



Cheshire West & Chester  
**Community  
Safety  
Partnership**

# Cheshire West and Chester Community Safety Partnership

**Annual Report** 2019/20



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## Foreword

On behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Community Safety Partnership I am proud to present the Annual Report outlining our achievements in 2019/20.

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The Community Safety Partnership has invested in a range of initiatives to support work in achieving outcomes in a number of areas contributing to partnership working on community safety issues that matter to our communities. This has included presenting our work to the Health and Wellbeing Board and demonstrating that the partnership fulfils all of its statutory functions as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.



Cllr Robert Cernik, Cabinet Member for Children and Families

## Introduction

Welcome to 2019/20 Annual Report for the Cheshire West and Chester Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

For the first time in five years crime is shown to have stabilised after a year on year increase. 2019 when compared to 2018 saw a very slight fall in recorded crimes in Cheshire West and Chester whilst the rest of Cheshire has seen a small increase. An area of crime however that is still on the rise is violence against the person, which increased again for the fourth year running, now standing at just over 11,000 offences. The majority of these offences (71 per cent) fall in the category of assault without injury and include harassment offences, where the greatest increases have been. The offence of violence with injury has actually reduced by 5.1 per cent which is the first reduction for five years.

Many other offences have also seen reductions including sexual offences (11.7 per cent), drug offences (9.6 per cent), alcohol related crime (3 per cent), burglary (16 per cent) and vehicle crime (11.9 per cent). The reductions that have been seen in Cheshire West and Chester have in the main been greater than the rest of Cheshire which is a really positive picture for the locality. Offences that have seen an increase include Cyber Crime (101.7 per cent), Hate Crime (14.2 per cent) and robbery (22.5 per cent). These offences have seen increases across the wider Cheshire footprint as well and are areas that we may wish to consider as key priorities for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) as we look forward to the coming year.

Areas that have remained relatively static include criminal damage, arson and domestic abuse. Domestic abuse has actually seen a small decrease of 0.4 per cent compared to an increase of 6.1 per cent across Cheshire but when you consider reported incidents that are domestic abuse related, we have seen a 23.1 per cent increase in Cheshire West and Chester. This is replicated across the force and may be down to scrutiny within the Force Control Centre to ensure they are flagged appropriately but regardless it has previously been highlighted as a priority and should continue to be so.

When looking at reported incidents rather than crime, the overall picture is one of increasing demand, locally we have seen an increase of 1,897 reported incidents to the police compared to last year which is a larger increase (2.5 per cent) than the rest of the force (-1.7 per cent). Those incident types where we have seen increases include hate incidents, missing people, ASB nuisance incidents and domestic abuse and this highlights some of those areas where the CSP might want to focus their attention for the forthcoming year.

Road collisions have continued to be a priority for the CSP and 2019 figures show the lowest number of casualties on roads in Cheshire in the last five years. That said, ten people were still fatally injured, and 68 people were seriously hurt therefore this is still a significant issue for the Partnership.

The partnership has supported a range of projects during 2019/20 across its priority areas to support safety within our communities and is looking ahead to setting its priorities for the 2020/21 period.

This annual report sets out the work that has taken place within each of the priority areas shown in the table below:

Priority 1	Reduce Reoffending
Priority 2	Exploitation
Priority 3	Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
Priority 4	Substance Misuse
Priority 5	Domestic Violence & Abuse
Priority 6	Killed and Serious Injured on our Roads (KSI)

# Priority 1: Reducing Re-offending

Lead Partner: National Probation Service (NPS)

## Context:

The purpose of this priority is for partners to contribute positively to projects designed to promote and encourage change in individuals so that their risk of reoffending reduces.

