

I. 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 offence crimes 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 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 people feel outside in their 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

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. The assessment 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 (2021)³ created a statutory definition that recognises that domestic abuse goes beyond physical violence and includes emotional, controlling or coercive behaviour 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 Plymouth Youth Justice Service
- Fire and rescue – Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
- Health authorities – NHS Devon Integrated Care Board

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.

¹ Serious Violence Duty. Preventing and reducing serious violence. Statutory Guidance for responsible authorities. England and Wales. Home Office, December 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-duty-statutory-guidance>

² Serious Violence Strategy. HM Government, 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-strategy>

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 Courts Act 2022. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/17/contents/enacted>

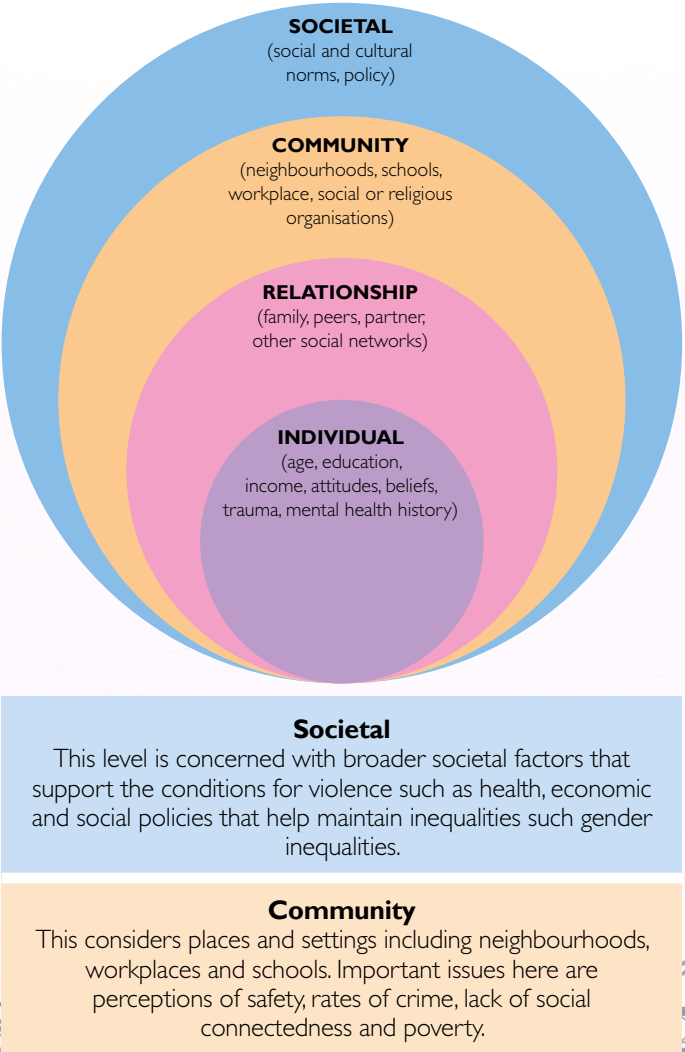
2.4 A public health approach

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 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 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 to support understanding of 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



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.

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.

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	<p>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.</p> <p>Examples of primary prevention include early years and family support, whole school approaches to healthy relationships, and bystander training.</p>
Secondary Prevention	<p>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.</p> <p>Examples of secondary prevention include youth diversion schemes, hospital based Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors (IDVA), and referral pathways to support and specialist services.</p>
Tertiary Prevention	<p>These approaches are concerned with responding to violence once it has occurred and reducing harm and preventing escalation and recurrence.</p> <p>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.</p>

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 Network⁷ (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 <https://traumainformedplymouth.org/>

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.

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 important when considering how to respond 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 feeling 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 Plymouth⁸ 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

8. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Commission <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/violence-against-women-and-girls>

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 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 and 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

I had lost all my friends and had no confidence.

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.

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 Plymouth⁹. 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 written by victims of crimes 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.

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

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 the Barbican. They

also described their experiences of school feeling unsafe and feeling 'preyed on' by male teachers and students.

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

⁹ In our words: improving exit pathways for prostituted women in Plymouth. Serio, University of Plymouth and Trevi, 2022

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 Programme¹⁰ works with partners to make communities 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 Collective¹¹ 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 Online Safety Act (2023)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

¹⁰ NSPCC Together for Childhood Programme <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/together-for-childhood/>

¹¹ Young Devon Peer Action Collective <https://www.youngdevon.org/peer-action-collective-resources/>

¹² Online Safety Act. HM Government, 2023. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/50/enacted>

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

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 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

Supporting vulnerable people

- An understanding of trauma 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

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.

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.

of violence including sexual harassment and assault

- It is important to develop an understanding of 'online harms' and how to respond to these

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



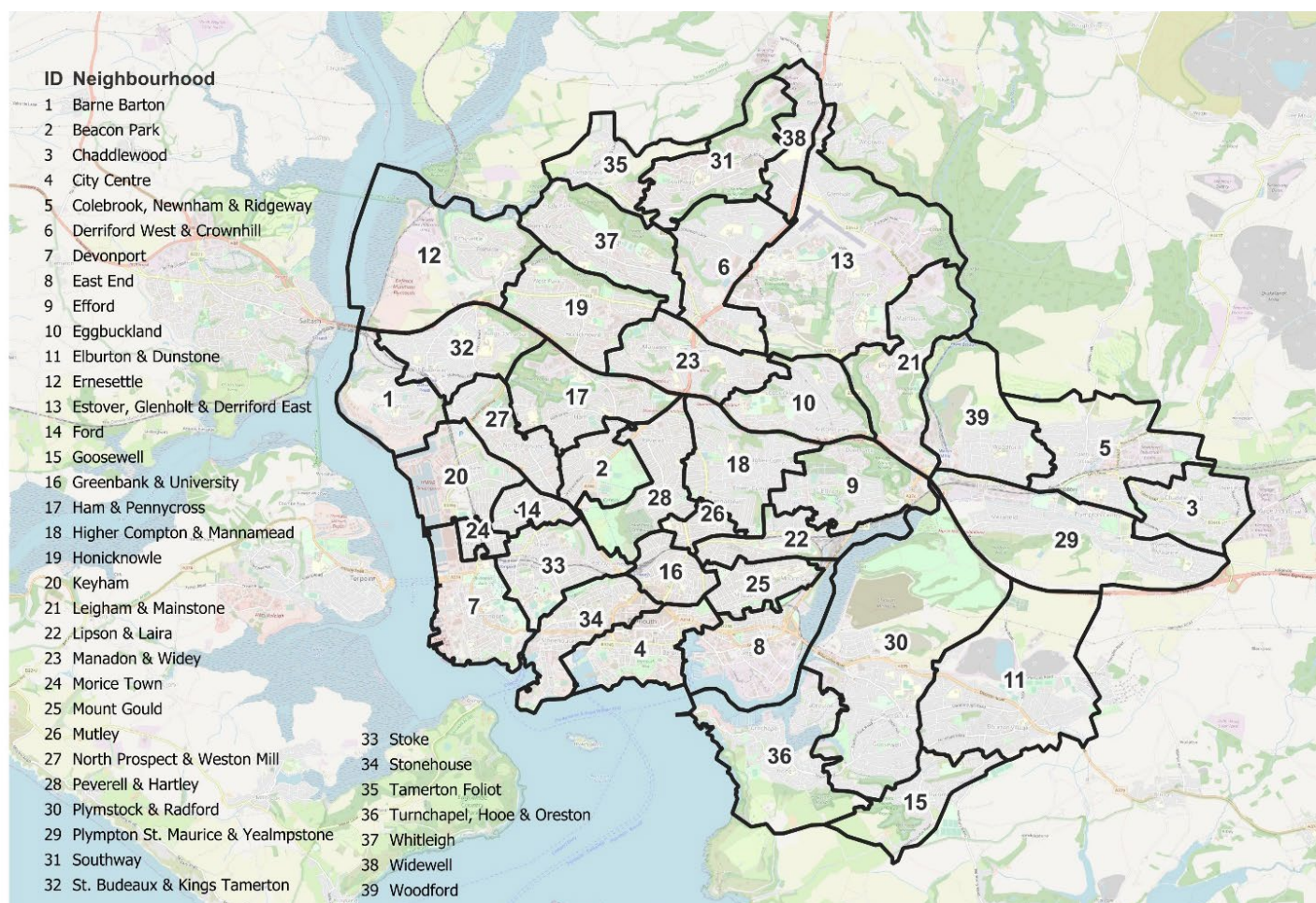
4. THE LOCAL CONTEXT – PLACE AND POPULATION

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: Plymouth by neighbourhood



Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Basemap: © [OpenStreetMap](#) contributors – data available under the Open Database License

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 study 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

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.

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, 201. <https://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/dbimsgs/Plymouth%20Visitor%20Plan%202020-2030.pdf>

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

Figure 3: Population diversity in Plymouth

	264,693 in 2021 ¹⁶ Projected to increase to 270,634 by 2035 ¹⁷
	Female - 51% (51% England) Male - 49% (49% England) ¹⁸
	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) ¹⁹
	89.5% "White British" (73.5% England) Rising ethnic minority population ²⁰
	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 ²¹
	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) ²²
	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) ²³
	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) ²⁴
	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) ²⁵

¹⁶ Dataset TS007: age by single year, 2021 Census, ONS

¹⁷ 2018-based subnational population projections for local authorities, ONS

¹⁸ Dataset TS008: Sex, 2021 Census, ONS

¹⁹ Dataset TS007: age by single year, 2021 Census, ONS

²⁰ Dataset TS022: Ethnic group (detailed), 2021 Census, ONS

²¹ Dataset TS204: Main language (detailed), 2021 Census, ONS

²² Dataset TS038ASP: Disability age-standardised proportions, 2021 Census, ONS

²³ Dataset TS031: Religion (detailed), Census 2021, ONS

²⁴ Dataset TS079: Sexual orientation, Census 2021, ONS

²⁵ 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.²⁶ 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.²⁷ Deprivation has been shown to increase the likelihood of youth violence and weapon carrying amongst young people.²⁸ 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).

