

Brighton & Hove **Strategic Assessment of Crime and Community Safety 2024**

Brighton & Hove
Community Safety Partnership



Contents

1. Introduction	1
Legislative context and purpose of the Strategic Assessment	1
About the report	1
2. Socio-economic context	2
The city of Brighton & Hove	2
City demographics	2
Demographic variation across the city	8
3. Drivers and enablers of crime and disorder	9
Drivers of crime	9
Internet enabled crime and safety issues	10
Inequality, poverty and multiple disadvantage	10
4. Crime and disorder data and trends	13
Volume	13
Trends to 2023/24	14
5. Impact of crime and disorder	17
Feeling safe	17
Cost of crime	20
6. Serious violence, drugs and exploitation	22
What we want to achieve	22
National or local policy developments and other changing context	22
Levels, trends and patterns	22
How work has progressed in 2024/25	34
Risks and issues of concern	36
Conclusion and recommendations for amendments to Strategy/Action Plan in 2025/26	37
7. Domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women & girls	38
What we want to achieve	38
National or local policy developments and other changing context	38
Levels, trends and patterns	39
How work has progressed in 2024/25	52
Risks and issue of concern	52
Conclusion and recommendations for amendments to Strategy/Action Plan in 2025/26	53
8. Anti-social behaviour	54
What we want to achieve	54
National or local policy developments or other changing context	54
Levels, trends and patterns	55
How work has progressed in 2024/25	60
Risks and issues of concern	61
Conclusion and recommendations for amendments to Strategy/Action Plan in 2025/26	61

9. Hate Crimes and Incidents	63
What we want to achieve	63
National or local policy developments or other changing context	63
Levels, trends and patterns	64
How work has progressed in 2024/25	71
Risks and issues of concern	71
Conclusion and recommendations for amendments to Strategy/Action Plan in 2025/26	72
10. Prevent	73
What we want to achieve	73
National or local policy developments or other changing context	73
Levels, trends and patterns	81
How work has progressed in 2024/25	85
Risks and issues of concern	87
Conclusion and recommendations for amendments to Strategy/Action Plan in 2025/26	88
11. Appendices	90
Appendix A: Multiple Deprivation Index 2019 for Lower Super Output Areas in Brighton & Hove	90
Appendix B: Note on police recorded crime and incident data	91
Appendix C: Crime statistics	92
Appendix D: Timeline of Covid restrictions in Brighton & Hove	93

1. Introduction

Legislative context and purpose of the Strategic Assessment

Since the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 there has been a statutory obligation for Community Safety Partnerships to produce evidence-based strategies. From 2007 (under the Police and Justice Act 2006) the requirement has been to refresh three-year strategies on an annual basis, backed up by annual strategic assessments.

This Strategic Assessment is prepared for Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership to provide an analytical basis to inform the partnership's Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2023-26 year two review.

About the report

The Strategic Assessment has been jointly carried out by subject lead officers and analysts/researchers within the partnership. Following this introduction, Section 2 looks at local social and economic context and the demographic characteristics of people who live in Brighton & Hove. Section 3 then considers the factors that drive or enable criminal activity. This is followed in Section 4 by an overview of the crime picture in the city, with Section 5 looking at the impact that crime and disorder has on the city and the people in it.

The thematic analysis in this report begins in Section 6 and concludes at Section 10. Each topic considers the current context, the scale, trends and nature of problems and draws conclusions on what should be prioritised for the second-year review of the 2023-26 Community Safety Strategy.

While acknowledging the crucial role of individual agencies in providing support so people can live and work in a safe environment (for example, housing and homelessness services, substance misuse treatment services, children's services, mental health services, road safety), the focus of this strategic assessment and the strategy is on areas where partnership working is fundamental to making progress.

2. Socio-economic context

The city of Brighton & Hove

Brighton & Hove is a city on the Sussex south coast with good transport links to the north to London and Gatwick airport, and east and west along the coast.

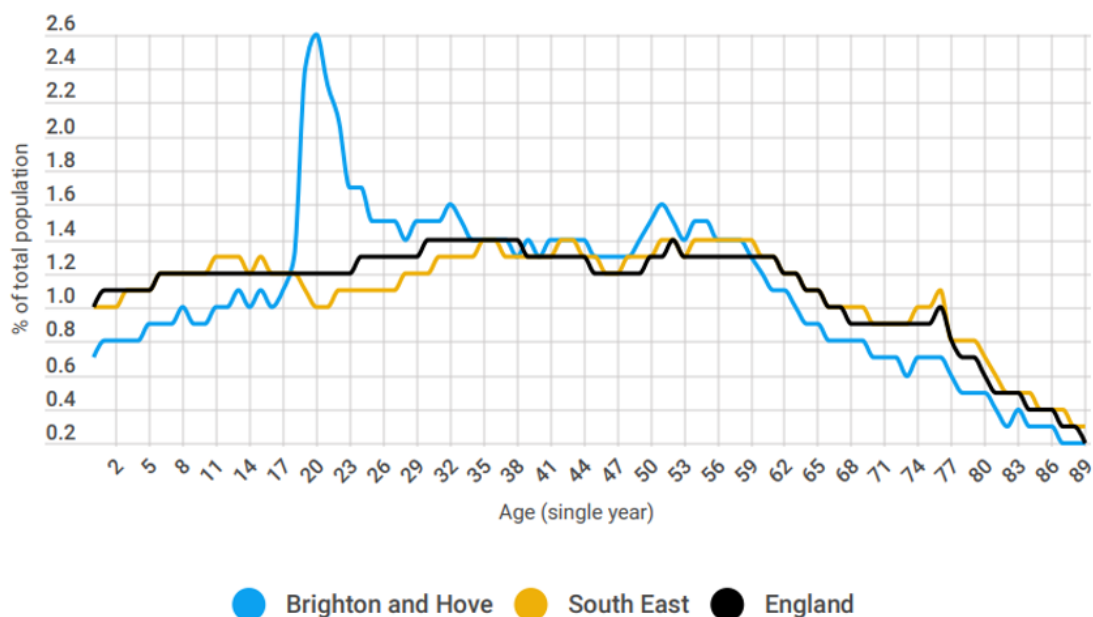
As a popular tourist destination, Brighton & Hove sees large numbers of UK and overseas visitors each year. In 2023, around 10.187 million trips were estimated to have been made to the city by day visitors (up 2% on 2022) with over 5.57 million overnight stays (up 7% on 2022)¹.

The city has two large universities, a number of smaller higher education institutes, many English language schools and it has a reputation for being a welcoming and inclusive place to be.

City demographics

According to the latest (2023) ONS population estimates, there are a total of 279,600 people living in the city, up 0.6% (1,600 people) compared to 2022 (278,000) and similar to estimates in 2017 (279,500).

Figure 1 - Proportion of residents by age (2023 ONS mid-year population estimates).



Gender and age

Compared with England and the South East, Brighton & Hove has fewer children and older people but more younger adults, particularly those aged 19 to 30. According to the latest ONS estimates (2023), Brighton & Hove is estimated to have more female residents (142,800 people, 51%) than male residents (136,800 people, 49%). The biggest difference is in the age group 19 to 25 years old where there are 2,500 (14%) more females than males. As seen nationally, beyond the age of 75 years old the proportion of female residents increases. There are an estimated 18,900 residents aged 75 or older in the city, of which 58% (10,900 people) are female and 42% (8,000 people) are male. By the age of 90 or older the difference is two to one with 1,400 female (67%) to 700 male (33%) residents.

¹ [Economic Impact of Tourism - Brighton and Hove Report 2023 - PDF.](#)

Population density

Some of Brighton & Hove's neighbourhoods are the most densely populated in England. Brighton & Hove local authority area has a population density of 3,345 residents per square kilometre. Ranking upper tier local authorities by population density shows that Brighton & Hove is ranked the 48th most densely populated out of 152 authorities (second quintile). Tower Hamlets (15,703 residents per square kilometre) is ranked highest, and Northumberland (64 residents per square kilometre) is ranked lowest.

The most densely populated area of the city is the neighbourhood north of Western Road between Norfolk Square and Palmeira Square (over 30,000 residents per square kilometre). The neighbourhood is in the 100 (out of 33,700) most densely populated neighbourhoods in England. In total seven neighbourhoods in the city are in the 1% most densely populated neighbourhoods in England.

Ethnicity

Brighton & Hove is continuing in becoming a more ethnically diverse city. While the overall number of residents has only increased by 1% between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses, the number of Black and Racially Minoritised residents has increased by 35% or 18,921 people. More than a quarter of residents (26%, 72,272 people) are Black and Racially Minoritised under the definition used by Brighton and Hove City Council, which is, all ethnic groups apart from White UK/British. The proportion of Black and Racially Minoritised residents in Brighton and Hove (26%) is significantly higher than seen in the South East (21%) and similar to what is seen in England (26%).

Arab residents have increased the most since the last Census, increasing by 40% (865 people) to 3,049 residents. Ethnic group Other White remains the largest Black and Racially Minoritised group in the city with 26,812 residents. This ethnic group makes up more than a third of Black and Racially Minoritised residents (37%) and one in ten of all residents (10%). Nearly a fifth of Black and Racially Minoritised residents (18%) and one in twenty of all residents (5%, 13,228 people) are of mixed ethnicity. Residents of mixed ethnicity have increased by more than a quarter (27%, 2,820 people). Nearly a fifth of all Black and Racially Minoritised resident (18%) and one in twenty of all residents (5%, 13,217 people) are Asian or Asian British. Asian or Asian British residents have increased by 17% (1,939 people) since the last Census. Black or Black British residents have increased by nearly a third (30%, 1,370 people). Black or Black British residents make up nearly one in ten (8%) of all Black and Racially Minoritised residents.

Migration

Brighton & Hove continues to be a destination for people born outside of the UK. While the overall population of the city has only grown by 1% between the 2011 and 2021 censuses, the city's international migrant population has increased by 27% or 11,500 people.

One in five residents living in Brighton & Hove (20%, 54,343 people) were born outside of the UK. This is significantly higher than both the South East (16%) and England (17%) and the highest seen outside of London, Coventry, Birmingham, Bedford, and Bexley. Two out of five residents (43%, 23,104 people) born outside of the UK were born in the EU, more than seen in both the South East (38%) and England (36%). Among residents born in the EU, nearly two thirds (65%, 15,099 people) were born in countries who have been a member of the EU since before 2004.

Socio-economic context

This is also significantly higher than seen in the South East (47%) and England (44%) and is the highest proportion in England outside of London.

Half of Brighton and Hove residents born outside of the UK were born outside of Europe (51%, 27,670 people), with nearly a half of these residents (45%, 12,517 people) born in the Middle East and Asia, over a quarter (28%, 7,863 people) born in Africa and nearly a fifth (19%, 5,326 people) in the Americas and the Caribbean. Most residents born outside of the UK were born in Italy (2,997 people), followed by Poland (2,484 people), Spain (2,382 people), India (1,956 people), and the USA (1,655 people). Compared to 2011 the number of Italian residents has increased by 110% and the number of Spanish residents by 80%. By contrast, the number of Polish residents has only increased by 10%.

The city also has proportionately higher numbers of short-term international migrants. At the time of the 2021 Census, there were 1,519 non-UK short term residents in the city - residents who plan to stay at least three months but less than 12 months. As a proportion of all non-UK born residents and short-term residents (55,862 people), short-term residents make up 2.7% of the total, double the figure for the South East (1.3%) and England (1.3%).

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

There is no definitive data on the number of Gypsies and Travellers in Brighton & Hove. The 2021 Census recorded 197 Gypsy or Irish Traveller people living in the city.

Data from the council's Traveller Liaison Team showed that in August 2022 there were 12 families permanently resident on the council's traveller site at St Michael's Way in Brighton. There is a 21-pitch transit site, adjacent to the permanent residential site, for Travellers passing through the city, and there are 3 families occupying pitches – the licences for the transit pitches are for a maximum stay of 12 weeks.

We also have families who travel into the city and set up unauthorised encampments on land, where they may stay for a very short time and are often directed to our transit site. In the year up to August 2022 there were a total of 109 Traveller families on 13 unauthorised encampments, and a further 8 who came directly to the transit site.

Students

For the academic year 2022/23 there was a total 37,905 students enrolled at the University of Sussex and the University of Brighton, a 1% (205 people) increase from 2021/22. In England, there has been a 3% increase in the number of students over the same period². In Brighton & Hove, 59% of these students were female and 41% male.

LGBT residents

For the first time ever, the 2021 Census asked questions about sexual orientation and gender identity. The sexual orientation and gender identity questions were voluntary and only asked of residents aged 16 or older. More than nine out of ten residents chose to answer the sexuality questions (91%) and the gender identity questions (93%). Brighton & Hove has the highest proportion of residents identifying as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB+) in England. More than one in ten residents aged 16 or over (10.6%, 25,375 people) identify with an LGB+ sexual orientation.

² [Higher Education Statistics Agency web report – 'Where do HE students study?'](#)

This is three times the percentage found in both the South East (3.1%) and England (3.1%) and the highest seen in any upper tier local authority in England.

At least 2,341 residents (1.0%) in Brighton & Hove identify with a gender different from their sex identified at birth. This is double seen in the South East (0.5%) and England (0.5%). The proportion of residents aged 16 and over in Brighton & Hove identifying with a gender different from their sex registered at birth (1.0%) is the highest seen outside of London, Luton, Manchester, and Leicester.

More than a third of residents (36%, 835 people) who identify with a gender different from their sex identified at birth in the city identify specifically as non-binary. This is 0.4% of the city's population and five times higher than seen in the South East (0.1%) and England (0.1%). The proportion of residents aged 16 and over in Brighton & Hove identifying as non-binary is the highest seen in any upper tier local authority in England.

Disabilities and wellbeing

Brighton & Hove residents are significantly more likely to be disabled than people living across the rest of the South East and England. At the time of the 2021 Census, nearly one in five residents (19%, 51,797 people) are disabled as defined by the Equalities Act. This is significantly higher than seen in both the South East (16%) and England (17%).

For two out of five disabled residents (20,351 people, 39%) their day-to-day activities are limited a lot, with the remaining 61% (31,446 people) having their activities limited a little. A further 20,804 residents have a long-term physical or mental health condition that does not affect their day-to-day activity.

Based on national prevalence rates of health needs among adults in the city aged 18 to 64 and among those aged over 65, in 2023:

- Nearly one in ten residents aged 65 or older (9%, 3,600 people) were predicted to have a moderate or severe visual impairment, while around one in fifteen residents aged 75 or older (6.7%, 1,275 people) have a 'registrable' eye condition.
- One in 40 residents aged 18 to 64 (2.6%, estimated 5,070 people) and around in 50 residents aged 65 and older (2.1%, estimated 840 people) are predicted to have some form of learning disability.
- One in 40 residents aged 18 to 64 (2.6%, estimated 5,070 people) and around one in 50 residents aged 65 and older (2.1%, estimated 840 people) are predicted to have some form of learning disability.
- One in 20 residents aged 18 to 64 (5%, an estimated 9,345 people) and nearly one in five residents aged 65 and over (19%, an estimated 7,570 people) had impaired mobility.
- Around one in 200 residents aged 18 to 64 (0.5%, estimated 1,000 people) and one in 12 people aged 65 and over (8.2%, estimated 3,250 people) were predicted to have severe hearing loss.

Brighton & Hove also has significant mental health needs. The proportion of adults with common mental disorders, such as anxiety or depression are estimated to be 1 in 5 in the city (38,600 people aged 18 - 64 years old). This is higher than the England estimate of 1 in 6 and considered

Socio-economic context

an underestimate³. In the 2024 Health Counts Survey of Brighton and Hove adult residents⁴, 24% of respondents reported low levels of happiness, and 38% reported high levels of anxiety.

Carers

At the time of the 2021 Census, one in thirteen residents (7.8%, 20,804 people) provides at least one hour of unpaid care to someone with a disability or problems relating to age; this is lower than the South East (8.4%) and England (8.8%).

The proportion providing unpaid care has fallen one percentage point from 8.8% in 2011. Nearly one in 25 residents (3.6%, 9,470 people) provide 20 or more hours of unpaid care, while lower than seen in the South East (3.9%) and England (4.4%) it is one percentage point higher than seen at the 2011 Census (2.6%).

Armed Forces

One in forty residents aged 16 years old or older (5,618 people, 2.4%) have previously served in the UK armed forces. This is significantly lower than in the South East (4.2%) and England (3.8%). Among the 5,618 veterans, 3,948 were in the regular UK armed forces, 1,423 in the reserves and 246 in both the regular and reserve armed forces.

Housing and homelessness

At the time of the 2021 census, the average household size in the city was 2.2 people, compared with 2.4 in the South East and in England.

More than a third of households (35%, 42,101 homes) in Brighton & Hove are single person households, higher than seen in the South East (28%) and England (30%). A third of these single person households (13,875 homes), or one in ten of all households in the city (11%), are households with a single person aged 66 or older living there. This proportion is lower than in the South East (13%) and England (12%).

Nearly a quarter of households (24%, 28,687 homes) contains a dependent child aged under 16, lower than seen in the South East (29%) and England (28%). However, we have a similar proportion on lone parent households (6%, 7,229 homes) as the South East (6%) and England (7%). Compared to the 2011 Census, the number of lone parent families has fallen by 16% (1,408 homes).

Brighton & Hove has a high proportion of households who rent privately. Nearly a third of households (33%, 39,684 households) in the city rent privately. This is significantly higher than both the South East (19%) and England (20%) and is the highest proportion in England outside of London and the Isles of Scilly. Between 2011 and 2021 the number of households in the city renting privately increased by 10% or 3,725 households.

³ [Brighton & Hove City Council Mental Health & Wellbeing Assessment 2022 - PDF.](#)

⁴ Health Counts is a health and wellbeing survey of Brighton and Hove adult residents conducted around once a decade. There were 16,729 respondents, results were weighted for age, gender and deprivation to account for differences in response rate. The 2024 Health Counts survey was conducted by researchers at the University of Brighton, in collaboration with Brighton & Hove Medical School, NHS Sussex, Healthwatch Brighton & Hove, Brighton & Hove Federation and Brighton & Hove City Council Public Health Intelligence team. It was funded by the Public Health Department at Brighton & Hove City Council.

Meanwhile homeownership in Brighton & Hove is falling. Just over a half of households in the city (51%) own their own home. Significantly lower than seen in the South East (66%) and England (61%). Between 2011 and 2021 the number of households owning their own home fell by 4% (2,373 households). However, the number of households who own their home with a mortgage or loan fell by 12% (4,420 households), while the number of households owning their home outright increased by 7% (2,047 households). This changing pattern of home ownership is also reflected nationally.

