SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2024-2028

SAFER PLYMOUTH

A community where people feel safe and secure

January 2024

CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

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

- There were 1,318 sexual 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.
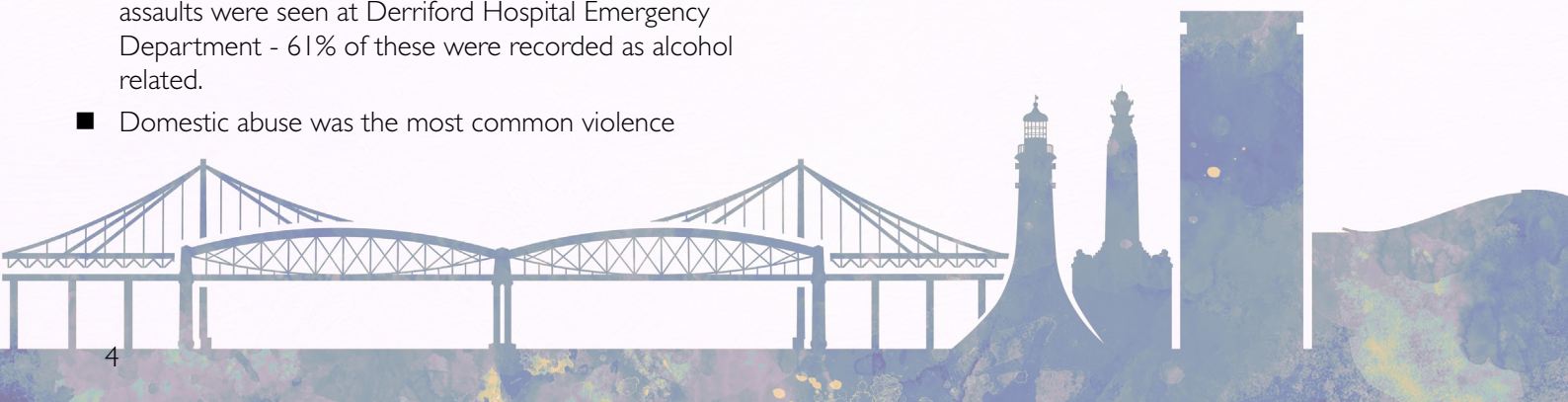
2. INTRODUCTION

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. Serious Violence Duty - Statutory Guidance (publishing. service.gov.uk)

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

3   Domestic Abuse Act. The National Archives, 2021. https://www.legislation. gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents/enacted

4   Tackling Violence against Women and Girls. HM Government, 2021 https:// www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy

5   Women's Health Strategy for England. Department of Health and Social Care, August 2022. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/womens-health-strategy-for-england

6   Police, Crime, Sentencing and Court Act 2022. Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (legislation.gov.uk)

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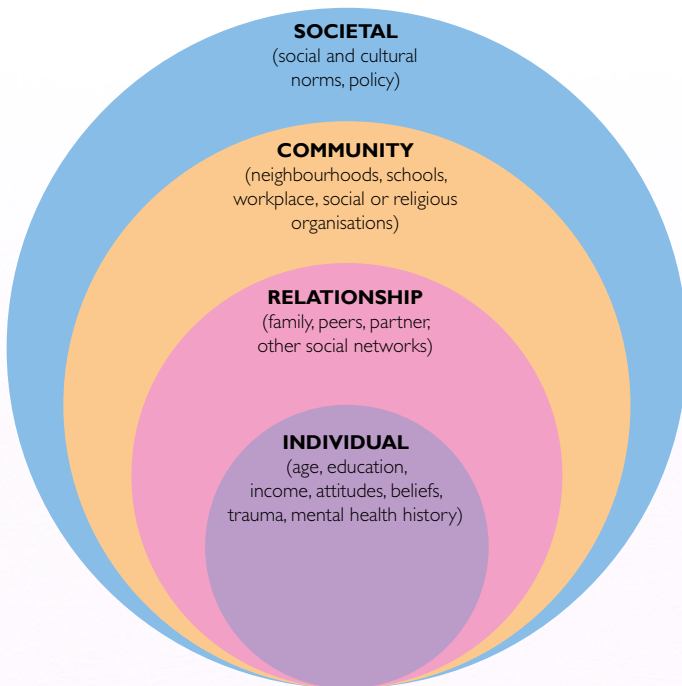
Societal
This level is concerned with broader societal factors that support the conditions for violence such as health, economic and social policies that help maintain inequalities such gender inequalities.

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 to serious violence prevention focuses on reducing and mitigating risk factors and supporting and building protective factors. It proposes three levels of prevention:

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

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

2.5 Human Learning Systems

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

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

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

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

2.6 Trauma informed

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

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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 resident's 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 Plymouth[8] at the beginning of 2022 provides further insights into people's perceptions of safety. Of the 1,327 responses 81% reported feeling very or fairly safe whilst at home and 11% felt very or fairly unsafe. Men were significantly more likely to feel very/fairly safe (90%) than women (80%) and older age groups were more likely to feel safe than those aged 20-24yrs (69%). 64% of the respondents felt very or fairly safe when out during the day while 17% felt very or fairly unsafe. Women were

less likely to feel safe when out during the day (63%) and people under 19 years were the least likely to feel safe (40%). Respondents identifying as gay, lesbian, or bisexual (46%) were less likely than those identifying as heterosexual/straight (70%) to report feeling safe while out during the day. Over three quarters of respondents (78%) said they felt very or fairly 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 Plymouth[9]. Many of the women reported neglect, abuse, and trauma in their childhoods and recounted relationships with men who were physically, sexually, and mentally abusive. All the women described never feeling safe when involved in prostitution and said experiences of male abuse and violence were common. They described feeling trapped in relationships with coercive and controlling men that held them back from exiting prostitution and moving forward in their lives.

A review of a small sample of Victim Personal Statements 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.

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.

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

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

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

The Together for Childhood Programme[10] works with partners to make communities safer for children and in Plymouth has a specific focus on preventing child sexual abuse. A Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviour research project carried out between March and September 2022 provided important insights into young people's (n.353) views on sexual abuse and healthy relationships. Young people appeared most knowledgeable about physical (93%) and sexual abuse (89%) but less knowledgeable about grooming (64%), domestic abuse (65%) and spotting the signs of an abusive relationship (67%).

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

Focus points

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

Online violence and harms

There is a growing awareness and understanding of the impact of illegal, offensive and harmful content and behaviours in the 'online world'. The 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

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

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').

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

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

> **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.**

- 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

> **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.**

- 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

> **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.**

- Male led initiatives could be effective in challenging language, behaviour and culture
- Schools must have clear responses to incidents
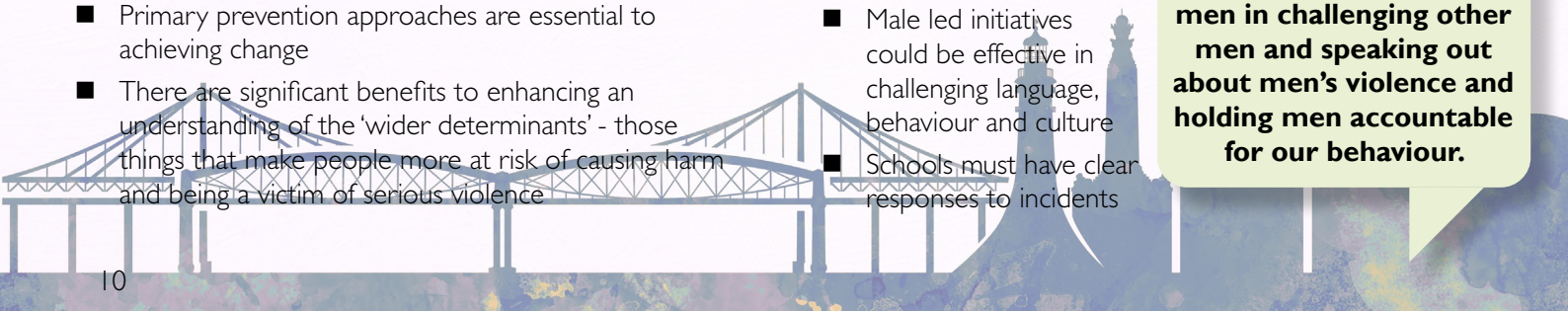
of violence including sexual harassment and assault

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

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.
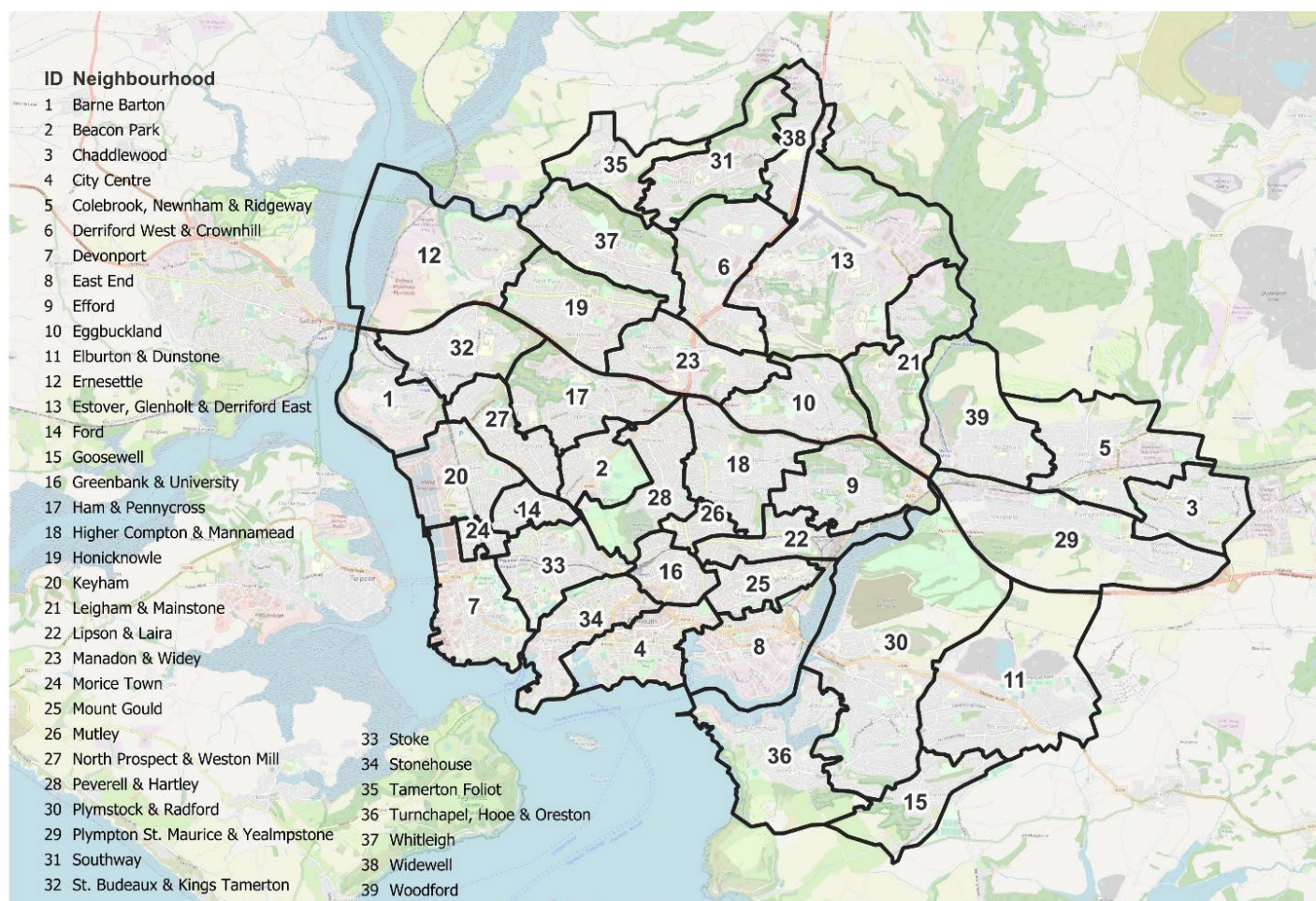
4.1   Plymouth geographies