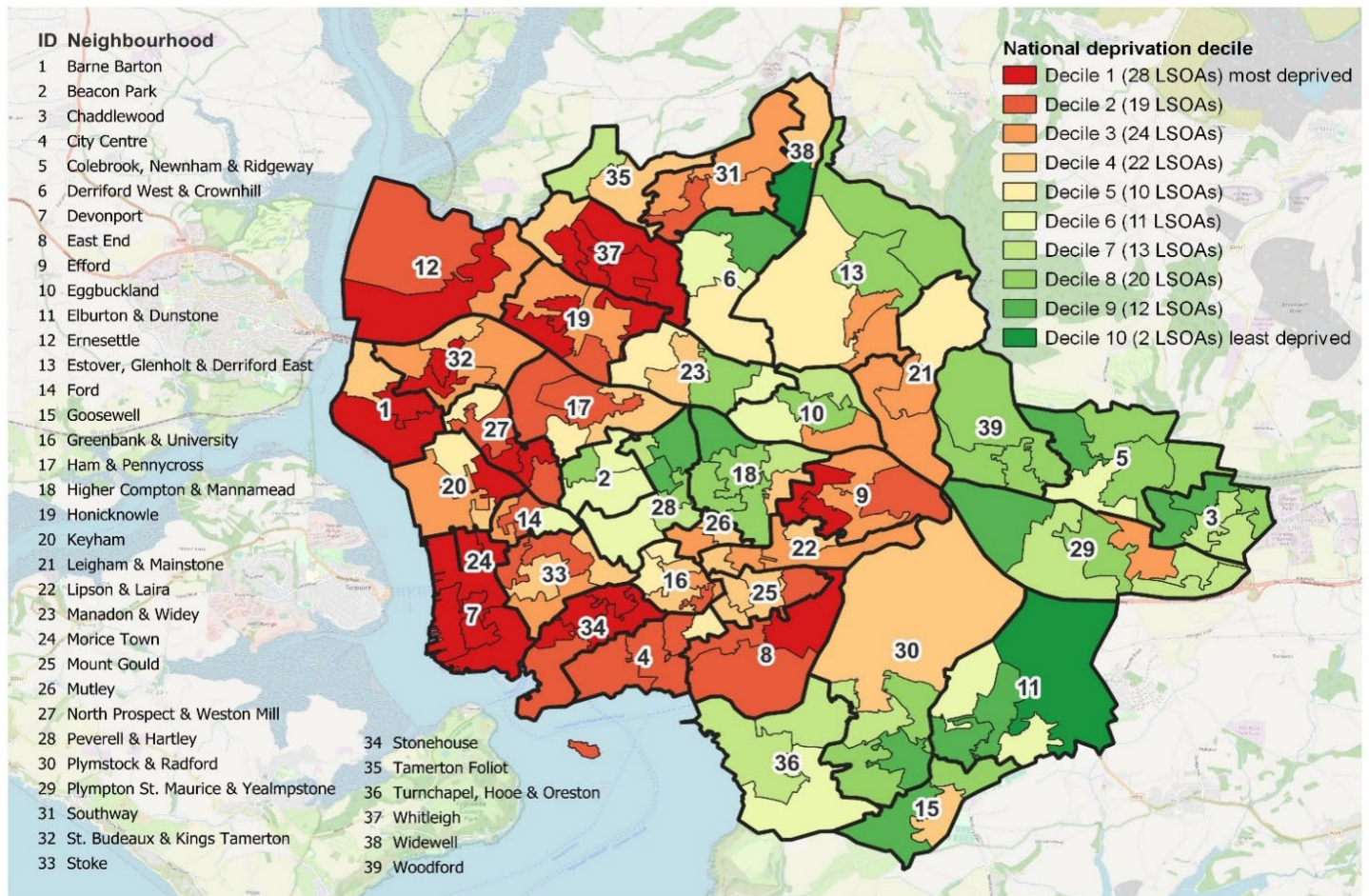
shows the IMD 2019 national deprivation deciles for the LSOAs in Plymouth with neighbourhood boundaries overlaid. (Note this analysis was undertaken using the 161 LSOAs that Plymouth was split into at the time). This shows that 47 of the 161 LSOAs in Plymouth (29.2%) are in the most deprived 20% in England. It also shows that 14 LSOAs (8.7%) are in the least deprived 20% in England.

²⁶ 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

²⁷ 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)

²⁸ Getting to the Point? Reframing Narrative on Knife Crime. Simon Harding, 2020. Getting to the Point? Reframing Narratives on Knife Crime (sagepub.com)

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)
 Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.
 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) Whiteleigh; (6) East End; (7) North Prospect and 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.

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.²⁹ A lack of economic opportunity and financial hardship is reported as a driver for involvement in violence.³⁰ 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.³¹

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.³² 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.³³

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.³⁴

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

²⁹ Evidence and policy review: Domestic violence and poverty. University of Bristol. 2016 <https://research-information.bris.ac.uk/en/projects/evidence-and-policy-review-domestic-violence-and-poverty>

³⁰ Causes and Impact of offending and criminal justice pathways: follow-up of the Edinburgh Study cohort at age 35. 2022. <https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Causes-and-Impact-of-Offending-and-Criminal-Justice-Pathways.pdf>

³¹ Family income inequalities and trajectories through childhood and self-harm and violence in young adults. Mok, P. et al. 2018. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS2468-2667\(18\)30164-6/fulltext#articleInformation](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS2468-2667(18)30164-6/fulltext#articleInformation)

³² Plymouth Report. 2023. <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-07/Plymouth-Report-2023-v2.pdf>

³³ Annual Population Survey: economic inactivity by reasons, 2022/23, NOMIS.

³⁴ Health Visitor Caseload Survey 2022, Public Health, Plymouth City Council

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.³⁵

5.3 Gender inequalities

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.³⁶

These disparities are illustrated in the data reported as part of the Crime Survey for England and Wales (2022).³⁷

- 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 offences³⁸

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

³⁵ Plymouth Report. 2023. <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-07/Plymouth-Report-2023-v2.pdf>

³⁶ Tackling Violence against Women and Girls. HM Government. 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033934/Tackling_Violence_Against_Women_and_Girls_Strategy_-_July_2021.pdf

³⁷ Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2022. Office for National Statistics. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/sexualoffencesvictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022>

³⁸ Sexual offences victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2022. Office for National Statistics. https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-08/Plymouth-City-Survey-Report-2022_0.pdf

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).³⁹

5.4 Education

Regular school attendance is part of giving children and young people the best start 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.⁴⁰

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 2021/22:⁴¹

- 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.⁴² Research indicates an association (not causation) between regular school absence and serious violence, including knife and other weapon possession offences in young offenders.⁴³

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.

Table 1: Recorded absence in pupils in Plymouth schools, 2022/23⁴⁴

% 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.⁴⁵ 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.⁴⁶

39 Plymouth City Survey 2022 Report, 2023. Marketing Means. https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-08/Plymouth-City-Survey-Report-2022_0.pdf

40 Good practice in youth violence prevention: A mapping and horizon scanning review. CASCADE, Cardiff University. 2020. <https://www.violencepreventionwales.co.uk/cms-assets/research/Mapping-and-horizon-scanning-review-of-youth-violence-prevention.pdf>

41 Child and Maternal Health Profiles, Fingertips Public Health Data, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities

42 Education, children's social care and offending. Department for Education. 2022. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1059556/Education_children_s_social_care_and_offending_descriptive_stats_FINAL.pdf

43 Working together to improve school attendance. Department for Education. 2022. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1099677/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance.pdf

44 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)

45 Timpson Review of School Exclusion, 2019 [Timpson Review of School Exclusion \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/824447/timpson-review-of-school-exclusion-2019.pdf)

46 Back to School? Breaking the link between school exclusions and knife crime. All-Party Parliamentary Group on Knife Crime. <http://www.preventknife-crime.co.uk/>

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 and 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 were seen in schools in the neighbourhoods of Stoke (19), Devonport (10), St Budeaux and Kings Tamerton (10), Lipson and 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.⁴⁷

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.⁴⁸

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 48.8.⁴⁹

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%).⁵⁰

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 risk of developing significant speech and language problems.⁵¹ Speech and language difficulties can act as a barrier to 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.⁵²

Speech, language, and communication needs are recognised as a risk factor for offending and people with these needs are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system across adult and youth populations.⁵³ 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.⁵⁴ 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

[wp-content/uploads/2019/10/APPG-on-Knife-Crime-Back-to-School-exclusions-report-FINAL.pdf](https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/APPG-on-Knife-Crime-Back-to-School-exclusions-report-FINAL.pdf)

47 Preventing Gang and Youth Violence. Early Intervention Foundation. 2015. <https://www.eif.org.uk/report/preventing-gang-and-youth-violence-a-review-of-risk-and-protective-factors>

48 Key stage 2 attainment. 12 September 2023. <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/key-stage-2-attainment>

49 Key stage 4 performance. Updated 1 February 2023. <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/key-stage-4-performance/2021-22>

50 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

51 Safeguarding children with communication needs. Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists <https://www.rcslt.org/wp-content/uploads/media/Project/RCSLT/factsheet-safeguarding-children-with-communication-needs.pdf>

52 Provided by NHS Devon ICB. November 2023. Predicted levels of SLCN calculated using a formula created by Better Communication CIC

53 The importance of screening for speech, language and communication needs in police custody. 2023. Howard Journal of Crime and Justice Volume 2, Issue 3.

54 Assessing the needs of sentenced children in the Youth Justice System 2019/20. 2021. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/604a3ee28fa8f540179c6ab7/experimental-statistics-assessing-needs-sentenced-children-youth-justice-system-2019-20.pdf>

depression. It can disrupt their schooling and the quality of their educational experience and can lead them to feeling isolated and stigmatised.⁵⁵

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.⁵⁶ 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 life⁵⁷.

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).⁵⁸

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.

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.⁵⁹ 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% and 52.3%), aged 0-4 years (44.2% and 34.3%), and of White British ethnicity (87.4% and 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% and 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% and 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 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 and Kings Tamerton, Southway, Stonehouse, and Whiteleigh 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

55 Impacts of domestic violence on children and young people. March 2012. Research in Practice https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms2/media/18459/impacts_of_domestic_violence_on_children_and_young_people.pdf

56 The relationship between family violence and youth offending. June 2018. Local Government Association. https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/15%2034%20-%20The%20relationship%20between%20family%20violence%20and%20youth%20offending-V4_1.pdf

57 Office for National Statistics. 2017. [People who were abused as children are more likely to be abused as an adult - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/mentalhealth/articles/peoplewhoaremorelikelytobeabusedaschildrenaremorelikelytobeabusedasanadult/1)

58 Health Visitor Caseload Survey 2022, Public Health, Plymouth City Council.

59 Data extracted from Care First System, Plymouth City Council, Children's Social Care Service, August 2023 * White British (White British, White English, White Welsh, White Scottish, White Northern Irish)

overall adult safeguarding referrals⁶⁰ 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 2,163 applications for housing assistance. This increased to 2,226 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: Primary cause of homelessness, number and percentage of total applications 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

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.⁶¹ There is some evidence to indicate that young people who start drinking at a younger age, use alcohol frequently and consume large quantities are at increased risk of being a perpetrator and victim of serious violence.⁶²

60 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.

