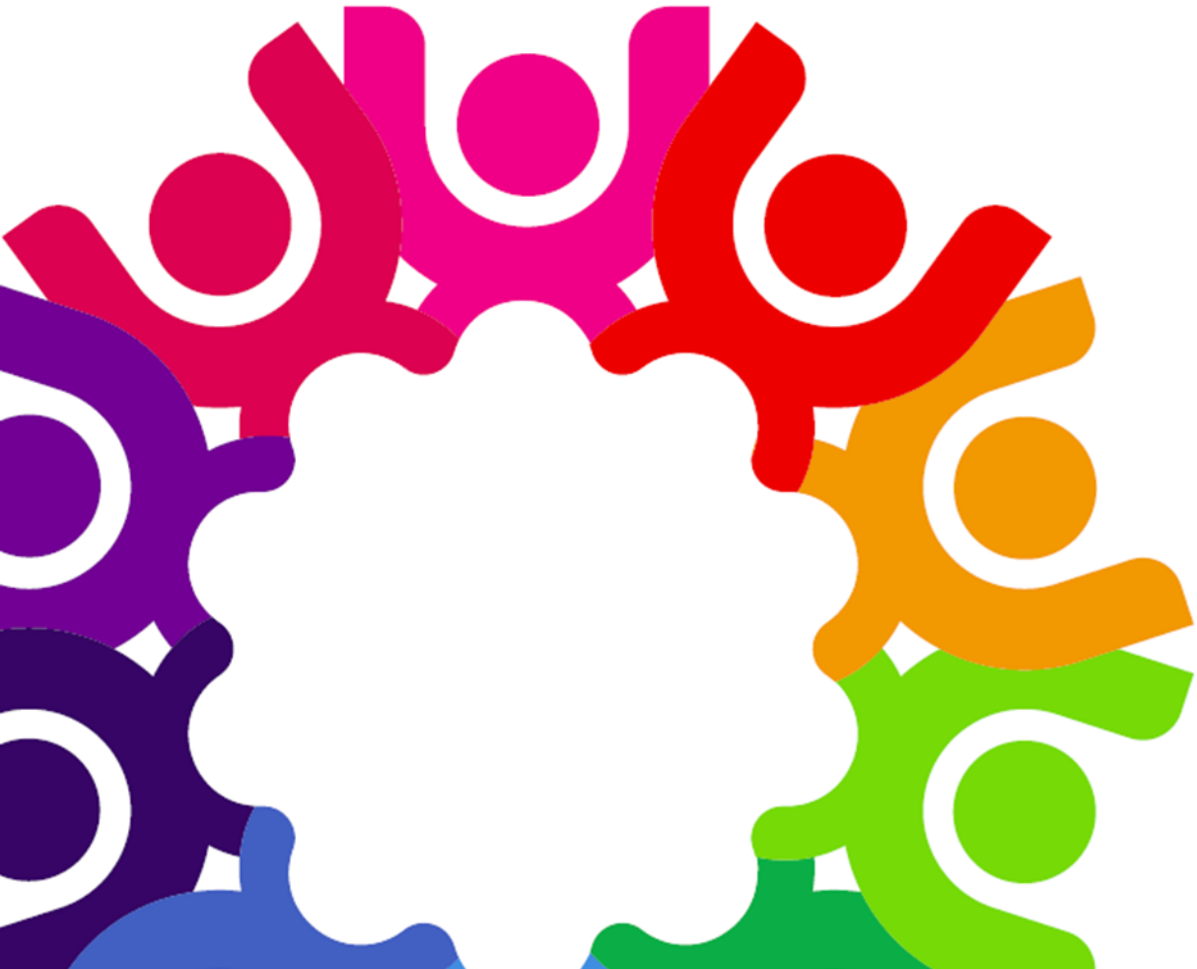
Cheshire West & Chester
Community
Safety
Partnership

Cheshire West and Chester Community Safety Partnership

Annual Report 2022/23



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Introduction

Welcome to 2022-23 Annual Report for the Cheshire West and Chester Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Recorded Crime volumes in 2022 were lower than those in 2018 and 2019 with volumes in 2020 and part of 2021 being affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. Actually 2022 when compared to 2018 Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a 5% reduction in recorded offences (1,458 fewer offences).

When we compare 2022 figures to 2021 overall crime figures are very similar (-0.8%, 210 fewer offences). This reduction is in line with the overall reduction (-0.9%) seen across Cheshire Constabulary. Despite this overall reduction in crime certain crime categories have recorded increases, most notably in relation to Rape offences (10.2%); Vehicle Crime (34.5%); Shoplifting (39.7%); Theft from the Person (18.4%); Bicycle theft (25%), All Other Theft (11.6%) and Most Serious Violence (4.3%), whilst decreases have been recorded in Harassment (-8.9%); Malicious Communications (-12.8%); Cyber Crime (-7.5%); Personal Robbery (-19.8%) and Criminal Damage (-12.2%). Changes to Crime Recording standards account for some of the variations noted especially within the Stalking and Harassment categories. Many of these increases and reductions are replicated across the force, of note the increase in Rape offences is the highest across the force although in terms of volumes recorded during 2022 Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second highest volume (401).

When looking at reported incidents rather than crimes the overall picture is one of decreasing demand, locally we have seen a decrease of 1,746 reported incidents (-2.5%) to the police compared to last year thus continuing the reductions observed over the past 3 years. Certain incident types have experienced increases, most notably Drug incidents (37%); Environmental ASB (19.4%); Youth related incidents (14.4%) and Missing Person incidents (14.4%).

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

Priority 1	**Prevent and Reduce Reoffending**
Priority 2	**Exploitation & Serious Organised Crime (SOC)**
Priority 3	**Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

Priority 4	**Substance Misuse**
Priority 5	**Domestic Violence & Abuse (DVA)**
Priority 6	**Serious Violence**
Priority 7	**Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)**

Killed and Serious Injured (KSI) on our roads was substituted by a new priority for Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) in 2022-23.

Priority 1: Reducing Re-offending.

Lead Agency: Probation Service

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 2022/23:

- ✓ Maintained a weekly Police and Probation pre-release group to more effectively plan and manage high risk of harm offenders being released into the community.
- ✓ Established a quarterly Integrated Offender Management (IOM) governance meeting to review the management of IOM nominals and look to ensure appropriate reducing reoffending pathways are in place and being utilised.
- ✓ Identified Probation Officers to co-work / consult on stalking and harassment perpetrators in conjunction with the Harm Reduction Unit based at Cheshire Police HQ.
- ✓ Re-commissioned Restorative Justice serviced for victims being supported by Probation and to provide restorative awareness sessions and interventions for people on probation.
- ✓ Commissioned Women's centre provision for Women subject to probation supervision.
- ✓ Developed better housing pathways for those being released from Prison homeless through regular contact with Local Authority housing leads and the development of Probation specific accommodation contracts with providers who will provide short term accommodation (CAS3 – Mears).
- ✓ Commissioned a range of services for people on probation including Employment Training and Education, Accommodation support & Personal Wellbeing.
- ✓ Developed semi specialist teams to manage Sexual offenders & Domestic Abuse perpetrators.
- ✓ Commissioned Mental Health specialist workers to support the management of offenders with mental health needs.