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

ID	Neighbourhood
1	Barne Barton
2	Beacon Park
3	Chaddlewood
4	City Centre
5	Colebrook, Newnham & Ridgeway
6	Derriford West & Crownhill
7	Devonport
8	East End
9	Efford
10	Eggbuckland
11	Elburton & Dunstone
12	Ernesettle
13	Estover, Glenholt & Derriford East
14	Ford
15	Goosewell
16	Greenbank & University
17	Ham & Pennycross
18	Higher Compton & Mannamead
19	Honicknowle
20	Keyham
21	Leigham & Mainstone
22	Lipson & Laira
23	Manadon & Widey
24	Morice Town
25	Mount Gould
26	Mutley
27	North Prospect & Weston Mill
28	Peverell & Hartley
30	Plymstock & Radford
29	Plympton St. Maurice & Yealmpstone
31	Southway
32	St. Budeaux & Kings Tamerton
33	Stoke
34	Stonehouse
35	Tamerton Foliot
36	Turnchapel, Hooe & Oreston
37	Whitleigh
38	Widewell
39	Woodford

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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/dbimgs/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.

ID Neighbourhood
1. Barne Barton
2. Beacon Park
3. Chaddlewood
4. City Centre
5. Colebrook, Newnham & Ridgeway
6. Derriford West & Crownhill
7. Devonport
8. East End
9. Efford
10. Eggbuckland
11. Elburton & Dunstone
12. Ernesettle
13. Estover, Glenholt & Derriford East
14. Ford
15. Goosewell
16. Greenbank & University
17. Ham & Pennycross
18. Higher Compton & Mannamead
19. Honicknowle
20. Keyham
21. Leigham & Mainstone
22. Lipson & Laira
23. Manadon & Widey
24. Morice Town
25. Mount Gould
26. Mutley
27. North Prospect & Weston Mill
28. Peverell & Hartley
30. Plymstock & Radford
29. Plympton St. Maurice & Yealmpstone
31. Southway
32. St. Budeaux & Kings Tamerton
33. Stoke
34. Stonehouse
35. Tamerton Foliot
36. Turnchapel, Hooe & Oreston
37. Whitleigh
38. Widewell
39. Woodford

National deprivation decile
- Decile 1 (28 LSOAs) most deprived
- Decile 2 (19 LSOAs)
- Decile 3 (24 LSOAs)
- Decile 4 (22 LSOAs)
- Decile 5 (10 LSOAs)
- Decile 6 (11 LSOAs)
- Decile 7 (13 LSOAs)
- Decile 8 (20 LSOAs)
- Decile 9 (12 LSOAs)
- Decile 10 (2 LSOAs) least deprived

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) Whitleigh; (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 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 offences[38]

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

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

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

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, 2022/23[44]

% of pupils	Overall absence		Unauthorised absence		Persistent absence*	
School type	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)
46 Back to School? Breaking the link between school exclusions and knife crime. All-Party Parliamentary Group on Knife Crime. http://www.preventknifecrime.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 disproportionally 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

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 life[57].

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

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)
58 Health Visitor Caseload Survey 2022, Public Health, Plymouth City Council.
59 Data extracted from Care First System, Plymouth City Council, Childrens Social Care Service, August 2023 * White British (White British, White English, White Welsh, White Scottish, White Northern Irish)

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 Whitleigh appear repeatedly in the top five neighbourhoods across both years. These areas are all within the most deprived 13 (of 39) neighbourhoods in the city.

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

Intelligence from Plymouth City Council Adult Safeguarding service provides further insight into violence in home settings. This shows that in 2020 9%, or 143 of 1,594

overall adult safeguarding referrals[60] 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 qualities are at increased risk of being a perpetrator and victim of serious violence.[62]

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.

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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 (publishing.service.gov.uk)

62 Youth violence and alcohol. World Health Organisation. 2006. youth-violence-and-alcohol.pdf (who.int)

63 Serious Violence Strategy. HM Government. 2018. Home Office – Serious Violence Strategy, April 2018 (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 (phe.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 (accessible) - 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 (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 review[74] 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.

5.10 Child Criminal Exploitation

The Home Office has defined child criminal exploitation as:

"Child criminal exploitation…occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate, or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology." [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)

5.11 Digital and online technologies

There is a growing awareness of the role that digital and online technologies (smart devices, online platforms, and mobile phone apps) are playing in serious violence. A 2021 Home Office Report[81] described an increasing number of reports of technology facilitated domestic abuse and intimate partner surveillance. These include creating fake online accounts to abuse, harass, and impersonate victims, stalking and controlling victims via local apps and geo-location on social media, and image based sexual abuse (also known as revenge porn). The report highlights how digital tools are being used to monitor, threaten, and humiliate victims and asserts that these behaviours are no less harmful than physical abuse and violence and are often used as part of wider patterns of domestic abuse.

It is difficult to quantify the scale of technology facilitated domestic abuse. However, many of the tools used are readily available technologies that often do not require specific technical proficiency. Participants in the Home Office report, including Police and domestic abuse support service providers, expected technology to feature in the majority of cases of domestic abuse, stalking, and coercive and controlling behaviour.

The Children's Commissioner for England has given focus to understanding how young people are impacted by online content and cultures including pornography, misogynistic trolling and non-consensual sharing of intimate images. A report to the Online Safety Commission in 2022 raised serious concerns about young people's exposure to online pornography and the impact of this on serious cases of peer-on-peer sexual violence.[82] Subsequent research by the Children's Commissioner[83] further examined online pornography and found that pornography consumption is widespread among young people who are frequently exposed to violent content depicting degradation, sexual coercion, and exploitation. Young people involved in the research reported concerns that this is informing harmful attitudes towards women and girls and condoning sexual aggression and coercion.

The new Online Safety Act 2023[84] places legal duties on social media platforms to keep the internet safe for young people and give adults more choice about what they see online. This includes preventing and rapidly removing illegal content such as revenge pornography and stopping children seeing material that is harmful such as content depicting or encouraging serious violence.

As online and offline lives become more integrated, violence and harms overlap in physical and digital spaces. Approaches to violence prevention need to be responsive to this rapid emergence of digital and online technologies and associated harms.

5.12 Impact of COVID-19

It is acknowledged that COVID-19 and its associated lockdowns brought about a range of impacts upon crime, both directly and indirectly. The pandemic also had an impact on the reporting and recording of some data including the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) that shifted from face-to-face interviews to a telephone survey to understand people's experiences of crime.

Analysis from the Centre for Economic Performance[85] highlighted that police in England and Wales recorded fewer crimes overall in the pandemic but violent crimes did not decrease during that time.

Intelligence from the Crime Survey for England and Wales and the Office for National Statistics shows an increase in the number of domestic abuse cases during the pandemic.[86] A report from Women's Aid revealed how COVID-19 and the associated restrictions intensified existing domestic abuse, made it harder to flee abusers, and reduced access to support options for many people.[87]

The COVID-19 pandemic, including lockdowns and social distancing measures, accelerated people's use of digital technologies and increased the number of online interactions and contacts. A 2022 study by Women's Aid explored the experiences 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.

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)

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

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. A-Perfect-Storm-August-2020-1.pdf (womensaid.org.uk)

88 Technology and domestic abuse. Women's Aid. 2022. 4.-Technology-domestic-abuse-and-Covid-19-1.pdf (womensaid.org.uk)

6. PROFILE OF SERIOUS VIOLENCE

This section draws on intelligence from several sources to provide an analysis of serious violence in Plymouth. Sources of data include

- Devon and Cornwall Police crime data (iQuanta and the Universal Dataset (UDS)
- Devon and Cornwall Police DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Honor-based violence) risk identification system
- Real time suicide surveillance data
- MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference)
- Local domestic abuse and sexual violence services
- Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Plymouth Youth Justice Service
- South West Probation Service
- Hospital Emergency Care Department
- South West Ambulance Service
- Hospital Episode Statistics (HES)

6.1 Police data

This needs assessment draws on police data for the Plymouth Community Safety Partnership (CSP) taken from both iQuanta and the UDS for the year 2021/22 but also references data and changes in data from 2019/20. These datasets are drawn from recorded crime and incident data but are extracted at different points in time. As crime recording is dynamic (for example, after initial recording a crime may subsequently be reclassified as a different type of crime or "no-crimed") the numbers may not match exactly. For more detail on the police data see Appendix D.

Plymouth has 39 neighbourhoods that have been defined according to community identity and natural boundaries. These neighbourhoods and boundaries are recognised by all services across Plymouth (Police, Health, Fire, and the Council). The names of the police neighbourhoods in the UDS do not exactly match those 39 Plymouth City Council neighbourhoods. As such, where needed the nearest match has been selected (Table 4: 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.
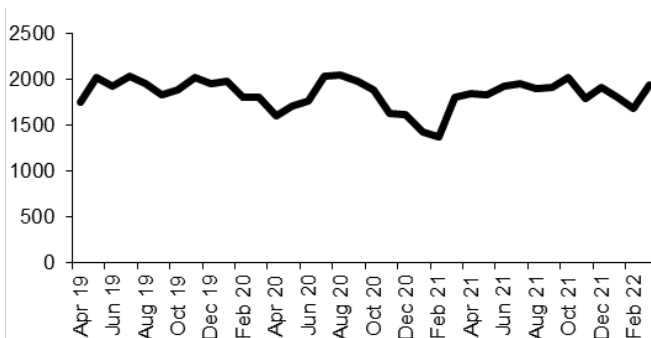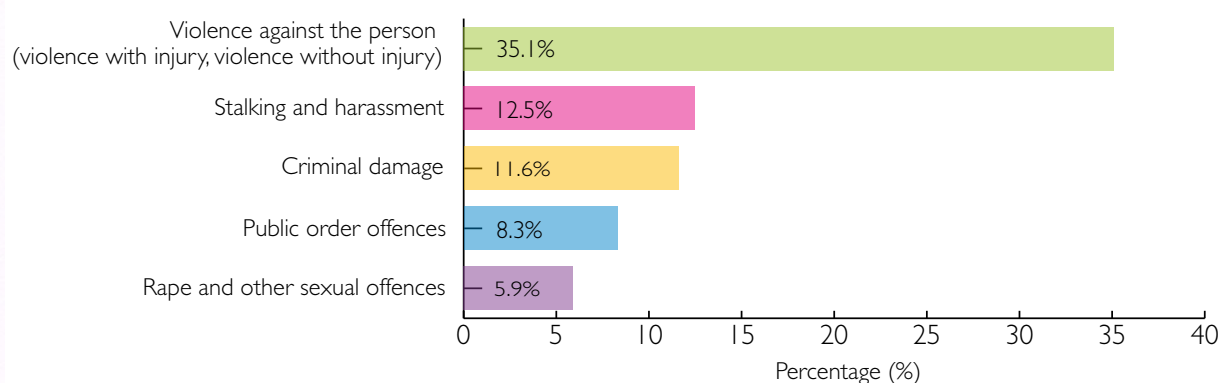
It is worth noting that offender data reflects the records available in the UDS, the majority of which are incomplete. Therefore, demographics detailed in the tables in this section should be seen as indications of "who offenders are" rather than definitive intelligence.