61 Protecting people, Promoting Health. A public health approach to violence prevention in England. 2012. Department of Health. [Violence-prevention.pdf](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210000/violence-prevention.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk))

62 Youth violence and alcohol. World Health Organisation. 2006. [youth-violence-and-alcohol.pdf](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/youth-violence-and-alcohol) ([who.int](https://www.who.int))

The government's 2018 Serious Violence Strategy highlights that a 'substantial proportion of serious violence' is linked in some way to alcohol.⁶³ Alcohol is reported as a factor in 40% of all crimes in England.⁶⁴ 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 perpetrators of these homicides were noted to use illicit drugs and 33% to have problem alcohol use.⁶⁵

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.⁶⁶ Violence is an inherent part of illegal drug markets 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.⁶⁷

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

63 Serious Violence Strategy. HM Government. 2018. [Home Office – Serious Violence Strategy, April 2018](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740000/home-office-serious-violence-strategy-april-2018.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk))

64 Local Alcohol Profiles for England. Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. [Local Alcohol Profiles for England - Alcohol and crime - OHID](https://www.localalcoholprofiles.org.uk/) ([phe.org.uk](https://www.localalcoholprofiles.org.uk/))

65 Key findings from analysis of domestic homicide reviews: October 2019 to September 2020. Home Office. Updated April 2023. [Key findings from analysis of domestic homicide reviews: October 2019 to September 2020](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-findings-from-analysis-of-domestic-homicide-reviews-october-2019-to-september-2020) ([accessible](https://www.gov.uk)) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

66 From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives. HM Government. Updated April 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives-from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives#fn:10>

67 Review of Drugs. Dame Carol Black. 2020. [PowerPoint Presentation](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880000/powerpoint-presentation-review-of-drugs.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk))

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.⁶⁸ Adults with mental illness are more likely to be a 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.⁶⁹

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.⁷⁰ 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.⁷¹

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.⁷²

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.⁷³

A recently published evidence review⁷⁴ 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 0.6-1.2% in the general population.⁷⁵

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.⁷⁶ 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.⁷⁷

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.⁷⁸

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

68 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 Health](#)

69 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 \(researchgate.net\)](#)

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

71 Domestic violence: statistics. Mental Health Foundation <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/explore-mental-health/statistics/domestic-violence#:~:text=Exposure%20to%20domestic%20violence%20has,levels%20of%20mental%20health%20problems>

72 LCJB - Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner [\(devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)

73 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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

75 Another Sign. Neurodiversity and the Criminal Justice System. Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership and The Brain Charity. 2022. [Another Sign- The Brain Charity report on neurodiversity and the criminal justice system.pdf \(thebraincharity.org.uk\)](#)

76 Traumatic brain injury: a potential cause of violent crime? 2018. Lancet Psychiatry.

77 Traumatic Brain Injury. HM Inspectorate of Probation. Academic Insights. 2021. [Traumatic brain injury \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](#)

78 National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime. National Crime Agency. 2021. [file \(nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk\)](#)

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

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.⁷⁹

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.

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.”⁸⁰

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.⁸³

Data from Plymouth City Council Childrens Social Care service 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%) and 15-17 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 increased from 2.6% to 10% between 2020/21 and 2022/23.

⁷⁹ Criminal exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults: County Lines. 2023. Home Office.

⁸⁰ Criminal exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults: County Lines. Home Office. Updated October 2023. [Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines)

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 Report⁸¹ 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 Commissioner⁸³ 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 2023⁸⁴ 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.

81 Computer Misuse as a Facilitator of Domestic Abuse, May 2021. [Home office FINAL report .docx](#)

82 Online Safety Commission from Government: Our recommendations for making the online world safer for children. Children's Commissioners Office. 2022. [Online Safety Commission from Government: Our recommendations for making the online world safer for children | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](#)

83 'A lot of it is actually just abuse' Young People and pornography. Children's Commissioners Office. 2023. <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/a-lot-of-it-is-actually-just-abuse-young-people-and-pornography/>

84 Online Safety. 2023. [UK children and adults to be safer online as world-leading bill becomes law - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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 Performance⁸⁵ 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 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.

85 Covid-19 and local crime rates in England and Wales – two years into the pandemic. Centre for Economic Performance. March 2022. cep.ac.uk/covid-19-027.pdf

86 Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: Office for National Statistics. November 2020. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2020/latest-figures-for-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic>

87 A Perfect Storm: The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Domestic Abuse Survivors and the Services Supporting Them. Bristol: Women's Aid. 2020. [womensaid.org.uk](https://www.womensaid.org.uk/resources-reports/a-perfect-storm-august-2020-1.pdf)

88 Technology and domestic abuse. Women's Aid. 2022. [4-Technology-domestic-abuse-and-Covid-19-1.pdf](https://www.womensaid.org.uk/resources-reports/technology-domestic-abuse-and-covid-19-1.pdf)

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-crime”) 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: Police and Plymouth City Council neighbourhood names).

Table 4: Police and Plymouth City Council neighbourhood names

Police neighbourhood listed in UDS	Plymouth City Council neighbourhood used
Colebrook and Newnham	Colebrook, Newnham and Ridgeway
Ham, Weston Mill and Pennycross	Ham and Pennycross
Manadon	Manadon and Widey
North Prospect	North Prospect and 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.

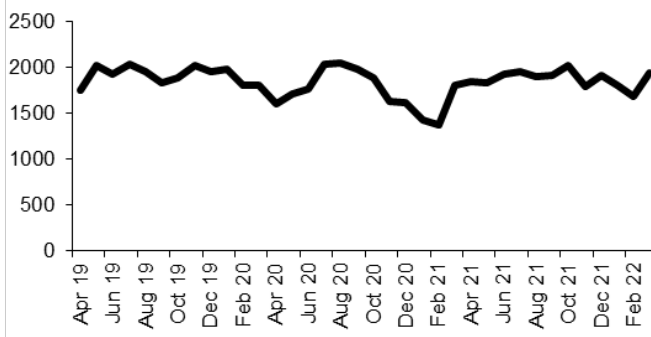
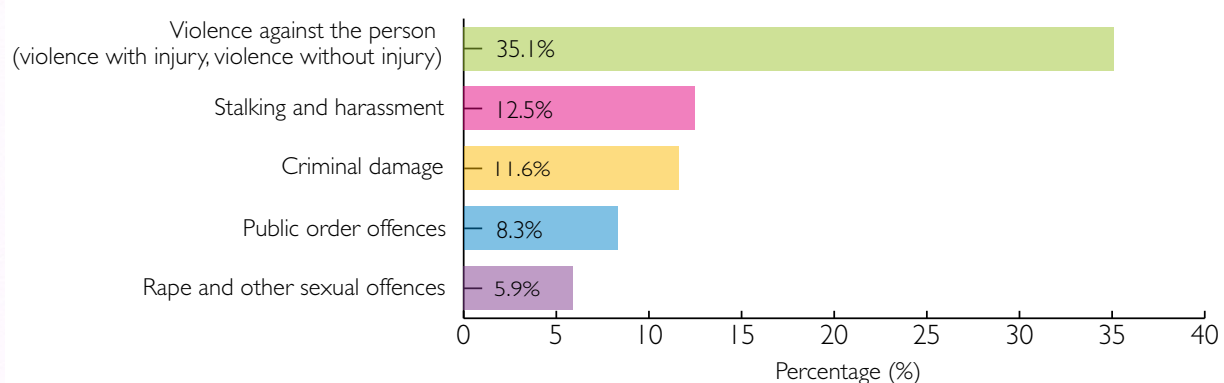
Any data with a count of less than five has had its data suppressed to avoid identifying individuals. In some cases, to avoid disclosure by differencing, the cell with the next smallest number has also been suppressed.

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.



SNAP SHOT Plymouth - all recorded crime (ONS)

Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)

Key facts	<p>22,477 crimes / 84.9 crimes per 1,000 residents</p> <p>This is an increase of 8% (1,610 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 5% (285 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>(Source: iQuanta)</p> <p>The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of crimes in 2021/22 (3,171).</p> <p>Victims were more likely to be female, aged 25-29 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>The available data indicates offenders were more likely to be male, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>(Source UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Trends	<p>iQuanta volume chart – all recorded crimes April 2019 to Mar 2022</p>  <p>Between Apr 2019 and Jun 2020 crime levels were between 1,500 and 2,000 with an overall increase over this time.</p> <p>From a high of 2,045 in Aug 2020 there was a decrease until Feb 2021 (1,300).</p> <p>Since then, levels have been on an increasing trend back up to near the Aug 2020 peak.</p> <p>Source: iQuanta</p>
Crimes	<p>Of the 22,531 crimes:</p> <p>The top five highest crime types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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)  <p>Other crimes related to serious violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Possession or trafficking of drugs 5.5% (1,233 crimes) ■ Possession of weapons 1.7% (379 crimes) ■ Robbery 0.9% (202 crimes) <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>

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

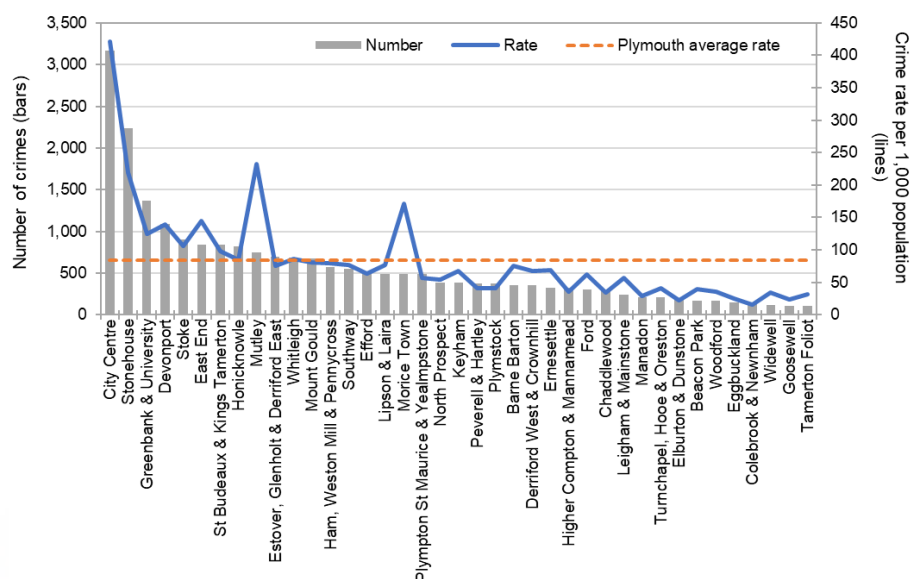
Using the DASH data (4,034 records):

- 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 and 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.

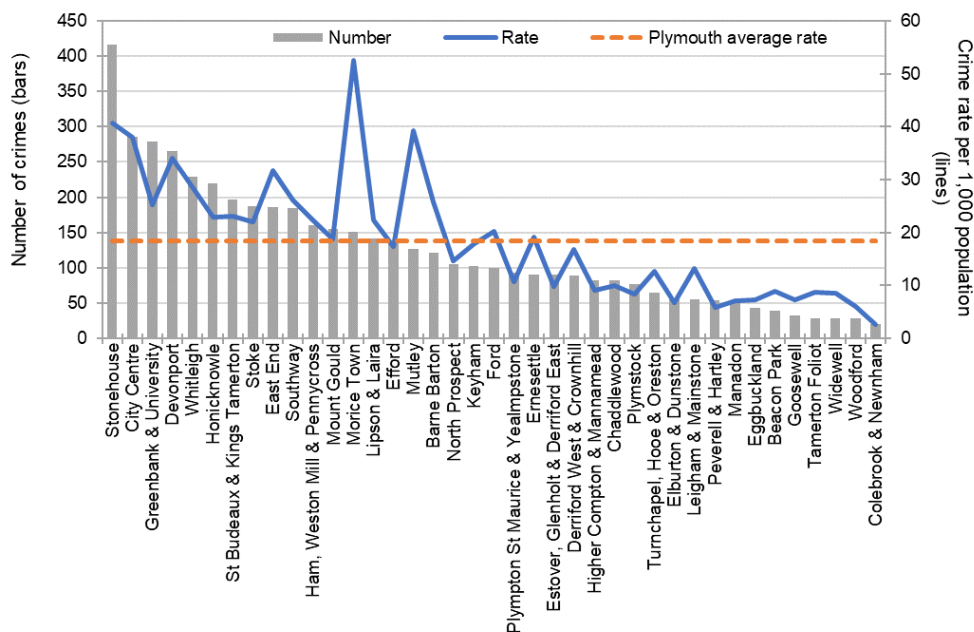
(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

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	<p>No iQuanta data available for domestic abuse.</p> <p>4,884 crimes.</p> <p>This is a decrease of 1.5% (72 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>The Stonehouse neighbourhood saw the highest number of domestic abuse crimes in 2021/22 (416).</p> <p>Victims were most likely to be female, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>The available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 35-39 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Trends	<p>Of the 19,713 total recorded crimes in 2020/21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic-abuse related crimes accounted for 25.1% (4,956 crimes) <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Crimes	<p>Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic abuse-related crimes accounted for 21.7% (4,884 crimes) <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Flags	<p>Of the 4,884 domestic abuse-related crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Using the DASH data (1,281 records):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>



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 and 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)

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)

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 deceased 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 recorded highest risk domestic abuse cases i.e., those assessed as high risk either through scoring 15 or more in a DASH risk assessment or through professional judgement. Safe Lives, a UK wide charity, collates MARAC data from approximately 290 areas across the UK.