According to data collected by the city's Street Outreach Service⁵, in 2023/24 there were 785 people who had been found sleeping rough across Brighton & Hove, lower than the 927 seen in the previous year but still part of a long-term increase in the number of individuals the Street Outreach Team has seen in the last five years. The team highlights the substantial positive work it has done with the network of related support agencies across the city to reduce the number of individuals rough sleeping in the city throughout the year. In the 9-month period from April to December 2024, 589 further individuals were found sleeping rough, lower than the 683 recorded in the same period the previous year.

A rough sleeping count is conducted nationally on a single night in the autumn each year. This found that the total estimate of rough sleepers in the city rose annually up to 178 in November 2017 but had dropped to 88 in November 2019 before falling further to 27 people in November 2020. Since COVID-related support for rough sleepers was ended in 2022, the count of rough sleepers has increased steadily with 37 rough sleepers at the same time in 2021, 41 in 2022, 52 in 2023 and 76 in 2024⁶. As of the night where recording took place, that meant Brighton & Hove held the 6th highest per-capita rate of people counted as rough sleeping across all local authorities in England in 2024.

The draw of Brighton & Hove as 'a place to be', the impact of welfare reforms, and the high cost of the private rented sector all contribute to the high levels of homelessness in the city. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25 states that affordability of housing is a growing problem as rents in the private sector continue to rise at a higher rate than the Local Housing Allowance. The Strategy describes a sizeable population of 'hidden homeless' including young people, who have 'sofa surfed' in other people's houses because they have nowhere to live, leaving them vulnerable to abuse assault or exploitation.⁷

⁵ [Change Grow Live - Street Outreach Service, Brighton and Hove webpage.](#)

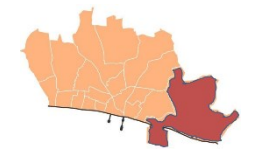
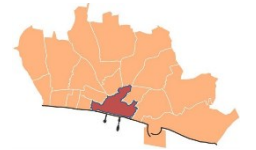
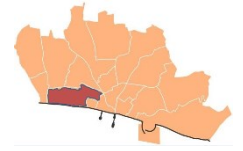
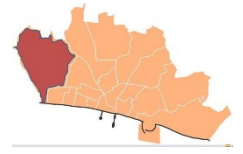
⁶ Homelessness statistics from the [Ending Rough Sleeping Data Framework.](#)

⁷ [Brighton and Hove City Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy webpage, 2020-2025.](#)

Demographic variation across the city

The socio-demographic characteristics of Brighton & Hove vary across the city. For example, based on the number of residents in the area:

- The area to the **far west of the city** has the highest rates of children under 16 years old and working age adults with a health problem or disability that affects their activity.
- The **coastal area of Hove** has the highest rates of commuters travelling over 10km to work, as well as people 65 or older with a health problem or disability that affects their activity.
- The **city centre** has the highest rates of residents of working age (16-64), single person households of working age, single person households of residents over 65 and single parent households.
- Areas to the **north of the city** have the second highest rate of commuters travelling over 10km to work.
- Areas **adjacent to the Lewes Road and East Brighton** have the highest rate of: Black and Racially Minoritised (non-White) residents, full time students and people living in social housing.
- Areas to the **far east of the city (the 'Deans')** have the highest rate of residents over the age of 65



The above data is derived from 2021 Census and ONS 2022 mid-year population estimates. Please note this analysis was based on data linked to Brighton & Hove's electoral wards before their adjustment in 2023.

3. Drivers and enablers of crime and disorder

Drivers of crime

The Home Office report, 'Modern Crime Prevention Strategy'⁸ talks about six 'key drivers of crime', with some crime problems involving a combination of drivers. It argues that measures to prevent crime need to address these issues:

Opportunity – prevention by removing opportunities where crime can take place.

Character – early interventions to circumvent exposure to risk factors.

The criminal justice system – this should act as an effective deterrent.

Profit – making it harder for criminals to benefit financially from crime.

Drugs – restrict supply through tackling organised crime, prevent drugs misuse and help people to resist getting involved in drugs, and support people through treatment and recovery.

Alcohol – having a night-time economy where people consume alcohol safely.

These last two drivers have specific relevance for Brighton & Hove:

In 2019/20, the last year for which health data was published, it was estimated that 14.4 residents per 1,000 used an opiate and/or crack cocaine, significantly higher than the South East (6.6 per 1,000) and England (9.5 per 1,000)⁹. Various measures of drug-related deaths are showing an increasing trend (see **Section 6**), suggesting that drug-taking may be intensifying in the city. This is an important concern for the city not only from the point of view of the health of users, but also as it leads to people being drawn into crime and exploitation.

The last Health Survey for England for which local authority level data was available (2015-2018) showed Brighton & Hove residents were also found to consume considerably more alcohol than other areas. During this period, 41% of residents aged 18 or older were estimated to drink over 14 units of alcohol a week, higher than the South East (23%), England (23%) and all its statistical neighbours¹⁰. The last published Health Survey (2022) showed 25% of people in the South East and 24% of people across England drink more than 14 units of alcohol a week.

The vibrant night-time economy and hospitality sector in Brighton & Hove attracts many visitors to the city, as well as its own residents. While good for the local economy, this can also have knock-on effects on violent crime as well as having other negative outcomes. Mitigation of these negative aspects of the night-time economy is sought through the Brighton & Hove [Statement of Licensing Policy](#) and the [Alcohol Framework](#), which form the basis of decisions around licensing applications.

⁸ [Home Office Report, 2016 - Modern Crime Prevention Strategy - PDF.](#)

⁹ [Office for Health Improvement and Disparities webpage, opiate and crack cocaine use prevalence estimates.](#)

¹⁰ [Public Health England webpage, Fingertips profile - Brighton and Hove alcohol consumption.](#)

Internet enabled crime and safety issues

As developing technology and societal changes influence an increase in the use of electronic card payments, online purchasing, and computer dependency, new opportunities for crimes of fraud (such as the misuse of cards and fraudulent online purchasing) and cybercrimes (including the hacking of accounts, phishing and malware) have developed, with fraud remaining the most prevalent group of crimes.

The COVID pandemic drew many people by necessity further into the use of the internet for online purchasing and online browsing. Action Fraud saw a steep increase in the volume of and financial loss from cybercrimes reported to them across the UK between 2019/20 and 2020/21, as well as a smaller increase in internet-enabled crimes of fraud¹¹. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) 2023/24 estimated around 1.02 million people aged 16 or over throughout 2023/24 experienced computer-misuse crimes – a category including computer-virus crimes and unauthorised access to personal information (hacking) crimes – around 16.5% greater than in 2019/20 across England and Wales. Across the Sussex police force area, crimes recorded by Action Fraud to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) increased by 21% between 2018/19 and 2023/24^{12,13,14}.

The internet has also affected people's safety in other ways, with greater use of online communication at both direct and public level allowing potential messages of hate or perceived hate to spread across a much wider range of audiences, with greater speed and saturating a greater portion of users' time spent on social media platforms. **Section 9** makes further mention of this issue and the communities it has affected.

Social media has also played a significant part in enabling extremist organisations to reach out to vulnerable individuals. This is one of the challenges for those working on the Prevent agenda and this is described in **Section 10**.

Inequality, poverty and multiple disadvantage

People affected by crime can often be living with multiple risks or disadvantage, and in combination these can make living safer lives more difficult to achieve.

Victimisation by demographic group (England & Wales)

In 2023/24 the Crime Survey England and Wales found a higher percentage of people in the following groups reported having been a victim of personal crime¹⁵:

- Those from a Mixed ethnic background 10.4% (compared with White 9.9%, Asian or Asian British 7.5%, Black or Black British 9.2%).
- Disabled people 12.6% (Not disabled 9.0%).

¹¹ [Action Fraud UK webpage, fraud and cybercrime national statistics.](#)

¹² [Office for National Statistics webpage, cybercrime levels 2019 to 2024 FOI request, August 2024.](#)

¹³ [Action Fraud UK webpage, performance measurement and cybercrime trends.](#)

¹⁴ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Nature of fraud and computer misuse in England and Wales appendix tables.](#)

¹⁵ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Crime in England and Wales data.](#) Personal crime includes violence, robbery, theft from the person, other theft of personal property, and fraud and computer misuse.

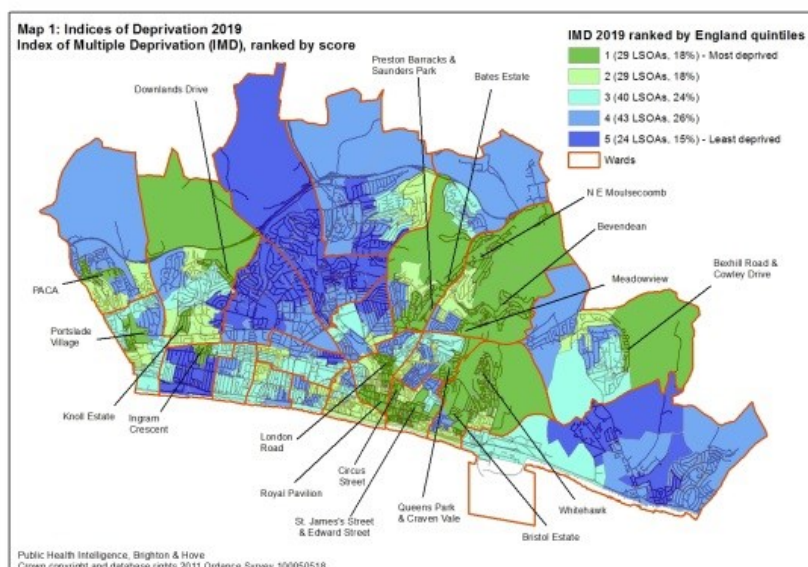
Drivers and enablers of crime and disorder

- People subscribing to an Other religion 18.2% (Buddhist 14.4%, No religion 10.5%, Christian 9.2%, Hindu 8.7%, Jewish 7.6%, Muslim 7.1%, Sikh 5.7%).
- Bisexual 13.8%; Gay/Lesbian 11.3% (Heterosexual/Straight 9.8%).
- Respondents whose gender identity is different from sex registered at birth 17.1% (Gender identity same as sex registered at birth 10.2%).
- Single-parent households with children under-16 13.8% (households with no children 9.4%).
- Women 10.1% (Men 9.4%).

Index of Multiple Deprivation

The 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation is an overall ranking of deprivation combining measures of income, education, employment, health, crime, housing and living environment. Of Brighton & Hove's 165 Lower Super Output Areas, 29 rank in the 20% most deprived LSOAs in England and these are shown in dark green on the map. Click on the map below to view in more detail (**Appendix A; Section 11**).

Figure 2 - Brighton and Hove Map by Indices of Multiple Deprivation quintiles, IMD 2019.



Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate is an important indicator as it highlights unused available labour, which impacts on the economic growth of the city. Between October 2023 and September 2024, there were estimated to be 8,400 unemployed people in the city. This is 4.8% of those who are economically active, larger than the 3.7% estimated in Great Britain and 3.5% in the South East¹⁶.

Cost of living

Data from the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT)¹⁷ shows that as of November 2024, there were 22,891 low-income households in the city, with 8,482 children living in them, an increase of almost

¹⁶ Office for National Statistics, Brighton & Hove Labour Market Profile. Available at [NOMIS webpage - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#). 'Unemployed' refers to people who were actively seeking work or who had found work and were waiting for it to commence. 'Economically active' refers to those who are either employed or who are unemployed according to the above definition.

¹⁷ LIFT data is produced using council data on Housing Benefit claimants and DWP data relating to Universal Credit-Council Tax Reduction claimants in the city. These are combined with data on council tax arrears, Housing Benefit overpayments and rent arrears (where BHCC is landlord). This information for each individual household is then

300 more low-income households in the city compared with November 2023. Of these low-income households, 5,738 households - with 3,587 children living in them - were below the poverty line, defined by LIFT as living in a household in which their total household equivalised income is below 60% of the median UK household income. This is an increase of 130 households living below the poverty line in the city compared with the same time the previous year. In addition, 2,456 households in the city were estimated to have a cash shortfall and 664 households were in food poverty. Whilst the number of households with a cash shortfall has risen since 2023, this is predicted to reduce by 25.4% in 2025.

The LIFT cannot provide any insight into the financial circumstances for households living just above the benefit threshold, in work and still unable to afford basic needs, commonly known as Just About Managing households.

Health Counts 2024⁴ asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including a question around the cost of living. Health Counts asked respondents if they were taking any of a select group of measures because of the increases in the cost of living¹⁸. This found that 86% of respondents were doing at least one of these things. The most commonly taken measures were reducing leisure activities (45%), shopping around more (43%), spending less on food (40%), and using less fuel at home (38%). Respondents in younger age groups, females, Black and Racially Minoritised respondents, trans, non-binary and intersex (TNBI), LGBQ+, and disabled respondents, as well as respondents who are unpaid carers, have experience of the care system as a child/ young person, live in the most deprived parts of the city, or who live in temporary or emergency accommodation, were all significantly more likely than all respondents to be taking any of these measures because of the increase in the cost of living.

calculated against average spend by particular household type. The result is a snapshot of financial vulnerability for each of these households in the city. NB. This doesn't include all low income, benefit recipient households, only Universal Credit recipients who also claim Council Tax Reduction.

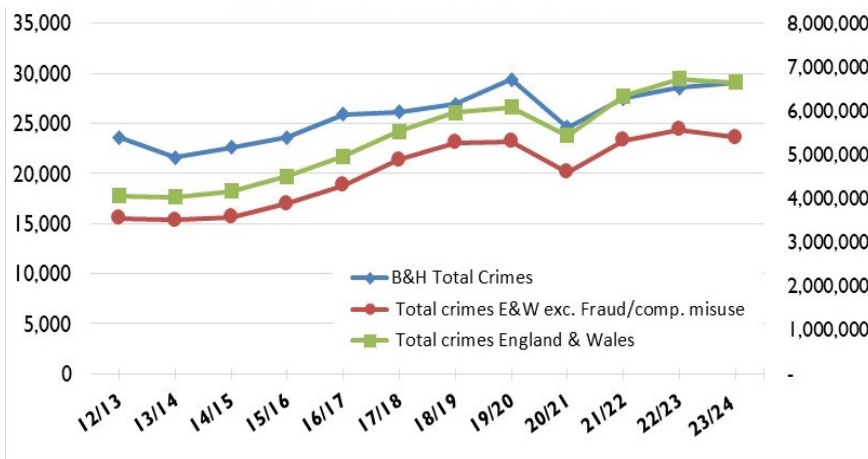
¹⁸ This included reducing leisure activities, shopping around more, spending less on food, using less fuel at home, reducing non-essential journeys, using savings, making energy efficient improvements, using credit cards, loans or overdrafts, using support from charities, or any other things.

4. Crime and disorder data and trends

Volume

There were 29,078 crimes recorded by the police in Brighton & Hove in 2023/24. This is higher than the 28,578 recorded in 2022/23, 27,531 in 2021/22 and 24,604 in 2020/21 - when COVID had its greatest impact on people’s lives – and moving toward the 29,393 recorded in 2019/20, a long-term peak in recorded crimes across the city.

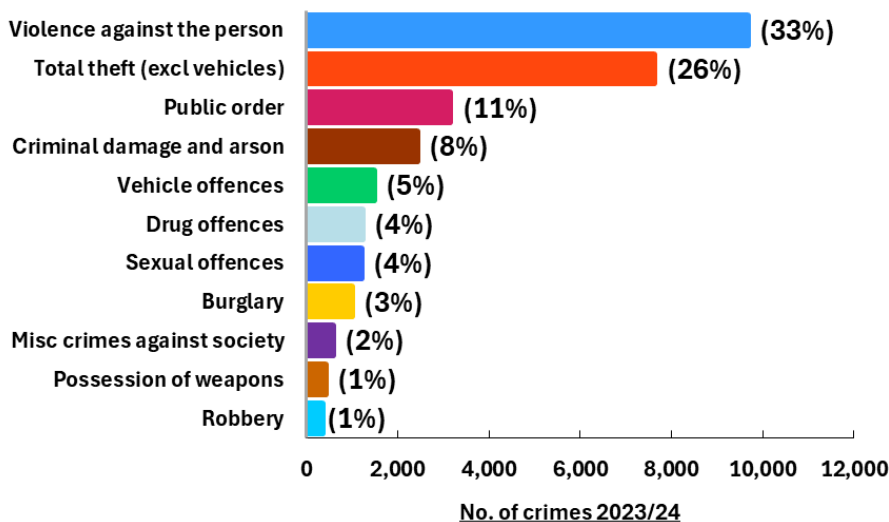
Figure 3 -Police-recorded crime in Brighton & Hove and England & Wales, 2013/14- 2023/24.



As **Figure 3** shows, the trend in recorded crime since 2012/13 in the city closely mirrors the trends in recorded crime across England and Wales as a whole (both including and excluding computer offences and fraud).

Figure 4 shows the different crime groups making up the total crime recorded in the city in 2023/24. Over the year, 33% of recorded crimes can be classified as violence against the person crimes, 26% total theft offences, 11% public order offences and 8% criminal damage/arson.

Figure 4: Police recorded crime in Brighton & Hove by crime group, 2023/24.