## Achievements 2019/20:

- ✓ The National Probation Service (NPS) and Cheshire Police along with their partners have continued to ensure robust risk management via the MAPPA forum and Integrated Offender Management (IOM) arrangements to ensure risk of serious harm is managed effectively and service user pathways are targeted to reduce re-offending rates.
- ✓ Achieved influencing the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to ensure appropriate mental health provision is in place for offenders. NPS and CCG worked together to explore the barriers to access for Probation service users. The CCG revised their protocol agreeing a new model of care for Mental Health services across Cheshire, this includes ensuring provision for people involved in the criminal justice system based on their needs, rather than meeting narrow criteria and/or having a 'diagnosis'.
- ✓ Continued to ensure the partnership is kept up to date with the 'Probation Programme'.
- ✓ In 2019/20 National Probation Service (NPS) and Cheshire Police strategically began to review the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) model with the view of strengthening it and ensuring IOM addressing reducing re-offending and ensures the management of risk of harm and domestic abuse.

## Current picture:

To date in 2020, the Women's Centre initiative for Cheshire West and Chester as part of the CSP Strategic Plan is making good progress. The services available to women are now up and running virtually and we're preparing to welcome women into a physical centre as soon as Covid-19 permits.

In the meantime, the provider MyCWA who are delivering the initiative on behalf of the National Probation Service is keen to introduce themselves and let services know about the holistic support that they can provide to, or link women with, following a referral to the centre. The provision is available to any woman who has an offending history or is at risk of offending as a result of their lifestyle. Women can access assistance with housing, employment, skills, mental health support, domestic abuse and much more and they benefit from peer support groups too.



# Priority 1: Reducing Re-offending

## Emerging challenges

A key area of work is the ongoing work between to review IOM to ensure a robust framework that targets an agreed cohort of service users that ensure risk of re-offending and management of risk of harm. It will involve ensuring an agreed approach and that our partnership agencies commit fully to IOM and that training is delivered to those involved in IOM.

# Priority 2: Exploitation

Lead Partner: Cheshire West and Chester Council

## Context:

The purpose of including this priority is for partners to work together to tackle serious and organised crime and to identify, prevent, and support those at risk of exploitation, both children and vulnerable adults.

Serious and Organised Criminals ruthlessly target the most vulnerable in our communities and their exploitation of others takes many forms, including sexual or criminal exploitation such as County Lines, economic crime, modern slavery and human trafficking. Offenders techniques are also continuously adapting, so our collective efforts are needed to focus on ensuring our communities are better prepared to recognise the threat, are supported to report illegal activity and to work towards stopping the problem at source by engaging with those at risk of becoming involved in criminality.

## Achievements 2019/20:

- ✓ Worked with the Safeguarding Children Partnership to expand their Child Exploitation dashboard
- ✓ Launched a new sub-regional Contextual Safeguarding Pathway and suite of Assessment Tools
- ✓ Developed and disseminated a Serious and Organised Crime Local Profile for West Cheshire to develop partners awareness of emerging local picture
- ✓ Enhanced cross partnership working between the CSP and Safeguarding Children Partnership by taking a joint approach to the Child Exploitation Strategic Group
- ✓ Continued to develop professional's awareness through Child Exploitation Training to the workforce
- ✓ Refreshed the Serious and Organised Crime Board workplan in line with the Local Profile and SOC National Strategy
- ✓ Commissioned interventions for children and young people across the continuum of need through provision of Youth Work support to low risk and Queensberry AP to medium and high risk of harm young people.
- ✓ Reviewed and re-established the terms of reference and operating model of the Serious and Organised Crime Board to ensure it is fit for purpose and facilitates a multi-agency response to identified threats
- ✓ Joint Development Session between the CSP and SCP in relation to Contextual Safeguarding.

# Priority 2: Exploitation

## Next steps

- ✓ To develop our data systems and intelligence capabilities so that the partnership can access real-time information and target our responses more effectively
- ✓ Develop and launch the Cheshire West and Chester All-Age Contextual Safeguarding Strategy
- ✓ To review the governance frameworks of each partnership to streamline information sharing and ensure robust reporting arrangements are in place across all operational group activities.