Current picture:

The new unified Probation service was established in June 2021 and has moved through mobilisation, stabilisation and is now at the point of full Transition to the new target operating model from December 2022.

Emerging challenges

- To evaluate the specialist Probation / Police approach to the management of Registered Sex Offenders & Domestic Abuse Perpetrators.
- To contribute to the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Stagey focusing on the management of male perpetrators.
- To recommission an enhanced substance misuse service for people on probation with a dual diagnosis.
- To recommission a Mental Health support provision for people on probation.

Next steps

To take on the challenges identified above.

Priority 2: Serious Organised Crime (SOC) & Exploitation

Lead Agency: Cheshire Police

Context:

The purpose of including this priority is for partners to work together to tackle Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) and to identify, prevent, and support those at risk of criminal 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 collective efforts are needed to focus on ensuring our communities are better prepared to identify the threat, are supported to report illegal activity and to work towards stopping the problem at the source.

Achievements 2022/23:

- ✓ A joint development day was held across the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), Safeguarding Childrens Partnership (SCP) and Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) which focused on Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding.
- ✓ Child Exploitation Warning Notices were piloted in West Cheshire West for 6 months to deter adults whose behaviour causes concern from contacting children under 18 years old.

- ✓ A cross-partnership task & finish group was formed to develop a partnership All-Age Exploitation Strategy and refresh cross-partnership contextual safeguarding approaches for exploitation.
- ✓ Cyber Crime and scams – resources have been shared with schools, businesses, and multi-agency professionals.
- ✓ Organised Crime Group (OCG) mapping has continued and individuals which have been identified have been subject to multi-agency information sharing and targeted interventions.
- ✓ Supported National Safeguarding Adults week with messages about exploitation. Themes covered exploitation, cuckooing, fraud, internet safety.
- ✓ Produced a refreshed SOC local profile containing relevant data on local SOC activity and nominals.
- ✓ A new SOC Board plan was produced to reflect the refreshed local SOC profile and national strategies.
- ✓ An enhanced SOC dashboard of data has been produced to enable the partnership to identify emerging trends at a local level in real-time and target collective responses more efficiently.
- ✓ '2Engage' awareness raising inputs for West Cheshire secondary schools were commissioned in 2021-2022 to reduce young people's vulnerability to exploitation.
- ✓ Endorsed the pilot for a passive drug-dogs scheme for local schools to prevent exploiters targeting school pupils to sell drugs to their peers that will be rolled out in the next financial year.

Emerging challenges

A continuing challenge is preventing those 'at risk' from becoming involved in SOC activity and diverting those already involved onto a different pathway. The links between vulnerabilities and the pathways into SOC are well established, as is the fact that partnership working is fundamental to achieving the desired outcomes for individuals and communities. CSP partners will all continue to play our part in making our communities safer from the threat of organised crime.

Next steps

- To enhance partnership awareness of Operation Expel for 'Cuckooing' activity.
- Formalise the partnership tactical response to SOC activity.
- Embed the use of '4 P' plans (Pursue, Prepare, Protect and Prevent) within the SOC and multiagency arena.
- To support the use of drug dog deployments within communities to detect and deter SOC activity on the streets and public transport.

- To deliver cybercrime awareness session(s) for partners to raise the profile of online risk and support communities.

Priority 3: Anti-Social Behaviour

Lead Agency: Cheshire West and Chester Council (Community Safety) & Cheshire Police

Context

The purpose of including this priority is for partners to work together to increase community confidence through the prevention, detection, and reduction of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) within our communities.

Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) remains a priority for the CSP. ASB activity is coordinated and delivered locally through the partnership ASB Board, which has continued to meet quarterly. The ASB Board leads on the development and delivery of multiagency ASB activity and oversees the work of the three local multi-agency Problem-Solving Groups (PSGs).

PSGs bring together statutory and non-statutory agencies to work together to share information and address local ASB within communities. PSG meet monthly and operate on the same footprint as the three local policing units (LPUs) and associated ASB units which are embedded within police stations across West Cheshire.

ASB units include resources from both the Council and Police including Community Safety Officers (CSOs) and dedicated Police Officers who work in close partnership to lead on interventions. ASB Units also have dedicated Community Safety Wardens (CSWs) who are uniformed and accredited with additional powers under the National Community Safety Accreditation Scheme so that they can directly address anti-social behaviour within communities.

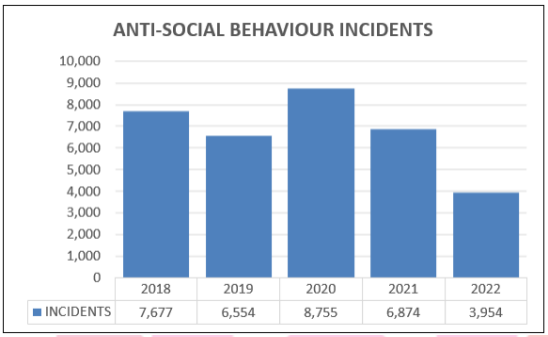
Achievements in 2022/23:

- ✓ ASB Awareness week was supported by CSP partners in July 2022 to raise the profile of ASB within communities and its associated harm.
- ✓ Multiagency service standards were embedded across partnership resources operating in Chester City Centre to enhance the partnership response to incidents of ASB, including ASB / public order, cycling through pedestrianised areas, drugs, graffiti, intoxication, smoking on the rows, littering and public urination / defecation.

- ✓ A public facing 'residents guide to reporting issues' was developed to support and encourage residents to report and utilise the available partnership reporting mechanisms.
- ✓ Multiagency Operation Treacle was delivered for the Bonfire Night and Halloween period to challenge ASB and prevent harm to communities.
- ✓ Support provided to the pan Cheshire Water Safety Partnership and local public engagements completed to raise the profile of water related risk in targeted areas.
- ✓ Evidence gathered of reported ASB issues at White Friars, Chester.
- ✓ Target hardening of Fly Tipping through multiagency sharing of information, targeting those causing harm and increasing reporting.
- ✓ A review of the multiagency approach to addressing increasing prevalence of Graffiti across West Cheshire and a partnership approach to identifying and taking action against those committing offences.

Current ASB picture:

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents -Cheshire West and Chester



During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 42.5% (minus 2,920) Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester. Volumes are just over half of that recorded in 2018. Some of this reduction can be attributed to improved crime recording standards at Cheshire Constabulary with more 'crimes' being removed from this incident type. The increase recorded in 2020 was most likely due to the restrictions in place during the Covid pandemic and Covid 19 related breaches being recorded as ASB locally.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 38.7% in Anti-Social Behaviour incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher percentage decrease.

When comparing the volume of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second largest percentage decrease when compared to 2021.

The following table provides a breakdown of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents by sub-category, Local Policing Unit (LPU) and Beat Team Cluster (BTC). Analysis of incidents by LPU indicates that during 2022 43.5% (1,867) of all ASB occurred in Chester LPU; 33.5% (1,438) in Northwich LPU and 23% (989) in Ellesmere Port LPU. With the highest volumes of ASB incidents by BTC have occurred in Chester City (17.5%); Winsford (14.5%); Ellesmere Port East (13.3%); and Northwich North (11.4%).