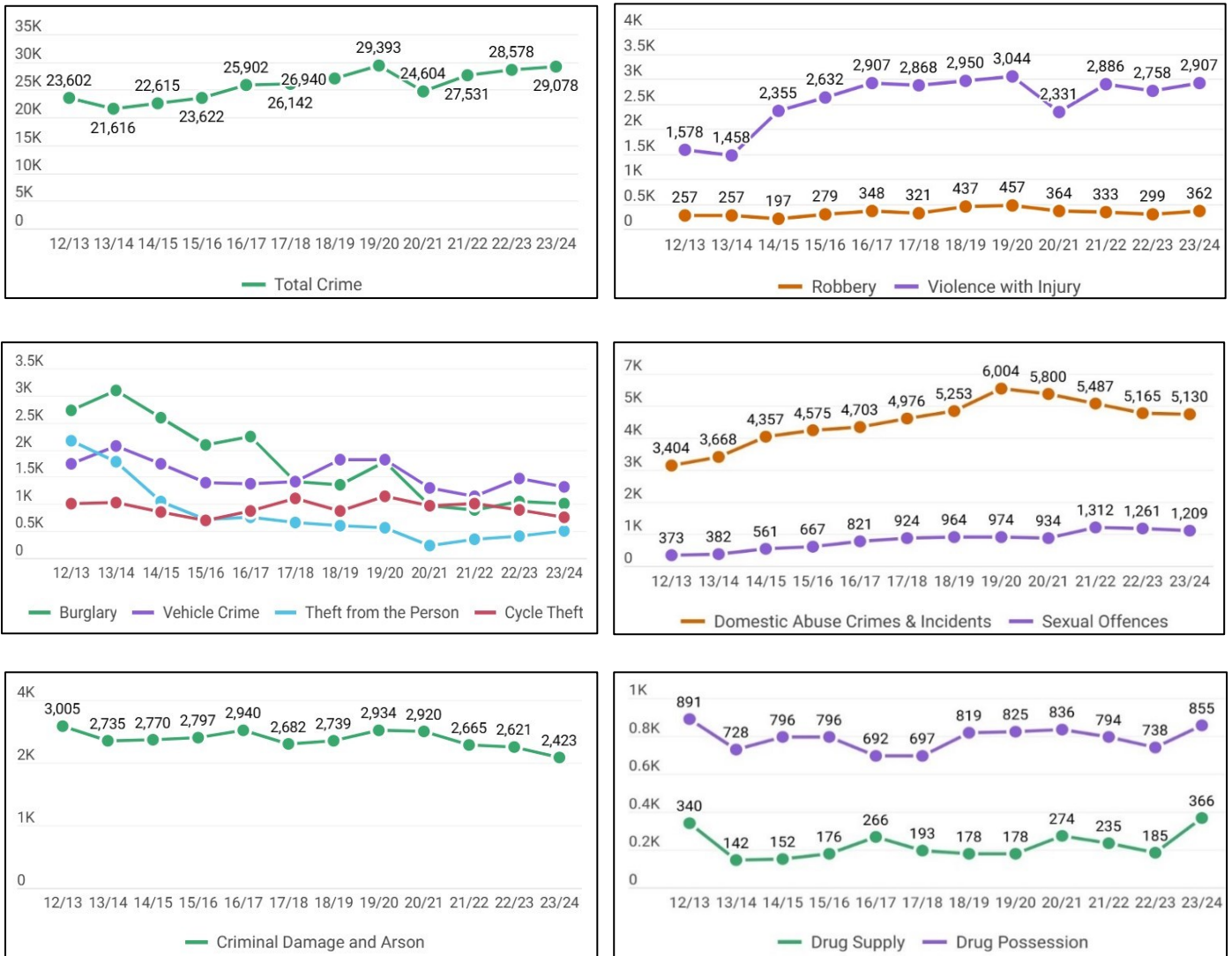


Section 11 (Appendix C) provides more detail on the numbers of each crime type recorded by the police in 2023/24, how this compares with the previous two years, and how Brighton & Hove compares with other Community Safety Partnerships.

Trends to 2023/24

Figure 5 shows the long-term trend in police recorded crime data in Brighton & Hove between 2012/13 and 2023/24, sorted by various crime groups.

Figure 5 – trends in police recorded crimes in Brighton and Hove from 2012/13 to 2023/24.



Total crimes in the city (in the top left panel) since 2013/14 had seen a steadily increasing trend before dropping sharply in 2020/21, as a consequence of restrictions put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic; since 2021/22, total crimes have risen steadily back towards the high seen in 2019/20.

A similar pattern was observed in violence with injury in the city, where recording had risen steadily to a peak in 2019/20, falling sharply in 2020/21 due to COVID restrictions, before rising again towards the number of crimes recorded in 2019/20. Changes to recording since 2016/17 has also been influenced by the Sussex Police response to an audit by His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabularies (now the HMICFRS)¹⁹ and an updated assessment in 2023²⁰. Accident and Emergency data on the number of patients attending hospital in Brighton & Hove due to assault

¹⁹ [His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire & Rescue Services \(HMICFRS\) webpage - Sussex Police Crime Data Integrity inspection 2016 Report.](#)

²⁰ [HMICFRS webpage - PEEL report for Sussex Police 2021/22.](#)

Crime and disorder data and trends

appears not to have seen the same steady increase following the lifting of COVID-related restrictions.

Domestic violence and abuse crimes and incidents have largely followed the trend seen in violent crimes, given domestic violence crimes and incidents are often recorded by police as violent in nature. Following a high in recorded offences in 2019/20, recorded domestic crimes and incidents decreased by a lesser degree than other crime groups, but have continued to either decrease or remain stable each year since 2020/21. More information about police recording of domestic violence and abuse crimes can be found in **Section 7**.

Sexual offences showed a similar long-term upwards trend leading up to 2019/20, and notably did not experience a decrease similar in magnitude to other crimes during 2020/21. In the years since 2021/22, sexual offences have remained substantially higher than in 2019/20, with police recording 24.1% more offences in 2023/24 compared with 2019/20. Contributing to the steady longer-term increasing trend have been changes to police recording practices²¹, alongside a change in public readiness to report these crimes in the city.

It is widely accepted that domestic and sexual violence offences remain far more prevalent than recorded crime figures suggest. Strategic partners in the Community Safety Partnership continue to highlight that fear of not being believed is a key barrier to survivors reporting or help-seeking.

Acquisitive crimes (middle left panel in **Figure 5**) had generally seen a downward trend in the city until around 2015/16. From then - excluding theft from the person crimes - most acquisitive crime groups began increasing until 2019/20, before falling sharply in 2020/21 during the COVID-related lockdown period.

Following the removal of COVID-related restrictions, most categories of acquisitive crime such as burglary and cycle theft have either remained at lower levels or have increased moderately, not up to the numbers recorded immediately before the pandemic. One notable exception to this is recorded shoplifting offences, which has rapidly increased each year since 2021/22 to well above levels recorded prior to 2019/20. Criminal damage (bottom left panel) and drug crimes (bottom right panel) have both fluctuated over the last ten years but had shown no particular upward or downward trend – however 2023/24 saw substantial increases in drug-related crimes recorded.

²¹ [HMICFRS Report 2014 - Making the Victim Count - PDF.](#)

Figure 6: Percentage change in key crime types between 2019/20 and 2023/24

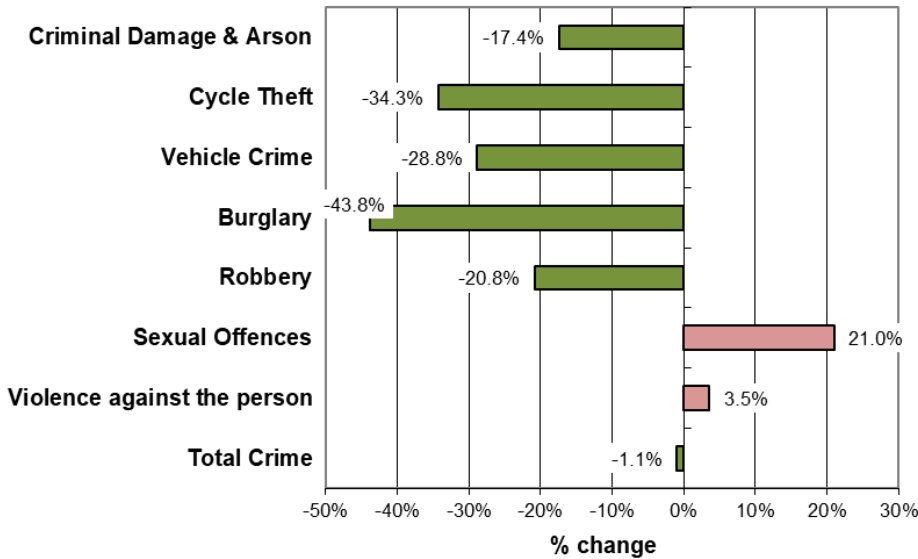


Figure 6 compares police recorded crimes in 2019/20 – the full year immediately before restrictions were placed on residents due to the COVID-19 pandemic - and 2023/24, the latest full year. Total recorded crimes are 1.1% lower in 2023/24 than they were in 2019/20. Burglary in 2023/24 was 44% lower, while robbery was 21% lower. However, compared with 2019/20, violence against the person offences increased by 3.5% and sexual offences had increased by 21% by 2023/24.

Figure 7 - Percentage change in key crime types between 2022/23 and 2023/24.

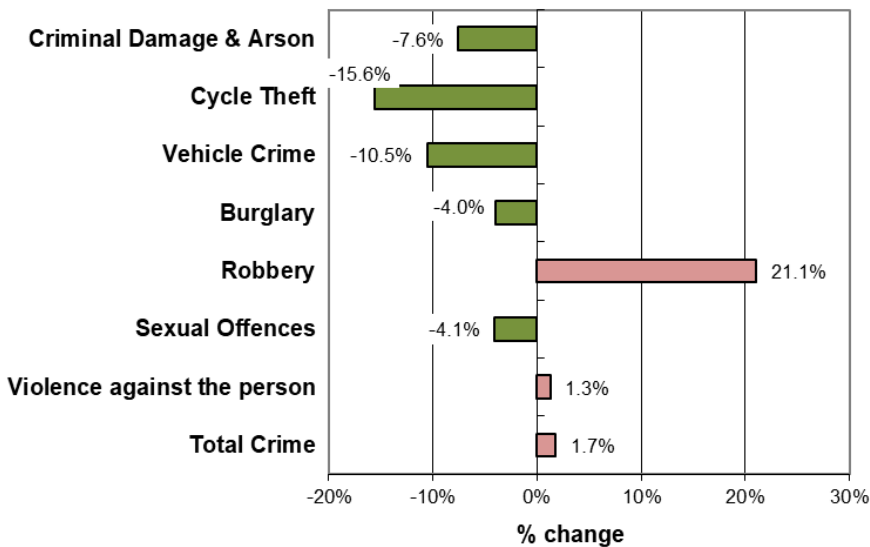


Figure 7 shows the percentage changes in the last year for major crime types, between 2022/23 and 2023/24. This shows a 1.7% increase in overall total crime over this period, with a 21% increase in robberies recorded, as well as a small increase in violence against the person offences (1.3%). There were reductions seen in other crime types such as sexual offences (down 4.1%) and vehicle-related crime (down 10.5%).

Police recorded crime data on different topics is discussed further in the thematic sections of this report starting at **Section 6**.

5. Impact of crime and disorder

Feeling safe

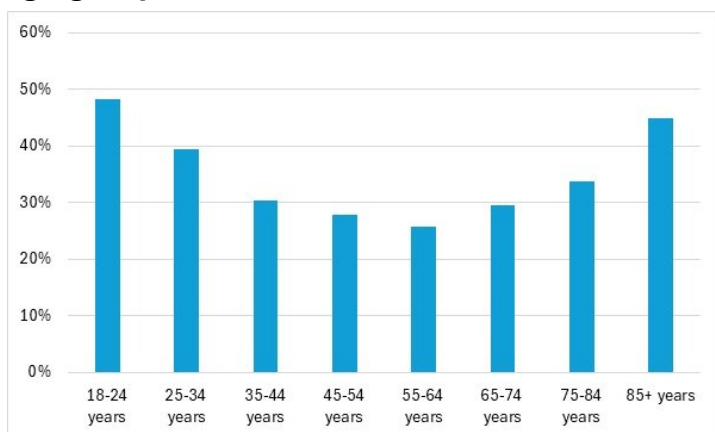
Adults

Health Counts²² is a health and wellbeing survey of Brighton and Hove adult residents conducted around once a decade. Health Counts 2024 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including around feelings of safety. It provides important evidence of inequalities in parts of the city and faced by particular groups. There were 16,729 respondents and results were weighted for age, gender and deprivation to account for differences in response rate.

Health Counts asked how safe respondents feel walking alone in their local area within approximately 15 minutes from their home, both during the day and at night. During the day, 96% of respondents report feeling safe in their local area (71% felt very safe, 25% felt fairly safe), with 4% reporting feeling unsafe (3% felt a bit unsafe, 1% felt very unsafe). At night, this drops to 65% of respondents who report feeling safe walking alone in their local area (21% felt very safe, 44% felt fairly safe) with 34% feeling unsafe (26% a bit unsafe, 8% very unsafe).

This question changed in Health Counts 2024 compared to the Brighton & Hove City Tracker survey 2018. The option for "neither safe nor unsafe" was removed, and the option for "fairly unsafe" was replaced with "a bit unsafe" to match the ONS survey. Feelings of safety during the daytime have changed little since 2018 but fewer respondents feel very safe at night in 2024 compared to 2018 (A fall from 36% to 21%) and more very unsafe (an increase from 3% to 8%).

Figure 8 - percentage of people feeling unsafe walking alone in their local area at night, by age group.



However, some groups within the local population feel less safe than others. Around a third of all respondents felt very or a bit unsafe walking alone at night. The following groups were more likely to feel unsafe:

- Younger adults (aged 18-24 years and 25-34 years), as well as respondents aged 85 years and over (see **Figure 8**).

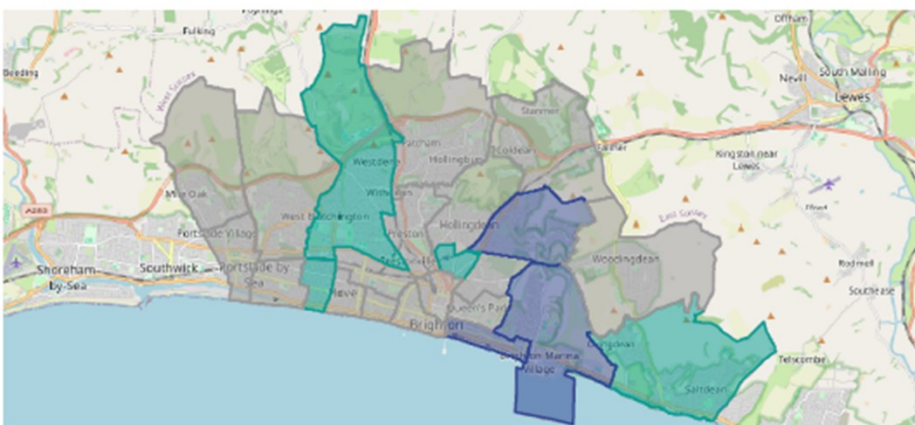
²² The 2024 Health Counts survey was conducted by researchers at the University of Brighton, in collaboration with Brighton & Hove Medical School, NHS Sussex, Healthwatch Brighton & Hove, Brighton & Hove Federation and Brighton & Hove City Council Public Health Intelligence team. It was funded by the Public Health Department at Brighton & Hove City Council.

- Women (48%), Trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI) (41%) respondents compared with 19% of men.
- Disabled adults (48%); However, this difference was particularly marked amongst some groups with long-term physical or mental health conditions, such as respondents with speech and language conditions (78%), developmental conditions (67%), a visible difference with a disabling and/or discriminatory impact (62%), or a learning disability (61%).
- There was no significant difference in feelings of safety for most ethnic groups, however Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller respondents were significantly more likely to feel very or a bit unsafe at night (61%).
- Those living in temporary or emergency accommodation (60%).
- Those with experience of the care system as a child/ young person (45%).
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer and other non-heterosexual sexual orientation (LGBQ+) adults (40%).
- Respondents who live in the most deprived areas of the city are significantly more likely to report feeling very or a bit unsafe walking alone in their local area at night compared with all respondents (48% living in the most deprived quintile according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation).

The maps in **Figure 9** and **Figure 10** below show that those living in Moulsecoomb and Bevendean, Queen’s Park, Kemptown, and Whitehawk and Marina wards were all significantly more likely to feel unsafe walking alone in their local area both during the day and at night, compared with respondents as a whole.

Figure 9 – proportion of respondents to the 2024 Health Counts Survey feeling unsafe walking in their local area during the day, by ward.

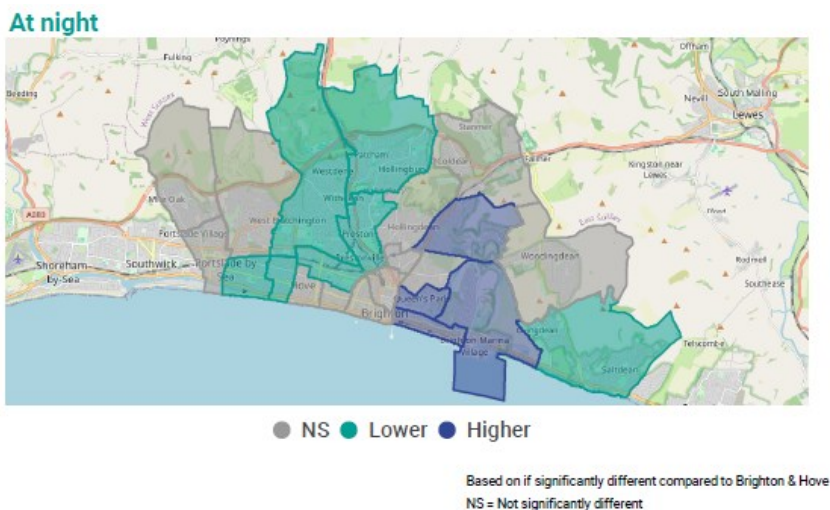
During the day



● NS ● Higher ● Lower

Based on if significantly different compared to Brighton & Hove
NS = Not significantly different

Figure 10 - proportion of respondents to the 2024 Health Counts Survey feeling unsafe walking in their local area at night, by ward.



Children

Data has been collected in the Safe and Well at School Survey (SAWSS)²³ on how safe school pupils felt at school. When at school, 90% of children in KS2 agreed that they felt safe at school, compared to 70% in KS3, and 71% in KS4. There has been a downward trend between 2012 and 2023 in the percentage of children saying they feel safe at school, particularly in secondary schools.

% who strongly agree or agree with the statement "I feel safe at school"	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2018	2021	2023
KS2 ages 8 to 11 years	94%	94%	94%	91%	90%	89%	92%	90%
KS3 ages 11 to 14 years	88%	89%	91%	88%	84%	82%	78%	70%
KS4 ages 14 to 16 years	88%	89%	90%	86%	82%	82%	76%	71%
All secondary – ages 11 to 16 years	88%	89%	91%	87%	84%	82%	77%	71%

In 2023, the following groups of secondary school pupils were statistically significantly less likely to agree or strongly agree with the statement "I feel safe at school" (71% for all pupils):

- Black and racially minoritised students (68%) compared with White British students (72%)
- Students who were LGB+, unlabelled or unsure of their sexuality (58%) compared with heterosexual / straight students (74%)
- Students who did not or did not always identify with the gender they were given at birth (50%) compared with those who always did (72%)
- Girls (68%) compared with boys (75%)
- Young carers (52%) compared with those who are not young carers (72%)
- Students experiencing the highest levels of financial hardship (65%) compared with those in the middle and lower financial hardship groups (72%)

²³ [Infogram webpage - Brighton & Hove City Council - Safe & Well at School Survey 2023.](#)

- Students who are care-experienced or living with Kinship Carers (60%) compared with those not care-experienced (71%)
- Students receiving extra help in school (57%) compared with those not receiving extra help (72%)

The 2023 Safe and Well at School Survey also asked a question about feeling safe when travelling to school and in their neighbourhood alone or with friends. 86% of 8 to 11-year-olds and 91% of secondary aged children strongly agreed or agreed that they felt safe travelling to school and back. These children felt a little less safe when alone or with friends in their neighbourhood; 79% of 8 to 11-year-olds strongly agreed or agreed that they felt safe travelling to school and back while the figure for secondary aged children was 87%.