## Current picture in 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic increased the vulnerabilities of children and vulnerable adults many of whom found themselves isolated from their support networks and services that would usually provide some structure to their days e.g. schools. It has also presented challenges to partnership working, testing our ability to adapt quickly to new working arrangements. Pleasingly the Serious and Organised Crime Board has continued its business during this period and has utilised its access to new technology to continue its awareness raising activity both across the workforce and our communities.

## Emerging challenges

There are two key challenges that have emerged as work in respect of Serious and Organised Crime and Exploitation develops. The first comes with recognising that the numerous strands of Serious and Organised Crime activity requires professionals to have an equally broad knowledge of the different pathways and systems in place to enable them to report their concerns appropriately e.g. child exploitation pathway, safeguarding adults, etc. The challenge here is to ensure that these pathways (Local or Sub-Regional where they exist) protect children and adults alike, do not duplicate effort or resource, and are well co-ordinated. Given that several different partnerships (CSP, Safeguarding Children Partnership, Local Safeguarding Adult Board, Pan Cheshire Harmful Practices, Modern Slavery Network etc.) each manage aspects of SOC, the challenge is to ensure that governance frameworks are sufficiently robust to enable the CSP to obtain the fullest picture of Organised Crime.

The second challenge comes with the acknowledgement that exploitation does not stop when a child turns 18. Whilst we recognise the vulnerabilities of adults and have safeguarding responses in place where needed, the extent of the offer to children and adults varies significantly and is not as joined up as the partnership would like it to be. To address this, we are working to develop an All-Age Contextual Safeguarding Strategy.

# Priority 3: Anti-Social Behaviour

Lead Partner: Cheshire West and Chester Council

## Context

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in our communities remains a priority for the CSP and working in partnership is essential for positive outcomes. There are three dedicated ASB teams across the borough, all of which are based in police stations. The team includes non-uniformed Community Safety Officers (CSOs) and uniformed Community Safety Wardens (CSWs) and the ASB Units also have dedicated Police Officers from the Local Policing Units. Working in such close partnership with the police reduces duplication and ensures that we maximise the resources available to respond to ASB reports. Community Safety staff are also accredited with a number of police powers under the National Community Safety Accreditation Scheme to tackle anti-social behaviour, and staff undertake annual training in relation to these powers.

### Problem Solving Approach

Problem Solving Partnership Groups exist in each locality and are managed by the Community Safety Team. The Problem-Solving Groups bring statutory and non-statutory agencies together to work in partnership to address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Cheshire West and Chester.

## Achievements in 2019/20:

- ✓ The Community Safety Team have continued to support the work on rough sleeping and begging in Chester including robust engagement with the Rough Sleeping, and Homeless Strategy Groups.
- ✓ Chester City PSPO has been robustly enforced through joint working and patrolling.
- ✓ The CSP has a clear understanding of knife/weapon crime and has explored the perceptions with the Youth Senate representatives.
- ✓ The CSP has supported a range of projects aimed at reducing ASB and improving safety. These include additional CCTV on the Rows in Chester, Operation Crusher which is designed to reduce off road biking in Ellesmere Port, Operation Treacle which provided additional resources to reduce ASB during the bonfire and Halloween periods, and a Festive Street Safe Project in Chester to reduce crime and ASB and increase confidence in the city centre.
- ✓ The community Safety Team have continued to lead on a range of ASB Interventions including Advisory letters, Acceptable Behaviour Discussions (ABD) and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC) with both adults and juveniles over the year, as well as Court granted Criminal Behaviour Orders. Out of 126 interventions, 71 per cent were with juveniles and 29 per cent adults. Out of 97 advisory letters to juveniles 34 have had ABD, (35 per cent). None of these escalated beyond the discussion stage which is a very positive outcome.