Local Policing Unit (LPU)	Police Beat Team Cluster (BTC)	Enviornmental ASB		Nuisance ASB		Personal ASB		Total ASB	
		Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%
CHESTER	Chester City	30	29.7%	604	43.3%	117	31.5%	**751**	40.2%
	Chester North	14	13.9%	287	20.6%	89	23.9%	**390**	20.9%
	Chester Rural & Frodsham	35	34.7%	268	19.2%	83	22.3%	**386**	20.7%
	Chester South	22	21.8%	235	16.9%	83	22.3%	**340**	18.2%
	Total Chester LPU	**101**	**44.1%**	**1394**	**44.0%**	**372**	**41.4%**	**1867**	**43.5%**
ELLESMERE PORT	Ellesmere Port East	32	51.6%	423	61.0%	114	48.9%	**569**	57.5%
	Ellesmere Port West & Neston	30	48.4%	271	39.0%	119	51.1%	**420**	42.5%
	Total Ellesmere Port LPU	**62**	**27.1%**	**694**	**21.9%**	**233**	**25.9%**	**989**	**23.0%**
NORTHWICH	Northwich North	24	36.4%	472	43.8%	125	42.5%	**621**	43.2%
	Northwich South	25	37.9%	365	33.9%	100	34.0%	**490**	34.1%
	Winsford	17	25.8%	241	22.4%	69	23.5%	**327**	22.7%
	Total Northwich LPU	**66**	**28.8%**	**1078**	**34.0%**	**294**	**32.7%**	**1438**	**33.5%**
CWaC Grand Total		**229**	**5.3%**	**3166**	**73.7%**	**899**	**20.9%**	**4294**	**100%**

Emerging challenges

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) for borough wide alcohol control and 14 individual PSPOs for alleygating expire in 2023-24.

Water related ASB is an emerging challenge.

Next steps

- Develop a multiagency plan for ASB Awareness Week 2023.
- Produce a report on ASB on White Friars, Chester for Chester Residents Association Group (CRAG) to evaluate reporting and options to reduce harm to the community.
- Renew the borough wide alcohol control PSPO.
- Renew the 14 individual alley gating PSPOs across West Cheshire.
- Deliver training for Community Safety Wardens to operate the Councils powerboat to enhance our ability to respond to ASB and water safety concerns during peak periods of demand.
- Explore opportunities to complete an upgrade to the Chester City Centre subways CCTV network.

Priority 4: Substance Misuse

Lead Agency: Cheshire West and Chester Council - Public Health

Context:

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

Achievements in 2022/23

The national drugs strategy 'From Harm to Hope: A 10 year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives' was published in December 2021, with a requirement that local areas establish a Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) to oversee local delivery of the national strategy. This represents a change in how reducing drug and alcohol related harm is managed in the brough with the Cheshire West and Chester CDP being established in 2022 to become the lead partnership, whilst maintaining strong links and continuing to provide reports to the Community Safety Partnership.

The national drugs strategy has the following strategic priorities:

Strategic Priority 1 - Enhancing Treatment and Recovery Services.

Strategic Priority 2 - Reduce drug related crime and drug supply.

Strategic Priority 3 - Reduce drug and alcohol related deaths and harm.

The Cheshire West and Chester CDP was established, to bring together resources, expertise, and experiences to tackle this problem head-on. The partnership emphasises a holistic approach that encompasses prevention, treatment, recovery, and enforcement, necessitating a multi-agency and multidisciplinary response.

The partnership has the following functions:

- To bring together the NHS and Local Authority leaders across the Cheshire West and Chester area, which includes representatives as both commissioners and providers of services.
- To bring together and co-ordinate other major agencies, organisations, sectors and interests that can contribute towards improving the strategic priorities Combatting Drugs Partnership.
- To provide oversight of the development, implementation, performance and review of the associated action plan of the Combatting Drugs Partnership and additional actions associated with the Cheshire West and Chester Substance Misuse Strategy (2022-24)
- To provide oversight of the development, implementation, performance and review of the Alcohol and Drugs Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA).

- To ensure that the action plan and JSNA are used as the basis for strategic decisions and the identification of priorities for the commissioning and delivery of services relating to substance misuse.

- To ensure a common approach to effective communication and the provision of information about drugs is developed across the partnership

Strategic Priority 1 - Enhancing Treatment and Recovery Services

Cheshire West and Chester CDP has an emphasis on the need to access to evidence-based treatment and recovery services. This includes increasing engagement into treatment, expanding the availability of detoxification and rehabilitation programs, improving links with the probation and prison services, mental health services, outpatient counselling, recovery and mutual aid groups and networks and aftercare support, thereby assisting individuals in their recovery journeys.

Recognising that addiction is a complex issue, Cheshire West and Chester specialist substance misuse treatment service 'Via' provides a holistic range of support services in a non-judgmental and supportive environment where individuals can discuss their concerns and receive guidance on accessing appropriate services or treatment options. The staff at Via are trained professionals who can offer practical advice and emotional support to individuals and their families who may be affected by substance misuse. Via provides a range of services to support individuals facing drug-related challenges.

Additional funding to improve access to treatment services has been received by all areas in England via the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG). The use of this grant locally is overseen by the CDP.

The CDP has also established a number of themed working groups to improve access to treatment and treatment outcomes in 2022-23:

Reducing harm to children associated with parental substance misuse

Parental substance misuse can impact negatively on outcomes for children and contribute to adverse childhood experiences. The impact of parental substance misuse on children in the borough has been identified as a priority of children's services and in turn as a priority of the CDP. A Parental Substance Misuse task and finish group has been established as a sub-group of the CDP to prevent harm and improve outcomes for children as a result of parental substance misuse. The group has the following objectives:

- To carry out and publish a needs assessment on the extent of parental substance misuse in the borough as part of the joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA).
- To assess the quality of the approach to meeting the needs of children and families affected by parental substance misuse against the recommendations

contained in the Public Health England (PHE) Guidance for Safeguarding Children affected by Parental Drug and Alcohol Use (2018).

- To develop and action plan based on the findings from JSNA and PHE audit tool and oversee the delivery of the action plan.

Blue Light Project – *working to improve outcomes for change resistant drinkers.*

The Blue Light approach is Alcohol Change UK's national initiative to develop alternative approaches and care pathways for change resistant drinkers who place a huge burden on public services. Its focus includes the frequent hospital attenders, the repeat offenders, the vulnerable adult safeguarding clients and those committing anti-social behaviour. This initiative has been developed in partnership with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), formerly PHE and over 60 local authorities (LAs) across England and Wales. The Blue light Project has a number of o different elements with the overall aim of improving outcomes for change resistant drinkers in the borough:

- Running a senior level strategic workshop to establish understanding and ownership of the approach.
- Training of specialist and non-alcohol specialist staff in the Blue Light approach. This will ensure that staff across the health, social care, housing and criminal justice services, are identifying these clients and impacting on their behaviour.
- Train the trainer courses in order to leave a local legacy.
- Safeguarding training promoting "legal literacy".
- Working with specialist service staff to review how they can best meet the needs of high impact and change resistant dependent drinkers.
- Developing specifications for specialist services e.g. assertive outreach.
- Developing a multi-agency operational group to ensure joint management and a persistent targeted focus on the highest impact clients.