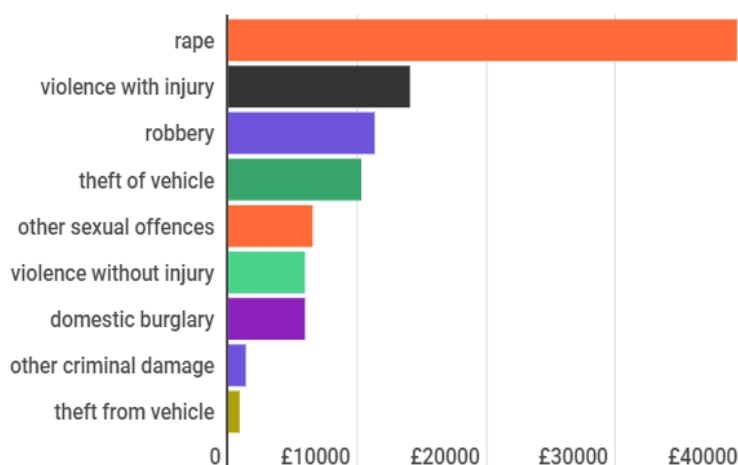
% who strongly agree or agree with the statement "I feel safe travelling to school and back alone or with friends"	2023
KS2 – ages 8-11 years	86%
KS3 – ages 11-14 years	91%
KS4 – ages 14-16 years	90%
All secondary – ages 11-16 years	91%

% who strongly agree or agree with the statement "I feel safe in my neighbourhood alone or with friends"	2023
KS2 – ages 8-11 years	79%
KS3 – ages 11-14 years	89%
KS4 – ages 14-16 years	85%
All secondary – ages 11-16 years	87%

Cost of crime

The financial impact of crime is significant to the victims and to society. A Home Office report has estimated the financial costs attributable to crimes both to individual people or households and to businesses²⁴. **Figure 11** provides estimates of the 'whole system' costs of personal/domestic crimes - recognising that estimated costs of a crime to businesses are often higher - which take into account direct costs of loss from the crime itself, costs of anticipating crime and costs of responding to crime. The latest available estimate (2015/16) of the cost of a single homicide was £3.2m, and the next most costly was rape at £39,000, followed by violence with injury at £14,000.

Figure 11 - - Estimated cost of a single 'personal/domestic' crime, 2015/16, £.



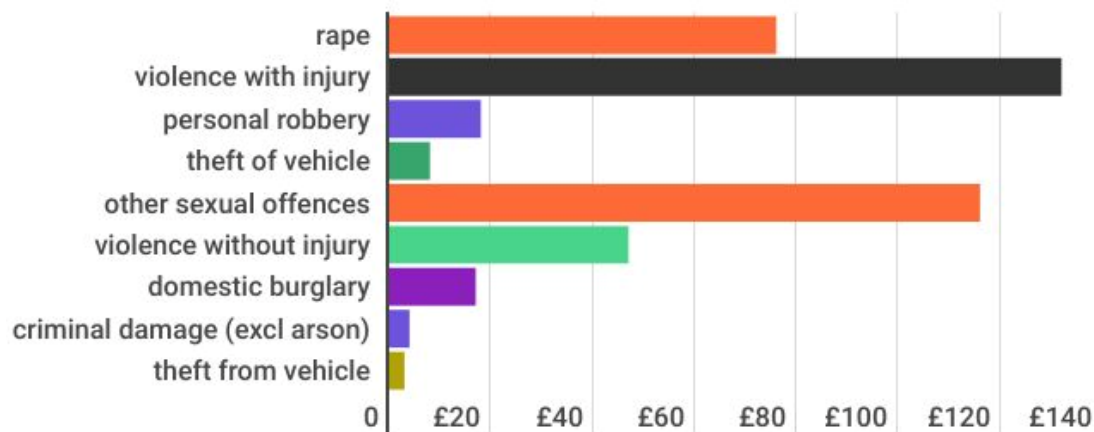
²⁴ [Home Office webpage - 'Research Report 2018 - The Economic Costs of Crime.'](#)

Impact of crime and disorder

Figure 12 presents the estimated cost to the city of Brighton and Hove in 2022/23 of a number of crime types, based on the latest Home Office cost estimates (2015/16) adjusted for inflation. These calculations are based on the number of police recorded crimes in the city in 2022/23, scaled up according to estimated under-reporting rates.

Using these calculations, and due to the prolific number of these crimes in the city, the cost of violence with injury to the city during 2022/23 had the highest cost at £132m. Other sexual offences (£116m) and rape offences (£77m) and were the next most costly.

Figure 12- Estimated total cost of personal/domestic crimes in 2021/22 in Brighton & Hove, £ millions



6. Serious violence, drugs and exploitation

Our aim: There is less harm caused to individuals and communities in our city due to serious violence, knife crime, organised crime, drugs and exploitation

What we want to achieve

- A stronger preventative approach to serious violence and exploitation and a decrease in drug-gang related activity through the better use of all available data.
- A thriving night-time economy free from drug and alcohol-related violence.
- All parts of the community to be free of the fear of violence, drugs and exploitation, to be able to recognise all forms of exploitation, drug harm and serious violent crime and to have confidence to report it.
- Fewer people harmed by serious violence and preventing vulnerable people from becoming involved with organised crime networks.
- Safeguard vulnerable children and adults who are being exploited and provide a safe pathway out of exploitation or involvement with organised crime networks.

National or local policy developments and other changing context



- The Government has indicated that it will introduce Young Futures Prevention Partnerships, aimed at tackling knife crime and addressing rising mental health needs among young people, though at this stage little is known of how this will be implemented.
- The Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Operation Cuckoo meeting is developing a process to address repeat enablers and perpetrators of cuckooing. Work is underway by Sussex Police's Exploitation Team to map the tools and powers available, and what terms could be imposed with them to disrupt perpetrators.
- The Government has undertaken to recruit 200 new staff to the Single Competent Authority within the Home Office to assess referrals to the National Referral Mechanism, with the intention of reducing the backlog of cases.

Levels, trends and patterns

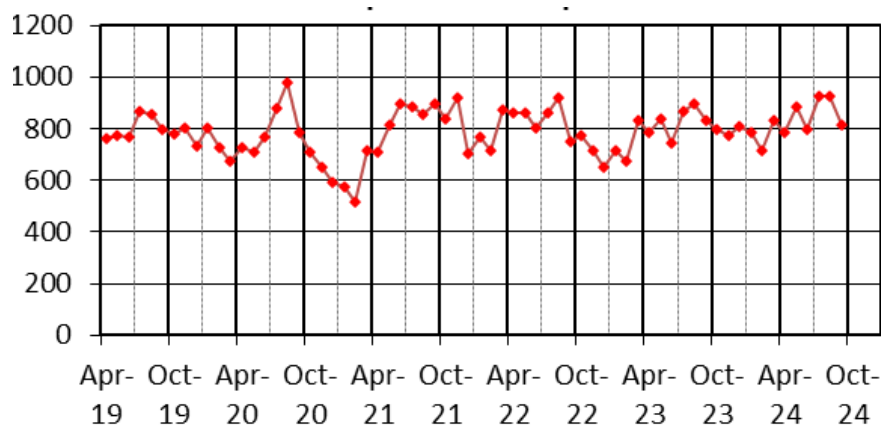
Violence

Police data



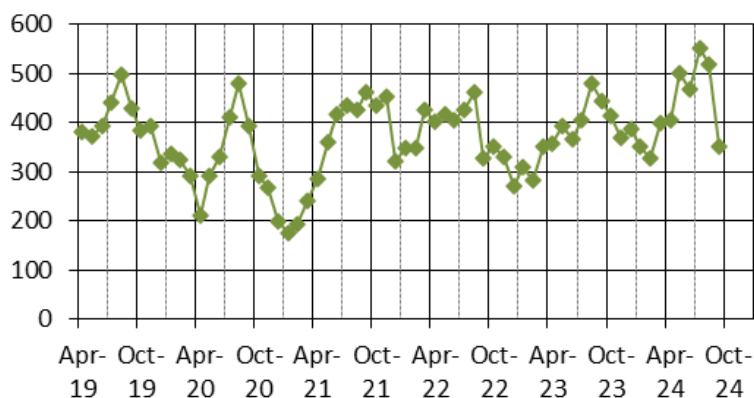
- Sussex Police recorded 9,662 **Violence Against the Person (VATP)** offences in Brighton & Hove in 2023/24, 2.5% more than in the previous year. These numbers follow a period of substantial shifts in police recorded crimes owing to the restrictions put into place during the COVID pandemic; recorded numbers remain slightly higher than in 2019/20, immediately prior to the pandemic. This is set against the approximately 4.5% decrease in VATP offences being recorded across England and Wales in the same period.

Figure 13 - Violence against the person crimes, April 2019 to Sept 2024.



- In the first six months of 2024/25, VATP offences recorded were 3.2% higher in the city than throughout the same period in 2023/24, driven by a relative increase in crimes recorded throughout May to August 2024 compared with the same months in 2023.
- Within the **Violence Against the Person (VATP)** offences recorded in 2023/24, 4,636 (48%) were recorded as being committed **in a public place**²⁵. The overall number recorded is a 7% increase on the number recorded in 2022/23 (4,327 offences). In the six months April - September 2024 there were a further 2,794 crimes, a 14.5% increase compared with the 2,441 recorded in the first six months of 2023/24. All months excluding September saw substantially more crimes being recorded than in the same months in 2023.

Figure 14 - Violence against the person in a public place crimes, April 2019 to Sept 2024.

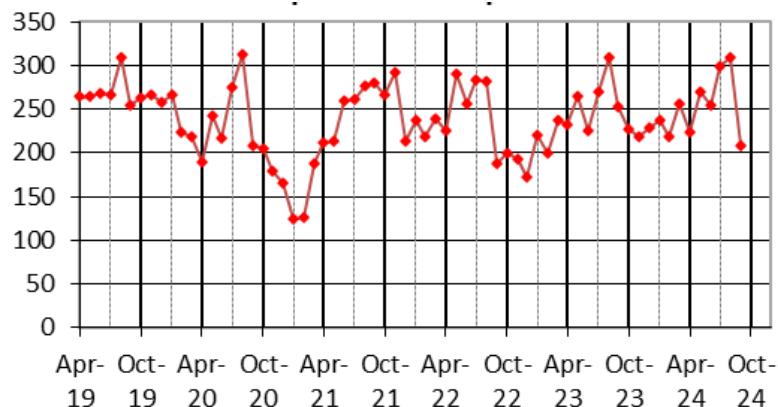


- There were 2,907 **Violence with Injury** crimes recorded by police in 2023/24, an increase of 5.4% against the previous year. This is due in part to a noticeable smoothing-out of the seasonality of these crimes being recorded in the city; while marginally fewer crimes were recorded in the late spring and summer months of May to August in 2023 (1068) compared with 2022 (1115), significantly more were recorded in the months between September and December (928) than in 2022 (751 crimes). This overall increase across 2023/24 contrasts with the 3.0% decrease in violence with injury violences recorded by all police forces in England and Wales as a whole²⁶. In the six months to September 2024, recorded crimes were 0.8% higher than in the same six months in 2023, with a peak in offences in July and August.

²⁵ Public place is defined by the police as somewhere that the public have access to on payment or otherwise.

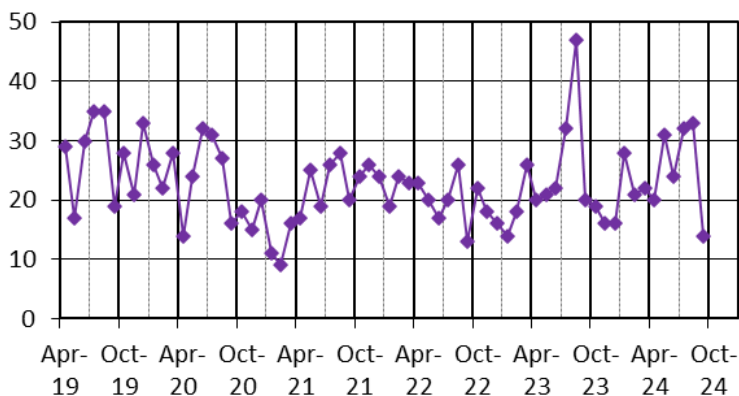
²⁶ [Crime in England and Wales webpage - Appendix tables from the Office for National Statistics.](#)

Figure 15 - Violence with injury crimes, April 2019 to Sept 2024.



- Sussex Police recorded 281 **Serious Violence** crimes in 2023/24, 18% more than the 239 recorded in the previous year. The key contributor to this was the substantial increase in serious violence crimes in July and August 2023. In contrast, in the first six months of 2024/25, Serious Violence offences were 3.8% lower than in the same period in 2023/24 as the number of offences recorded in the summer months decreased relative to the previous year, though still notably and consistently higher across the late spring and summer months than in 2022.

Figure 16 - Serious violence crimes, April 2019 to Sept 2024.

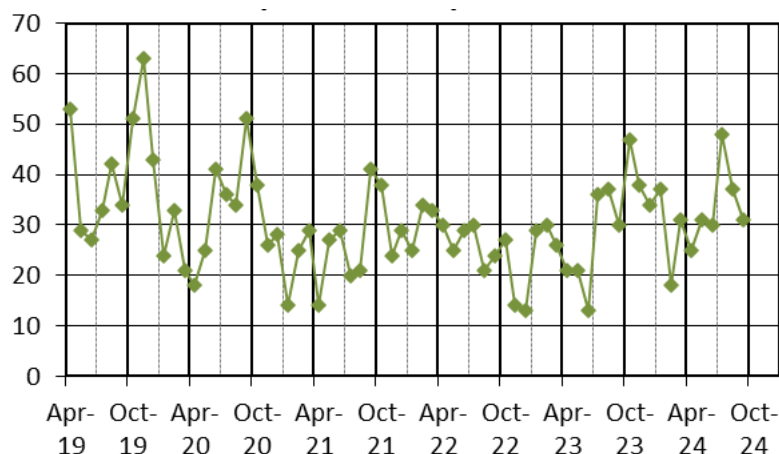


Robberies

- In 2023/24 there were 362 robberies recorded in Brighton & Hove, a 21% increase on the 299 offences Sussex Police recorded in 2022/23. This increase was in part due to the number of crimes between July and the end of the 2023 calendar year remaining consistently higher against the same period in 2022. Among these 362 robberies, 328 were robberies perpetrated against the person and 34 against businesses; the latter figure is double those recorded in 2022/23. This can be compared against a 4.5% increase in personal robberies and a 40% increase in business-related robberies recorded between 2022/23 and 2023/24 across England and Wales.²⁷

²⁷ [Office for National Statistics web report - Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2024.](#)

Figure 17 – Total robbery crimes, April 2019 to Sept 2024.



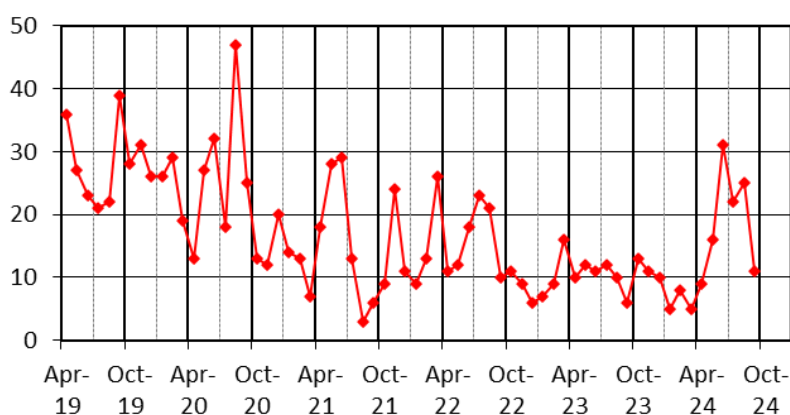
- In the first six months of 2024/25, total robbery offences increased by 27%; personal robberies, the most recorded robbery type, increased by around 14% in the first six months of 2023/24. Business robberies, however, increased from 12 offences in the six months to September 2023 to 34 in the first six months to September 2024.
- The Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) reported 39 instances of robbery recorded by businesses participating in the scheme in the 12 months to October 2024, a substantial reduction from the 59 recorded in calendar year 2023 but similar to the 38 in calendar year 2022.

Use of weapons

Police recorded knife and sharp object crimes and incidents

- Sussex Police recorded 113 crimes where a knife or sharp implement was used, a 25% decrease on the 154 knife or sharp implement-flagged crimes in 2022/23. This compares with the 4.3% overall increase in offences involving a knife/sharp implement across England and Wales in the same period²⁸.

Figure 18 - Knife or sharp implement offences, April 2019 to Sept 2024.



- However, in the first six months to September 2024 the number of recorded crimes involving a knife or sharp instrument increased substantially; 114 crimes were recorded by police in the six months to September 2024, compared with 62 in the six months to September 2023. Since July

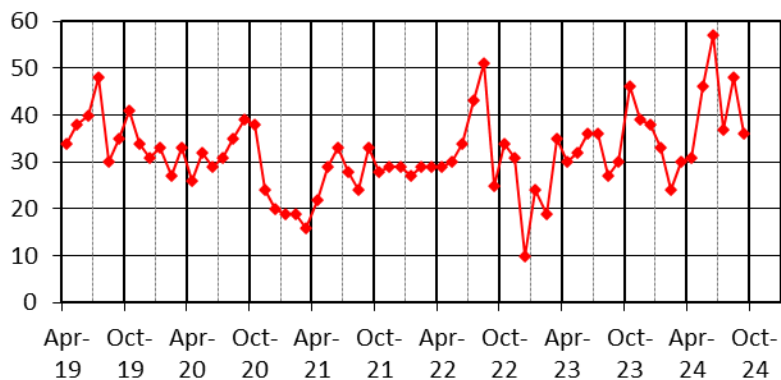
²⁸ [Office for National Statistics webpage - data tables for offences involving the use of weapons](#), Tables 20-23.

Serious violence, drugs and exploitation

2024, as the line graph shows, recorded crimes each month were substantially greater than the same month the previous year, often by a factor of two or three.

- There were 411 weapons possession offences recorded in the city in 2023/24, an increase of 11% and approaching pre-COVID levels of recorded offences in 2019/20. In first six months to September 2024 a further 255 were recorded, 32% more than the 193 recorded by the same time in the previous year. Consistently more weapons possession crimes were recorded in each month since May 2024 compared with the same months in 2023; June 2024 saw the most weapons possession crimes recorded in any month (57) since at least 2019.