Table 5: Safe Lives Plymouth 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%).

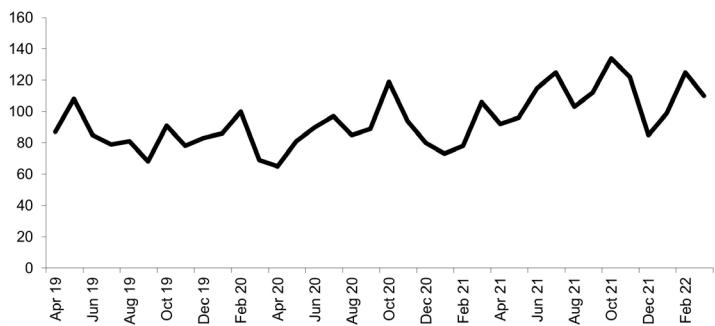
The total number of children in the households of those cases discussed ranged from a high of 653 in 2019 to a low of 568 in 2021.

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 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.

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.

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	<p>1,318 crimes / 5.0 crimes per 1,000 residents</p> <p>This is an increase of 25% (261 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 2% (7 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>(Source: iQuanta)</p> <p>The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of sexual offence crimes in 2021/22 (142).</p> <p>Victims were most likely to be female, aged 10-14 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 55-59 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Trends	<p>iQuanta volume chart – sexual offences April 2019 to March 2022</p>  <p>In Apr 2019 there were 87 recorded sexual offences.</p> <p>Overall there was a decreasing trend from Apr 2019 to Apr 2020 (65 crimes).</p> <p>From this point onwards numbers of sexual offences have risen overall with a peak in Oct 2021 of 134 crimes</p> <p>Source: iQuanta</p>
Crimes	<p>Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Rape accounted for 2.0% (447 crimes) ■ Other sexual offences accounted for 3.9% (874 crimes) <p>Of the 1,321 sexual offence crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Rape accounted for 33.8% (447 crimes) ■ Other sexual offences accounted for 66.2% (874 crimes) <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>

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

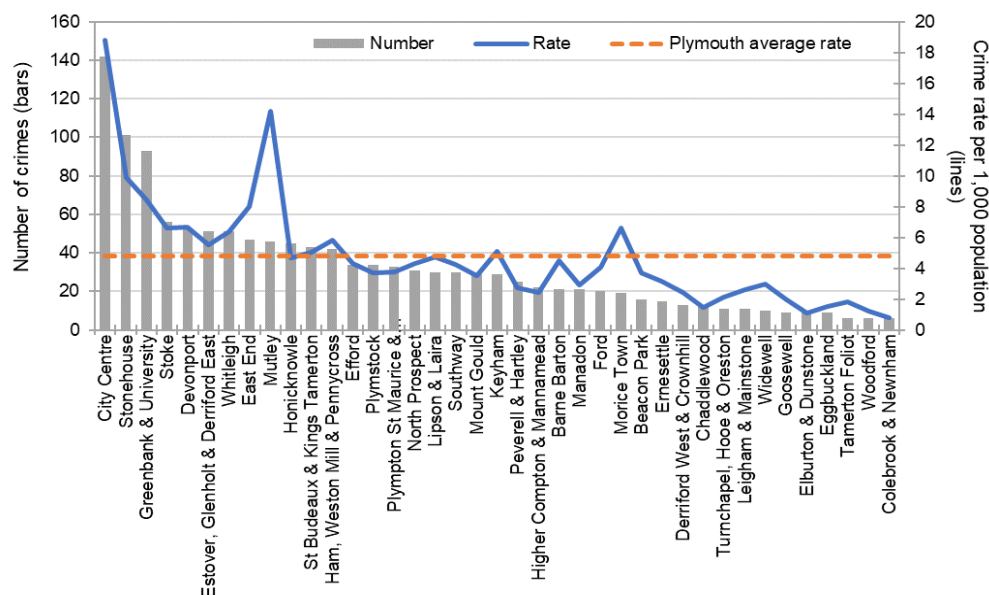
Using the DASH data (179 records)

- 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)



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 and 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)

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)

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

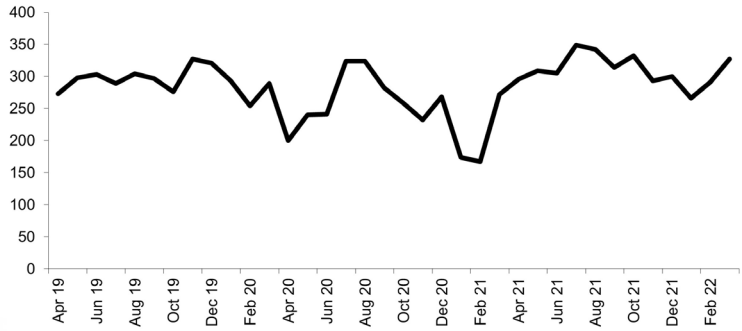
First Light also provides an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service providing support to people seeking justice through the criminal justice service. Between April 2022 and March 2023, the First Light ISVA service in Plymouth received:

- 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

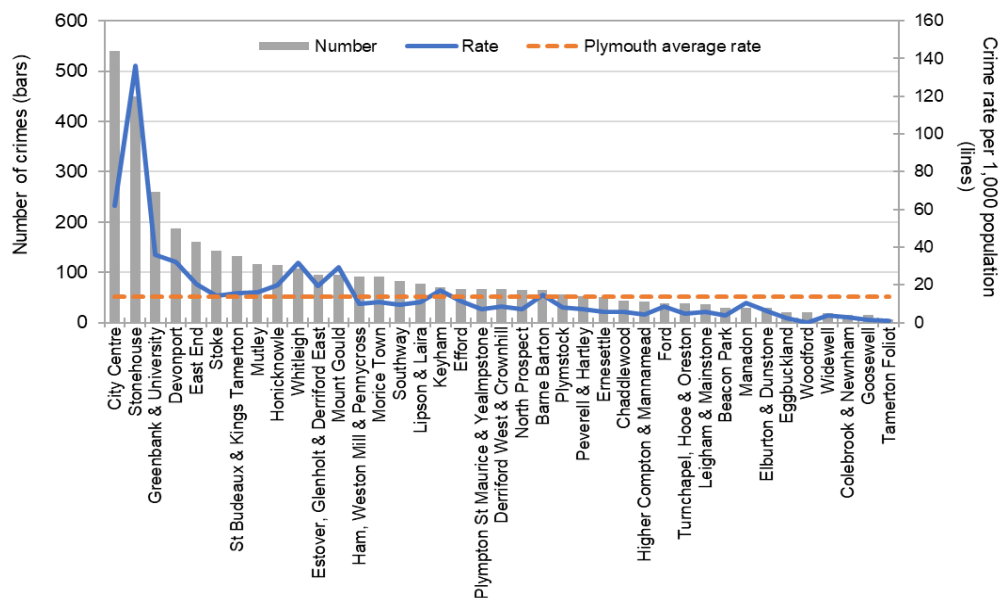


SNAP SHOT Plymouth – violence against the person violence WITH injury (ONS)

Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)

Key facts	<p>3,724 crimes / 14.1 crimes per 1,000 residents</p> <p>This is an increase of 25% (742 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 4% (41 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>(Source: iQuanta)</p> <p>The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of violence with injury crimes in 2021/22 (540).</p> <p>Victims were more likely to be male, aged 20-24 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Trends	<p>iQuanta volume chart – violence with injury April 2019 to March 2022</p>  <p>In Apr 2019 there were 273 crimes</p> <p>Despite some peaks in Nov 2019 and Jul 2020 overall there has been a decreasing trend from Apr 2019 to Feb 2021 (167).</p> <p>Since Feb 2021 levels have been on an increasing trend with a peak of 349 in Jul 2021.</p> <p>Source: iQuanta</p>
Crimes	<p>Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Violence with injury accounted for 16.4% (3,704 crimes) <p>Of the 7,905 violence against the person crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Violence with injury accounted for 46.9% (3,704 crimes) <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Flags	<p>Of the 3,704 violence with injury crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 <p>Using the DASH data (1,105 records)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>

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 and 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)

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:

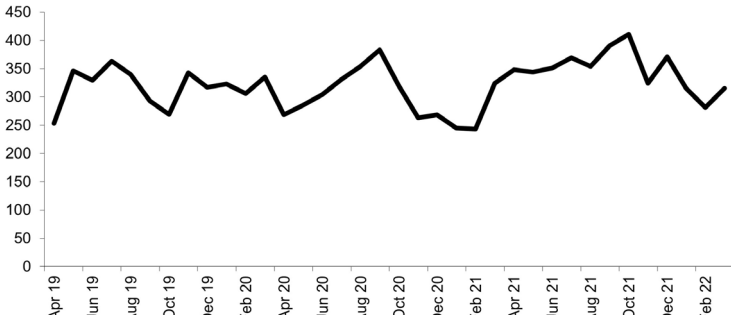
- 25.2% female; 74.8% male (290 records)
- 64.0% were aged 15-34 years (15-19 years 13.7%; 20-24 years 16.1%; 25-29 years 16.4%; and 30-34 years 17.8%) (292 records)
- 92.0% were White British; 4.2% were any other White background; 3.8% were any other ethnic group (237 records).