In Cheshire West and Chester this project is being delivered by Alcohol Change with funding provided by the CHAMPS Public Health Collaborative.

Developing training and policy on housing for change resistant drinkers.

The CDP and Cheshire West Council Strategic Housing are jointly embarking on a new initiative with Alcohol Change UK, to develop guidance and training on appropriate accommodation options for complex and change resistant dependent drinkers. We will work with other LAs, service providers, housing associations, safeguarding adult boards and other partners on this initiative. This will improve local practice as well as informing the national development of residential options for this group.

Strategic Priority 2 - Reduce drug related crime and drug supply.

The CDP and Cheshire Constabulary remain focused on prioritising the reduction of drug related crime and drug supply. Cheshire Police have developed plan based on their four-

pillar approach of Pursue, Prevent, Protect, and Prepare, setting a high standard for pro-active law enforcement.

Under the Pursue approach, the police force is determined to prosecute and disrupt individuals who cause serious harm. They are targeting organised criminal groups and high-risk individuals, regardless of the type of crime they are involved in. By using a combination of visible and undercover techniques and working with other agencies, Cheshire Police aims to disrupt and dismantle these groups to keep communities safe.

The police force has a strong tasking process in place to identify, monitor, and disrupt organised crime groups and individuals causing harm in Cheshire. Each group is assigned a Local Responsible Officer who leads the efforts against them. They follow a tiered response model, with different levels of intervention based on the severity of the threat.

To support their work, Cheshire Police collaborates with other law enforcement partners like the National Crime Agency and Titan, the Northwest Regional Organised Crime Unit. Sharing information effectively helps assess risks and deploy resources to tackle organised crime groups effectively.

Cheshire Police deploys various strategies to disrupt criminal activities, including overt operations and partnerships with local units, as well as covert operations by specialised teams, including an Economic Crime Unit dedicated to targeting the financial aspects of criminal activities, making it harder for offenders to benefit from their crimes.

The regular meetings are to prepare and disrupt Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) are coordinated through the local SOC Board to ensure effective collaboration.

Cheshire Constabulary and the CDP are committed to reducing drug-related crime and ensuring the safety of the community. Through their proactive approach, collaboration with partner agencies, and efforts to disrupt criminal activities, they are making a significant impact in Cheshire.

Probation Service – Health and Justice Partnerships

The Probation Service in Cheshire has resourced a programme of work which aims to ensure every person in our care has the access to the substance misuse and health services they require to manage their risks and needs. This will focus on the following initiatives:

- Increase the percentage of prison leavers who have an ongoing substance misuse treatment needs to access community services within three weeks of release.
- Work with probation colleagues and substance misuse partners to increase the number of Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRRs).
- Proactively engage with CDP to support the delivery of the 10-Year Drugs Strategy at a local level.

- Collaborate with partners to develop robust pathways into services for people on probation, including improving the pathways for assessing suitability at court for DRRs and improving continuity of care between the custodial and community setting.
- Support people on probation to access and engage with substance misuse and health services in the community to reduce health inequalities.
- Champion and deliver work to improve the health and wellbeing of people in our care.

Current work to include these outcomes includes:

Steering group set up to increase the usage of Community Sentence Treatment Requirements (CSTRs), Alcohol Treatment Requirements (ATRs), DRRs and to oversee the roll-out of the Primary Care Mental Health Treatment Requirement (MHTR). Working with Probation Court colleagues and the Judiciary to promote greater usage of CSTR's as a sentencing option, including as an alternative to custody.

Probation innovation fund has purchased two Mental Health nurses – one for Cheshire West & one for Cheshire East.

Priority 3 - Reducing Drug and Alcohol Related Deaths and Harm

Cheshire Drug Related Death Panel

The Cheshire West and Chester Drug Related Death Panel is commissioned by Public Health and provided Liverpool John Moore's University, who also provide panels across Cheshire and Merseyside. The panel is a multi- agency group which meets quarterly and reviews all drug related deaths in the borough. Intelligence in each death is gathered from relevant agencies including the coroner's office and then deaths are discussed at the panel to identify any modifiable factors, key themes and trends and any learning for services to help prevent future deaths. Throughout the year the Drug Related Death Panel continued to meet and all drug related deaths in the borough were reviewed.

Local Drug Information System (LDIS)

The last decade has seen the emergence of an unprecedented number of new, adulterated and/or potent drugs along with new ways of marketing and supply. Drug related deaths have grown to record levels. Some known threats such as the emergence of Fentanyl and other potent synthetic opioids as replacements for or adulterants in street heroin may have yet to have fully emerged but when incidence have occurred it has been in localised areas.

The complexity of the ever-changing drug situation has made it difficult for drug specialists and other professionals to keep up to date with current knowledge. National LDIS guidelines were produced for PHE in 2016. The model is designed to be a low-cost, low-maintenance

and multidisciplinary system that utilises existing local expertise and resources with the assistance of a nominated LDIS co-ordinator.

The LDIS model has two main interlinked parts;

- A Professional Information Network (PIN) designed to keep local professionals informed and
- A Drug Alert Panel intended to respond to immediate risk and incidence.

A Cheshire West and Chester LDIS process is being established in 2023 with initial funding provided by the Community Safety Partnership.

Capturing the voices of those with lived experience

Cheshire West and Chester CDP has joined forces with Healthwatch to actively capture the voices of individuals, families, friends, and communities affected by substance misuse. This significant partnership aims to ensure that the first-hand perspectives of those impacted by drug addiction are included in the development of comprehensive and inclusive drug strategies.

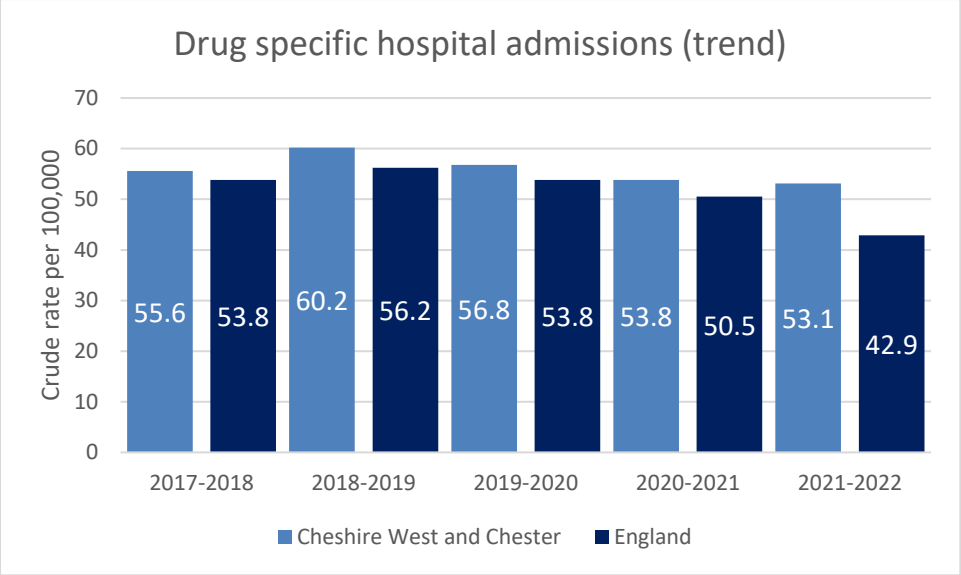
The stories and experiences shared by individuals, families, and communities directly affected by substance misuse serve as a powerful resource for identifying gaps in existing support services. By incorporating their input, the partnership can develop new approaches that are tailored to meet their specific needs, ensuring that the services provided are responsive and effective.