Figure 19 - Possession of weapons crimes, April 2019 to Sept 2024.

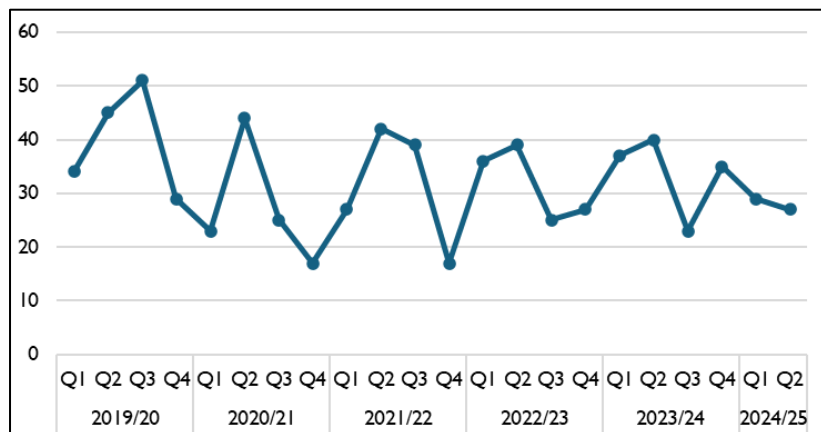


Assault by stabbing/cutting patients at Accident and Emergency

- In 2023/24 there were 135 assault-related attendances at accident and emergency departments in the city due to stabbing/cutting, 6% more than the 127 recorded in 2022/23. This is marginally greater than the 2.9% increase in sharp object-related hospital assault admissions across England and Wales in the same year²⁹. Among these attendances, 117 (87%) were for male patients and 18 (13%) for female patients, showing a slightly greater proportion of female attendances than in the previous year, where 9% of attendances were from female patients.
- Among the assault-related attendances at Accident and Emergency in the city due to stabbing/cutting in 2023/24, 64% (87) were due to cutting/stabbing specifically with a knife, 12.5% (22) were due to a bottle/glass and the remainder caused by other objects.

²⁹ [Office for National Statistics webpage - data tables for offences involving the use of weapons](#), see Table 24.

Figure 20 – Accident and Emergency attendances in Brighton and Hove due to assault by stabbing or cutting.



- In the six months to September 2024 a further 53 assault-related attendances due to stabbing or cutting were recorded, significantly fewer than the 77 in the same period in 2023.
- **Table 1** below shows the changes in number of attendances at Accident and Emergency due to assault by a selection of the weapons recorded as being used.

Table 1 - Assault attendances at Accident and Emergency units due to stab injuries: implement used

Type of implement	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 - April – Sept
Stabbed or cut with glass or bottle	39	37	34	32	17	14
Stabbed or cut with knife	75	48	60	66	87	25
Stabbed or cut with some other sharp object	46	24	31	30	31	14
Total injuries	160	109	125	128	135	53

- Looking at the place of residence of patients attending Accident and Emergency due to stabbing/cutting assaults in 2023/24, 24 (18%) were from the BN1 postcode, 29 (21%) from within BN2 and 16 (12%) from within BN3/BN41/BN42 postcodes, with the remaining 49% from outside the city.
- In 2023/24, 52% of all stabbing-related assault patients were injured in the street, around 14% in a recreational area such as a restaurant, club or park, and around 19% in someone’s home, remaining similar to proportions noted in previous years.

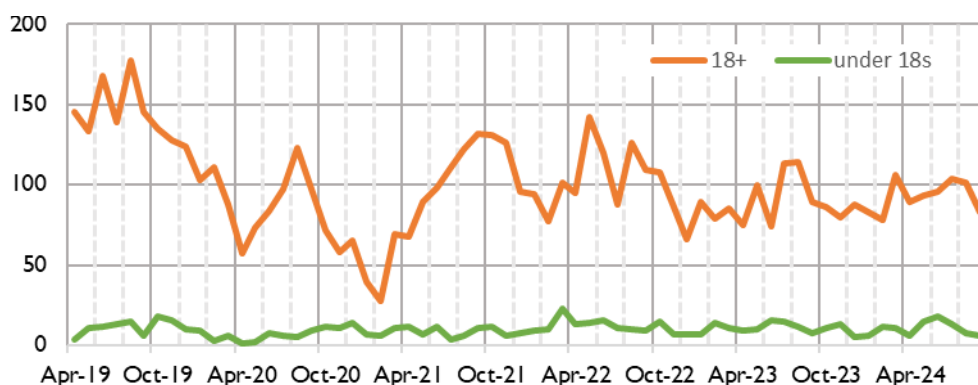
Accident and Emergency Attendances due to Assault

- In 2023/24, there were 1,214 assault-related attendances at Accident and Emergency in the city, 8.5% fewer than in the previous year and continuing a gradual decrease in the number of coded assaults seen by Accident and Emergency; this figure is now around 11% lower than in

Serious violence, drugs and exploitation

2021/22. Among these attendances at Accident and Emergency in 2023/24, 10.5% were for patients aged under 18, very similar to the previous year.

Figure 21 - Accident and Emergency attendances in Brighton and Hove due to assault, April 2019 to Sept 2024, all ages.



- In the six months to September 2024, a further 632 assault-related Accident and Emergency attendances were logged, very similar to the 635 in the first six months of 2023/24. Among these, 65 (10.2%) related to patients aged under 18, also similar to the 70 (11%) patients in the first six months of 2023/24. Around one-third of Accident and Emergency attendances due to assault were not coded as having a mechanism of injury given alongside it.
- **Table 2** shows the changes in number of attendances at Accident and Emergency due to assault by a selection of mechanisms.

Table 2 - Attendances at Accident and Emergency in Brighton and Hove due to assault: selected mechanisms.

Type	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Apr to Sept 24
Blow from blunt object	76	76	68	70	34
Blunt force/pushed	123	177	159	146	71
Kick with foot	39	57	62	32	26
Punch with fist	226	338	309	266	151
Stabbed (all implements)	109	125	128	135	53
Total (above reasons only)	573	773	726	649	335

- In the 18 months between March 2023 and September 2024, and where an injury mechanism was recorded by Accident and Emergency, 22.5% of patients attending Accident and Emergency for assault had been punched, 11.8% had been pushed, 10.2% had been stabbed and 5.6% had been hit by a blunt object. These proportions all remain very similar to previous periods.
- Across 2023/24, 74% of Accident and Emergency attendees due to assault were male, 25% female and 1% not specified in records – very similar to proportions seen in 2022/23, and which remain similar in the first six months of 2024/25.
- The peak age group in 2022/23 for Accident and Emergency attendances remains patients aged 18-24, similar to 2022/23 and to 2021/22. This age group accounts for 23.5% of all male

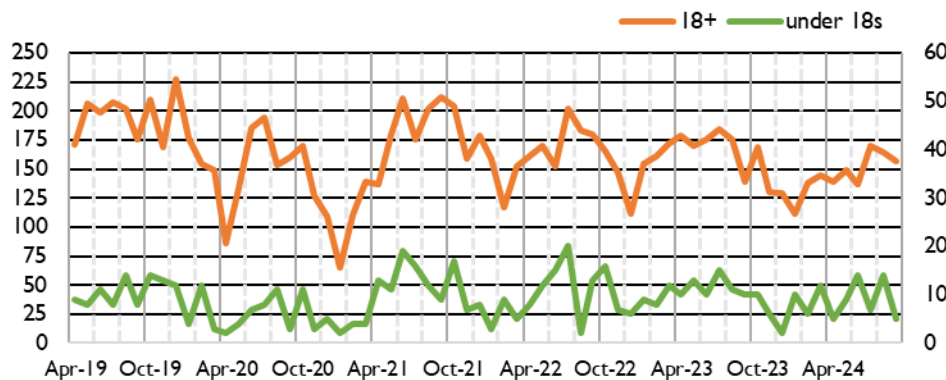
assault-related attendances at Accident and Emergency (214 patients) and 20.5% of female attendances (63 patients).

- Among female attendees at Accident and Emergency due to assault, there remains a much more even spread of ages than among males, with patients aged 20-30 (23% of female attendances), aged 30-40 (21%) and aged 40-50 (21%) holding the largest proportion. Among males, 29% of attendances due to assault were among those aged 20 to 30, 21% were aged 10-20 and 19.5% were aged 30-40.
- Where ethnicity was stated on attendance, the proportion of assault patients who were not of White British ethnicity was 40% in 2023/24, much higher than 31% in 2022/23, 25% in 2021/22 and 27% in 2020/21. Further breakdown of ethnicity is not available from this dataset.

Accident and Emergency Attendances due to Alcohol

- The number of alcohol-related attendances at Accident and Emergency have remained high following the easing of COVID restrictions – attendances continue to follow a seasonal pattern, with increasing numbers in the summer months.
- In 2023/24 there were 1,959 Accident and Emergency attendances at hospitals in the city where alcohol intoxication was flagged, 6.3% fewer than the 2,092 recorded in the previous year. The six months to September 2024 saw another 971 instances recorded in Accident and Emergency in the city, 11% fewer than by the same time in 2023.

Figure 22 - Accident and Emergency attendances in Brighton and Hove related to alcohol, April 2019 to Sept 2024, all ages.



- As a proportion of all the alcohol-related Accident and Emergency attendances in 2023/24, the summer months June to August accounted for 29% of the year’s related attendances (571), slightly greater than the 27.5% in 2022/23.

Health Counts Survey

- Health Counts 2024⁴ asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about physical violence.
- One in four respondents (24%) reported that they were very or fairly worried about physical violence against a family member, whilst around one in five (22%) were very or fairly worried about physical violence against themselves.

Serious violence, drugs and exploitation

- Those in younger age groups had significantly higher levels of worry about physical violence against themselves compared with respondents as a whole, with 35% of 18-24 year olds reporting they were very or fairly worried. The proportion of respondents who were very or fairly worried generally decreased in subsequent age groups.
- Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller communities had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves, with 61% reporting that they were very or fairly worried about this. Respondents from mixed/ multiple ethnic groups as well as respondents who described their ethnicity as 'Other'³⁰ were also significantly more likely to report feeling very or fairly worried about physical violence against themselves (32% and 30% respectively).
- Respondents who were female, Trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI), LGBTQ+, disabled, unpaid carers, or who have experience of the care system as a child/ young person all had significantly higher levels of reported worry about physical violence against themselves than all respondents. This was also true of respondents living in temporary/ emergency accommodation, as well as respondents living in the most deprived areas of the city.

Exploitation

Modern slavery / potential victims of human trafficking

- Following significant decreases in the number of modern slavery crimes recorded in Brighton & Hove in 2021/22 (25 crimes) and 2022/23 (24 crimes), 50 crimes were recorded by Sussex Police in the city in 2023/24. This sits against an 18.7% decrease in the number of modern slavery crimes recorded across England and Wales in 2023/24. In the first six months of 2024/25 a further 14 crimes were recorded, a decrease on the 24 recorded in the same period in 2023/24.
- In 2023/24 there were a total of 644 referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (the NRM³¹) across Sussex where Sussex Police received the referral for investigation. This is 25% fewer than the 864 referrals received by the force in 2022/23 but remains higher than in previous years, where around 450 to 500 referrals had been received. A further 286 were received in the first two quarters of 2024/25, marginally fewer than in the same first six months of 2023/24. The primary source of referrals came from Home Office Immigration Enforcement - accounting for 46% of referrals – while local authorities from around England contributed 18% of referrals and Visas and Immigration a further 15.5%.
- Furthermore, in 2023/24 there were 101 referrals to the NRM where Sussex Police was the first responder to a suspected instance of modern slavery. This is a substantial increase on the 77 referrals made in 2022/23 and 74 in 2021/22. Among these referrals:
 - 57 were for adults, 42 related to children under 18 and 2 to people of unknown age – slightly more children were recorded as victims than in 2022/23 (35) and follows a steady upward trend.

³⁰ Ethnic groups included Asian or Asian British; Black, Black British, Caribbean or African; Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups; Arab; Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller; White British; White Irish or other White; or Other ethnic group.

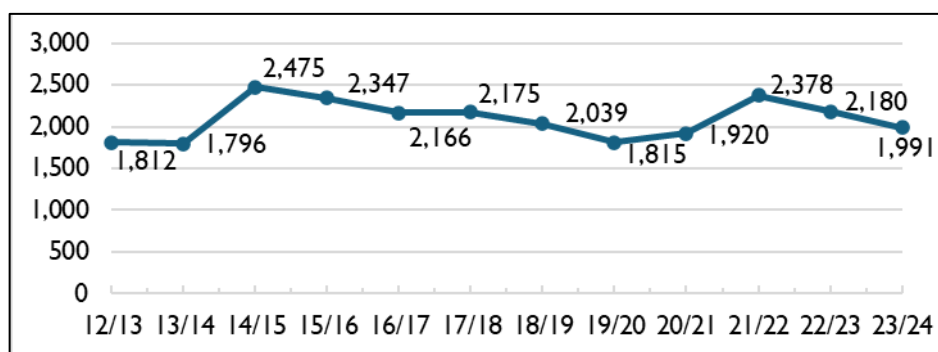
³¹ [Home Office webpage - National Referral Mechanism statistics.](#)

- 87 referrals (86%) related to males and 14 (14%) related to females; the proportion of males referred to the NRM is considerably higher than in most years.
- Among exploitation types recorded: 57 of the 101 referrals taken up by Sussex Police were for criminal exploitation; 17 were for mixed forms of exploitation; 15 were for unknown or unspecified forms; 9 for labour-related exploitation and two for concerns of domestic servitude.
- 67 of referrals taken up (66%) were related to UK nationals, with the remainder referring to victims of nationalities spread worldwide – this is broadly similar to the 62% of victims referred in 2022/23 and 74% of victims in 2021/22.
- There were 31 referrals where Brighton & Hove City Council were the first responder, of which 27 related to children (aged under 17) – this is considerably higher than the 19 referrals made in 2022/23 and 12 in 2021/22.

Vulnerable people at risk

- As of 31 March 2024, 1,991 children were assessed as Children in Need³² in the city, 8.7% fewer than the 2,180 recorded by the same time in 2023. It remains important to note these figures specifically reflect the number of children assessed as in need at one particular date each year. The 9% reduction seen in Brighton & Hove in the latest full year is greater than the 3.1% reduction seen across the South East and the 0.9% reduction across England.
- Multiple factors are associated with someone becoming a victim of exploitation, some of which are included in ‘Children in Need’ (CIN) assessments. It is important to note that for each CIN assessment more than one factor is often identified.

Figure 23 - Number of children assessed as Children in Need as at 31 March of each year in Brighton and Hove



- Among assessments completed in Brighton & Hove in reporting year 2024:
 - 1,055 assessments identified parental mental health as a contributory factor – the most common factor recorded – slightly lower than the 1,115 in 2023 and similar to the 1,001 in 2022; instances increased substantially from 2022 where it has previously been between 700 and 850 a year.

³² [Gov.uk webpage - Children in need at 31 March by primary need and local authority.](#)

Serious violence, drugs and exploitation

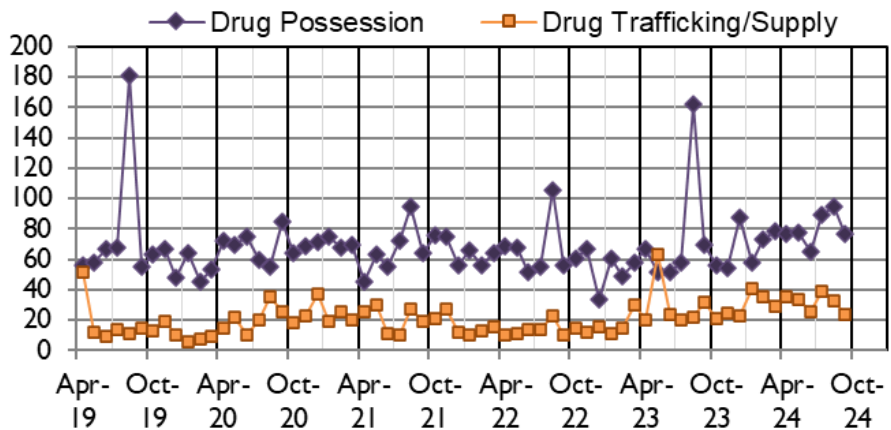
- 689 assessments identified potential domestic abuse of a parent - considerably fewer than the 816 identified in 2023 and similar to the 670 instances in 2022.
- 438 instances were identified where the mental health of the child was a contributory factor – this remains within the range of 380 to 450 seen in most prior years.
- 404 related to alcohol misuse by a parent – similar to the 414 recorded in 2023 and remains much higher than the range of 230-300 in prior years; a similar trend is also seen in concerns over alcohol misuse by a child.
- 98 instances were noted of a parents' learning disability, similar to the 103 and 109 seen in 2023 and 2022 and higher than the 65-80 range seen in the years before 2022.
- In 2023/24 the Adolescent Vulnerability Risk Meeting (AVRM) identified an average of 18 young people per meeting with a red RAG rating, meaning there was evidence of current exploitation or of risk factors to suggest an imminent risk of exploitation. This is a substantial increase from an average of 11 per quarter in 2022/23; this increases to an average of 25 adolescents holding a red RAG rating being discussed in the first two quarters of 2024/25.
- There were 35 young people open to social care at the end of September 2024 who were identified as at risk or involved in Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), the same number as it had been at the same time in 2023. This remains significantly higher than at the same time in 2022, where 9 young people were identified as at risk of CCE. As of September 2024, a further 11 young people were open to adult social care due to a risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), down from the 16 open to services in September 2023 and having been as high as 26 at risk of CSE by the end of 2023/24.
- Due to the increase in the number of young people identified as at risk of CCE and CSE in 2023/24 there are significantly more also engaging with support; 57 young people were engaging with professionals by March 2024 and 57 by the end of September 2024.
- On average, 55 children went missing from home in each quarter of 2023/24 with an average of 101 separate episodes occurring, decreasing from the average of 70 children per quarter and 126 separate episodes noted in 2022/23. Both figures have increased substantially in the first two quarters of 2024/25.

Drugs

Drug offences

- Sussex Police recorded 855 drug possession crimes across 2023/24, 15.8% more than in the previous year. This is due in large part to a significant peak in the number of crimes recorded in August 2023 – 158 crimes were recorded in the month, by far the most in any single month since August 2019. The first six months of 2023/24 has seen a further 481 drug possession crimes recorded, a 4.3% increase compared with the same period the previous year. This contrasts with the 5.1% decrease in recorded drug possession crimes recorded across England and Wales between 2022/23 and 2023/24, however local statistics for both trafficking and possession offences will be heavily influenced by Police operations at a local level.