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.

6.3   Overall crime in Plymouth

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

Key facts

22,477 crimes / 84.9 crimes per 1,000 residents

This is an increase of 8% (1,610 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 5% (285 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).

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

(Source: iQuanta)

The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of crimes in 2021/22 (3,171).

Victims were more likely to be female, aged 25-29 years, and of a White British ethnicity.

The available data indicates offenders were more likely to be male, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.

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

Trends

iQuanta volume chart – all recorded crimes April 2019 to Mar 2022

Between Apr 2019 and Jun 2020 crime levels were between 1,500 and 2,000 with an overall increase over this time.

From a high of 2,045 in Aug 2020 there was a decrease until

Feb 2021 (1,300).

Since then, levels have been on an increasing trend back up to near the Aug 2020 peak.

Source: iQuanta

Crimes

Of the 22,531 crimes:

The top five highest crime types:

- Violence against the person 35.1% (7,905 crimes)
- Stalking and harassment 12.5% (2,826 crimes)
- Criminal damage 11.6% (2,612 crimes)
- Public order offences 8.3% (1,865 crimes)
- Rape and other sexual offences 5.9% (1,321 crimes)

Other crimes related to serious violence:

- Possession or trafficking of drugs 5.5% (1,233 crimes)
- Possession of weapons 1.7% (379 crimes)
- Robbery 0.9% (202 crimes)

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

Flags

Of the 22,531 crimes:

- 21.7% (4,884 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related
- 20.8% (4,681 crimes) were considered alcohol-related
- 0.6% (132 crimes) were considered to be child sexual exploitation
- 2.6% (587 crimes) were considered a hate crime

Using the DASH data (4,034 records):

- 24.7% (996 crimes) were considered alcohol-related
- 28.2% (1,136 crimes) were considered drug-related
- 33.0% (1,332 crimes) were considered mental health-related
- 8.1% (326 crimes) were considered alcohol, drug, and mental health-related

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

Location

All recorded crime: numbers and rates by neighbourhood
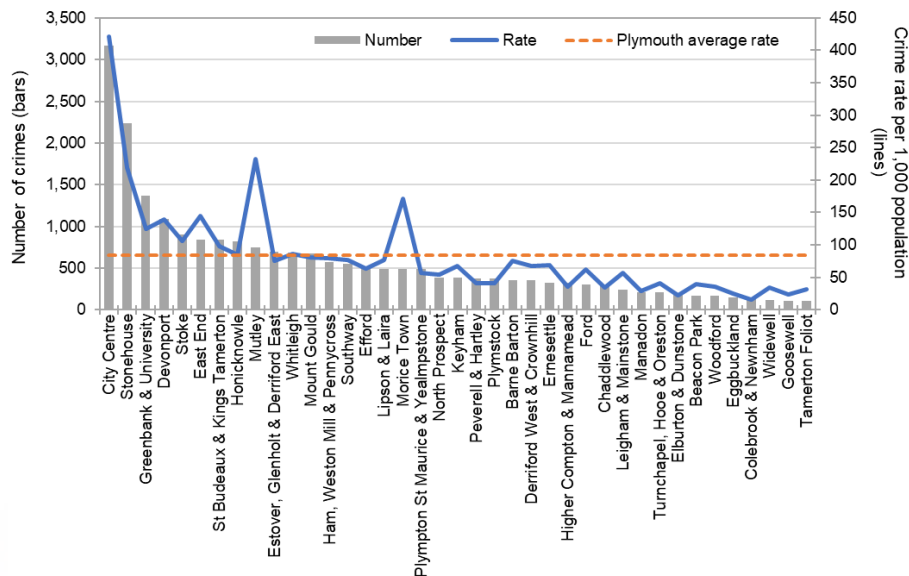
Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of recorded crime

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	3,171	420.8	12/39
Stonehouse	2,240	219.3	1/39
Greenbank 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)*

6.4   Domestic violence

In addition to recorded crimes that are flagged as domestic abuse-related there are many incidents that are domestic abuse-related that do not result in a crime being recorded. In 2021/22 there were 2,212 episodes of this nature.

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – domestic abuse-related crimes	
Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise) Definition: all recorded crimes with a domestic abuse flag	
Key facts	No iQuanta data available for domestic abuse. 4,884 crimes. This is a decrease of 1.5% (72 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The Stonehouse neighbourhood saw the highest number of domestic abuse crimes in 2021/22 (416). Victims were most likely to be female, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity. The available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 35-39 years, and of a White British ethnicity. *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*
Trends	Of the 19,713 total recorded crimes in 2020/21: ■ Domestic-abuse related crimes accounted for 25.1% (4,956 crimes) *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*
Crimes	Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes: ■ Domestic abuse-related crimes accounted for 21.7% (4,884 crimes) *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*
Flags	Of the 4,884 domestic abuse-related crimes: ■ 30.8% (1,504 crimes) were considered alcohol-related ■ <0.1% (<5 crimes) were considered to be child sexual exploitation ■ 0.6% (27 crimes) were considered a hate crime Using the DASH data (1,281 records): ■ 43.2% (554 crimes) were considered alcohol-related ■ 28.2% (361 crimes) were considered drug-related ■ 32.2% (413 crimes) were considered mental health-related ■ 12.7% (163 crimes) were considered alcohol, drug, and mental health-related *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*

Location

Domestic abuse-related crimes: numbers and rates by neighbourhood
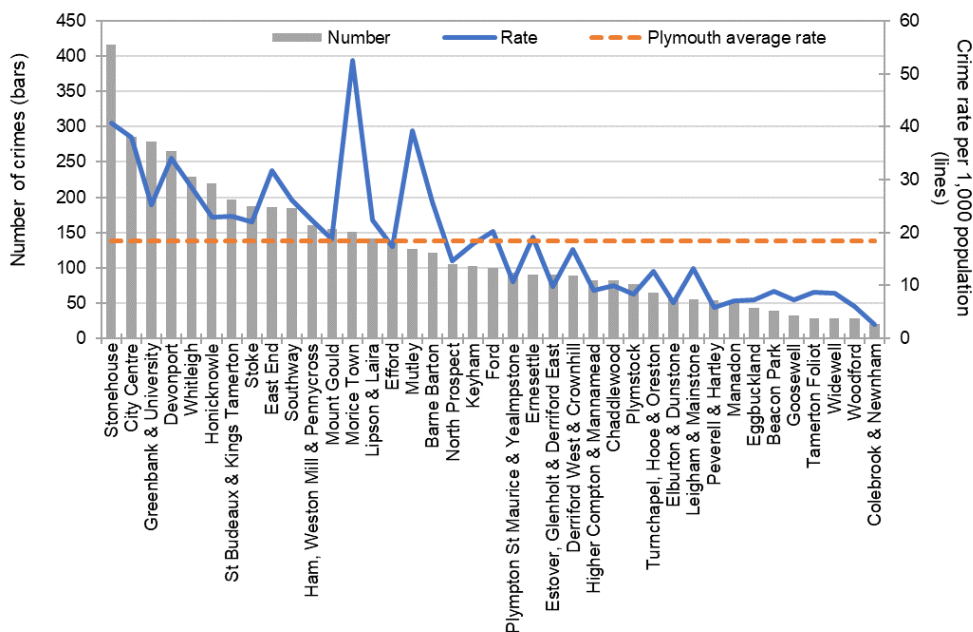
Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of domestic abuse-related crime

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
Stonehouse	416	40.7	1/39
City Centre	286	38.0	12/39
Greenbank 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)

Demographics

Victims:

- 73.6% female; 26.4% male
- 66.8% were aged 20-44 years (20-24 years 13.1%; 25-29 years 15.1%; 30-34 years 16.4%; 35-39 years 12.2%; and 40-44 years 10.0%)
- 92.9% were White British; 3.7% were any other white background; 3.4% were any other ethnic group.

Offenders:

- 12.0% female; 88.0% male (309 records)
- 76.1% were aged 25-49 years (25-29 years 12.3%; 30-34 years 13.9%; 35-39 years 22.3%; 40-44 years 15.9%; and 45-49 11.7%) (309 records)
- 91.9% were White British; 5.0% were any other White background; 3.1% were any other ethnic group (259 records).

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

Sudden Self-Inflicted Deaths (SSIDs)

Real-time suicide surveillance data collects information around sudden self-inflicted deaths (SSIDs) of Plymouth residents including drug overdose data and suspected suicides. The dataset does not reflect official suicide numbers, as a suicide is not confirmed until a coronial process is concluded. It is likely that some of the deaths captured in the dataset will be confirmed as an accidental or drug-related death.

Sudden self-inflicted deaths can reflect all forms of violence and can potentially be a consequence of pre-existing violence in the victim's life. Evidence of potential drug use and mental health markers are an important dimension in understanding the distribution of violence within Plymouth.

From March 2022, information regarding whether the decreased person was known to be a victim or perpetrator of domestic abuse has been included in this real-time suicide surveillance data.

From March 2022 to June 2023, there were 75 Plymouth residents whose deaths were included in real-time suicide surveillance data around sudden self-inflicted deaths (SSIDs). Of which:

- 6.7% were known to be victims of domestic abuse (60.0% female and 40% male)
- 16.0% (all males) were known to be or suspected to be perpetrators of domestic abuse
- 16.0% were known as both perpetrators/suspects and victims (58.3% female and 41.7% male)
- For young people aged under 25, 20.0% of SSIDs were victims of domestic abuse compared to 8.0% perpetrators/suspects and 8.0% known as both perpetrators/suspects and victims.

Responding to domestic abuse

MARAC – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference is a local fortnightly meeting where information is shared about the 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.
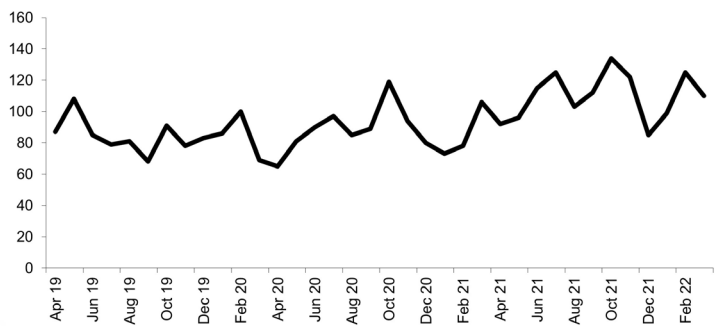
The number of male victims in those cas es discussed ranged from a high of 25 in 2019 to a low of 13 in 2021.