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

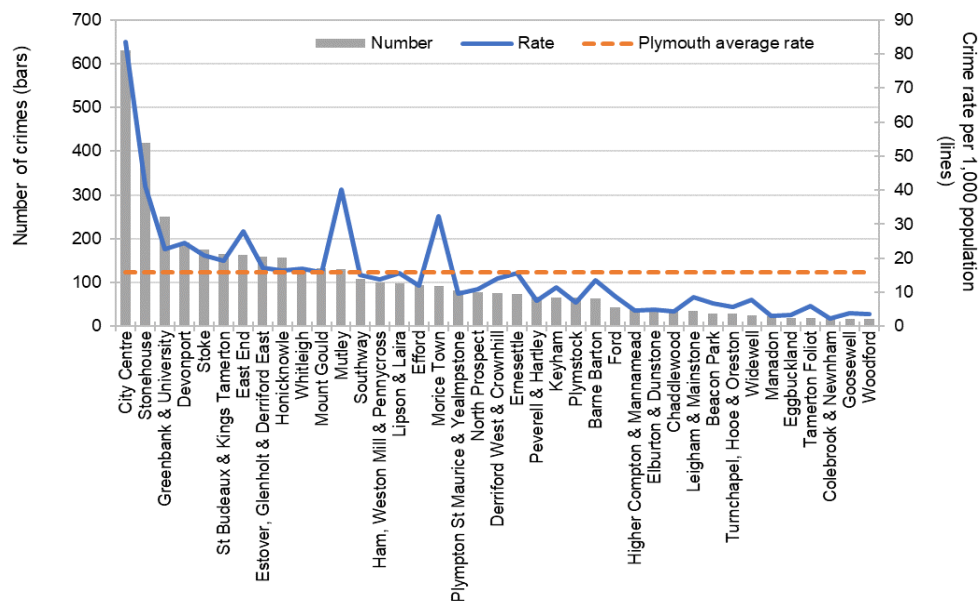
Location

Demographics

6.7 Violence against the person without injury

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	<p>4,173 crimes / 15.8 crimes per 1,000 residents</p> <p>This is an increase of 16% (586 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 18% (195 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>(Source: iQuanta)</p> <p>The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of violence without injury crimes in 2021/22 (630).</p> <p>Victims were more likely to be female, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Trends	<p>iQuanta volume chart – violence without injury Apr 2019 to March 2022</p>  <p>Despite some peaks, most notably in Sept 2020 (383) the volume of crime between Apr 2019 (253) and Feb 2021 (243) has remained similar.</p> <p>Since this point there was an increase up to a high of 411 in Oct 2021, with a decreasing trend from that point.</p> <p>Source: iQuanta</p>
Crimes	<p>Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Violence without injury accounted for 18.6% (4,193 crimes) <p>Of the 7,905 violence against the person crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Violence without injury accounted for 53.0% (4,193 crimes) <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Flags	<p>Of the 4,193 violence without injury crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 <p>Using the DASH tool data (1,156 records)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>

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 and 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)

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.

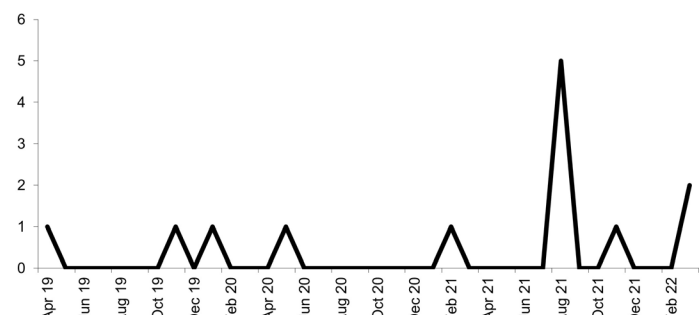
Offenders:

- 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)

Location

Demographics

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	<p>8 crimes / 0.03 crimes per 1,000 residents</p> <p>This is an increase of 300% (6 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw an increase of 100% (1 crime) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>(Source: iQuanta)</p> <p>The Keyham neighbourhood saw the highest number of homicides in 2021/22 (5 crimes).</p> <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Trends	<p>iQuanta volume chart – homicide April 2019 to March 2022</p>  <p>Homicide is uncommon in Plymouth.</p> <p>In Apr 2019 there was one recorded homicide.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Source: iQuanta</p>
Crimes	<p>Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Homicide accounted for <0.1% (8 crimes) <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Flags	<p>Of the 8 homicides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 <p>No DASH tool data available</p> <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Location	<p>No homicides were considered related to the NTE.</p> <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022; rates and deprivation ranks calculated by Plymouth City Council Public Health)</p>
Demographics	<p>Data for victims and offenders are not shown due to small numbers of records.</p>

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, Home Office, Updated 2016. [Domestic homicide reviews: statutory guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/544216/DHRS_guidance.pdf)

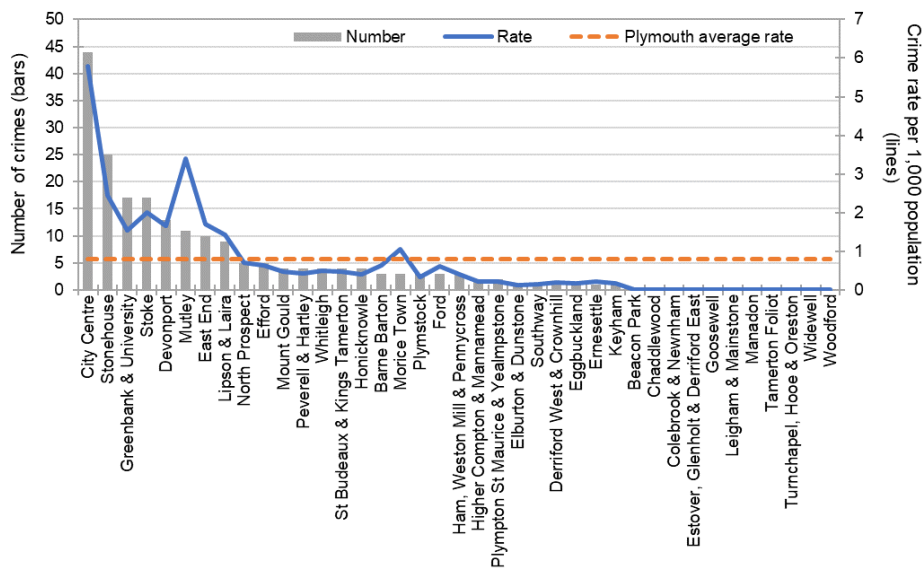
SNAP SHOT Plymouth – robbery (ONS)

Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)

Definition: robbery of business property and robbery of personal property

Key facts	<p>203 crimes / 0.8 crimes per 1,000 residents</p> <p>This is an increase of 13% (24 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw an increase of 5% (2 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>(Source: iQuanta)</p> <p>The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of robberies in 2021/22 (44).</p> <p>Victims were most likely to be male, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 25-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Trends	<p>iQuanta volume chart – robbery April 2019 to March 2022</p>  <p>In Apr 2019 there were 26 recorded robberies.</p> <p>There has been an overall decreasing trend from April 2019 to March 2022 (11 crimes) with a low of eight crimes in both Nov 202 and Feb 2021.</p> <p>Source: iQuanta</p>
Crimes	<p>Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Robbery accounted for 0.9% (202 crimes) <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Flags	<p>Of the 202 robberies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 <p>Using the DASH data (18 records)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>

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 and 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)

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).

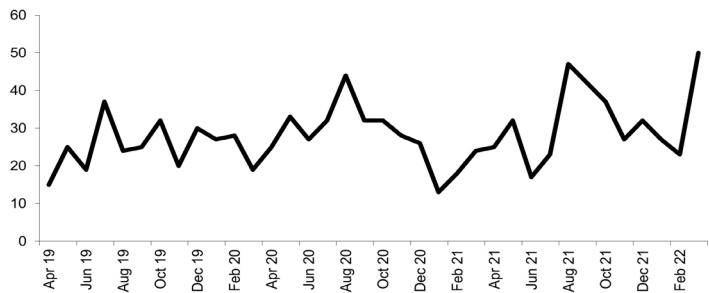
(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Location

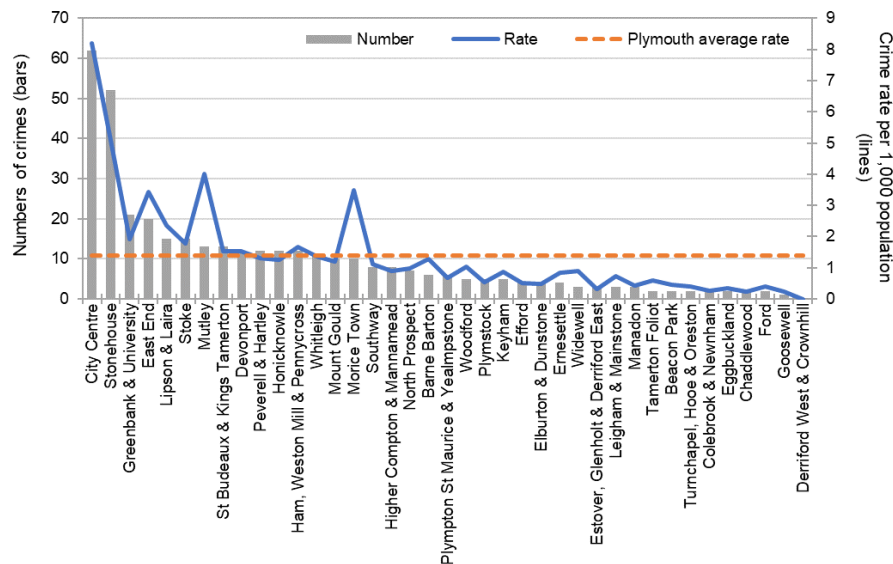
Demographics

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – possession of weapons (ONS)

Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)

Key facts	<p>382 crimes / 1.4 crimes per 1,000 residents</p> <p>This is an increase of 14% (48 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw an increase of 4% (4 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>(Source: iQuanta)</p> <p>The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of possession of weapon crimes in 2021/22 (62).</p> <p>Victims were most likely to be male, aged 10-14 or 25-29 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 30-39 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Trends	<p>iQuanta volume chart – possession of weapons April 2019 to March 2022</p>  <p>In Apr 2019 there were 25 recorded possession of weapon crimes.</p> <p>There has been an overall increasing trend from April 2019 to March 2022 (50 crimes), with a low of 13 crimes in Jan 2021.</p> <p>Source: iQuanta</p>
Crimes	<p>Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Possession of weapons accounted for 1.7% (379 crimes) <p>Of the 379 possession of weapons crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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) <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Flags	<p>Of the 379 possession of weapon crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <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 <p>No DASH data available</p> <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>

Possession of weapons crimes: numbers and rates by neighbourhood



Location

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 and University	21	1.9	22/39
East End	20	3.4	6/39
Lipson and 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

Victims:

- 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.

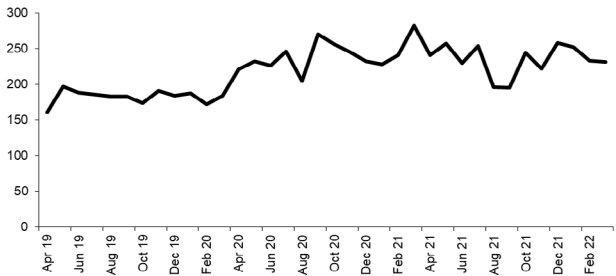
Offenders:

- 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).