Figure 24 - Drug possession and drug supply crimes, April 2019 to Sept 2024.

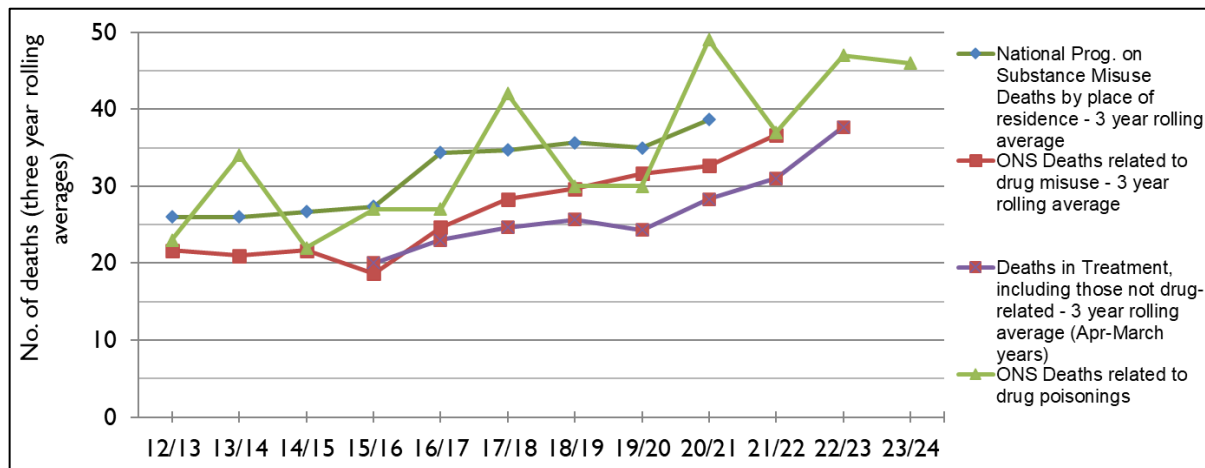


- Drug trafficking offences recorded in the city have consistently been higher in 2023/24 than in the previous year. Across the year 366 offences were recorded, 98% more than the 185 offences recorded in 2022/23. May 2023 saw the most offences recorded in any month since at least 2017, while each month in the year except August saw more crimes recorded than the equivalent month in 2022/23. This increase contrasts with the 20% increase in drug trafficking crimes recorded across England and Wales in the latest year. This increase reflects concerns of open drug dealing and drug use in public spaces raised by local residents. A series of meetings were held by Sussex Police and other partners (including the Community Safety Team) during 2024 to allow residents to voice their concerns and for services to inform the public on current and future efforts to address this issue.
- More information on drug littering can also be found in the Anti-Social Behaviour section in **Section 8**.

Drug related deaths

- There continue to be several different useful measures for tracking drug-related deaths in Brighton & Hove- some of these are presented in the line graph. Since around 2016 these measures have consistently shown an increasing trend. The reasons behind drug-related deaths are often complex but can include relapse from treatment, chronic pain prescribing practice, as well as the availability of strong synthetic opioids.

Figure 25 - Drug related deaths in Brighton and Hove, 2012 to present.




Treatment services

- Brighton & Hove City Council's Drug and Alcohol Strategy highlighted that 61% of young people in drug and alcohol treatment also reported experiencing mental health problems³³; 64% of adults in drug treatment and 63% of people in alcohol treatment had co-occurring mental health needs.
- Sessions run by Brighton & Hove City Council with around 50 people in the city who have accessed drug and alcohol services note a combination of unmet mental health needs, poor/insecure housing and living with other multiple compound needs like homelessness or criminal history are key drivers for beginning or increasing harmful drug and alcohol use.

Safe and Well at Schools Survey (SAWSS) data

- Brighton & Hove City Council's Safe and Well at School Survey (SAWSS), conducted in November and December 2023, asked students aged 11-18 whether if and how often they took any non-prescription drugs.
- The 2023 version of this survey showed 12.6% of all respondents aged 11 to 16 in secondary school said they had taken non-prescribed drugs. Certain demographic groups were identified as statistically significantly more likely to have reported having ever taken non-prescribed drugs:
 - Students who do not identify, or did not always identify, with the gender they were assigned at birth (16.6%)
 - Young carers (22.3%)
 - Students who identify as being from the LGB+ community (14.9%)
 - Students who were adopted (30.9%)
- The proportion of students aged 11 to 16 who had reported having taken non-prescription drugs was the highest in 2023 than in any of the four previous surveys, where 10% to 12.5% of students had reported doing so. All year groups except for Year 11 (aged 15 to 16, where the greatest proportion of secondary school students report having taken drugs but also shows the greatest year-on-year variability) saw substantial increases in the 2023 survey compared to the previous survey in 2021.

How work has progressed in 2024/25

- The actions for this area of work sit under the Violence and Exploitation Reduction Action Plan (VERAP) which is coordinated by Safer Community's Exploitation and Violence Reduction Coordinator. The VERAP is a multi-agency plan, with oversight from the Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership Exploitation Group and the Brighton & Hove Violence Reduction Partnership Executive Group. 
- Local practice of Contextual Safeguarding continues to develop. Police are patrolling the high harm areas where serious violence has been identified, via forums like the Joint Action Group and Serious Violence Working Group. Partnership work between Police, Children's Services,

³³ [Brighton & Hove City Council - Drugs and Alcohol Strategy 2024-30 - PDF.](#)

Youth Justice, Education, Safer Communities and third-sector services is ongoing, to safeguard vulnerable children and young people, and to identify and disrupt those that may be exploiting them.

- Following concerns of increased anti-social behaviour, shoplifting, drug supply and associated violence on London Road and The Level partners have convened regularly since late summer in 2024 to conduct Contextual Safeguarding Strategy meetings. The Exploitation and Violence Reduction Coordinator (Community Safety Team) was tasked with conducting a Location Assessment. They have interviewed several services that operate in the area or work with the young people who use the space and from this generate a report and recommendations for how to address these emerging issues.
- Q2 saw the implementation of a Serious Violence Response Plan to be triggered following a critical incident with the potential to impact community cohesion. This was developed in partnership between Sussex Police and Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) Community Safety, with input from and consultation with local partners. The response plan is held by Sussex Police and will be triggered when they consider that the criteria for it has been met. Development of the response plan came from learnings from the multiagency response following the death of a young person in Brighton in Autumn 2023 due to street violence.
- Following the Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children's Partnership Exploitation Subgroup Workshop, development is underway for a local meeting to focus on the perpetrators of criminal exploitation. An initial scoping session was held in Q2, bringing together Community Safety, Youth Justice, Policing, the Head of Child Safeguarding and the Adolescent Service of Children's Social Care. Development work will continue in to 2025, between Sussex Police and Children's Services.
- The Brighton & Hove Violence Reduction Partnership (BHVRP) funds a range of interventions aimed at children and young people who are either involved with or vulnerable to exploitation or serious violence. This includes detached youthwork, music and sport-based interventions, as well as youthwork offerings based in schools and the local children's Accident and Emergency department.
- The Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Operation Cuckoo meeting is developing a process to address repeat enablers and perpetrators of cuckooing. Work is underway by the Sussex Police Exploitation Team to map the tools and powers available and what terms could be imposed with them to disrupt perpetrators. Once in place this process will form part of the meeting alongside the discussion of how to support and safeguard those experiencing cuckooing.
- Forums such as the Adolescent Vulnerability Risk Meeting and the Operation Safety Youth Meeting (formerly Operation Headland) deliver targeted safeguarding, risk assessment and management for individual children and young people who are known to be at risk of exploitation and/or involvement with serious violence and organised crime. A new Early Intervention Youth ASB meeting has sat since autumn 2024, aimed at identifying and diverting children and young people before they become involved with the criminal justice system.
- Following the successful joint bid between BHCC, East Sussex County Council and Sussex Police for a Home Office pilot for devolved local decision-making for National Referral

Serious violence, drugs and exploitation

Mechanism (NRM) submissions for children, the panel has met monthly since early 2024. The group is chaired by the Head of Adolescent Services with attendance from Sussex Police, NHS, BHCC Children's Services, Education and Community Safety. This process has delivered swift robust decision making for local victims of modern slavery and human trafficking.

- BHCC Children's Services and Adult Services are working in partnership to develop a transitional safeguarding model to meet the safeguarding needs of vulnerable children during their transition to adulthood. Adult Services are developing a broader Transitions Strategy which is due to be published in early 2025.
- Adult Services Multi-Agency Risk Management (MARM) process is now in place as of autumn 2024. This meeting addresses the needs of vulnerable adults with Multiple and Compound Needs, which is a demographic known to be at greater risk of exploitation such as "cuckooing", or involvement with criminal networks.
- BHCC Licensing continue to work in partnership with Sussex Police and the local business community to prevent alcohol related crime and disorder, such as the Sensible On Strength programme, training regarding age-restricted products, test purchase activities and targeted enforcement visits.
- Sussex Police's monthly Op Marble meeting reviews data and processes to reduce serious and alcohol related violence in the night-time economy, whilst identifying and managing repeat perpetrators effectively through quality investigations and use of tools and powers.

Risks and issues of concern



- The Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) is now in the final year of initial guaranteed Violence Reduction Partnership funding from the Home Office – this funding is currently used to pay for a diverse range of interventions in the city aimed at preventing or diverting children and young people, involved or at risk in involvement with exploitation and serious violence. Finding alternative funding or space within mainstream budgets for these activities if guaranteed funding through this route ends will be challenging within the current financial climate. We have recently been notified that funding is likely to continue in 2025/26 but at the time of writing it's unclear how much funding will be available to the Brighton & Hove spoke of the Sussex VRP or what if any changes to the criteria might be imposed by the Home Office.
- The government has indicated that it will introduce Young Futures Prevention Partnerships, aimed at tackling knife crime and addressing rising mental health needs among young people. While this may be a positive opportunity for Brighton & Hove, at this stage little is known of how this will be implemented, how it might interface with the existing work of the Violence Reduction Partnership, what funding might accompany it or what the resource implications might be for BHCC and other partners who may be required to participate.
- The rises in recorded drug possession and trafficking offences, as well as violent and weapon possession offences, some of which are significantly higher than national averages, is an issue of clear concern. While it is acknowledged that statistical outcomes are in part a reflection of the differences in how areas are policed and the recording of offences, it also reflects residents'

concerns of public space drug dealing and perceptions of safety within the city. Work must continue across local partnerships to understand the drivers of these crime types and what more can be done to prevent and disrupt them – within a context of shrinking resource across many statutory and non-statutory services.

Conclusion and recommendations for amendments to Strategy/Action Plan in 2025/26



- Amendment to existing plans on the strategy relating to Urban Street Gangs to reflect the use of location assessments to understand the underlying contextual factors that drive crime and ASB in identified hotspots.
- Remove item on existing plans on the strategy related to the citywide drug summits held in 2023. This work has now moved on in response to the changing picture of public space drug dealing experienced in the city (this is covered in both the ASB and Hate sections, **Section 8** and **Section 9**).

7. Domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women & girls

Our aim: Work in partnership to tackle domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and girls (VAWG) to reduce the harm to individuals and communities

What we want to achieve

- Develop an integrated, coordinated response to domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and girls (VAWG).
- Prevent domestic abuse, sexual violence and VAWG by working in partnership.
- Provide support for survivors/victims.
- Hold perpetrators to account.

National or local policy developments and other changing context



- In July 2024, the government announced its mission to bring forward plans to halve VAWG over the next decade. This is a commendable vision and VAWG Unit awaits the confirmation of the government's strategy to deliver this mission. Jess Philips MP, Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls, confirmed that, going forward, the vehicle for delivery of this commitment will be the Safer Streets workstream. This commitment was reiterated in the Kings Speech, which also referenced the forthcoming Crime and Policing Bill and Victims, Courts and Public Protection Bill which highlight a continued focus on the criminal justice system as well as the need to tackle perpetrators of VAWG.
- The Victims Commissioner, Baroness Newlove, has noted that we are not able to solely police our way out of VAWG but that there is a need for a whole-society approach, with coordinated action across all sectors including education, health and the private sector, and with prevention as a key focus.³⁴
- Brighton & Hove City Council's new Preventing and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2025-2028³⁵, which was agreed at Cabinet in January 2025, aligns with the government aims and the Victim Commissioners recommendation. The strategy has four key priorities:
 - **Strengthening the co-ordinated response** to all forms of VAWG, Domestic Abuse (DA) and Sexual Violence (SV) irrespective of whether the incident occurs in private or public space; we will join up council and partner services and address gaps in provision.
 - **Prioritising prevention** to end VAWG, DA and SV through a collaborative approach to awareness raising, data and information sharing, education and communication campaigns.

³⁴ [Victims Commissioner web article, November 2024.](#)

³⁵ [Brighton & Hove City Council Strategy and Action Plan 2025 to 2028: Preventing and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence - PDF.](#)

- **Supporting survivors** to ensure anyone affected by VAWG, DA and SV has access to high quality trauma-informed support. Working across public, private and third sector partners, with specialist and community providers, we will identify and support victims at an earlier stage.
- **Building an accountable community and changing perpetrator behaviour** by shifting the focus away from the victim’s behaviour to the perpetrator’s, strengthening the criminal justice response and supporting behaviour change.
- Delivery of the strategy will be overseen by a VAWG/DA/SV Oversight Board supported by a subgroup structure of four groups reflecting the four strategic aims.

Levels, trends and patterns



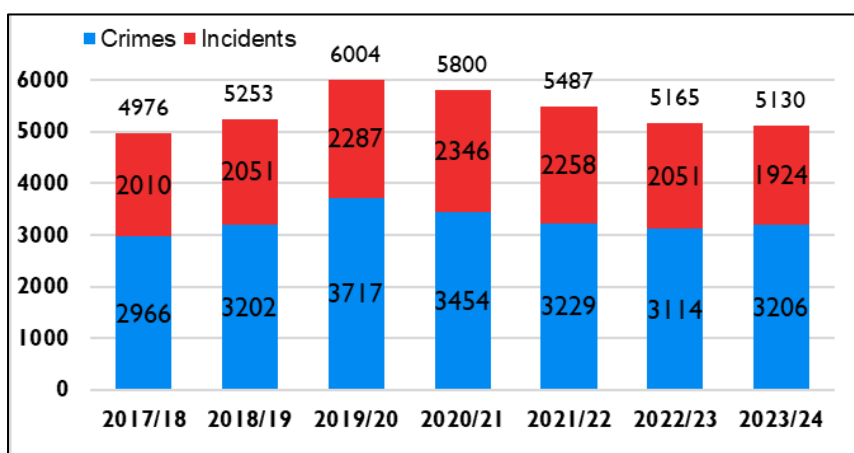
- The level of incidents of VAWG in the city continues to be of significant concern. However, it is widely acknowledged that VAWG continues to be under reported and that there is more to be done to prevent and tackle VAWG. Although, Police data shows an increase in reporting of some forms of VAWG, others including harmful practices remain under reported to criminal justice services.

Domestic Violence and Abuse

Scale and trend of police-recorded data

- In 2023/24 Sussex Police recorded 5,130 crimes and incidents in Brighton & Hove where a flag was applied to indicate the influence of domestic abuse. This is 0.7% less than the 5,165 recorded in 2022/23 and follows a 5.9% decrease in recorded crimes and incidents the previous year. By the end of the first six months of 2024/25 there were a further 2,700 crimes and incidents recorded in the city, 2.1% more than by the same time the previous year.

Figure 26 - Domestic Violence crimes and incidents, Brighton and Hove, 2017/18 to 2023/24.



- In June 2023 changes were made to the way in which domestic abuse crimes and incidents were recorded by police nationwide. This is likely to have contributed to fewer crimes being recorded by the police, where multiple offences were previously recorded.³⁶
- Distinct from police recording, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) continues to ask the public whether they have been victims of crime or abuse even if they did not ever report

³⁶ [Domestic Abuse Commissioner - Report about Home Office Counting Rules, April 2024 - PDF.](#)

Domestic abuse, sexual violence and VAWG

it to authorities. This process recognises that domestic abuse in all forms is severely underreported to authorities. Results of the CSEW in 2023/24³⁷ suggest that, across England and Wales, 3.0% of all men and 6.6% of all women aged over 16 experienced some form of domestic abuse in 2023/24. Using latest 2023 ONS mid-year estimates, that would equate to 8,077 women and 3,492 men being victims of domestic abuse in Brighton & Hove in the last year. In addition, using the above proportions would mean that 33,640 women, and 15,903 men in Brighton & Hove have been a victim of domestic abuse since the age of 16. This would equate to 21% or approximately 1 in 5 of the city's population aged over 16.

Support for victims

Victim Support Domestic Abuse Support Service

- The Domestic Abuse Specialist Service (DASS) at Victim Support came into place in April 2021 to support high risk survivors of domestic abuse in Sussex, also handling referrals from police with different levels of risk.
- In 2023/24, Victim Support received 816 referrals to the Domestic Abuse Specialist Service in Brighton & Hove, a decrease of 7% from 880 in 2022/23. Of these referrals, 500 (61%) were accepted into the service, a similar proportion to the previous year.
- In the first six months of 2024/25, there were a further 214 accepted cases in Brighton & Hove, a 16% reduction compared with the same period in 2023/24. As of the end of September 2024, there were 191 active Brighton & Hove cases, including 65 cases brought forward from a previous quarter.
- Among Brighton and Hove accepted cases in 2023/24, 87.5% were female, 10.7% were male, and 1.8% were trans or non-binary.
- Further demographic data is not available specifically for Brighton and Hove located cases, however of overall accepted cases in 2023/24 (of which Brighton and Hove cases accounted for 76%):
 - Where age was recorded, the highest numbers of cases came from those in the 25 to 34 age group (31%), followed by the 35 to 44 year age group (28%).
 - Where ethnicity was stated, 50% were White British, and 50% were from a Black or racially minoritised background; the largest group within this was White Other (37%), followed by Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (5%) and Asian/ Asian British (4%).
 - Where sexual orientation was stated, 81% were heterosexual, 16% were Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, 1% described their sexual orientation as other, and 2% preferred not to say.
 - 35% had a vulnerability recorded around physical health or disability, and 28% had a mental health need.