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.

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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.

6.5   Sexual assault

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – sexual offences (ONS)	
Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise) **Definition:** rape and other sexual offences	
Key facts	1,318 crimes / 5.0 crimes per 1,000 residents This is an increase of 25% (261 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 2% (7 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021). Rate of crime is above average for Most Similar Group (4.0 per 1,000) and is the third highest in the group (out of 15). *(Source: iQuanta)* The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of sexual offence crimes in 2021/22 (142). Victims were most likely to be female, aged 10-14 years, and of a White British ethnicity. Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 55-59 years, and of a White British ethnicity. *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*
Trends	iQuanta volume chart – sexual offences April 2019 to March 2022 In Apr 2019 there were 87 recorded sexual offences. Overall there was a decreasing trend from Apr 2019 to Apr 2020 (65 crimes). From this point onwards numbers of sexual offences have risen overall with a peak in Oct 2021 of 134 crimes *Source: iQuanta*
Crimes	Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes: ■ Rape accounted for 2.0% (447 crimes) ■ Other sexual offences accounted for 3.9% (874 crimes) Of the 1,321 sexual offence crimes: ■ Rape accounted for 33.8% (447 crimes) ■ Other sexual offences accounted for 66.2% (874 crimes) *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*

|	
Flags	Of the 1,321 sexual offence crimes: ■ 19.8% (261 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related ■ 18.1% (239 crimes) were considered alcohol-related ■ 6.8% (90 crimes) were considered to be child sexual exploitation ■ 0.4% (5 crimes) were considered a hate crime Of the 447 rapes: ■ 36.0% (161 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related ■ 20.1% (90 crimes) were considered alcohol-related ■ 3.4% (15 crimes) were considered to be child sexual exploitation ■ <1.0% (<5 crimes) were considered a hate crime Of the 874 other sexual offences: ■ 11.4% (100 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related ■ 17.0% (149 crimes) were considered alcohol-related ■ 8.6% (75 crimes) were considered to be child sexual exploitation ■ <0.6% (<5 crimes) were considered a hate crime Using the DASH data (179 records) ■ 27.9% (50 crimes) were considered alcohol-related ■ 25.7% (46 crimes) were considered drug-related ■ 34.1% (61 crimes) were considered mental health-related ■ 9.5% (17 crimes) were considered alcohol, drug, and mental health-related *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*

Location

Sexual offences: numbers and rates by neighbourhood
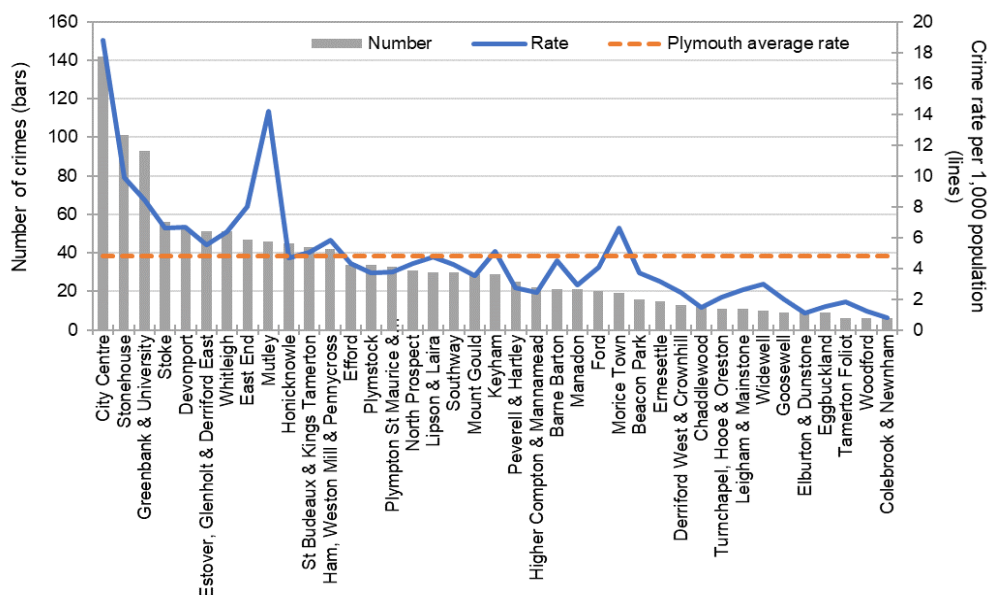
Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of sexual offences

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	142	18.8	12/39
Stonehouse	101	9.9	1/39
Greenbank 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)

Demographics

Victims:

- 84.3% female; 15.7% male
- 59.2% were aged 10-24 years (10-14 years 26.6%; 15-19 years 20.7%; 20-24 years 11.9%)
- 95.0% were White British; 2.4% any other white background; 2.6% any other ethnic group.

Offenders:

- 2.3% female; 97.7% male (43 records)
- 69.8% were aged 25-39 years and 55-59 years (25-29 years 16.3%; 30-34 years 14.0%; 35-39 years 16.3%; and 55-59 years 23.3%) (43 records)
- 97.0% were White British; 3.0% any other white background (33 records).

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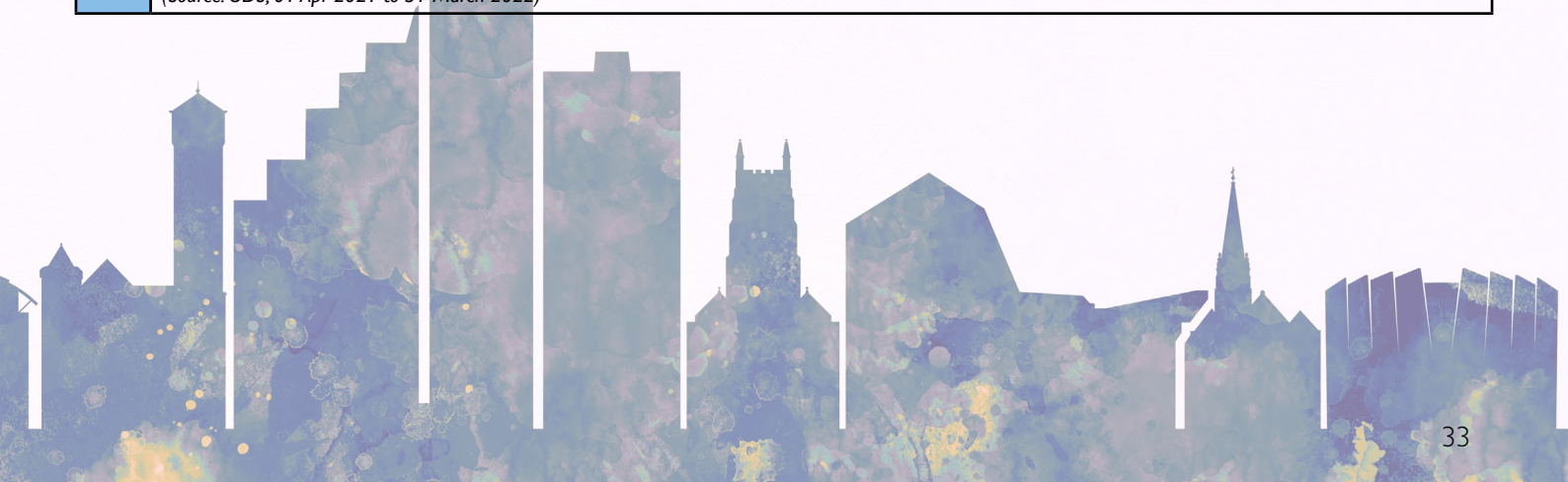
Responding to sexual violence

First Light provides counselling and therapy to people in Plymouth who have been affected by sexual violence. Between April 2022 and March 2023:

- There were 528 adult referrals to the service with 497 meeting the criteria for a service. Of these 245 people reported a history of rape and 252 reported a history of sexual assault.
- There were 158 children and young people referrals to the service with 155 meeting the criteria for a service. Of these 56 children and young people reported a history of rape and 99 reported a history of sexual assault

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

- 103 acute adult sexual abuse and violence referrals and 187 historic adult sexual abuse and violence referrals
- 39 acute children and young people sexual abuse and violence referrals and 87 historic children and young people referrals

6.6   Assaults

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – violence against the person violence WITH injury (ONS)	
Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)	

<table>
<tr>
<td>Key facts</td>
<td>

3,724 crimes / 14.1 crimes per 1,000 residents

This is an increase of 25% (742 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 4% (41 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).

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

(Source: iQuanta)

The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of violence with injury crimes in 2021/22 (540).
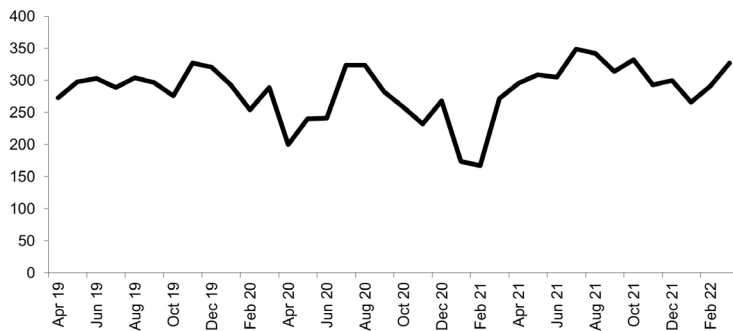
Victims were more likely to be male, aged 20-24 years, and of a White British ethnicity.

Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.

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

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<tr>
<td>Trends</td>
<td>

iQuanta volume chart – violence with injury April 2019 to March 2022

In Apr 2019 there were 273 crimes

Despite some peaks in Nov 2019 and Jul 2020 overall there has been a decreasing trend from Apr 2019 to Feb 2021 (167).

Since Feb 2021 levels have been on an increasing trend with a peak of 349 in Jul 2021.