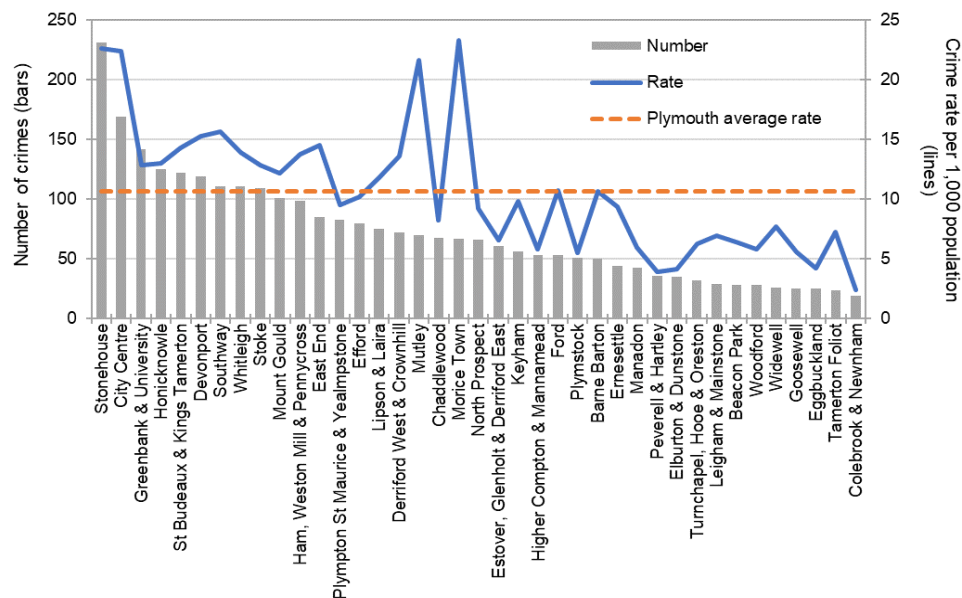
(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – stalking and harassment (ONS)

Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)

Key facts	<p>2,813 crimes / 10.6 crimes per 1,000 residents</p> <p>This is a decrease of 2% (71 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 1% (8 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>(Source: iQuanta)</p> <p>The Stonehouse neighbourhood saw the highest number of stalking and harassment crimes in 2021/22 (231).</p> <p>Victims were most likely to be female, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 25-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Trends	<p>iQuanta volume chart – stalking and harassment April 2019 to March 2022</p>  <p>In Apr 2019 there were 161 recorded stalking and harassment crimes.</p> <p>There has been an overall increasing trend from April 2019 to March 2022 (231 crimes), with a peak of 282 crimes in Mar 2021.</p> <p>Source: iQuanta</p> <p>OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Provisional data before it is finalised and published by the Office for National Statistics</p>
Crimes	<p>Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:</p> <p>Stalking and harassment accounted for 12.5% (2,826 crimes)</p> <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Flags	<p>Of the 2,826 stalking and harassment crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 <p>Using the DASH data (978 records)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>

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 and University	142	12.9	22/39
Honicknowle	125	13.0	9/39
St Budeaux and 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)

Victims:

- 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.

Offenders:

- 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)

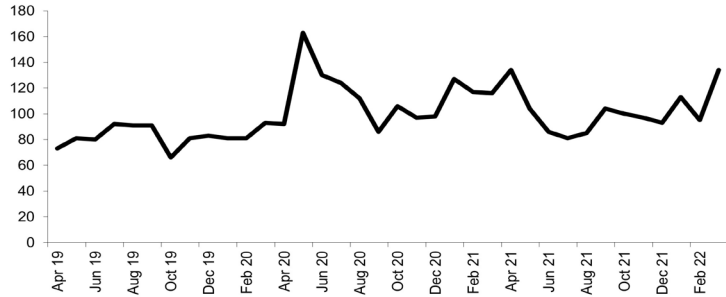
Location

Demographics

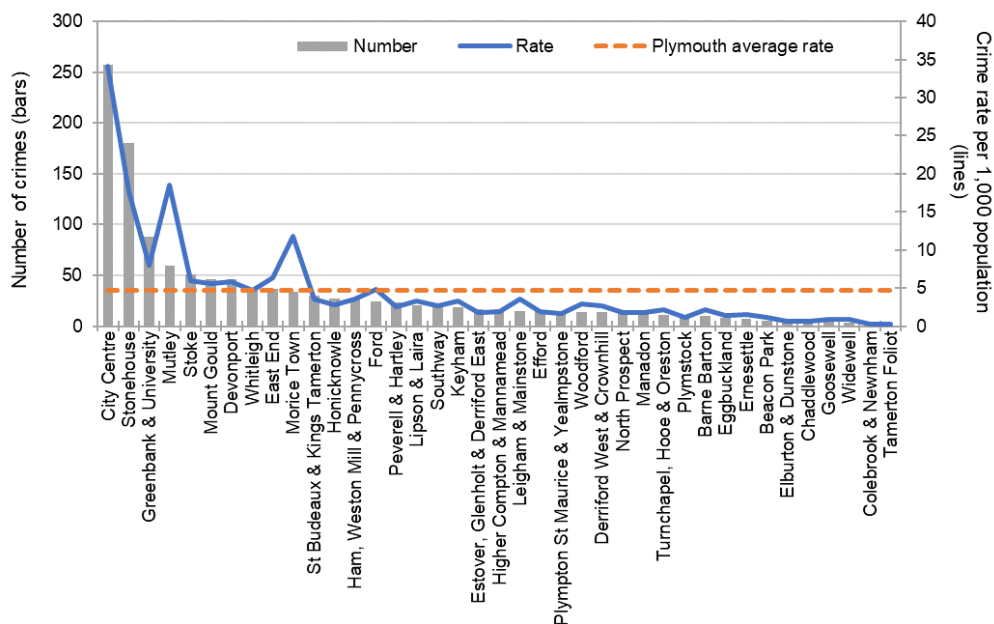
SNAP SHOT Plymouth – drug offences (ONS)

Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)

Definition comprises: possession of drugs and trafficking of drugs

Key facts	<p>1,226 crimes / 4.6 crimes per 1,000 residents</p> <p>This is a decrease of 10% (142 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw an increase of 18% (52 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>(Source: iQuanta)</p> <p>The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of drug offences in 2021/22 (257).</p> <p>Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 25-29 years, and of a White British ethnicity.</p> <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Trends	<p>iQuanta volume chart – drug offences April 2019 to March 2022</p>  <p>In Apr 2019 there were 73 recorded drug offences.</p> <p>There has been an overall increasing trend from April 2019 to March 2022 (134 crimes), with a peak of 163 crimes in May 2020.</p> <p>Source: iQuanta</p>
Crimes	<p>Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Possession of drugs accounted for 4.3% (975 crimes) ■ Trafficking of drugs accounted for 1.2% (258 crimes) <p>Of the 1,233 drug offence crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Possession of drugs accounted for 79.1% (975 crimes) ■ Trafficking of drugs accounted for 20.9% (258 crimes) <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>
Flags	<p>Of the 1,233 drug offence crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <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 <p>DASH data not shown due to small number of records</p> <p>(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)</p>

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 and 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)

There are no recorded victims for drug offences.

Offenders:

- 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)

Location

Demographics

6.13 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

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 and 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 and 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

All recorded crime



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 and Pennycross	16	2.2	16/39
Greenbank and 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 and 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



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 and Pennycross	29	4.0	16/39
Devonport	28	3.6	2/39
St Budeaux and 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 and University	38	3.4	22/39
Stonehouse	31	3.0	1/39
East End	15	2.6	6/39
Estover, Glenholt, and Derriford East	12	1.3	23/39



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 and 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 and University	110	10.0	22/39
East End	58	9.9	6/39
Devonport	30	3.8	2/39



Under-18

- 721 crimes
- Of the 4,193 violence without 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 and 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 and University	90	8.2	22/39
Stoke	32	3.8	15/39
Mutley	28	8.7	17/39

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 and Hartley	<5	<0.6	35/39
Plympton St Maurice and Yealmpstone	<5	<0.7	30/39
St Budeaux and 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 and 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



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 and 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 six 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 and University	<5	<0.6	22/39
Higher Compton and Mannamead	<5	<0.7	34/39
Mount Gould	<5	<0.7	20/39
Stonehouse	<5	<0.6	1/39



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 and Yealmpstone	17	0.20	30/39
Southway	17	0.24	13/39
St Budeaux and 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 and 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



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 and University	15	1.4	22/39
Mutley	10	3.1	17/39
East End	9	1.5	6/39

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 in Plymouth was 247 per 100,000 population aged 10-17 year olds.

Data provided by Plymouth's Youth Justice Service (YJS) describes all individuals on the YJs 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 YJS 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 Service 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
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 Service 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 four neighbourhoods of client residence (violence-related offences)	1. Efford 2. East End 3. Keyham 4. St Budeaux and 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.



6.14 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 Reconvection 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



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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.



Neighbourhoods

- The City Centre neighbourhood had the highest percentage of alcohol-related and non-alcohol related assaults (31%) The surrounding neighbourhoods of Stonehouse, Greenbank and University, and the East End also feature in the highest 4 neighbourhoods.
- At 12%, Estover, Glenholt, and 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.

Snapshot data from the South Western Ambulance Service details 1,041 calls to the service during September 2023 that were considered “violence-related”.⁹²

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: Number (and percentage) of violence-related calls to SWAST in Sept 2023.

Table 8: Number (and percentage) of violence-related calls to SWAST in Sept 2023

Despatch code type	Total	Call outcome		
		Hear and treat	See and treat	See and 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 and University (10.7%) and Southway (8.9%).

Of the 16 see and convey outcomes, all but one were transferred to Derriford Emergency Care Department.

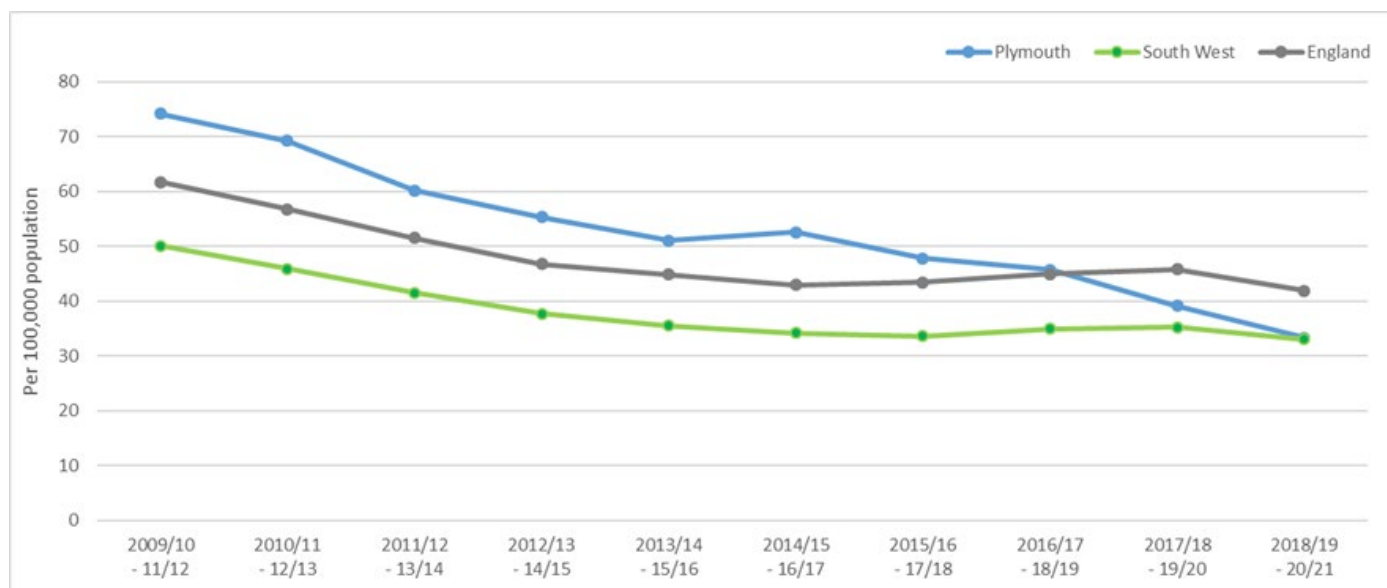
7.3 Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data

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 than 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 groups⁹³ 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 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.

⁹³ Five neighbourhood deprivation groups most deprived, upper middle, middle, lower middle and least deprived categorised based on levels of material deprivation.