³⁷ [Office for National Statistics webpage - Crime Survey for England and Wales supplementary tables, year ending March 2024.](#)

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) cases

- The number of cases discussed at the Brighton & Hove Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) continued to increase; 825 individual cases were discussed throughout 2023/24, a 2.6% increase on the number of cases discussed in 2022/23. The first six months of 2024/25 saw a further 365 cases discussed, 11% fewer than by the same time in 2023/24.
- Throughout 2023/24, 403 cases were referred from the Police, 111 via an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA), 48 from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, 40 from substance misuse services and 36 from Housing. Other referrals came from Probation, Mental Health services, Adult Social Care and a large number of cases from other sources.
- Whereas MARACs across England heard around 45 cases per 10,000 adult female population in 2023/24³⁸, increasing to around 46 per 10,000 for MARACs across Sussex, the Brighton & Hove MARAC heard 68 cases per 10,000 adult female population that year.
- In the last three years the proportion of cases discussed at MARAC having originated from the Police has steadily declined; around 62% of cases discussed came from the Police in 2021/22, falling to 59% of cases in 2022/23 and 48% in 2023/24. Conversely, cases originating from an IDVA grew substantially in 2023/24, increasing from around 7% of cases in 2022/23 to 13.5% in the latest financial year.
- The proportion of repeat cases heard at the Brighton & Hove MARAC in 2023/24 continues to decrease; 37.6% of cases heard that year were repeats – referring to cases heard where more than one instance of abuse has occurred between the same perpetrator(s) and victim within 12 months of an original MARAC referral. This figure is down substantially from 42.3% in 2022/23 – current MARAC expected repeat levels are between 28% and 40% nationwide³⁹. Current figures continue to remain greater than the percentage of repeat cases heard around Sussex as a whole (32%) and England (30%) in 2023/24.
- In 2023/24, 324 MARAC cases discussed related to someone with a disability, 39% of all cases heard. This is greater than the 33% of cases in 2022/23 and 36% heard in 2021/22. Similarly, proportionally more cases involving male victims (82, 10%) were heard at MARAC in 2023/24 than in the previous financial year (62, 7.7%) and 2021/22 (52, 7.2%).
- The proportion of cases involving an LGBTQ+ victim increased slightly from 2.6% in 2022/23 to 3.9% in 2023/24 but remains lower than the 8.8% of all cases heard in 2021/22.

Stonewater Brighton Refuge

- There continue to be 15 places in the Stonewater Brighton Refuge providing accommodation and support for women and their children fleeing domestic abuse. During 2023/24 a total of 35 women and 29 children were supported throughout 2023/24, similar to figures seen in previous

³⁸ [SafeLives webpage - MARAC data.](#)

³⁹ [SafeLives webpage - guidance for reviewing MARAC data.](#)

Domestic abuse, sexual violence and VAWG

years. Throughout the first six months of 2024/25 a further 25 women and 27 children have been provided accommodation by the service.

- The refuge service continues to be profoundly oversubscribed, with 122 referrals needing to be rejected out of 145 total referrals in the year, of which 62 were due to a lack of available rooms within the refuge. All the referred clients from Brighton & Hove were accommodated within 48 hours of a vacancy becoming available and all referrals to the service during the year were assessed, and a decision made, within five hours.
- In 2023/24 the refuge had a 95% occupancy rate. Only 39% of people staying at the refuge throughout the year were able to leave the service within six months, with 96% of respondents to its satisfaction survey expressing overall satisfaction with the service.
- Around 50% of all women who resided at the refuge during the year were from an ethnicity other than White British, continuing the trend of accepted referrals coming disproportionately from non-White British victims of domestic abuse, considering the demographic makeup of the city.

Housing and homelessness data

- Local authorities have a duty to prevent homelessness and provide assistance to people threatened with or who are already homeless.
- In 2023/24, Brighton and Hove City Council assessed 169 homeless applications as owed a duty (either prevention or relief) where the reason for the loss of a settled home was related to domestic abuse⁴⁰. This accounted for 10% of all homelessness applications which have been assessed as being owed a duty, a similar proportion as seen in 2022/23. Overall numbers of homelessness applications owed a duty by the local authority for reasons of domestic abuse have risen slightly since 2022/23, where 156 were recorded.
- The acceptance rate for main duty decisions made where the reason for the loss of settled home at the time of assessment was related to domestic abuse was 100% (36 of 36) in both 2022/23 and in 2023/24 (38 of 38)⁴¹. Main duty decisions relating to domestic abuse are comparatively lower than assessments relating to domestic abuse, as interventions may have been made at an earlier stage (such as providing prevention or relief duty), before a main duty decision was required.
- The Brighton & Hove Flexible Fund is a last resort fund for survivors of domestic abuse living in the city. People can apply to this fund for payment to support buying goods and services which can make a positive difference to their housing situation, such as removal and storage costs, paying for white goods and furniture, replacing essential documents, as well as other emergency expenditure. In 2023/24, there were 43 successful applications to the Flexible Fund, including those who were made awards via the MARAC. There have been a further 16 successful applications made to the fund in 2024/25 to the end of November 2024.

⁴⁰ [GOV.UK webpage -Tables on homelessness](#). Statutory homelessness: Detailed local authority-level tables, April 2023 – March 2024.

⁴¹ Data extracted from [Home Connections database webpage](#). November 2024.

Domestic abuse-related anti-social behaviour reported to council housing

- Victim / witness reports of anti-social behaviour to the council's Housing Team showed that there were 96 reports involving domestic violence/ abuse in 2023/24, making up 14% of reported cases. These had increased significantly from 64 reports in 2022/23.

Safeguarding Adults

- In 2023/24, Brighton & Hove City Council concluded 129 Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries⁴² relating to domestic abuse – greater than the 112 recorded the previous year and significantly more than the 83 recorded in 2021/22. This is despite the overall number of Safeguarding Enquiries across the city falling by around 3% from 867 to 840 in 2023/24.
- Of these 129 domestic abuse-related enquiries, 115 were recorded as having been the result of concerns made about a person's safeguarding in their own home, and a further 15 of people in the community, rounded to the nearest five⁴³.
- Separately, the University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust recorded 17 safeguarding concerns relating to domestic abuse regarding its patients in 2023/24. This continues a steady yearly decrease in the number of recorded concerns; 24 had been recorded in 2022/23, 41 in 2021/22 and 67 in 2020/21. The Safeguarding Adults Board⁴⁴ note this decrease takes the number of overall yearly concerns lower than numbers being recorded by the Trust before the COVID pandemic.
- Conversely, the Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT) noted an increase in the number of safeguarding concern incidents raised about domestic or sexual abuse. The Trust raised 45 concerns with Brighton & Hove City Council in 2023/24 due to domestic abuse, nearly double the 24 raised in the previous year. Separately, there were 19 safeguarding concerns raised due to sexual abuse in 2023/24, compared with 17 the previous year.

Children and young people

Children in Need

- There were 1,991 Children in Need (CIN)⁴⁵ recorded as of 31 March 2024 in Brighton & Hove, a reduction from 2,180 in 2022/23 and the 2,378 in 2021/22. Children in Need Assessments in the city found:
 - 131 cases where children were considered at risk due to directly experiencing domestic abuse, a slight increase from 120 recorded in 2022/23 and stopping a general downward trend from a peak of 227 instances in 2020.

⁴²[Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023 to 2024 - PDF](#). - more than one category of abuse or neglect can be recorded for each enquiry - this reflects that abuse or neglect often relates to more than one single concern and may encompass several issues.

⁴³ [NHS England Digital webpage - Safeguarding Adults 2023/24 data](#).

⁴⁴ [Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Adults Board main webpage](#).

⁴⁵ [Gov.uk webpage - Number of Children in Need, Reporting year 2024](#).

Domestic abuse, sexual violence and VAWG

- 689 instances of risk due to a child's parent/parents experiencing domestic abuse, a reduction from the 816 instances recorded in 2022/23 - which had previously been the highest in at least five years.
- 118 instances of risk due to someone else experiencing domestic abuse, a decrease on the 142 instances recorded in 2022/23 and continuing the general downward trend in this being reported.

Safe and Well at School Survey 2023

- Brighton & Hove City Council's Safe and Well at Schools Survey (SAWSS⁴⁶) asked secondary school students (aged between 11 and 16) whether they had ever been in a romantic relationship and if in any of these relationships they had experienced harmful behaviours such as being yelled at, being put down and/or humiliated, being hit, kicked, pushed or slapped, or being constantly checked up on.
- Among students who confirmed they had been in a relationship, 40% of Key Stage 3 students (aged 11-14) had experienced at least one problematic behaviour in their relationship(s), increasing to 45% of students in Key Stage 4 (aged 15-16).
- Students more likely than average⁴⁷ to report having experienced at least one problematic relationship behaviour were those who need extra help in school (53%), young carers (55%), students who do not ever or always identify with their gender assigned at birth (50%), students who are currently or previously been in care or living with Kinship Carers (57%), students who are LGB+, and those who are in the most financial hardship (48% respectively).
- There was no significant difference between boys and girls being more likely to report experiencing at least one problematic relationship behaviour. However, boys were more likely to have ever been hit while in a relationship (19%) than girls (14%), while girls were more likely to have ever been humiliated or put down (26%) than boys (18%).
- The survey also asked students whether they had seen a selection of harmful sexual behaviours in school at some point in the last year. Among all secondary school pupils responding to this question:
 - 18% reported that sexual harassment (unwanted sexual behaviour towards a person making them scared, upset, offended or humiliated) occurred at school at least once in the last year.
 - 54% had heard rumours about someone else's sexual activity.
 - 47% had heard sexist name calling.
 - 16% knew about someone sending or receiving nude images/videos.
 - 20% reported seeing sexual images/videos being shared without consent.

⁴⁶ [Safe and Well at Schools Survey 2023 Report, Brighton and Hove City Council.](#)

⁴⁷ Statistically significant at the 95% (p = 0.05) level.

- 62% of KS3 pupils, and 47% of KS4 pupils responded that they agreed or strongly agreed that they would tell a teacher or member of school staff if they had concerns about sexual harassment.

Reducing offending

Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs)

- DVPOs are civil orders designed to provide security to victims of domestic abuse by enabling police and magistrates' courts to put in place protective measures in the immediate aftermath of a domestic violence incident where there is insufficient evidence to charge a perpetrator and provide protection to a victim via bail conditions⁴⁸. These do not necessarily need the involvement or consent of victims as it may be adjudicated that the presence of coercive and controlling behaviour has affected the victim's decision-making, or that a DVPO may simply be necessary to protect the victims.
- In 2023/24 there were 76 applications for a DVPO, of which 72 (95%) were granted by the courts, a significant increase from the 60 applications made in 2022/23 (56 confirmed). This continues the increase in applications made since the extensive drop in applications during the COVID pandemic. A further 32 applications have been made in the first six months of 2024/25. Of these, 20 DVPOs were breached in 2023/24 - similar to the 21 breached in the previous year – and a further 11 in the six months to September 2024.

Right to Ask and Right to Know applications

- Right to Ask and Right to Know applications⁴⁹ are legal tools which allow anyone to request information about another person as to whether they have a history of violence and abusive offending that may pose a risk. Any request can be made by any person, including a third party acting on someone else's behalf, in case they believe someone to be at risk from their current or prospective partner. These form part of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), also known as Clare's Law.
- Right to Ask applications can be made by any a member of the public, whereas Right to Know disclosures can be made only by the police or partner agencies where they come into knowledge of information that indicates someone is at risk of domestic abuse. In the latter case, any information will be provided to a local MARAC to confirm if a disclosure should be made.
- In 2023/24 there were 43 Right to Know applications proceeded with and a disclosure made in 30 (70%) of cases. In the first six months of 2024/25 there were a further 43 proceeded applications and 24 disclosures (56%) made. Previously, the number of 'Right to Know' applications had fluctuated between 19 and 37 over the last five years.
- In 2023/24 there were 154 Right to Ask applications proceeded with and a disclosure made in 102 (66%) of cases, far greater than the 48 proceeded applications and 34 disclosures the

⁴⁸ [GOV.UK webpage - Domestic Violence Protection Notices \(DVPNs\) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders \(DVPOs\) guidance.](#)

⁴⁹ [GOV.UK webpage - Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme factsheet.](#)

Domestic abuse, sexual violence and VAWG

previous year. The first six months of 2024/25 saw a further 212 applications and 145 disclosures made (68%), continuing the long-term increase.

- The increase in both Right to Ask and Right to Know applications can be attributed to greater publication of the DVDS scheme across the city, including coverage of the scheme's 10-year anniversary in March 2024 and specific work by Sussex Police in response to a Domestic Homicide Review recommendation⁵⁰.

MATAC

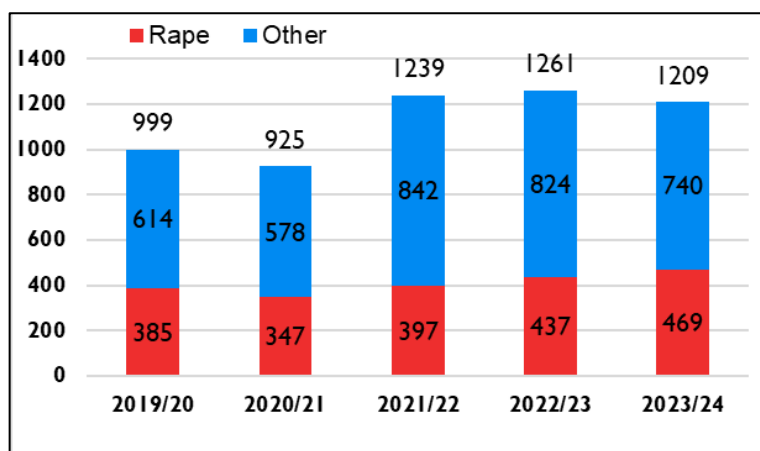
- The Brighton and Hove Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination to reduce domestic abuse offending (MATAC) has been operational since October 2023. During this time, 17 perpetrators have been discussed at MATAC, for a period of up to four months. The majority of perpetrators were males, with no female perpetrators and fewer than five offenders who were transgender. Perpetrators were also predominantly White British, with fewer than five BME offenders.

Sexual Violence

Scale and trend of police-recorded data

- In 2023/24 there were 1,209 police recorded sexual offences, 4.1% less than the 1,269 offences recorded the previous year. This included 469 rape or attempted rape offences, 7.3% more than the 437 offences recorded in 2022/23 and continuing a long-term upwards trend.

Figure 27 - Sexual Offences by type, Brighton and Hove, 2019/20 to 2023/24.



- In the first six months of 2024/25 an additional 643 sexual offences were recorded by Sussex Police, 5.1% more than by the same point in 2023/24. By the end of September 2024, rape or attempted rape offences had conversely been recorded 14% less than by the same time in 2023; 209 offences were recorded compared with 243 in the six months to the end of September 2023.
- The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) in 2023/24⁵¹ suggest that, across England and Wales, 0.8% of all men and 3.4% of all women aged over 16 experienced some form of sexual

⁵⁰ [Safer West Sussex Partnership 2024 PDF - Executive Summary of the Domestic Homicide Review relating to the death of Emma.](#)

⁵¹ [Office for National Statistics web report - Domestic abuse section, Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2024.](#)

assault in the last year⁵². Using latest 2023 ONS mid-year estimates, it is estimated that 4,174 women and 929 men aged over 16 in Brighton & Hove were a victim of any sexual assault in the last year. In addition, 27% of women, and 6% of men had been a victim of any sexual assault since the age of 16. Using local population estimates, this equates to 33,026 women, and 6,617 men in Brighton and Hove who are estimated to have been a victim of any sexual assault since the age of 16.

Safeguarding Adults

- In 2023/24 there were 94 concluded Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries by Brighton & Hove City Council⁵³ due to a risk of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, out of 840 total enquiries made in the year, very similar to the 101 recorded in 2022/23 but substantially more than the 58 recorded in 2021/22. Among these 94 enquiries, 30 relate to abuse experienced at home, 30 in the community and the remainder in a hospital or other community or care service, rounded to the nearest five.
- Out of these concluded safeguarding enquiries, there were 25 Section 42 enquiries relating specifically to sexual exploitation in 2023/24, a continued increase on the 20 made in 2022/23 and the 10 made in 2021/22.

Housing and homelessness

- In 2023/24, 50 households who were owed a homelessness duty (prevention or relief) by Brighton & Hove City Council had support needs because they had experienced or were at risk of experiencing sexual abuse or exploitation⁵⁴. This equates to 2.8% of the 1,756 households assessed as being owed a homelessness relief or prevention duty by the local authority during the year and remains similar to the 57 households (3.4%) assessed as having the same support need when considered to be owed a homelessness prevention duty in 2022/23.

Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) data

- The Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) record incidents of sexual harassment, including inappropriate or unwanted sexual contact, inappropriate sexual language, upskirting and indecent exposure. A total of 82 incidents in the city were reported in 2024 to date, up to November. Over half of these were recorded as either inappropriate sexual contact, or unwanted contact/ sexual advances. Incidents could be recorded as more than one different type of sexual harassment. The BCRP report an increase in reports by their members of this type of behaviour.

Health Counts

- Health Counts 2024 asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove⁴, including questions around feelings of safety, worry about rape and sexual assault, and experiences of sexual harassment.

⁵² Sexual assault within this survey includes any assault of rape or penetration, including attempts, indecent exposure, and unwanted sexual touching

⁵³ [Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 23-24.](#)

⁵⁴ [Gov.uk webpage - statistics on homelessness.](#)

Domestic abuse, sexual violence and VAWG

- Nearly half of all female respondents (48%) reported feeling very or a bit unsafe walking alone within approximately 15 minutes from their home at night, compared with 19% of male respondents, and 34% of Health Counts respondents overall. Respondents aged 18 to 24 and 25 to 34 were significantly more likely than the city average to report feeling a bit or very unsafe at night, as well as people aged 85 years or over.
- Health Counts 2024 asked respondents how worried they were about being sexually assaulted or raped. Over one in five respondents (21%) reported that they were very or fairly worried. This was significantly higher for females than males, with 34% of females reporting that they were very or fairly worried about being sexually assaulted/raped, compared to 7% of males.
- Respondents in younger age groups had significantly higher levels of worry about sexual assault or rape compared with respondents as a whole, with 40% of respondents aged 18-24 years, and 30% aged 25-34 years reporting they were very or fairly worried about being sexually assaulted or raped.
- Respondents from mixed/ multiple ethnic groups, or who described their ethnicity as 'Other'⁵⁵, are Trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI), LGBTQ+, disabled, or live in temporary/ emergency accommodation, as well as respondents who live in the most deprived areas of the city were all significantly more likely to report feeling very or fairly worried about being sexually assaulted/raped.
- Health Counts also asked about experiences of sexual harassment. Of Health Counts respondents, 16% had experienced catcalls, whistles, unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger in a public space in the last 12 months. This compared to 8% for Great Britain in 2022 from the ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey. Younger respondents had significantly higher levels of experience of sexual harassment than all respondents; 42% of 18-24 year olds, and 27% of 25-34 year olds reported experiencing catcalls, whistles, unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger in a public space in the last 12 months.
- Over one in four (26%) female respondents, compared to one in twenty (5%) male respondents reported experiencing catcalls, whistles, unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger in a public space in the last 12 months.
- Respondents from mixed/ multiple ethnic groups, or of Arab ethnicity, are TNBI, LGBTQ+, disabled, or live in temporary/ emergency accommodation all had significantly higher levels of experience of catcalls, whistles, unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger in a public space in the last 12 months, compared with all respondents.
- In addition, 13% of Health Counts respondents reported having experienced feeling as though they were being followed in the past 12 months. This compared to 7% for Great Britain in 2022 from the ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey. Again, younger respondents were significantly more likely to report having experienced this; 34% aged 18-24 years, and 21% aged 25-34

⁵⁵ Ethnic groups included Asian or Asian British; Black, Black British, Caribbean or African; Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups; Arab; Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller; White British; White Irish or other White; or Other ethnic group.

years reported having experienced feeling as though they were being followed in the past 12 months.