Current picture:

Estimates of crack and opiate users in Cheshire West and Chester are lower than the England average.

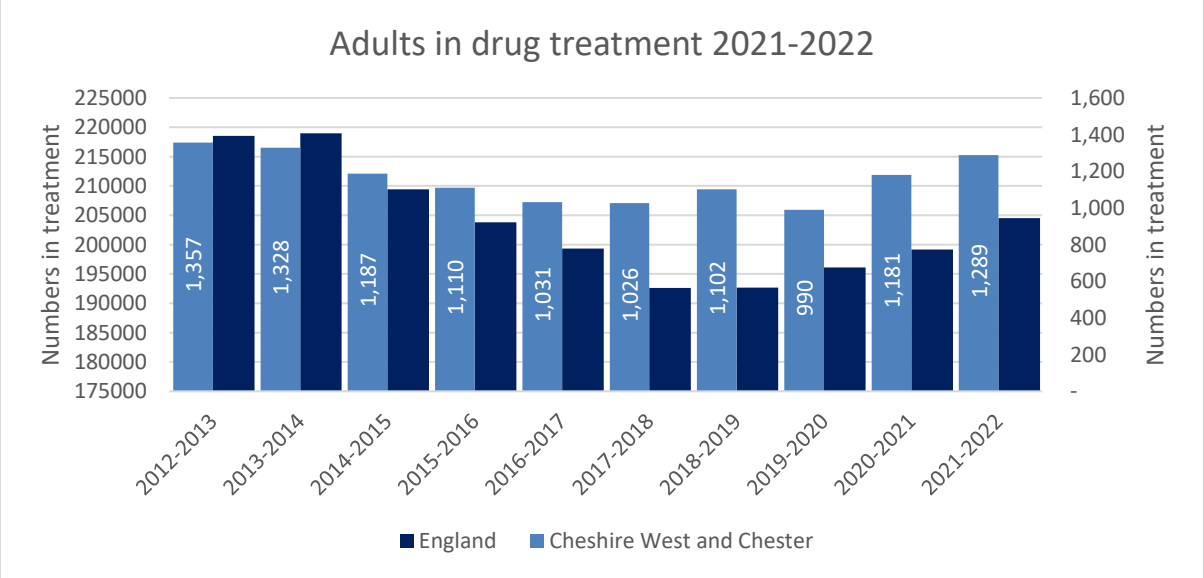
Drug specific hospital admissions:

- Rates of admissions due to drug poisoning in Cheshire West and Chester are higher compared to England, significantly higher in the most recent year.



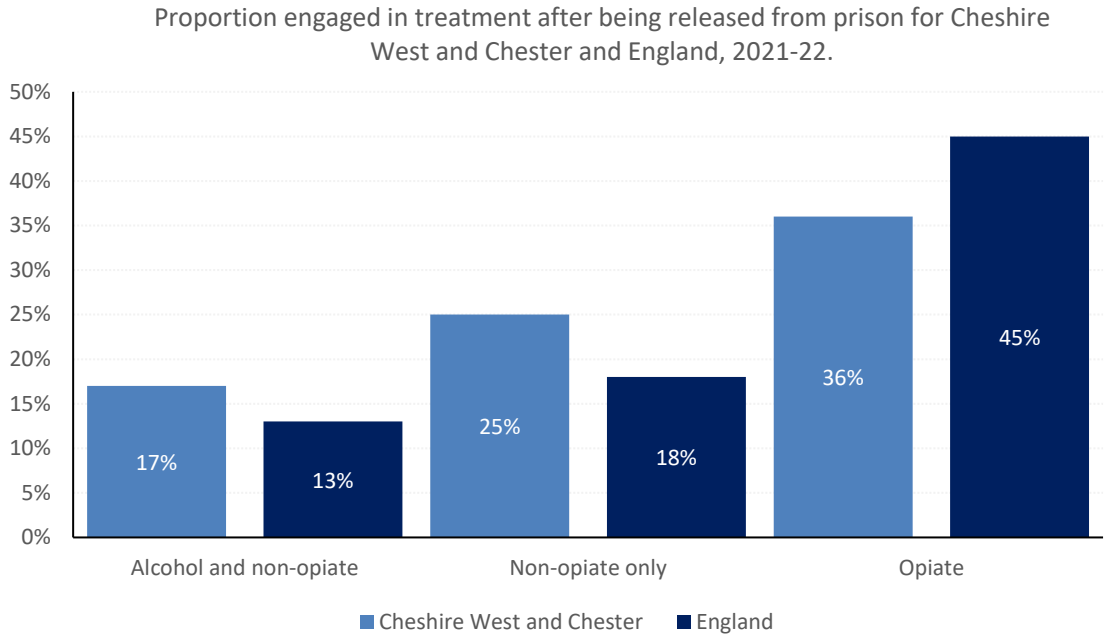
Adults in Treatment

- There are 1,289 adults in drug treatment between 2021-2022, higher than the previous year 2020-2021 where there were 1,181 adults in treatment.



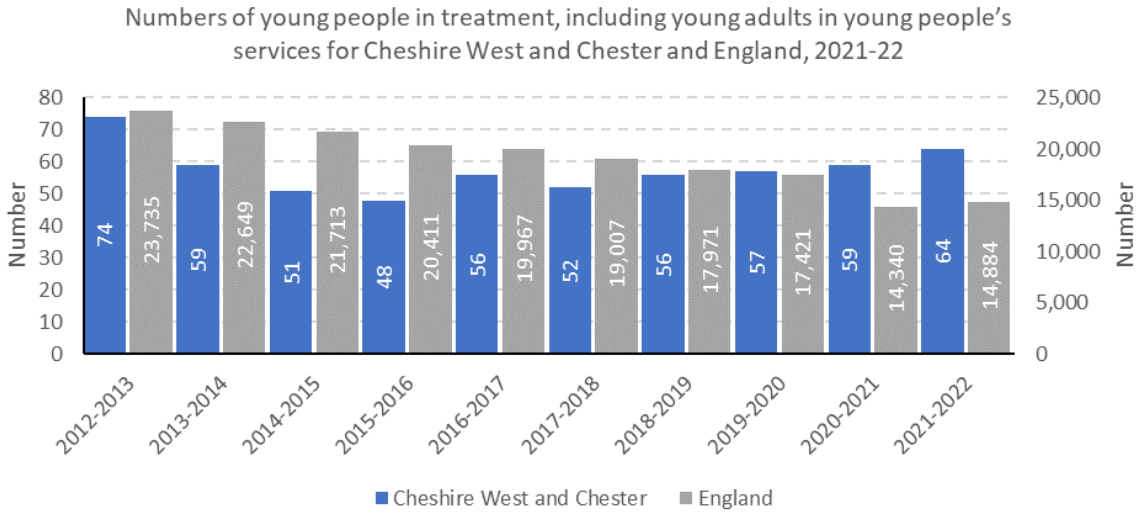
Adults leaving prison engaging in treatment:

- In 2021-2022 Cheshire West and Chester successfully engaged more adults released from prison into structured treatment for alcohol and non-opiate and non-opiate only drug types compared to England.