Source: iQuanta

</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimes</td>
<td>

Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:
- Violence with injury accounted for 16.4% (3,704 crimes)

Of the 7,905 violence against the person crimes:
- Violence with injury accounted for 46.9% (3,704 crimes)

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

</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flags</td>
<td>

Of the 3,704 violence with injury crimes:
- 33.8% (1,251 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related
- 38.1% (1,411 crimes) were considered alcohol-related
- <0.2% (<5 crimes) were considered to be child exploitation
- 1.5% (55 crimes) were considered a hate crime

Using the DASH data (1,105 records)
- 25.6% (283 crimes) were considered alcohol-related
- 28.2% (312 crimes) were considered drug-related
- 31.2% (345 crimes) were considered mental health-related
- 8.0% (88 crimes) were considered alcohol, drug, and mental health-related

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

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</table>

Location

Violence with injury crime: numbers and rates by neighbourhood
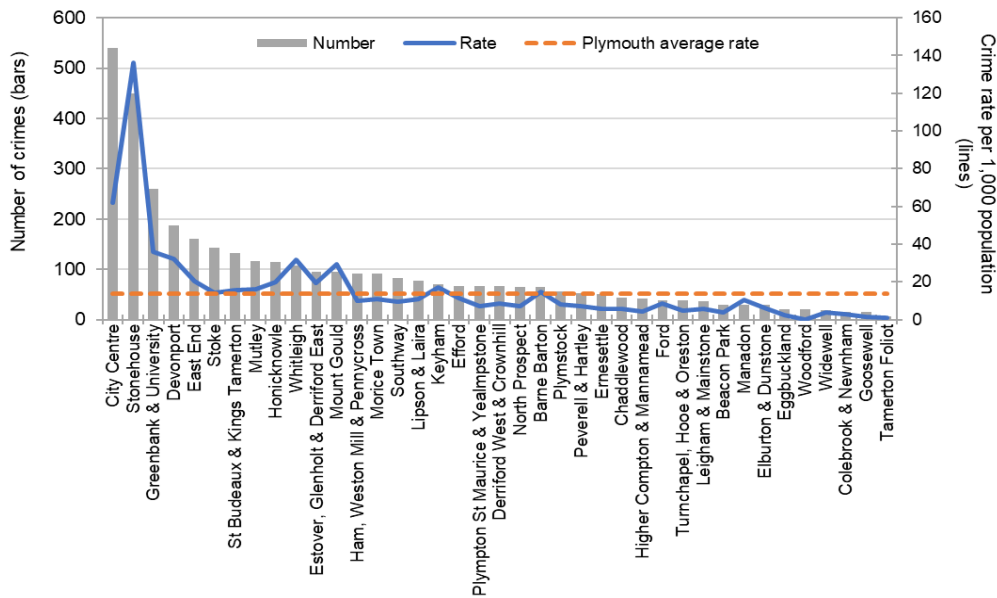
Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of violence with injury crime

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	540	61.9	12/39
Stonehouse	450	136.3	1/39
Greenbank 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)

Demographics

Victims:

- 46.0% female; 54.0% male
- 52.2% were aged 15-34 years (15-19 years 11.8%; 20-24 years 14.0%; 25-29 years 13.3%; and 30-34 years 13.1%)
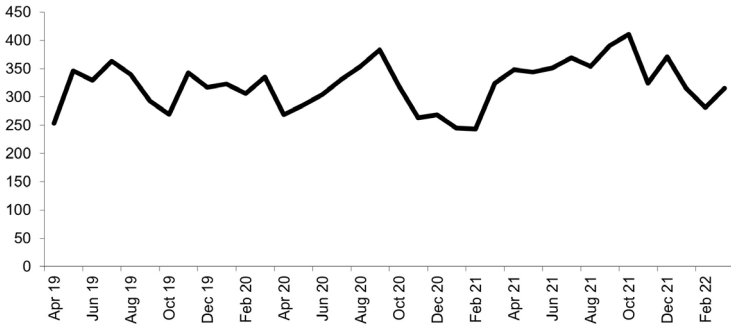- 91.6% were White British; 3.3% were any other white background; 5.1% were any other ethnic group.

Offenders:

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

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

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	4,173 crimes / 15.8 crimes per 1,000 residents This is an increase of 16% (586 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 18% (195 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021). Rate of crime is below average for Most Similar Group (17.3 per 1,000) and is the fifth lowest in the group (out of 15). *(Source: iQuanta)* The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of violence without injury crimes in 2021/22 (630). Victims were more likely to be female, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity. Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity. *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*
Trends	iQuanta volume chart – violence without injury Apr 2019 to March 2022 Despite some peaks, most notably in Sept 2020 (383) the volume of crime between Apr 2019 (253) and Feb 2021 (243) has remained similar. Since this point there was an increase up to a high of 411 in Oct 2021. with a decreasing trend from that point. *Source: iQuanta*
Crimes	Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes: ■ Violence without injury accounted for 18.6% (4,193 crimes) Of the 7,905 violence against the person crimes: ■ Violence without injury accounted for 53.0% (4,193 crimes) *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*
Flags	Of the 4,193 violence without injury crimes: ■ 32.3% (1,354 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related ■ 32.6% (1,368 crimes) were considered alcohol-related ■ <0.2% (<5 crimes) were considered to be child sexual exploitation ■ 1.9% (80 crimes) were considered a hate crime Using the DASH tool data (1,156 records) ■ 23.4% (271 crimes) were considered alcohol-related ■ 22.8% (263 crimes) were considered drug-related ■ 33.6% (388 crimes) were considered mental health-related ■ 7.3% (84 crimes) were considered alcohol, drug, and mental health-related *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*

Location

Violence without injury crimes: numbers and rates by neighbourhood
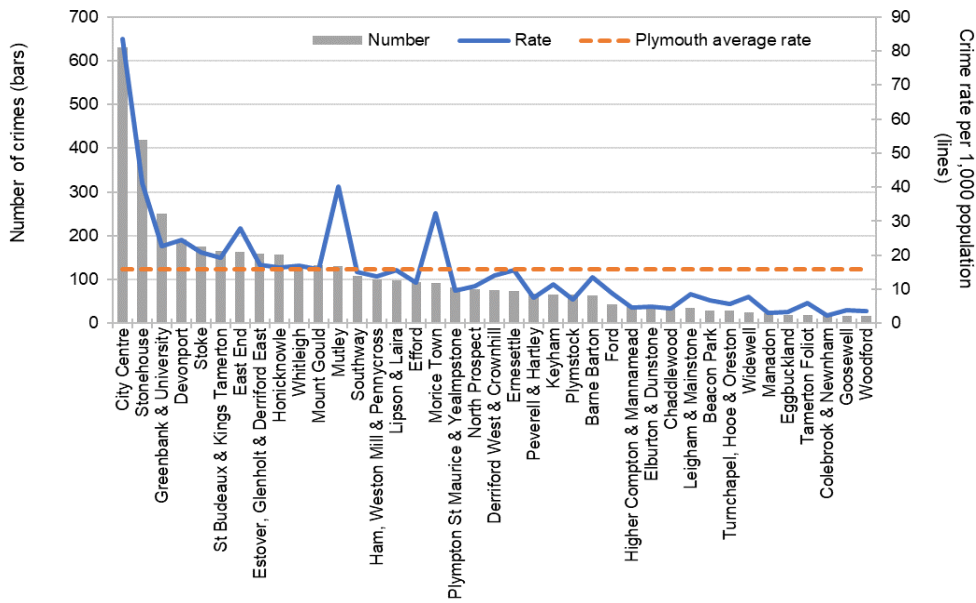
Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of violence without injury crime

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	630	83.6	12/39
Stonehouse	420	41.1	1/39
Greenbank 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)

Demographics

Victims:

- 50.9% female; 49.1% male
- 48.6% were aged 20-39 years (20-24 years 12.2%; 25-29 years 12.6%; 30-34 years 13.2%; and 35-39 years 10.6%)
- 91.0% were White British; 4.1% were any other White background; 4.8% were any other ethnic group.

Offenders:

- 29.5% female; 70.5% male (397 records)
- 83.4% were aged 15-44 years (15-19 years 13.9%; 20-24 years 13.6%; 25-29 years 15.4%; 30-34 years 19.1%; 35-39 years 11.3%; and 40-44 years 10.1%) (397 records)
- 92.9% were White British; 4.4% were any other White background; 2.37 were any other ethnic group (297 records).

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

6.8 Homicides

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – violence against the person homicide	
Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise) Definition: murder and manslaughter	

Key facts

8 crimes / 0.03 crimes per 1,000 residents

This is an increase of 300% (6 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw an increase of 100% (1 crime) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).

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

(Source: iQuanta)

The Keyham neighbourhood saw the highest number of homicides in 2021/22 (5 crimes).

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

Trends

iQuanta volume chart – homicide April 2019 to March 2022

Homicide is uncommon in Plymouth.

In Apr 2019 there was one recorded homicide.

A peak of five homicides were seen in August 2021 all relating to the incident in Keyham. Throughout the rest of 2021/22 there were three more homicides.

Source: iQuanta

Crimes

Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:
- Homicide accounted for <0.1% (8 crimes)

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

Flags

Of the 8 homicides:
- 12.5% were considered domestic abuse-related
- None were considered alcohol-related
- None were considered to be related to child sexual exploitation
- None were considered a hate crime

No DASH tool data available

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

Location

No homicides were considered related to the NTE.

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022; rates and deprivation ranks calculated by Plymouth City Council Public Health)

Demographics

Data for victims and offenders are not shown due to small numbers of records.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) are multi-agency reviews that consider the circumstances in which the death of someone aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse, or neglect; by a person to whom they were related, or with whom they had an intimate relationship, or where they were a member of the same household. Reviews also take place where a victim took their own life (suicide) and the circumstances give rise to concern. The process for carrying out DHRs is defined in Home Office guidance.[90]

Since 2020 there have been ten referrals for DHRs in Plymouth. Of these, four cases were recorded as homicides and six were recorded as suspected suicides.

To date seven of these cases have progressed to DHRs. Analysis of all the referrals shows that:

- Nine of the victims were female and one was male
- Victims were most likely to be in their 30's or 50's
- All the alleged perpetrators of domestic homicides were men
- In all cases of suspected suicide where domestic abuse was recorded the alleged perpetrators were male

90 Domestic Homicide Reviews: statutory guidance. Home Office. Updated 2016. Domestic homicide reviews: statutory guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

6.9   Robbery

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">SNAP SHOT Plymouth – robbery (ONS)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)
Definition: robbery of business property and robbery of personal property</td></tr>
<tr><td>Key facts</td><td>

203 crimes / 0.8 crimes per 1,000 residents

This is an increase of 13% (24 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw an increase of 5% (2 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).

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

(Source: iQuanta)

The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of robberies in 2021/22 (44).

Victims were most likely to be male, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.

Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 25-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity.

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

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Trends</td><td>

iQuanta volume chart – robbery April 2019 to March 2022

In Apr 2019 there were 26 recorded robberies.

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.