## Achievements in 2018/19 continued

- ✓ The adults' story however is different. 58 advisory letters were issued with only 6 leading to ADB and only one progressing to an ABC. Over the year, 13 adult Criminal Behaviour Orders have been successfully applied for. Variations to three of these have been made due to change in circumstances, breaching plus a continuation of offending. There has been an appeal which was not upheld, one death and two offenders have remained in prison.
- ✓ There was a spike in advisory letters to juveniles in May 2019 with 45 issued in one month. 13 per cent (six) converted into ABD's but no further intervention was required. This episode in May was linked to a variety of activity - youths gathering in a disused building and outside the cinema, a knife incident in Northwich and an incident in Chester City centre which was more significant the outcome of which all of the young people put forward to be heard at the Child Exploitation Operational Group, referred to the Integrated Offender Management Team (IOM) and were allocated a lead worker from Children's Services.

## Emerging challenges

The impact of rough sleeping and homelessness in Chester City Centre and ensuring links with the Rough sleeping strategic agenda are maintained.

Managing ASB during the Covid-19 pandemic and consideration for the impact of the pandemic on reporting and an escalation in incidents.

## Next steps

- ✓ Review of all Gating PSPOs
- ✓ Review of the borough wide Dog Fouling PSPO and borough wide Alcohol PSPO
- ✓ Consideration of Serious Violence in anticipation of new legislation
- ✓ Continue to work in partnership and support a Holistic approach to problem solving in Chester city centre
- ✓ Update the Hate Crime Strategy & Action Plan based on Hate Crime Reporting Analysis
- ✓ Understand the Mental Health demands related to ASB incidents and interventions
- ✓ Update the Youth Work Strategy ensuring robust engagement with stakeholders and partners

## Current ASB picture 2019

Anti-social behaviour incidents					
2015	Change in crime recording practice	2016	2017	2018	2019
10,756		10,431	10,149	7,585	6,554
-8.4 per cent		-3 per cent	-2.7 per cent	-25.3 per cent	<b>-13.6 per cent</b>

- ✓ In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 13.6 per cent in anti-social behaviour incidents in Cheshire West and Chester.
- ✓ Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 12.3 per cent in anti-social behaviour incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester, have a slightly higher percentage decrease.
- ✓ When comparing anti-social behaviour incidents by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester have the second largest percentage decrease, compared to 2018.

# Priority 4: Alcohol and Substance Misuse

Lead partner: Public Health

## Context:

This priority aims to prevent and reduce the harms caused by substance misuse and understand the drugs profile for Cheshire West and Chester by:

- Explore opportunities to reduce harm in the night-time economy.
- Maintain strong links with the Drug Related Death Panel and report findings back to CSP.
- Continue to ensure there are robust links between the Substance Misuse Partnership and the CSP.
- Reporting to the CSP on the Drugs and Alcohol Commission, and the Homeless Commission for Cheshire West and Chester including performance management data.
- Work with partners and stakeholders to understand the drug profile and explore what data sets are available.
- Implement a robust pathway for receiving and sharing drug safety alerts across partners and stakeholders.

## Achievements in 2019/20

- ✓ Explore opportunities to reduce harm in the night-time economy.  
The main focus of activity under this priority has been on Chester City Centre and working to support the implementation of the Purple Flag Status (co-ordinated by Chester BID), including the provision of the Safe Space Project which provided support and medical treatment for those adversely affected by alcohol and substance use in the night-time economy. Chester BID continues to work on review and maintenance of Purple Flag Status for Chester City Centre.

- ✓ Maintain strong links with the Drug Related Death Panel and report findings back to CSP

The Cheshire West and Chester Drug Related Death Panel (DRDP) has met quarterly since 2019. The panel is well attended by agencies including mental health providers, substance misuse treatment services, housing and homelessness service providers and primary care. Recommendations are made by the panel for service improvements to prevent harm and the panel plans to hold a harm reduction learning event to further disseminate these messages.