Young People in Treatment

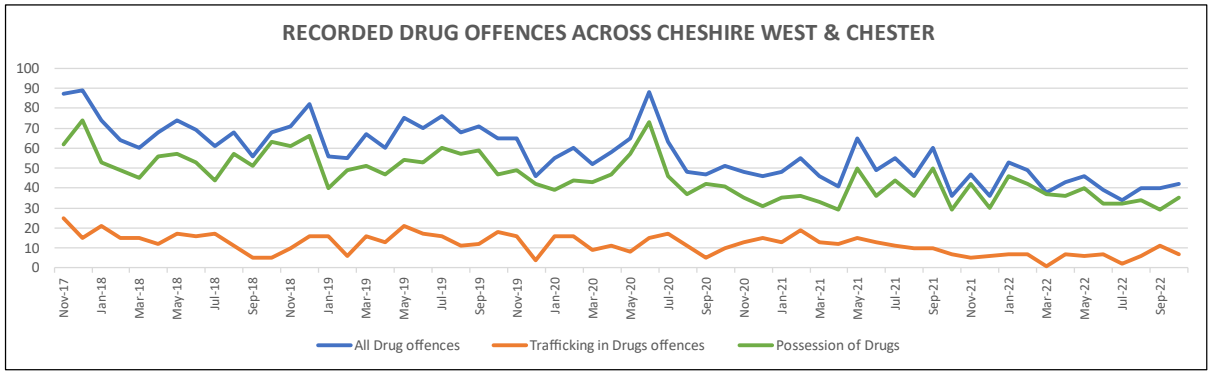
- In recent years numbers have been increasing in contrast to the England trend which has seen numbers consistently falling
- 2021-2022 has seen the largest number of young people start treatment since 2012-2013.



Drug Offences

In 2021 there had been a decrease of 21.0% (minus 142 offences) in drug offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the equal lowest decrease recorded across the

previous five years. Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 18.1% in drug offences (-378 offences), which means Cheshire West and Chester have a higher percentage decrease. When comparing drug offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the second largest percentage decrease when compared to 2020.



Emerging challenges

Nationally there is a growth in the use of illicit synthetic opioids, specifically Nitazines, which has the potential to increase the risk of drug related death.

Local intelligence appears to point to an increase in numbers of young people using Ketamine.

Next steps

- Developing a local synthetic opioids action plan.
- Continued focus on capturing the voices of those with lived experience.

Priority 5: Domestic Abuse

Lead Agency: Cheshire West and Chester Council – Early Help and Prevention Service

Context

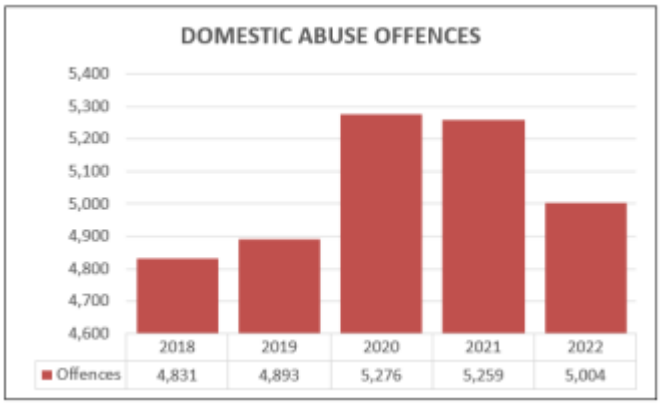
This priority aims for agencies to intervene to prevent or reduce repeat experiences of Domestic Abuse (DA).

Achievements in 2022/23

- ✓ Continued delivery of the 'engage' programme across children's services; continued delivery of the programme direct to people who harm.
- ✓ Secured continued funding for additional Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) capacity through Police Crime commissioner (PCC).
- ✓ Ongoing communications campaign adapted including police webchats and the 'You are not alone' campaign - Open the Door.
- ✓ Weekly multi agency risk management meetings in place.
- ✓ IDVAs continue to support Safeguarding Children Partnership DA Training.
- ✓ Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) v DA training to children's services rolled out.
- ✓ DA Strategy action plan monitored and reviewed.
- ✓ Continued delivery of the Open Access Groups and implementation of a Survivor Subgroup at the DA Board.
- ✓ Continued delivery of the commissioned Perpetrator Programme.
- ✓ Repeat incidents remained below the corporate KPI of 38%
- ✓ Bespoke offer for over 60s in place.
- ✓ Performance and Data Subgroup to the DA Board established.
- ✓ Identification & Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) increase of 8.5% in referrals.

Current picture:

Domestic Abuse – Information from the Strategic Assessment 2022:



In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 4.8% (255 fewer offences) in domestic abuse offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester placing the volume of offences below that recorded in 2020.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 3.2% in domestic abuse offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester have recorded a larger percentage point lower decrease.

Safe Accommodation

Following implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, a strategic needs assessment was carried out The needs assessment identified that we should have 34 safe accommodation spaces, this was based on 1 space per capita of the population, and it indicated a gap in provision of 19 spaces.

The safe accommodation model in Cheshire West and Chester is refuge, dispersed properties, and sanctuary schemes. As sanctuary scheme is where we have provided target hardening to enable someone to remain in their own home and feel safe from harm whilst receiving ongoing support. Provision of Safe Accommodation is a legal duty placed on the Local Authority following the implementation of the DA Act.

Following the needs assessment, it was our intention was to make the additional spaces available incrementally whilst monitoring usage and ensuring there was neither insufficient nor excessive provision. Progress was initially slow, taking until September 2022 to secure the first additional property, some 18 months after the needs assessment identified the gap. However, the local authority submission to the Department of Levelling Up Homes and Community (DLUHC) for 2022/23 showed that we had 27 spaces (including refuge and dispersed properties), plus we claimed 7 sanctuary schemes. This demonstrated that we had met the target in terms of available spaces.

This progress was positive when compared to the 2020/21 submission to DLUHC which acknowledged that we had not fully met our legal duty as set out in the Act 2021 with regards to the provision of Safe Accommodation.

Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board

The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (the Board) was established in April 2021 building on the already well-established Cheshire West Domestic Abuse Partnership. The Board is a Subgroup of the Community Safety Partnership.

The Board is responsible for supporting Cheshire West and Chester Council in meeting its duty under **Section 57** of the Domestic Abuse Act, namely that men and women harmed by domestic abuse have access to adequate and appropriate support within safe accommodation services.

More broadly the Board works together to support, advise, and work in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester Council regarding issues relating to Domestic Abuse.

In July 2022 the Board was restructured to include a range of subgroups and areas of focus and the board functions were updated.