Source: iQuanta

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Crimes</td><td>

Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:
- Robbery accounted for 0.9% (202 crimes)

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

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Flags</td><td>

Of the 202 robberies:
- 8.9% (18 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related
- 21.3% (43 crimes) were considered alcohol-related
- None were considered to be related to child sexual exploitation
- <2.5% (<5 crimes) were considered a hate crime

Using the DASH data (18 records)
- 44.4% (8 crimes) were considered alcohol-related
- 61.1% (11 crimes) were considered drug-related
- 44.4% (8 crimes) were considered mental health-related
- 33.3% (6 crimes) were considered alcohol, drug, and mental health-related
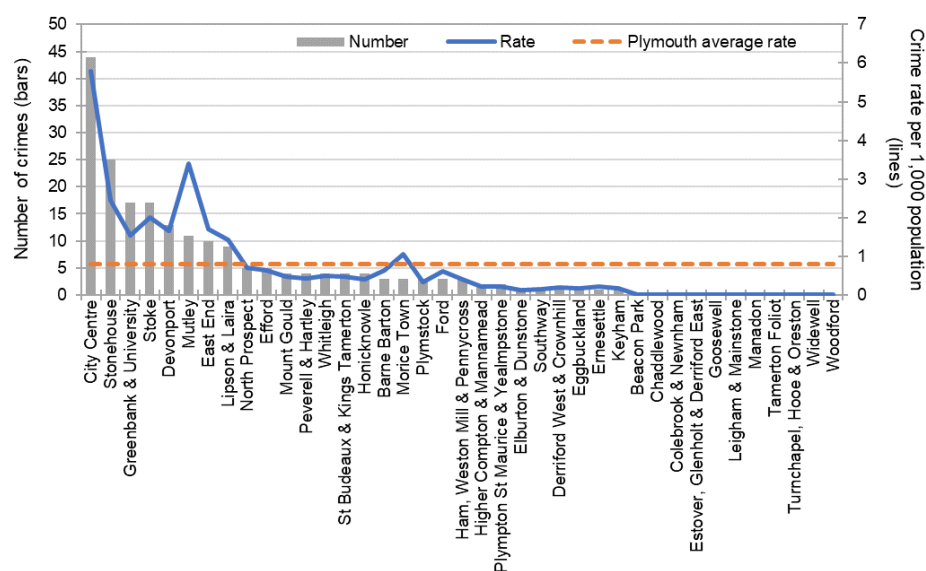
(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)

</td></tr>
</table>

Location

Robberies: numbers and rates by neighbourhood

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of robberies

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	44	5.8	12/39
Stonehouse	25	2.4	1/39
Greenbank 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)

Demographics

Victims:

- 27.3% female; 72.7% male
- 64.5% were aged 15-34 years and 40-44 years (15-19 years 11.5%; 20-24 years 13.0%; 25-29 years 13.5%, 30-34 years 15.0%; and 40-44 years 11.5%)
- 91.0% were White British; 5.1% were any other White background; 3.9% were any other ethnic group.

Offenders:

- 17.2% female; 82.8% male (29 records)
- 93.1% were aged 15-19 years and 25-44 years (15-19 years 17.2%; 25-29 years 27.6%; 30-34 years 27.6%; 35-39 years 10.3%; and 40-44 years 10.3%) (29 records)
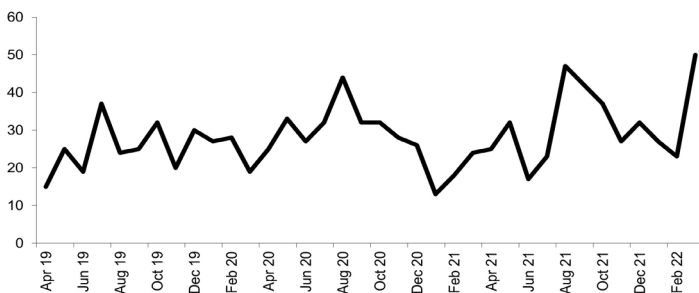- 95.7% were White British; 4.3% were any other ethnic group (23 records).

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

6.10 Possession of weapons

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – possession of weapons (ONS)	
Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)	
Key facts	382 crimes / 1.4 crimes per 1,000 residents This is an increase of 14% (48 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw an increase of 4% (4 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021). Rate of crime is above average for Most Similar Group (1.2 per 1,000) and is the fifth highest in the group (out of 15). *(Source: iQuanta)* The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of possession of weapon crimes in 2021/22 (62). Victims were most likely to be male, aged 10-14 or 25-29 years, and of a White British ethnicity. Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 30-39 years, and of a White British ethnicity. *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*
Trends	iQuanta volume chart – possession of weapons April 2019 to March 2022 In Apr 2019 there were 25 recorded possession of weapon crimes. There has been an overall increasing trend from April 2019 to March 2022 (50 crimes), with a low of 13 crimes in Jan 2021. *Source: iQuanta*
Crimes	Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes: ■ Possession of weapons accounted for 1.7% (379 crimes) Of the 379 possession of weapons crimes: ■ Possess/threaten with a blade/sharply pointed article accounted for 50.1% (190 crimes) ■ Possess/threaten with a blade/sharply pointed article on school premises accounted for 1.1% (4 crimes) ■ Possess/threaten with a firearm/imitation firearm accounted for 8.7% (33 crimes) ■ Possess/threaten with any weapon on school premises accounted for 1.3% (5 crimes) *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*
Flags	Of the 379 possession of weapon crimes: ■ <1.3% (<5 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related ■ 22.4% (85 crimes) were considered alcohol-related ■ None were considered to be related to child sexual exploitation ■ <1.3% (<5 crimes) were considered a hate crime No DASH data available *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*

Location
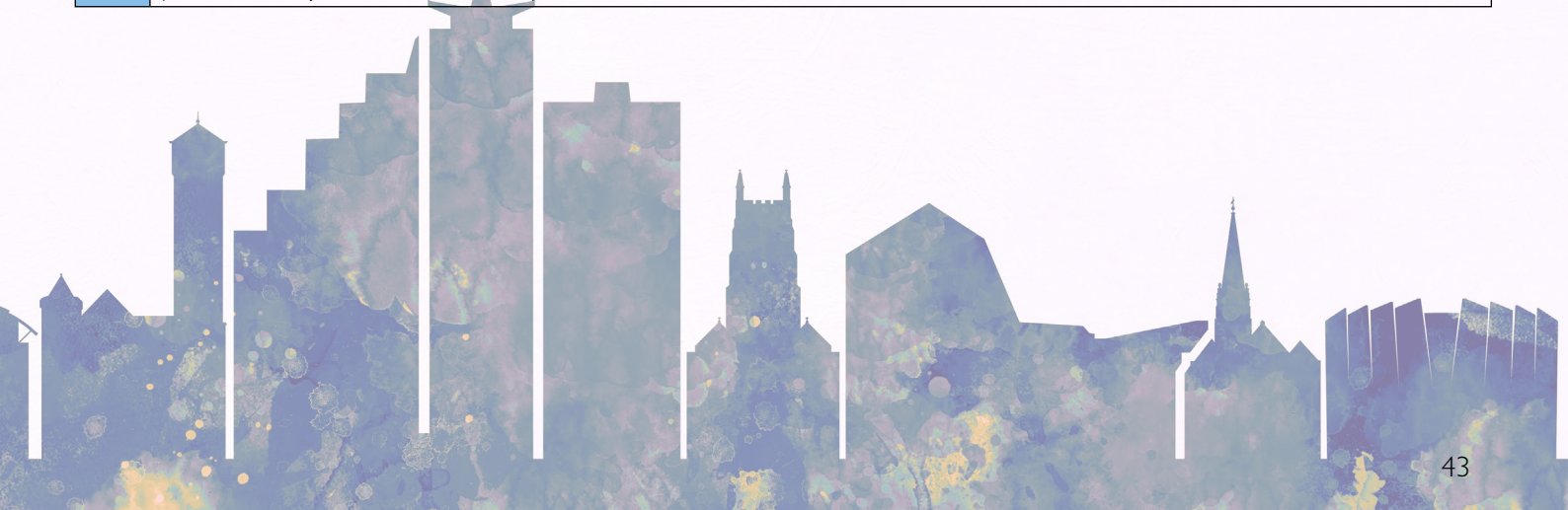
Possession of weapons crimes: numbers and rates by neighbourhood
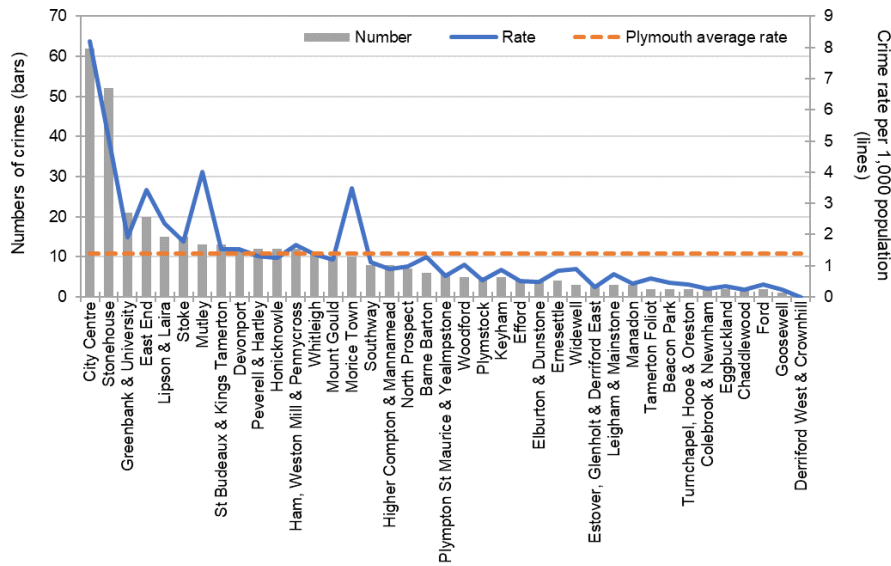
Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of possession of weapon crime

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	62	8.2	12/39
Stonehouse	52	5.1	1/39
Greenbank 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.
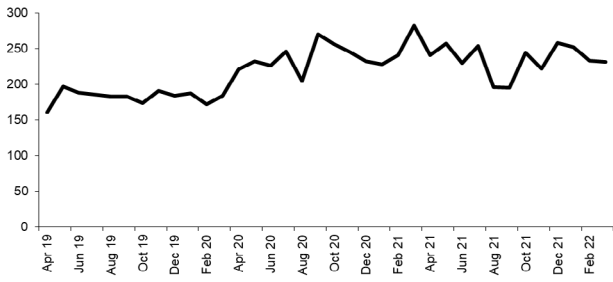
Offenders:

- 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)*

6.11 Stalking and harassment

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – stalking and harassment (ONS)	
Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)	

Key facts	2,813 crimes / 10.6 crimes per 1,000 residents This is a decrease of 2% (71 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw a decrease of 1% (8 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021). Rate of crime is below average for Most Similar Group (14.4 per 1,000) and is the third lowest in the group (out of 15). *(Source: iQuanta)* The Stonehouse neighbourhood saw the highest number of stalking and harassment crimes in 2021/22 (231). Victims were most likely to be female, aged 30-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity. Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 25-34 years, and of a White British ethnicity. *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*
Trends	iQuanta volume chart – stalking and harassment April 2019 to March 2022 **OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Provisional data before it is finalised and published by the Office for National Statistics** In Apr 2019 there were 161 recorded stalking and harassment crimes. There has been an overall increasing trend from April 2019 to March 2022 (231 crimes), with a peak of 282 crimes in Mar 2021. *Source: iQuanta*
Crimes	Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes: Stalking and harassment accounted for 12.5% (2,826 crimes) *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*
Flags	Of the 2,826 stalking and harassment crimes: ■ 44.4% (1,255 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related ■ 7.0% (199 crimes) were considered alcohol-related ■ <0.2% (<5 crimes) were considered to be child sexual exploitation ■ 4.4% (125 crimes) were considered a hate crime flag Using the DASH data (978 records) ■ 23.5% (230 crimes) were considered alcohol-related ■ 31.6% (309 crimes) were considered drug flag-related ■ 32.9% (322 crimes) were considered mental health-related ■ 8.1% (79 crimes) were considered alcohol, drug, and mental health-related *(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022)*