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 reflected on the intelligence and current approaches to violence prevention and considered how to build motivation and action for change. A number of themes and options for future approaches to violence prevention and reduction were identified from these conversations.

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 and Weston Mill	7	42.1
Ernesettle	8	39.9
Honicknowle	9	39.7
Efford	10	38.7
St Budeaux and Kings Tamerton	11	35.8
City Centre	12	34.2
Southway	13	31.8
Keyham	14	30.8
Stoke	15	30.7
Ham and Pennycross	16	28.9
Mutley	17	28.0
Lipson and Laira	18	27.5
Ford	19	26.6
Mount Gould	20	26.2
Leigham and Mainstone	21	25.3
Greenbank and University	22	24.9
Estover, Glenholt and Derriford East	23	19.4
Manadon and Widey	24	17.6
Tamerton Foliot	25	17.3
Eggbuckland	26	16.2
Derriford West and Crownhill	27	15.0
Widewell	28	14.4
Turnchapel, Hooe and Oreston	29	14.3
Plympton St Maurice and Yealmpstone	30	14.2
Beacon Park	31	13.2
Plymstock and Radford	32	12.7
Goosewell	33	12.4
Higher Compton and Mannamead	34	11.7
Peverell and Hartley	35	11.4
Colebrook, Newnham and Ridgeway	36	10.7
Elburton and 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-crime”) 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: Iqanta 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





HM Prison &
Probation Service



Devon



Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment
Published by Plymouth City Council
January 2024

CONTACT

Community Connections
Plymouth City Council
Ballard House
Plymouth PL1 3BJ
saferplymouth@plymouth.gov.uk





SERIOUS VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGY AND MODEL FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

January 2024



Welcome to the Plymouth's 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.

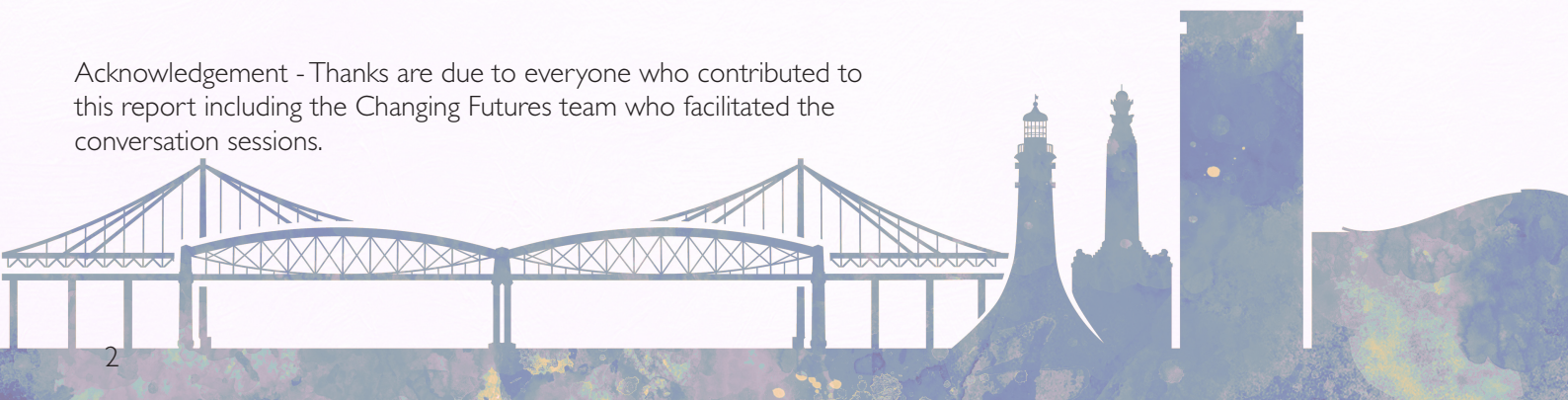
Councillor Sally Haydon

Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Cemeteries and Crematoria

Chief Superintendent Matthew Longman

Chair Safer Plymouth

Acknowledgement - Thanks are due to everyone who contributed to this report including the Changing Futures team who facilitated the conversation sessions.



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 violence¹.

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

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 Children's 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.

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 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

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.

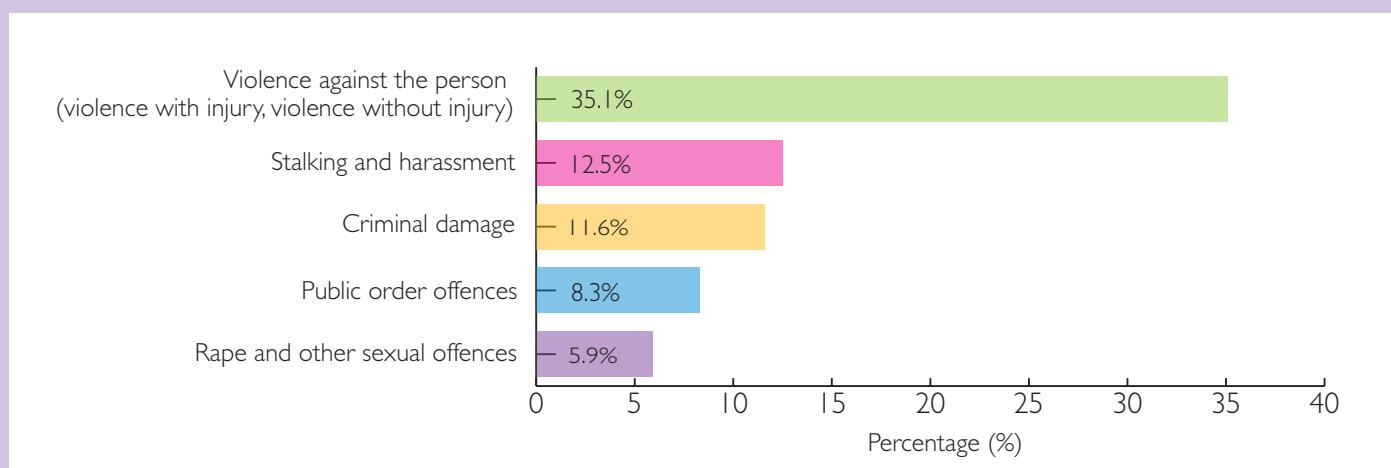
The crime figures shown here relate to the 12 months from April 2021 to end of March 2022².

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 crimes 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.

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 Whiteleigh were the neighbourhoods with the highest number of domestic abuse related crimes.

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.

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.

Youth Violence¹

- 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)

¹ 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.

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.

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.

Children's 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 Whiteleigh 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 violence¹

- 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

¹ 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

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 than the England average of 4.7%

DRIVERS OF SERIOUS VIOLENCE

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.

- 10% of Year 8 and 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 home¹
- 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

¹ 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.

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 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 of 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

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.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Concerns re waiting lists in broader range of services e.g. mental health and 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Some areas don't feel safe including city centre and Mutley ■ Temporary hoardings can contribute to feeling unsafe ■ Some areas are stigmatised ■ What is the impact of military and high number of students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 'Everyone has a right to feel safe' ■ Need to provide a platform for public voice ■ Safe places network ■ Build on Purple flag type schemes ■ 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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.

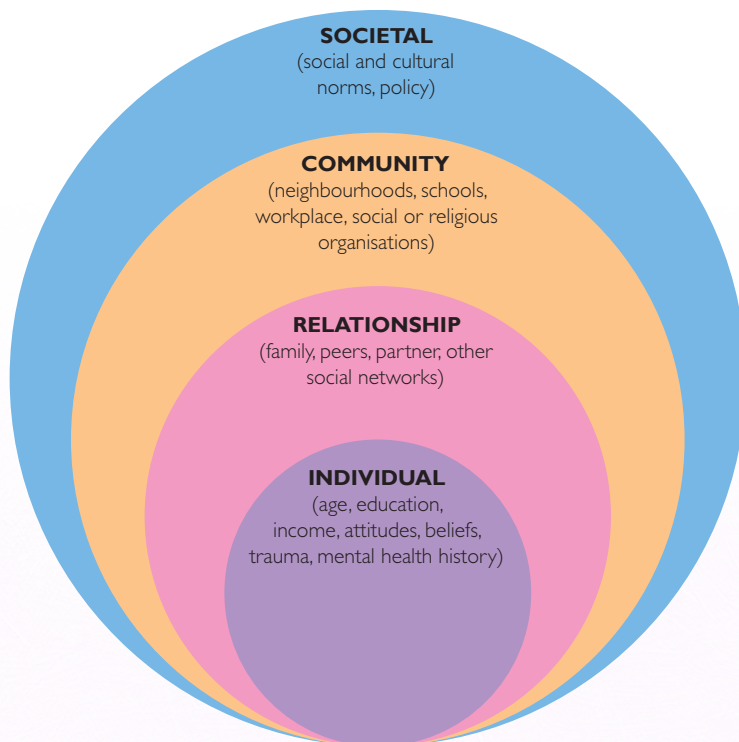
We aim to achieve this through multiple and reinforcing approaches that both address the drivers of violence and respond to the harm caused by violence. This will support a dynamic and adaptive process that responds to the call for change outlined in the Serious Violence Duty and supports effective coordination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

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



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 as gender inequalities.

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.

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.

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.

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 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 Network³ (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)⁴ 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
- 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 Response⁵ 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 P10. 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 on the next page.

3 <https://traumainformedplymouth.org/>

4 <https://www.humanlearning.systems/>

5 <https://www.standingtogether.org.uk/what-is-ccr>

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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	RESPONDING TO HARM	FEELING SAFE	LEARNING AND UNDERSTANDING
Establish a Healthy Relationships Alliance to support social, emotional and life skills development in all schools and youth settings.	Establish a Co-ordinated Community Response for people who harm through enforcement, disruption and behaviour change initiatives.	Improve opportunities for reporting violence particularly for diverse and excluded groups.	Optimise opportunities for conversations and co-production with communities, including those most affected by violence.
Challenging harmful cultural and social norms through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 	Respond to immediate harm by expanding capacity for trauma informed services for victims and survivors of violence.	Improve communications with communities to encourage feelings of safety	Enhance our understanding and insights through regular spotlight enquiries e.g., intergenerational violence, child on parent violence and impact of violence in diverse communities.
	Build capacity and expertise across core services for early identification of and response to violence.	Strengthen violence prevention activity in the evening and nighttime economy	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





HM Prison &
Probation Service



Devon



Serious Violence Prevention Strategy
Published by Plymouth City Council
January 2024

CONTACT

Community Connections
Plymouth City Council
Ballard House
Plymouth PL1 3BJ
saferplymouth@plymouth.gov.uk



Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	21 February 2024
Title of Report:	Plympton District Car Parks
Lead Member:	Councillor Mark Coker (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Mike Artherton
Contact Email:	mike.artherton@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	TBFD090224
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To provide members with an update on parking within the Plympton district car parks as requested during the Scrutiny Committee of 28th September 2023

Recommendations and Reasons

There are no proposals or recommendations within this report, this is a report to provide members with an update.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Not applicable, there are no proposals or decisions set out within the briefing report

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

There are no proposals or decisions within the briefing report. The changes set out with the briefing report were subject to public consultation, specifically relating to 'Democracy – Because we listen and hear what people want' and 'Responsibility – Because we care about the impact of our decisions and actions'.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

There are no financial implications as there are no proposals or decisions to be made within this report

Financial Risks

There are no financial risks as there are no proposals or decisions to be made within this report