Supporting Groups / Area's of Focus:

In order to manage its work, the Board will convene and provide strategic leadership to supporting subgroups and specific areas of focus, including task and finish group as required, this will include but is not limited to:

- Safe Accommodation
- Performance and Data
- Training& Development (Area of Focus)
- MARAC Steering Group
- DHR Quality Assurance & Scrutiny
- Pathfinder
- User Voice Group
- Safe and Together

Functions:

- Ensure men, women and their children who have experienced domestic abuse, have access to adequate and appropriate support within safe accommodation services.
- The Board will deliver the priorities within the Domestic Abuse Strategy by the implementation and monitoring of the Domestic Abuse Strategy Action Plan, Subgroups, and task and finish groups.
- The Chair and the Vice Chair will provide updates and progress reports to the Community Safety Partnership as required.
- On behalf of the Community Safety Partnership, monitor, and implement the action plans from Domestic Homicide Reviews to ensure the learning is disseminated appropriately.
- To improve outcomes for men and women who have experienced domestic abuse, including their children, through a strategic approach to identifying and addressing gaps in support within safe accommodation services.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

Since the introduction of the statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) in April 2011, the Cheshire West and Chester (CSP) has received 13 notifications of deaths to consider conducting a review. In 2022/23 there were 2 DHRs completed and a further 2 DHRs considered that did not meet the requirements so DHRs were not commissioned.

All DHRs, once approved by the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel are published online at Domestic Homicide Reviews. . The completion of the action plans for each review are overseen by the Domestic Abuse Board on behalf of the CSP. Statutory Guidance for DHRs can be found at Statutory Guidance 2016

The Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024

The Strategy sets out that we want to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and their families who experience domestic abuse, by creating an environment that supports disclosure and recovery for those who are harmed and provides challenge and support for those who harm.

All service delivery is underpinned by the principles of Our Way of Working which includes a trauma informed approach utilising motivational interviewing and practice framework, and shared language.

There are 5 priorities in the strategy that support delivery of the vision:

Priorities	
1	Assessing risk
2	Intervening earlier
3	Providing services for those who are harmed
4	Providing services for children and young people
5	Challenging those who harm and giving them effective support to change

Each priority is set out in the Action Plan that is agreed by the Board and supports delivery against each priority. In 2022/23 the Board agreed the areas of focus below within each of the priorities.

In 2022/23 lots of work has taken place towards the areas of focus and these remain in place for the current year.

The Local Landscape 2022/23

Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) and **Domestic Violence Protection Orders** (DVPOs) provide protection for the person harmed where there is no prospect of criminal justice outcome.

A DVPN prohibits contact with victim for up to 48hrs and a DVPO prohibits contact for between 14 – 28 days. They allow the person harmed and opportunity to access support and interventions offered.

2022/23:

DVPN	DVPO
67	56

Both DVPN and DVPO figures are the highest recorded across the force area in 2022/23.

In 2022/23 Cheshire Police issued 67 DVPNs in Cheshire West and 56 DVPOs, these were the highest numbers recorded across the force area.

Claire's Law covers the 'right to ask' and the 'right to know.' There is the right to ask the police for information about a current partner's criminal history. The right to know requests are triggered by police where indirect information or intelligence held by the police or partner agencies indicates that an individual is at risk of harm from their partner.

2022/23:

Right to Know	Right to Ask
281	246

Both right to know and right to ask figures were the highest recorded across the force area.

Contacts into Childrens Front Door

In 2022/23 **75.4%** of all children's front door contacts for individuals where **domestic abuse** was the presenting issue were accompanied by a Police vulnerable person assessment (VPA) (3252 of 4310). As an overall proportion of the domestic abuse contacts received, contacts received in 2022/23 with a VPA has also reduced compared to the previous year (67.3%). Despite this, the volume of contacts received with a VPA has increased slightly in the latest 12 months, compared to the 2021/22 (2671 contacts).

Over the last 12 months, of all the VPAs received where domestic abuse was the presenting issue; **27.4%** (889 of 3252) were deemed to be **high risk**, **61.4%** (1996) **medium risk**, **6.0%** (195) **standard risk** and 5.3% (172) were 'other' VPA type. 22.3% of domestic abuse contacts with a VPA progressed into case management teams (725 of 3252).

In this 12-month period, a total of **452 families** (973 children and 773 adults) progressed into Early Help and Prevention for support via family casework. Of these **42.7%** (193) were families where domestic abuse was the main presenting issue. In March 2023, **45.5%** (5 of the 11) of families that progressed to Early Help casework were families where DA was the presenting issue.

Domestic Abuse Intervention & Prevention Service (DAIPS)

DAIPS provide services for people harmed by domestic abuse who are aged over 16 years.

In 2022/23 there were:

- **1916** referrals into DAIPS (an increase from 1830 in 21/22)
- **709** were **High Risk**, **1031** were **Medium Risk**, **176** were **Standard Risk**

By area DAIPS received:

- **655** from Chester and Rural
- **525** from Ellesmere Port and Neston
- **585** from Northwich and Winsford

The most common referring agencies were:

- **Police** 889
- **Self-referrals** 345
- **Health** 199
- **Cheshire West and Chester Council** 114
- **Housing** 107

Gender:

- Most referrals were **females 1696**
- Referrals for **males** were **218** (11%)

Repeat Referrals in 2022/23

A repeat referral is a re-referral to DAIPS within 12 months of an intervention.

Repeat referrals to the Domestic Abuse Service, over the year, stand at **34.6%** which is positive as it is below the 2022/23 **38% corporate target**. This continues a downward trajectory which began in April 22 when the rolling average was **38.7%.**

Of the repeat referrals **51%** (341 of 668) were from the police. 315 were police VPAs, usually following new incidents, which represent **47%** of all rereferrals. In quarter 1, **38%** (57 of 150) were police VPAs and by the end of quarter 4, **54.5%** (116 of 213) were police VPAs. This is an increase of **16.4%.**

18.7% (125) of repeat rereferrals were self-referrals. This rate is fairly consistent over the year and generally viewed as a positive reflection on the accessibility of the service to those who have accessed it previously and are confident enough to return.

Gateway Recovery Programme

This is recovery programme for people that are harmed by domestic abuse. It is a safe place to reflect on their experience and trauma and aims to empower participants. It builds awareness of the dynamics of controlling relationships by providing and understanding of the impact on the whole family and encourages people to make informed choices.

Despite reductions in referrals, retention during the group delivery improved in 2022/23. there has been a **45.6% increase** in completions of the programme demonstrating that referrals are appropriate, and people are group ready. In 2022/23 **103** individuals completed the course which is a significant increase on **56** in the previous year.

Open Access Groups

In March 2022 DAIPS introduced Open Access groups which are delivered in Chester, Winsford, and Ellesmere Port. The groups are supported by qualified IDVAs who offer confidential advice and support to women relating to a range of subjects surrounding domestic abuse. These groups allow attendees to interact with each other, share experiences, and have their voices heard. Attendees can also enjoy refreshments and social activities such as arts and crafts, beauty, wellness, plus other suggestions they may have to support our future sessions.

In 2022/23 **161** women and **5** males have attended. Some have attended repeatedly over several weeks which demonstrates positive engagement.

Emerging challenges

- Funding contributions for IDVA's and New Burdens Funding is only confirmed until 2025. There is no commitment beyond this date.
- Robust decision-making evidence for DHRs required by Home Office.
- Increase numbers attending the perpetrator programme.
- Higher volume of referrals into service.

Next steps

- There will be a refresh of the Domestic Abuse Strategic Needs Assessment and the Domestic Abuse Strategy in 2024.
- The Open the Door Campaign continues to be shared and rolled out.
- Continue to develop the Domestic Abuse Action Plan.
- Review the Domestic Abuse Practice Standards.
- Review the MARAC Operating Protocol.