Location

Stalking and harassment crimes: numbers and rates by neighbourhood
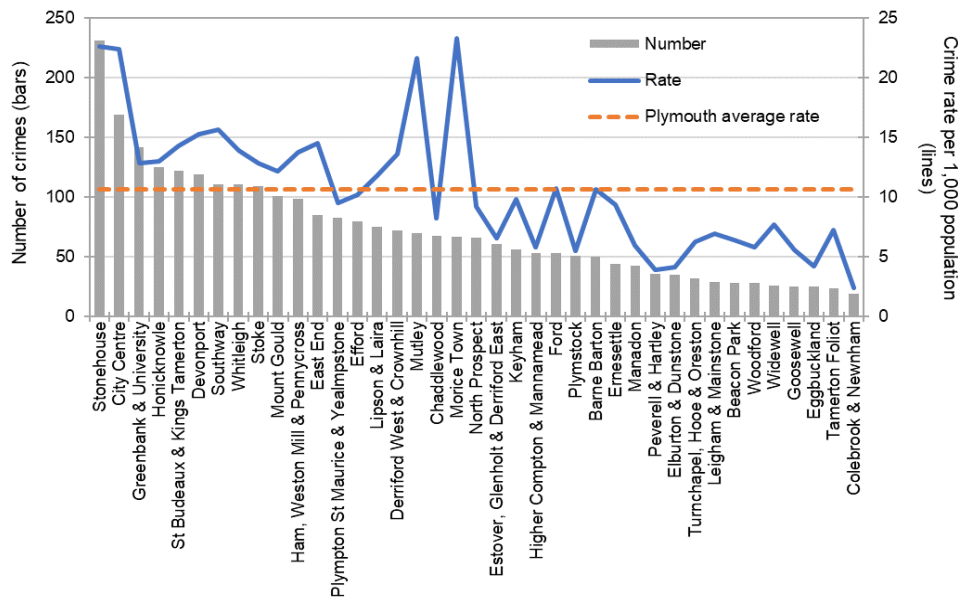
Top five neighbourhoods with the highest numbers of stalking and harassment crime

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
Stonehouse	231	22.6	1/39
City Centre	169	22.4	12/39
Greenbank 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)

Demographics

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.
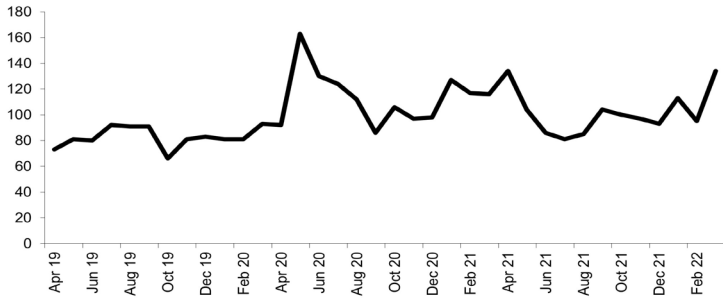
Offenders:

- 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)

6.12 Drug offences

SNAP SHOT Plymouth – drug offences (ONS)

Reporting period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (unless stated otherwise)
Definition comprises: possession of drugs and trafficking of drugs

Key facts	1,226 crimes / 4.6 crimes per 1,000 residents

This is a decrease of 10% (142 crimes) from the previous year 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Quarter 4 (Jan to Mar 2022) saw an increase of 18% (52 crimes) from the previous quarter (Oct to Dec 2021).

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

(Source: iQuanta)

The City Centre neighbourhood saw the highest number of drug offences in 2021/22 (257).

Available data indicates offenders were most likely to be male, aged 25-29 years, and of a White British ethnicity.

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022) |
| **Trends** | iQuanta volume chart – drug offences April 2019 to March 2022

In Apr 2019 there were 73 recorded drug offences.

There has been an overall increasing trend from April 2019 to March 2022 (134 crimes), with a peak of 163 crimes in May 2020.

Source: iQuanta |
| **Crimes** | Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes:
- Possession of drugs accounted for 4.3% (975 crimes)
- Trafficking of drugs accounted for 1.2% (258 crimes)

Of the 1,233 drug offence crimes:
- Possession of drugs accounted for 79.1% (975 crimes)
- Trafficking of drugs accounted for 20.9% (258 crimes)

(Source: UDS, 01 Apr 2021 to 31 March 2022) |
| **Flags** | Of the 1,233 drug offence crimes:
- <0.4% (<5 crimes) were considered domestic abuse-related
- 13.4% (165 crimes) were considered alcohol-related
- None were considered related to child sexual exploitation
- None considered a hate crime

DASH data not shown due to small number of records

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

Location

Drug offences: numbers and rates by neighbourhood
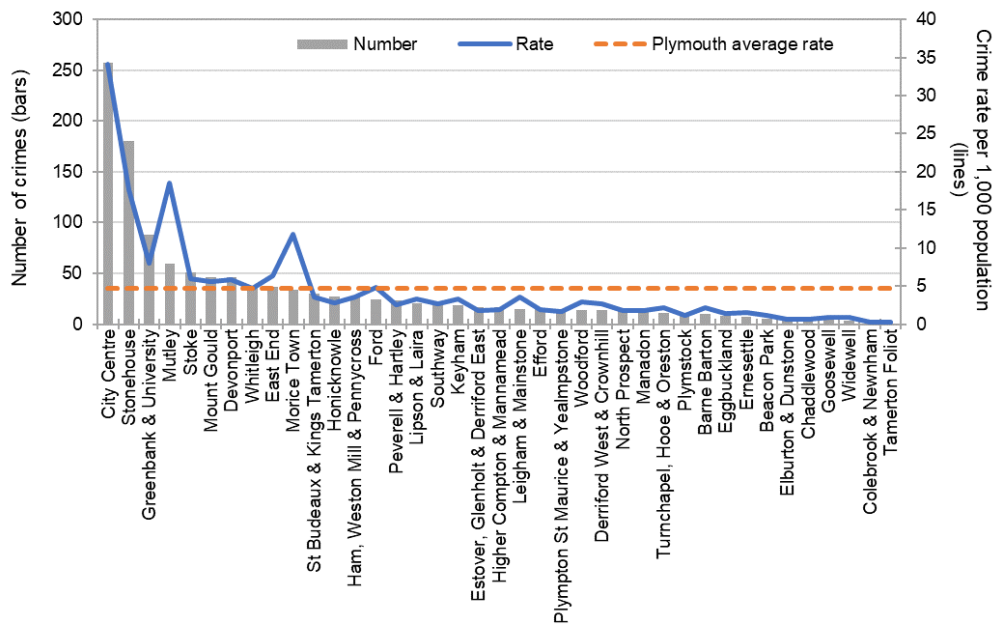
Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of drug offences

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	257	34.1	12/39
Stonehouse	180	17.6	1/39
Greenbank 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)

Demographics

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)

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

All recorded crime

Under-18

- 2,723 crimes
- Of the 22,531 total recorded crimes, those involving under-18s can be considered to account for 12.1%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 93.9% were White British; 2.4% were any other White background; 3.7% were any other ethnic group.

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of crimes involving under-18s

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	249	33.0	12/39
St Budeaux 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

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

Sexual offences

Violence with injury

Under-18

- 616 crimes
- Of the 3,704 violence with injury crimes, those involving under-18s can be considered to account for 16.6%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 94.2% were White British; 2.5% were any other White background; 3.3% were any other ethnic group.

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of violence with injury crimes involving under 18s

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	59	7.8	12/39
Honicknowle	47	4.9	9/39
St Budeaux 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

Robbery

Under-18

21 crimes

- Of the 202 robberies, those involving under-18s can be considered to account for 10.4%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 93.8% were White British; 6.3% were any other white background

Top four neighbourhoods with the highest number of robberies involving under 18s

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	5	0.7	12/39
Peverell 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

Possession of weapons

Under-18

- 46 crimes
- Of the 379 possession of weapons crimes, those involving under-18s can be considered to account for 12.1%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 96.7% were White British; 3.3% were any other White background

Top six neighbourhoods with the highest number of possession of weapon crimes involving under 18s

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	5	0.7	12/39
East End	<5	<0.9	6/39
St Budeaux 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

Drug offences

Under-18

- 29 crimes
- Of the 1,233 drug offence crime, those involving under-18s can be considered to account for 2.4%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 100% were White British

Neighbourhood data is not shown due to small numbers of records.

18-24 years

- 150 crimes
- Of the 1,233 drug offence crimes, those involving 18-24 year olds can be considered to account for 12.2%
- Of those with ethnicity recorded 90.6% were White British; 3.9% were any other White background; 5.5% were any other ethnic group

Top five neighbourhoods with the highest number of drug offence crimes involving 18-24 year olds

Neighbourhood	Number of crimes	Rate per 1,000 population	Neighbourhood deprivation rank
City Centre	28	3.7	12/39
Stonehouse	27	2.6	1/39
Greenbank and University	15	1.4	22/39
Mutley	10	3.1	17/39
East End	9	1.5	6/39

6.13.1 Youth justice

In Plymouth in 2022 the rate of first-time entrants to the youth justice system (juveniles receiving their first conviction, caution, or youth caution) was 138.2 per 100,000 10-17 year olds; a value not significantly different to England (148.9 per 100,000).[91] This was a significant decrease from 2021 when the rate 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.

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 Reconviction Scale (OGRS) offence categories used to determine serious violent crime were sexual offences (against a child), sexual offences (not against a child), and violence. There may be duplicate individuals within the data. Certain sentences have been excluded. 14% of cases were non-Plymouth residents.

A total of 757 offences were managed during 2022/23, with serious violence accounting for 311 (41.1%). Of the 311 serious violent offences, sexual offences against a child, sexual offences not against a child, and violence accounted for 25 (6.8%), 21 (6.8%), and 265 (85.2%) respectively.

Males accounted for 280 offences (90.0%) whilst females accounted for 31 (10.0%). The majority of offences were committed by those of a White British ethnicity (89.4%).

Of the 311 offences:

■ Domestic abuse was recorded in 138 cases (44.4%) (103 where offenders were perpetrators; 35 historic abuse).

■ Mental health issues were recorded in 85 cases (27.3%)

■ A registered sex offender was recorded in 48 cases (15.4%)

■ Child protection was recorded in 10 cases (3.2%) (child at risk of harm directly from offender or where offender lives is an environment where child is deemed to be at risk of harm from others – child subject to child protection plan)

■ Child concerns were recorded in 24 cases (7.7%) (child at risk of harm directly from offender or where offender lives is an environment where child is deemed to be at risk of harm from others – child NOT subject to child protection plan)

The majority of cases had offenders that were aged 34-37 years (51; 16.4%), 26-29 years (46; 14.8%), and 30-33 years (46; 14.8%), 42-49 years (34; 10.9%), and 38-41 (31; 10.0%).

The majority of offences committed by males for violence were under the age of 46 (84.2%) whereas for sexual offences the percentage

7. HEALTH INTELLIGENCE

7.1 Hospital Emergency Care Department assault data

A high proportion of assault victims presenting at Emergency Care Departments (ECDs) do not report these assaults to the Police – therefore many incidents will not be reflected in reported crime statistics. Assault data collected at Derriford Hospital ECD provides a valuable source of intelligence about the scale and nature of violence in the city.