- ✓ Continue to ensure there are robust links between the Substance Misuse Partnership and the CSP

The Cheshire West and Chester Substance Misuse Partnership Board exists to deliver the Substance Misuse elements of the Health and Wellbeing Boards 'Health Improvement Strategy. The board involves partners from key agencies across the borough and since being established the board has identified the following key priorities:

1. Treatment Services
2. Workforce
3. Prevention in NHS
4. Children and Families
5. Older People
6. Policy
7. Communications and Campaigns

## Key Achievements 2019/20 continued

- ✓ Reporting to the CSP on the Drugs and Alcohol Commission, and the Homeless Commission for Cheshire West and Chester including performance management data

The specialist Substance Misuse Treatment service is commissioned by Public Health and provided by Westminster Drug Project.

This contract is managed via quarterly contract monitoring meetings. The CSP has requested updates from the commissioner of this service on a twice-yearly basis.

The Homeless service is commissioned by Strategic Housing and provided by Forfutures.

The CSP has requested twice yearly updates from the commissioner of this service.

- ✓ Work with partners and stakeholders to understand the drug profile and explore what data sets are available

The CSP has considered how the partnership may better understand changes of the substance misuse profile and associated behaviours during COVID-19 regulations and the impacts these may have on community safety issues.

The CSP keep under close review the data on incidents relating to alcohol in the night-time economy in order to plan for and respond to any increase in such incidents as COVID-19 restrictions are eased.

- ✓ Explore a robust pathway for receiving and sharing drug safety alerts across partners and stakeholders

This is a priority. Alerts are currently received and disseminated to relevant partners; however, we do not currently have a system for gathering 'soft intelligence' on substance related alerts from partners. We do not currently have a systematic approach to assessing the quality and relevance of these alerts should we receive them. We do not currently have a systematic approach to disseminating alerts.

## Next steps

- ✓ Establishing a robust system for collating and disseminating drug safety alerts
- ✓ Share learning from drug related death panel and implement service changes to reduce harm
- ✓ Closely monitor drug and alcohol use data to understand any impact of the COVID pandemic on changing patterns of use and supply
- ✓ Re-focus on alcohol in the night-time economy.
- ✓ There is a need to refresh the Drugs and Alcohol Joint strategic Needs assessment to better understand current patterns of use and supply of drugs and alcohol.

# Priority 5: Domestic Violence and Abuse

Lead Partner: Cheshire West and Chester Council

## Context

This priority aims for agencies to intervene to prevent or reduce repeat experiences of Domestic Violence and Abuse.

## Achievements in 2019/20

- ✓ New service offer for people affected by domestic abuse

In January 2019 following a process of scrutiny that reviewed the range of services provided by the Local Authority a final report 'Right support at the right time' guided the development of a broader offer for people affected by domestic abuse. The Local Authority services take a Think Family approach to domestic violence and abuse recognising the significant impact that it has on children. The new response went live in September 2019 following recruitment to the additional posts. Service developments included:

- Group work and direct work for children impacted by Domestic violence and abuse
- Independent Domestic Violence Advocate support for victims assessed at medium risk
- Training and resources for early years settings
- Increased provision of survivor groups, including provision for men
- Additional Family intervention workers to work with families impacted by domestic abuse

- ✓ Development of a Gateway group (survivor group) for male victims
- ✓ A communications campaign focused on prevention of domestic violence and abuse

On behalf of the Domestic Abuse Partnership the local authority has led a communications campaign focused on prevention of domestic violence and abuse, linking with the sub regional communications campaign Open the Door. The Domestic Abuse Intervention and Prevention Service saw an increase in the number of self-referrals and it is likely that this is a direct result of the communication strategy.

- ✓ Housing Allocations Policy review

The Housing Allocations Policy has been reviewed during 2019 and a new policy presented to Cabinet for approval in March 2020. There was extensive consultation on the policy with over 500 responses from the public, with a majority supportive of the changes. The new policy will ensure that those in the greatest need are given priority for vacant housing.

- ✓ Reviewed and developed a new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

During 2019 the Council reviewed and developed a new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. The Strategy specifically references domestic abuse and includes the following action: Support the delivery of the Council's Domestic Abuse Strategy DVA-Strategy-2016-20 and work in partnership with domestic abuse services so that anyone fleeing domestic abuse gets the support and accommodation they need.