Priority number 6: Serious Violence

Lead Agency: Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

Context

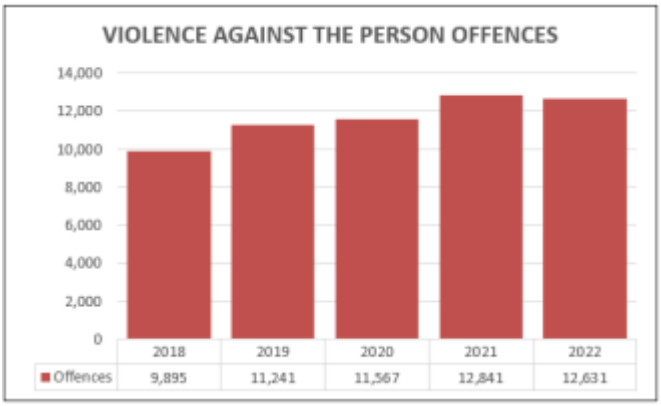
The purpose of introducing this new priority is for partners to prepare for the forthcoming Serious Violence (SV) duty which is going to be a statutory responsibility of Community Safety Partnerships, requiring CSPs to understand the local risks and factors contributing to SV and to develop multiagency strategies to prevent and address serious violence within communities.

Achievements 2022/23

- ✓ Serious Violence statutory guidance reviewed.
- ✓ Detective Inspector appointed by the OPCC to implement the SV duty.
- ✓ Readiness assessment for implementation of the SV duty by Crest on behalf of the Home Office.
- ✓ Strategic and operational task groups established to support creation and delivery of the duty within its 2023/24 implementation period.

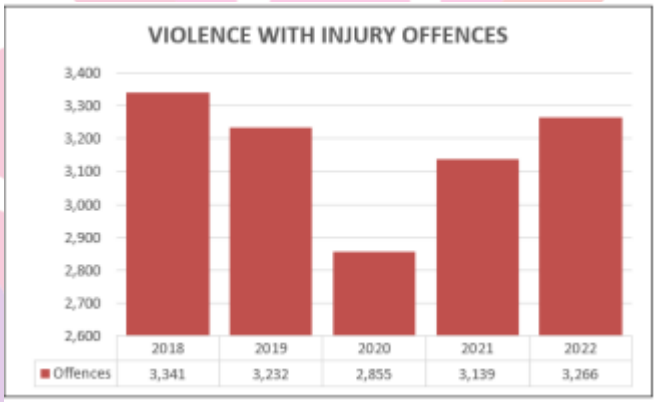
Current picture:

Violence Against the Person Incidents - Cheshire West and Chester



In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1.6% in violence against the person in Cheshire West and Chester, volume decreases of 210 crimes.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1.9% (753 offences) in violence against the person, giving Cheshire West and Chester have a smaller percentage increase.



In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 4% in violence with injury in Cheshire West and Chester; this represents 127 more crimes when compared to the previous year (2021).

Unitary Area	2018			2019			2020			2021		
	Killed	Seriously Injured	Total	Killed	Seriously Injured	Total	Killed	Seriously Injured	Total	Killed	Seriously Injured	Total
Cheshire East	26	137	163	18	102	120	15	99	114	20	102	122
Cheshire West & Chester	14	134	148	9	81	90	9	89	98	7	116	123
Halton	2	28	30	3	31	34	1	21	22	2	17	19
Warrington	4	77	81	5	50	55	5	44	49	4	54	58
Total	**46**	**376**	**422**	**35**	**264**	**299**	**30**	**253**	**283**	**33**	**289**	**322**

A total of 291 Road Traffic Collisions required the attendance of CFRS in Cheshire during 2021 (Calendar Year)
37.5% of these incidents required extrication from the vehicle

Data from 2020 and 2021 may have been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic and the

Emerging challenges

Some areas across England and Wales have funded and established Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) because of the prevalence of serious violence in these areas, unlike Cheshire.

A Strategic Assessment, Response Strategy with solutions to reduce local serious violence for this new priority / duty need to be produced in 2023-24.

Next steps

- Reflect on best practice from areas with established and funded VRUs.
- Develop a Strategic Assessment based on the evidence-based analysis.
- Develop a Serious Violence Strategy with solutions to reduce local serious violence.
- Explore and commission relevant services.

Priority 7: Violence Against Women & Girls

Lead Agency: Cheshire West and Chester Council

Context

The purpose of including this priority is for partners to prevent and reduce the number women and girls subject to violence within west Cheshire.

The accepted definition of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is “Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life".

Tackling VAWG remains a priority as set out within the Council Plan, Play Your Part to Thrive, specifically supporting children and young people to get the best start in life, enabling more adults to live longer, healthier and happier lives and making our neighbourhoods even better places to call home.

Achievements in 2022/23:

- ✓ A Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls commission was formed to build upon the notice of motion to end public sexual harassment approved by Council on 15th July 2021.
- ✓ The establishment of a cross- party Policy Commission was approved by cabinet on 13th December 2022 seeking to bring together representatives from the Council, Police, Health and Voluntary and Community Sector.
- ✓ The primary objective of the Commission will be to shape future provision in regard to VAWG aged 16-25 and the focus will be females aged 16- 25.
- ✓ The Commission will put the voice of young people at the centre of the work through a listening exercise.
- ✓ The Commission has adopted the accepted definition of VAWG as “Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life".

Current picture:

VAWG offences recorded by Cheshire Constabulary across Cheshire West and Chester decreased by -8.1% in 2022, which is a larger percentage decrease than across the broader Cheshire Constabulary area (-6.7%).

Emerging challenges

Challenges to accessing data relating to VAWG for Cheshire West.

Possible disruption to Commission programme due to local election cycle and associated restrictions.

Next steps

- Establish programme of Commission meetings
- Engagement activity with young women and girls, and boys and young men.

Next steps for the Community Safety Partnership

The CSP will consider the next Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder and set priorities and a CSP plan for 2023/24. 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

ABC	Acceptable Behaviour Contract
ABD	Acceptable Behaviour Discussion
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
ATR	Alcohol Treatment Requirement
BID	Business Improvement District
CBO	Criminal Behaviour Order
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CFRS	Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CSO	Community Safety Officer
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CSTR	Community Sentence Treatment Requirements
CSW	Community Safety Warden
CW&C	Cheshire West and Chester
DAIPS	Domestic Abuse Intervention & Prevention Service
DRR	Drug Rehabilitation Requirements
DRDP	Drug Related Death Panel
DA	Domestic Abuse
DAIPS	Domestic Abuse Intervention and Prevention Service
DVA	Domestic Violence & Abuse
DVPN	Domestic Violence Prevention Notice
DVPO	Domestic Violence Prevention Order
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
IRIS	Identification and Referral to Improve Safety
KSI	Kill & Seriously Injured
LDIS	Local Drugs Information System
LA	Local Authority
LSAB	Local Safeguarding Adults Board
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
NPS	National Probation Service
PCC	Police Crime Commissioner

PHE	Public Health England
PSPO	Public Space Protection Order
SCP	Safeguarding Children's Partnership