From April 2018 to March 2023, a total of 3,394 assaults (61% alcohol-related, 39% non-alcohol related) were seen at Derriford Hospital ECD. A total of 413 assaults were seen in 2021/22 (COVID-19 year) compared to an annual average of 745 assaults per year. This includes assaults that took place outside the Plymouth area. Key findings from analysis of the data for assaults that occurred only in the Plymouth area is shown in following table.

Time period: April 2018 to March 2023		
Facts		■ Total 1,941 assaults occurred in Plymouth over last five years (67% alcohol-related, 33% non-alcohol related). ■ Average 255 alcohol-related and 133 non-alcohol related assaults per year over last five years. ■ During 2020/21 (COVID-19 lockdowns), alcohol-related assaults seen by Plymouth ECD decreased by 52% and non-alcohol related assaults by 14% on the previous year. During 2021/22 (when restrictions lifted), alcohol-related assaults increased by 67% and non-alcohol related assaults by 40% compared to pre-pandemic levels. ■ 733 (57%) of all alcohol-related assaults took place at weekends, compared to 185 (28%) non-alcohol related assaults over the last five years. ■ 980 (77%) of all alcohol-related assaults occurred between the hours of 21:00-02:59 and 325 (49%) of all non-alcohol related assaults occurred between 15:00-20:59.
Weapons		■ Total of 1,281 alcohol and non-alcohol related incidents involved a part of the body (fist, foot, head etc.) to assault a victim. ■ Glass/bottles were used as weapons in 13.7% of alcohol-related and 5.6% non-alcohol related assaults in the last 5 years. ■ Knives were used in 6.3% of alcohol-related and 4.8% of non-alcohol related assaults.
Assailants		■ 683 (54%) of alcohol-related and 381 (57%) of non-alcohol related assaults involved one assailant. ■ 737 (58%) of alcohol-related and 268 (40%) non-alcohol related assaults involved strangers. ■ Alcohol-related assaults involving partners/ex-partners was reported by 2% of males and 20% of females. For non-alcohol related assaults this was reported by 2% of males and 17% of females.
Premises		■ 231 alcohol-related assaults took place at the top 10 premises (accounting for 18% of the city's alcohol-related assaults). Of these assaults, 196 (85%) were aged 18-30 years. ■ There were 7 alcohol-related assaults on under 18 year olds at premises in the city.

Locations

Neighbourhoods

- The City Centre neighbourhood had the highest percentage of alcohol-related and non-alcohol related assaults (31%) The surrounding neighbourhoods of Stonehouse, Greenbank 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.

7.2   Spotlight on Ambulance data

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

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 that the England average of 41.9 per 100,000 standardised population.

The trend shows a decrease in rate of emergency hospital admissions for violence from 74.2 per 100,000 (2009/10 to 2011/12) to 33.3 per 100,000 (2018/19 to 2020/21).

Figure 6: Rate of emergency hospital admissions for violence (external causes: ICD10 codes X85 to Y09), directly age standardised rate per 100,000 population (Plymouth, South West and England), 2009/10 to 2011/12 to 2018/19 to 2020/21
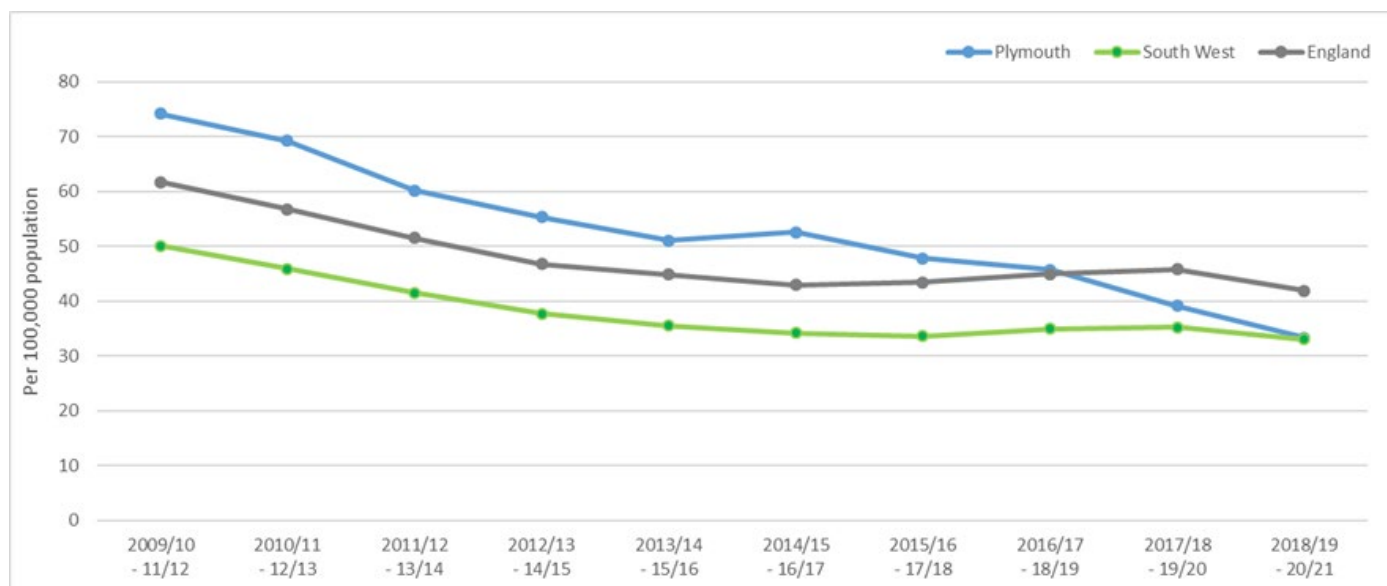
Source: HES data (NHS Digital) and ONS population data

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

- Residents in the most deprived and upper middle groups[93] accounted for 61.5% of the 265 emergency hospital admissions for violence.

- 73.2% of all emergency admissions for violence were male (of which 21.5% were under 25 years). This compares to 26.8% and 7.5% respectively for females.

- The highest percentage age group for emergency admissions for violence for males was age 31-40 (14.7%) and for females was it those aged under 18 (5.3%).

- 89.4% of the 265 Plymouth emergency admissions for violence were White British and 7.5% from ethnic minorities.

- 133 of the 265 emergency hospital admissions for violence were caused by assault by bodily force (ICD10 code Y04). This was the highest cause of emergency hospital admissions for violence (50.2%). Of these 133 admissions for assault by bodily force, 54.9% occurred in an unspecified place, 18.0% on a street and highway and 11.3% at home.

- 33 of the 265 emergency hospital admissions for violence were caused by other maltreatment (ICD10 code Y07). This was the second highest cause of emergency hospital admissions for violence (12.5%). Of these 33 admissions for other maltreatment, 54.5% were by parent, 21.2% by other specified persons and 15.2% by spouse or partner.

- 30 of the 265 emergency hospital admissions for violence were caused by assault by sharp object (ICD10 code Y99). This was the third highest cause of 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-crimed") the numbers may not match exactly.

The police performance website iQuanta allows comparisons of levels of crime and general trends with the average for partnerships and police force areas with similar characteristics nationally (known as our 'most similar family group'). The most similar family groupings are regularly reviewed. There are two main ways to compare performance with the most similar family – incidence of crime (crime rate) and change in crime over time. If performance is significantly different from the most similar family group, this indicates that local factors, rather than national trends, are driving the changes.

APPENDIX E: SUMMARY OF CRIME TYPES

Summary of all crime and disorder types in the Plymouth Community Safety Partnership area for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Crime type	2020/21	2021/22	% change	2021/22 rank within MSG group (1 highest rate, 15 lowest rate)
All crime	20,867	22,477	7.7	15/15
Arson	87	101	16.1	11/15
Bicycle theft	135	95	-29.6	15/15
Burglary - business and community	314	196	-37.6	14/15
Burglary - residential	471	361	-23.6	15/15
Criminal damage	2,452	2,604	6.2	9/15
Homicide	2	8	300.0	1/15
Miscellaneous crimes against society	505	510	1.0	11/15
Other sexual offences	652	871	33.6	2/15
Possession of drugs	1,060	969	-8.6	1/15
Possession of weapons offences	334	382	14.4	5/15
Public order offences	1,639	1,848	12.8	15/15
Rape	405	447	10.4	5/15
Robbery of business property	6	2	-66.7	15/15
Robbery of personal property	173	201	16.2	11/15
Shoplifting	861	873	1.4	15/15
Stalking and harassment	2,884	2,813	-2.5	13/15
Theft from the person	106	146	37.7	13/15
Trafficking of drugs	308	257	-16.6	8/15
Vehicle offences	676	575	-14.9	15/15
Violence with injury	2,982	3,724	24.9	2/15
Violence without injury	3,587	4,173	16.3	11/15
ASB*	8,347	6,316	-24.3	n/a
Domestic abuse crimes*	4,956	4,884	-1.5	n/a
Domestic abuse non-crime incidents*	2,020	2,212	9.5	n/a
Hate crime*	548	587	7.1	n/a

*Source: Iquanta except those marked * which come from the UDS*

APPENDIX F: YOUTH JUSTICE OFFENCE TYPES

Violence-related offences

(blue knife/blade offence; green firearm offence; red any other weapon offence)

Assault a boy under 13 years of age by penetration

Assault a constable in the execution of his / her duty

Assault a girl under 13 by touching - SOA 2003

Assault a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm

Assault by beating

Assault by beating of an emergency worker

Assault person assisting constable in execution of

Assault with intent to commit robbery

Attempt sexual assault on a male person

Attempt murder - victim aged 1 year or over

Attempt rape of a girl under 13 - SOA 2003

Attempt to cause grievous bodily harm with intent

Attempt to engage in a penetrative sexual activity

Cause / incite a girl 13 to 15 to engage in sexual activity

Cause unnecessary suffering to a protected animal

Choke / suffocate / strangle to render unconscious

Common assault of an emergency worker

Common assault

Harassment - put in fear of violence

Kidnap - common law

Possess a loaded / unloaded air weapon in a public

Possess an imitation firearm in a public place

Possess an offensive weapon in a public place

Possess an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence

Possess article with blade / sharply pointed article

Possess a weapon for the discharge of a noxious liquid

Possess knife blade / sharp pointed article in a public place

Possess offensive weapon on school premises

Possess knife blade or sharply pointed article

Possess written material which is threatening abusive

Racially / religiously aggravated assault / assault

Racially aggravated common assault

Racially / religiously aggravated intentional harassment

Racially / religiously aggravated fear / provocation

Racially / religiously aggravated harassment with

Rape a girl under 13

Rape a girl aged 13 / 14 / 15 - SOA 2003

Rape of a boy under 13 - SOA 2003

Rape a woman 16 years of age or over - SOA 2003

Robbery

Section 18 - attempt wounding with intent

Section 18 - grievous bodily harm with intent

Section 18 - wounding with intent

Sexual assault on a female

Stalking involving serious alarm / distress (02/04

Threats to kill

Threaten a person with a blade / sharply pointed article

Use threatening / abusive words / behaviour likely to cause harassment alarm or distress

Use threatening / abusive / insulting words / behaviour

Wound / inflict grievous bodily harm without intent

Use violence to secure entry to premises

Wound / inflict grievous bodily harm without intent

HM Prison &
Probation Service

Devon