## Achievements in 2019/20 continued

- ✓ Procured a new refuge service

The Refuge recommission concluded in July 2019 following cabinet approval. The service procured was broadly similar with an increase in the dispersed property element. Provision takes a Think Family Approach and due to the dispersed property element can be easily accessed by male victims, couples fleeing honour-based violence and those with more complex needs.

- ✓ Healthy Relationship Course

Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company are commissioned to deliver a voluntary attendance Healthy Relationship course. Referral rates have been higher than previous years.

- ✓ Operation Encompass survey

During 2019 Cheshire Police conducted a survey in respect of the Operation Encompass project and the findings were shared with Cheshire West's Children's Safeguarding Partnership. Operation Encompass has been in place since 2015. The purpose of Operation Encompass was to facilitate the lawful exchange of information in order to comply with the statutory duty on Chief Police Officers to safeguard children. It sets out a multi-agency procedure to identify and provide appropriate early intervention support to a child who was present, witnessed or was involved in a domestic abuse incident.

- ✓ DVPO/DVPNs

Following learning from DHR1 a pilot was put in place in January 2020 to ensure a partnership approach to the management of DVPN/DVPOs within Cheshire West and Chester. In brief all Orders were screened by the DAIPS service and relevant support offered to the victim, including a joint visit with the police to encourage engagement.

- ✓ The Countess of Chester Independent Domestic Violence Advisor and the IRIS project have continued to deliver high quality interventions to a broader range of clients.

## Current picture in 2020

In March 2020 the global pandemic hit. There is significant concern that victims of domestic abuse will be trapped at home with their abusers unable to seek support. There are significant restrictions on practice at this point in time, including the provision of group work.

Cheshire West and Chester are working with the sub region regarding the commissioning of Aftercare services. The model of aftercare (Rape and Sexual Assault Centres) in Cheshire is highly regarded and held as best practice providing a full ageless care pathway for victims, linking seamlessly with the Sexual Assault Referral Centre. Cheshire West and Chester Council have provided commitment to the ongoing investment in Aftercare services.

## Emerging challenges

The emerging global pandemic has placed restrictions on the work of all agencies involved with people impacted by domestic abuse.

The pandemic has further delayed the new Domestic Abuse Bill and until there is clarity service development is slowed

The pandemic is placing a strain on organisational budgets and resources.

# Priority 5: Domestic Violence and Abuse

## Next steps

- ✓ Refresh the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy 2021-2025.
- ✓ Develop trauma informed practice as a response to Domestic Violence and Abuse in line with 'Ways of Working' across all organisations in Cheshire West and Chester.
- ✓ Increase reporting by male victims and those with protected characteristics.
- ✓ Explore and analyse the data relating stalking and harassment to ascertain the links to domestic violence and abuse.
- ✓ Develop the Cheshire West offer to non-intimate domestic violence and abuse including that perpetrated by children informed by national research.
- ✓ Roll out of operation encompass to pre-school providers.





## Next steps for the CSP

The Community Safety Partnership will consider the next Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder and set priorities and a CSP plan for 2020/21. The partnership will continue to meet its statutory functions and partners will continue to work together to reduce crime and disorder across the borough.

## Glossary

CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CW&C	Cheshire West and Chester
DVA	Domestic Violence & Abuse
NPS	National Probation Service
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
SCP	Safeguarding Children's Partnership
LSAB	Local Safeguarding Adults Board
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
CSO	Community Safety Officer
CSW	Community Safety Warden
PSPO	Public Space Protection Order
ABD	Acceptable Behaviour Discussion
ABC	Acceptable Behaviour Contract
CBO	Criminal Behaviour Order
DRDP	Drug Related Death Panel
BID	Business Improvement District
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
DVPO	Domestic Violence Prevention Order
DVPN	Domestic Violence Prevention Notice
DAIPS	Domestic Abuse Intervention & Prevention Service
KSI	Kill & Seriously Injured
CFRS	Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
IRIS	Identification and Referral to Improve Safety