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

There are no adverse or favourable impact on carbon footprint as there are no proposals or decisions to be made within 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.*

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>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.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Plympton District Parking Update							

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) <i>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.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	n/a	Leg	n/a	Mon Off	n/a	HR	n/a	Assets	n/a	Strat Proc	n/a
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Click here to enter text.											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 09/02/2024											
Cabinet Member approval: <i>[electronic signature (or typed name and statement of 'approved by email/verbally')]</i>											
Date approved: 09/02/2024											

This page is intentionally left blank

**BRIEFING PAPER
DISTRICT CAR PARKING (FEBRUARY 24 UPDATE)**

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This briefing paper aims to update members on the changes implemented in the short-stay district car parks in Plympton as part of a broader initiative to enhance district parking across the city. These changes were designed to support local businesses that rely on a steady stream of customers through short-stay, high-turnover parking.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. On 28th September 2023 the Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a briefing report ([*Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee 28 September 2023*](#)) which set out changes that has been implemented to district car parks in the city. This briefing report was in response to concerns that had been expressed to the Council, including a petition, relating specifically to changes in Plympton.
- 2.2. Plympton provides free unrestricted long stay parking alongside short stay car parks for use of customers visiting local shops and businesses. Whilst the Council does not encourage commuting by car, the changes made by the Council only applied to short stay parking and were entirely consistent with changes made to other short stay district car parks in Plymouth.
- 2.3. The Scrutiny report from September 2023 summarised the changes and initial impact of these changes, headlines being:
- 2.3.1. *Support for Local Businesses:* The changes were strategically implemented to provide increased support for local shops and businesses that depend on the continuous flow of customers through short-stay parking.
- 2.3.2. *Free Parking:* While parking within the Plympton district car parks remains free, visitors are now required to register for their free parking sessions in a manner consistently applied in other areas of the city.
- 2.3.3. *Extended Maximum Stay:* The previous maximum stay limit of two hours has been extended to three hours, allowing visitors more flexibility and convenience during their visits.
- 2.3.4. *Reasonable Adjustment for Blue Badge Holders:* As a reasonable adjustment, blue badge holders are granted an additional hour of parking. For instance, in the case of Plympton Ridgeway, blue badge holders can now stay for up to four hours compared to the previous two-hour limit.
- 2.3.5. *Consistent Usage and Growth:* The report highlighted that the number of visitors registering for free parking sessions remained consistent throughout the period covered (April 2023 to August 2023). There was no decline in the usage of the car parks, with a slight growth observed during this timeframe.

- 2.4. At the September Scrutiny session Members asked to have a further update in the new year and that this update included information relating to parking fines.

3. CURRENT POSITION

Visitor Numbers

- 3.1. The changes to the district car parks have been in effect for over 10 months since April 2023. To provide context, more than 25,000 people in Plymouth register for parking sessions using these systems each week, with over 10,000 of these relating to visitors parking in the Plympton short-stay car parks.
- 3.2. Appendix summarises the number of customers registering sessions within the Plympton short stay car parks for the period May 2023 to January 2024. Over this period there have been 411,826 visitors register free parking sessions, averaging 1540 visitors per day. The data show there has been no reduction in visitor numbers and that, aside from bank holidays, the number of people using the car parks has remained consistent.

Compliance

- 3.3. The changes in the district short-stay car parks ensure that visitors adhere to their allocated time, which was increased from two hours to three hours. To ensure the fair use of the car parks, vehicle without a valid parking session, either due to failure to register or exceeding the three-hour limit, are liable to receive a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN).
- 3.4. Entering a vehicle registration when registering a parking session is a common practice established in Plymouth for several years. The Council understands that people can make genuine mistakes where, in respect to ticketless parking, the Council operates a policy where an appeal for a Penalty Charge Notice will be accepted on the first occasion if a customer has entered an incorrect digit. The Council stores all vehicle registrations entered into the terminals allowing for verification during the appeal process. An appeal will be accepted if a similar registration with one incorrect digit is identified; however, this does not apply if no similar registration is found.
- 3.5. There have been 411,826 visitors register their free three-hour parking sessions over the period May 2023 to January 2024. Over this same period there has been 747 Parking Charge Notices (PCN's) issued, equating to 0.002% of people who have used the Plympton short stay car parks. The figure of 747 represents 0.02% of the total number of PCN's that the Council has issued, city wide, over this period. As a comparison to another car park, over this period 1,045 PCN's have been issued within the Theatre Royal car park. More visitors register parking sessions via the parking terminals in Plympton than customers book parking sessions via the parking terminals in Theatre Royal car park.

SUMMARY

- 3.6. The data available to the Council in terms of visitor numbers, fines and the conversations staff have had with users of the car parks support the view that the

changes at Plympton, as with the other district locations, are working to support local businesses by helping visitors and shoppers to park when visiting these locations. As part of the process to ensure the fair and correct use of the free parking facilities the Council has issued parking fines; however, the number of fines issued equate to 0.002% of the total number of visitors registering sessions at the car park. This indicates a high level of compliance and familiarisation with the parking systems.

Appendix A – Summary of Parking Sessions (May 2023 to January 2023)

Calendar Week	Average Daily Sessions			Total Weekly Sessions
	Ridgeway	Mudge Way	Total	
Week 18*	631	821	1,452	10,167
Week 19*	631	806	1,437	10,057
Week 20	640	829	1,470	10,287
Week 21	637	821	1,458	10,204
Week 22*	597	793	1,391	9,734
Week 23	665	872	1,538	10,763
Week 24	684	903	1,587	11,109
Week 25	638	832	1,470	10,291
Week 26	677	880	1,557	10,901
Week 27	642	840	1,483	10,378
Week 28	645	888	1,533	10,729
Week 29	674	858	1,532	10,725
Week 30	688	867	1,555	10,883
Week 31	675	873	1,548	12,381
Week 32	677	849	1,526	10,681
Week 33	655	838	1,493	10,449
Week 34	649	861	1,510	10,569
Week 35*	627	821	1,448	10,135
Week 36	682	855	1,537	10,757
Week 37	732	883	1,614	11,301
Week 38	730	873	1,603	11,219
Week 39	737	901	1,638	11,468
Week 40	815	480	1,295	9,064
Week 41	724	873	1,597	11,176
Week 42	715	861	1,576	11,031
Week 43	719	911	1,630	11,410
Week 44	724	906	1,630	11,408
Week 45	723	894	1,616	11,315
Week 46	575	895	1,470	10,287
Week 47	531	919	1,450	10,881
Week 48	685	917	1,602	11,215
Week 49	805	936	1,741	12,184
Week 50	852	1,012	1,863	13,042
Week 51*	963	1,122	2,086	14,599
Week 52*	441	615	1,056	7,392
Week 1	596	798	1,393	9,752
Week 2	673	878	1,550	10,853
Average	680	860	1540	Total 411,826

* Bank Holidays

**Performance, Finance and Customer Focus
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme 2023/24**



Please note that the work programme is a 'live' document and subject to change at short notice. The information in this work programme is intended to be of strategic relevance.

For general enquiries relating to the Council's Scrutiny function, including this Committee's work programme, please contact Hannah Whiting (Democratic Advisor) on 01752 305155.


Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for Consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member /Officer
26 July 2023	Finance Monitoring Report	(4)	To consider the Council's financial position	Councillor Lowry/David Northey
	Corporate Plan Performance Report Q4 & Risk Update	(4)	To consider Corporate Plan Performance and an update on Risk	Councillor Penberthy/Ross Jago
28 September 2023	Finance Monitoring Report	(4)	To consider the Council's financial position <i>(to include an update on the pension deficit transaction)</i>	Councillor Lowry/David Northey
	Corporate Plan Performance Report	(4)	To consider the Corporate Plan Performance	Councillor Penberthy/Ross Jago
	Risk 25 - The Council having insufficient statutory senior leadership capacity and resilience to deliver the required to meet statutory obligations	(5)	Identified for consideration by the Committee at the 26 July 2023 meeting	Councillor Dann/Tracey Lee
	Petition – Ridgeway Parking Plympton	(5)	Postponed from 26 July 2023 meeting	Councillor Coker/Mike Atherton
	Policy Brief	(4)	Requested by the Chair	Kevin McKenzie

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for Consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
15 November 2023	Finance Monitoring Report	(4)	To consider the Council's financial position.	Councillor Lowry/David Northey
	Homelessness & Rough Sleepers	(5)	Identified for consideration at the September 2023 Committee meeting.	Councillor Penberthy
21 February 2024	Finance Monitoring Report	(4)	To consider the Council's financial position	Councillor Lowry/David Northey
	Corporate Plan Performance Report & Risk Update	(4)	To consider Corporate Plan Performance and an update on Risk	Councillor Penberthy/Ross Jago
	Policy Brief		To receive an update from the Policy Team	Kevin McKenzie
	HR & OD Update (To include The Big Listen Staff Survey and training and development updates)	(4)	Identified for consideration for the Committee at the 30 November 2022 & September 2023 meetings	Councillor Dann/Chris Squire
	Safer Plymouth - Serious Violence Strategy	(3)		Councillor Haydon/Matt Garrett/Tracey Naismith
	Petition – Ridgeway Parking Plympton	(5)	Recommended to revisit this item at the September 2023 Committee meeting.	Councillor Coker/Mike Atherton
Items Raised by the Committee to be scheduled for 2023/24				
2023/24	MON – Contact Centre	(5)	Action from Council	Councillor Dann
2023/24	Household Waste and Recycling			Councillor Briars-Delve

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for Consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
Items to be scheduled 2024/25				
July 2024	Bereavement Services Update	(5)	Identified for consideration at the 30 November 2022 meeting. A detailed report would be provided to scrutiny upon the transition to opening and the future of the Western Mill and Efford sites.	Councillor Haydon/Graham Smith
Issues Identified for Select Committee Reviews				
December 2023	Budget Scrutiny	(6)	Scheduled for December 2023	Councillor Lowry/David Northey
2023/24	IT provision	(5)	Identified for consideration at the 26 July 2023 meeting and added as a Select Committee Review in September 2023.	Councillor Dann

Annex I – Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool

		Yes (=1)	Evidence
P ublic Interest	Is it an issue of concern to partners, stakeholders and/or the community?		
A bility	Could Scrutiny have an influence?		
P erformance	Is this an area of underperformance?		

Extent	Does the topic affect people living, working or studying in more than one electoral ward of Plymouth?			
Replication	Will this be the only opportunity for public scrutiny?			
	Is the topic due planned to be the subject of an Executive Decision?			
	Total:			High/Medium/Low

Priority	Score
High	5-6
Medium	3-4
Low	1-2

Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Tracking Decisions 2023/24

Minute No.	Recommendation/Action	Target Date, Officer Responsible and Progress
Minute 6 Corporate Plan Performance Report - Q4 2022-23 26 July 2023	The Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Sport, Leisure and HR & OD would provide a written response to the Committee detailing the reasoning behind the increase in full time equivalent workdays lost to staff sickness and what steps were being taken to tackle this issue.	Date Due: 20 September 2023 Officer: Alison Mills Progress: Complete. Document shared with Committee Members on 16 November 2023.
Minute 25k Financial Monitoring Report Month 6 15 November 2023	More detail on the revenue streams that had moved to capital was requested.	Date Due: 29 November 2023 Officer: David Northey Progress: Complete. Response shared with Committee Members on 17 November 2023.

This page is intentionally left blank