- TNBI, LGBTQ+, female, and disabled respondents, as well as respondents from mixed/ multiple ethnic groups, or who are living in temporary/ emergency accommodation, or who have experience of the care system as a child/ young person all showed significantly higher levels of experience of feeling as though they were being followed in the past 12 months, compared with all respondents.

Specialist Services

- **Survivors' Network**⁵⁶ – the sexual assault and abuse survivors' support service - received 651 referrals to its frontline Welcome Team in 2023/24 excluding those from its outreach work, a decrease from the 735 received in the previous year and 835 in 2021/22. The Networks' helpline and its provisions for group work hold no waiting list, while it continues to offer specialist spaces for gender-diverse, neurodiverse and over-50 survivors; the service received 171 referrals for groupwork in 2023/24 and a further 104 in the six months to September 2024.
- The waiting list for the therapeutic service for adult survivors of sexual violence grew to over 1,000 people during the COVID pandemic due to the rapid growth in demand and waiting times, being closed in November 2022. Its waiting list remains closed, with around 350 people now awaiting therapy by December 2024. The Network continues its work as part of the Trauma Pathway, the group of statutory and VCSE-sector partners supporting survivors of sexual trauma on a 1:1 basis. The service aims to provide services which bridge the gap between primary and secondary services, where survivors are often at risk of falling between these following an assessment of their overall risk.
- In 2023/24, 275 people were supported in counselling - more than the 231 in the previous year – as well as a further 118 in the six months between April and September 2024. Similarly, there were 170 referrals made to the Adult Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) in 2023/24 and a further 90 in the six months to September 2024, very similar to the number made in the first six months of 2022/23. A combination of increased waiting times within the judicial process and the need for additional advocacy requirements has required the service to keep cases open for longer, slowing the overall throughput of services – its Welcome Team notes waiting times for allocating support has increased from three to six months, with those assessed as highest priority offered check-in support by a duty worker.
- Survivors' Network also continues to provide advocacy support for children and young people, with 75 referrals received by the service across 2023/24 and a further 25 in the first six months of 2024/25 to its Children's ISVA. Their work includes advocacy for any children going through the judicial process alongside their parents/carers, tailored groupwork and specialist trauma therapy for those aged 14+. The waiting list for this remains closed due to the rapid growth in demand prior to mid-2023.

⁵⁶ [Survivors Network webpage.](#)

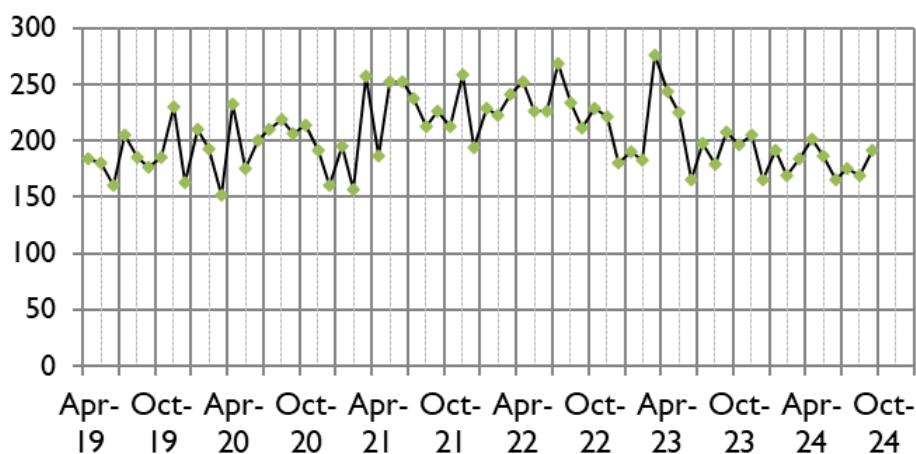
Domestic abuse, sexual violence and VAWG

- **Mankind**⁵⁷ is a support service for men affected by unwanted sexual experiences. Across 2023/24, 229 referrals were made to the service, of which 83% (190) were accepted for support by the team. Mankind notes that dropout rates are very high due to the service taking on referrals for people with severe complex needs who would otherwise have been supported by secondary mental health services within the NHS, meaning they are either too high-risk for the service to support - who are re-referred elsewhere - or in circumstances where the 1:1 support offered is not appropriate at that time. A further 134 referrals were made in the six months to September 2024, of which 84% (112) were accepted by Mankind.

Other VAWG Crime Types

- In 2023/24 there were 2,329 stalking and harassment crimes – encompassing a broad group of crimes including stalking, harassment, threatening communications and controlling and coercive behaviour - recorded in the city, 15.4% fewer than the 2,753 recorded in 2022/23. In the six months to the end of September 2024 there were a further 1,090 stalking and harassment crimes recorded, 10.8% fewer than the 1,222 recorded in the same period the previous year.

Figure 28 - Stalking and Harassment Crimes, April 2019 to Sept 2024.



- The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) in 2023/24⁵⁸ suggest that, across England and Wales 4% of women, and 2.3% of men aged over 16 experienced stalking in the last year. Using latest ONS mid-year population statistics, we can estimate that this equates to 4,911 women, and 2,670 men in Brighton and Hove who have experienced stalking in the last year.
- **Veritas**⁵⁹ provides specialist advice and advocacy support across Sussex to victims of stalking. In 2023/24, Veritas received 467 unique referrals from residents of Brighton & Hove, from which 302 people became clients. This resulted in an uptake rate (65%), considerably higher than in 2022/23, where 570 unique referrals and 276 unique clients resulted in a 48% uptake. The service received a further 186 referrals in the six months to September 2024, from which 136 became clients.

⁵⁷ [Mankind main webpage.](#)

⁵⁸ [Office for National Statistics webpage - police recorded statistics and results from Crime Survey for England and Wales, year ending March 2024.](#)

⁵⁹ [Veritas Justice main webpage.](#)

- Among the people who became unique clients and reported their gender to the service between April 2023 and September 2024, 80% self-reported as women, 8.5% as men, 2.5% as non-binary and 9% as another gender.
- Twenty-six percent of new clients given support by Veritas reported additional support needs around mental health, while 11% reported a physical health need. While 63% of instances of stalking mentioned by people accessing the service were related to an ex-partner, a further 27% to an acquaintance; a further 5% were being stalked by a stranger and 3% by a family member. Much like other services, Veritas notes that continued long delays in the criminal justice system have impacted survivors of stalking by prolonging the time taken to secure protective orders or criminal outcomes. The service recognises that in some cases these delays lead to survivors withdrawing from the judicial process, leaving them at risk of further abuse. In November 2024 Sussex Police submitted its organisational response to a super-complaint raised by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust on behalf of National Stalking Consortium around police responses to stalking nationwide⁶⁰.
- The Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) recorded 25 incidents in 2024 to date (up to November 2024) of stalking/ following, or suspected stalking.
- Across the city in 2023/24 there were 45 attendances at Accident and Emergency where spiking was suspected, a reduction on the 59 instances recorded in 2022/23. Among these recorded cases around 73% were relating to female patients, with recorded ages clustering around the 18 to 24 group, and another for women in their forties.
- NHS healthcare providers in Brighton & Hove⁶¹ identified 15 new individuals who had experienced Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in 2023/24, an increase from the five newly identified individuals with FGM in 2022/23. Victims were identified across ages 18 to 44, when first presenting to a healthcare service, and most were identified by Midwifery services.
- No FGM crimes have been recorded by Sussex Police in Brighton & Hove to date. Current Home Office crime counting rules⁶² require all regulated health and social care professionals and teachers to report 'known' cases of FGM in girls under 18 – including those cases having occurred abroad - to the police, which must be recorded as crimes unless there is immediately available credible evidence to show that a crime has not occurred.
- There were 8 Police recorded so-called Honour Based Violence offences recorded in Brighton and Hove in 2023/24, compared with 7 the previous year. There have been fewer than five so-called Honour Based Violence offences recorded in the first six months of 2024/25.
- There have been no police recorded offences of Forced Marriage in the past five years in Brighton and Hove.

⁶⁰ [Sussex Police Report - the super-complaint made by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust / National Stalking Consortium, November 2024 - PDF.](#)

⁶¹ [NHS England Digital webpage - Female Genital Mutilation, Annual Report - April 2023 to March 2024.](#) – figures rounded to the nearest five.

⁶² [Home Office Crime Recording Rules for 2025/26, PDF.](#)

How work has progressed in 2024/25



- The VAWG Unit has continued to work with internal and external partners to improve the local response to VAWG, domestic abuse and sexual violence. This has included participation in the Pan Sussex Domestic Abuse Board arrangements, facilitating the weekly MARAC, organising training and VAWG Network events and supporting the launch of the Safehaven by the Sea Report – a report commissioned by Brighton & Hove City Council to look at improving the housing response to domestic abuse and taking forward the recommendations in partnership with partners across the registered provider and statutory housing sector.
- Work to improve outcomes for those with multiple disadvantage has continued, with the VAWG Unit and commissioned services participating in the evaluation of the Changing Futures workstream through the lens of the MARAC participants. Partners from Safer Communities have taken forward the work on supporting victims with multiple disadvantage by working to improve the identification of victims of VAWG who are identified in Cuckooing situations, as well as ensuring that the work of Brighton Women’s Centre with this cohort is acknowledged to align with this workstream.
- The VAWG Unit have seen the benefit to survivors of the additional service provision funded via New Burdens funding, which saw 589 individuals supported in safe accommodation in 2023/24. In addition, an internal VAWG/DA/SV Summit was held to ensure that Leaders were sighted on their role in preventing and tackling VAWG/DA/SV and committed to delivering actionable outcomes in their service individual service areas to tackle VAWG/DA/SV to take forward the “One Council Approach”.
- The VAWG Unit also coordinated the Learning event for the Operation Magnesium Domestic Homicide Review in November 2024 and continue to cascade the learning from this Review to partners.
- Victim Support, the locally commissioned service supporting high risk MARAC cases, have improved the risk assessment process used by their IDVAs (Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates) to incorporate the Homicide Timeline guidance developed by Professor Jane Monckton Smith⁶³.

Risks and issue of concern



- Domestic Abuse Related Death (DARD) Reviews - the requirement to undertake reviews into suicide deaths where there has been a history of domestic abuse has highlighted a significant number of deaths, both nationally and locally. Going forward, the VAWG Unit and Public Health will rollout suicide prevention awareness training for staff in the VAWG sector. However, there is more to be done to ensure that all services working with victims understand the link between domestic abuse and suicide. There is a need to ensure we continue to understand and reduce the risk in domestic abuse cases and support staff across the partnership with the tools to support their clients.

⁶³ [Homicide Timeline main webpage.](#)

- Court system - continued delays in the judicial system have a negative impact on gaining justice for victims/survivors and sends a message to those who perpetrate that there are limited consequences for harming people. Feedback from the Victims of Lived Experience Board (VOLEB) has identified a similar concern linked to the Family Courts. Unsafe parental contact has also been considered by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Domestic Violence. There is a need to have a better understanding of the court situation locally and whether there is a need for improvement.
- Funding pressures - recent changes to national insurance contributions for voluntary sector providers is of concern due to the increases that providers will have to meet, which may impact on service delivery.
- Protected characteristics and intersectionality - feedback from survivors and providers frequently highlights the challenges for victim/survivors with intersecting protected characteristics in accessing support. Going forward we will hold meetings with specialists to improve how we respond to these challenges and inform future commissioning decisions.

Conclusion and recommendations for amendments to Strategy/Action Plan in 2025/26



- The local authority and its partners will continue to coordinate the partnership response to VAWG/DA/SV.
- With the launch of the Preventing and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy, there is a need to note the delivery of that strategy against this workplan. The new VAWG/DA/SV Oversight Board and subgroup structure will deliver the VAWG/DA/SV strategy which aligns with the aims of the Community Safety Partnership Board.
- The government and national policing agencies acknowledge that VAWG is at epidemic levels nationally. The forthcoming government strategy will provide a framework which will influence how the Community Safety Partnership will tackle VAWG/DA/SV going forward.
- The weekly MARAC will continue to coordinate the support for high-risk victims.
- The VAWG Unit will continue to provide internal consultancy and advice to support the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, as well as guidance and training to a wide range of professionals including social workers, housing and health professionals and those working in the community and voluntary sector.
- The learning from the Domestic Related Abuse Death Reviews will be disseminated to the partners to ensure that the learning is shared and action taken to embed learning into the response to VAWG/DA/SV.
- We will continue to work with Pan Sussex Partners to participate in regional initiatives to tackle VAWG/DA/SV.

8. Anti-social behaviour

Our aim: Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is reduced and causes less harm to individuals and communities, and trust and confidence in statutory services by those impacted by ASB is increased

What we want to achieve

- Reported anti-social behaviour (ASB) is assessed and responded to appropriately and consistently, making best use of resources.
- Harm caused by ASB to our most vulnerable residents and ASB in vulnerable geographical locations is reduced.
- ASB committed by priority and repeat perpetrators is reduced, making best use of tools and powers available.
- ASB, risk and harm associated with the street community and unauthorised encampments is reduced using supportive interventions, and enforcement where necessary.
- Youth ASB is identified and addressed at the earliest opportunity using supportive interventions and diversionary activities, and enforcement where necessary.
- Successes are communicated to key partners and communities while encouraging and supporting people to report ASB to statutory services.

National or local policy developments or other changing context



National

- The previous Government's ASB action plan published in March 2023 is unlikely to be taken forward. Initial communication from the current government suggest they are prioritising initiatives and/or legislation to address:
 - anti-social behaviour involving vehicles.
 - retail crime.
 - the most prolific ASB offenders involved in public drinking and drug use public space ASB, including the introduction of Respect Orders.
- They are also proposing a Young Futures programme, creating prevention partnerships to map existing youth provision and at-risk individuals and ensure children and young people receive the support they need to stop them being pulled into a life of crime.
- The Government will be promoting the ASB Case Review mechanism which gives victims of repeated ASB the ability to request a formal case review.

Local

- We have seen an increase in overt drug use and associated ASB in some central areas of the city and are working with those affected and key partners to find both short and long term solutions, including better communication about work being undertaken and successes.
- New Policing Priorities and High Harm hot spots teams are conducting both covert and overt activity in identified geographical areas of the city and co-ordinating multi-agency days of action in these locations to address ASB, overseen by the Joint Action Group.

Levels, trends and patterns

Police recorded crimes and incidents



- In 2023/24 there were 4,870 ASB incidents recorded by Sussex Police in the city, 13% greater than in 2022/23. This trend has continued in the first six months of 2024/25, with a 12% increase in ASB incidents compared with the same period in 2023/24. Despite recent increases, this remains part of a longer-term decline in recorded ASB incidents over the last decade, bar the substantial increase in recorded ASB related to COVID-related regulation breaches and neighbour disputes in 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- Among the three types of ASB incidents recorded by police – Personal, Nuisance and Environmental – Nuisance and Personal incidents both rose by around 14% in 2023/24. Nuisance incidents remained by far the most common type of ASB incident recorded, making up 85% of all cases recorded by Sussex Police.

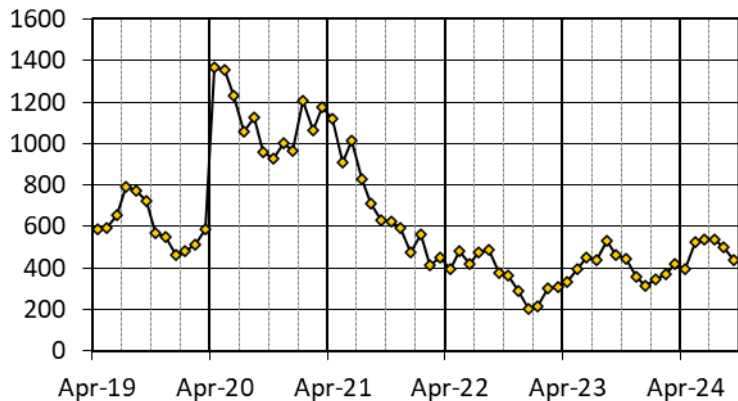
ASB Nuisance – includes reports of noise, street drinking, aggressive begging, alcohol - related incidents and public drug dealing.

ASB Personal – includes reports of neighbourly issues, harassment or threats, drug use and hate incidents not recorded by Sussex Police as a hate crime / incident.

ASB Environmental – includes reports of littering, fly tipping, drug litter and other evidence of drug use, graffiti, tent encampments etc

These lists are not exhaustive or mutually exclusive. Within each category there is a wide range in harms caused, severity and their geographical impact.

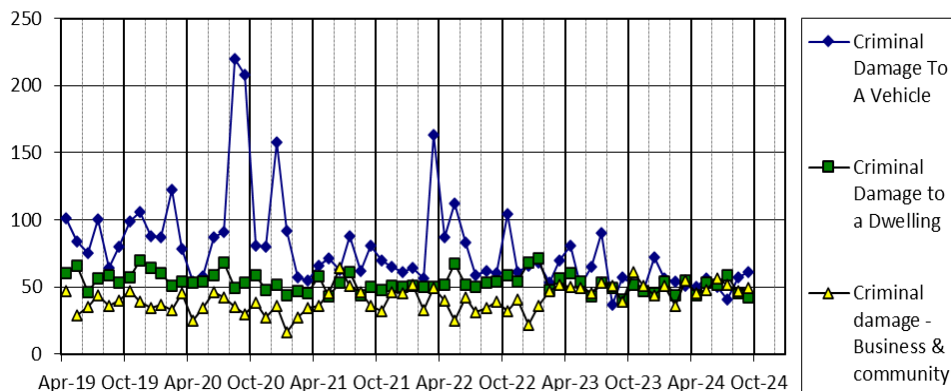
Figure 29 - Anti-social behaviour incidents, April 2019 to Sept 2024.



Criminal damage and arson

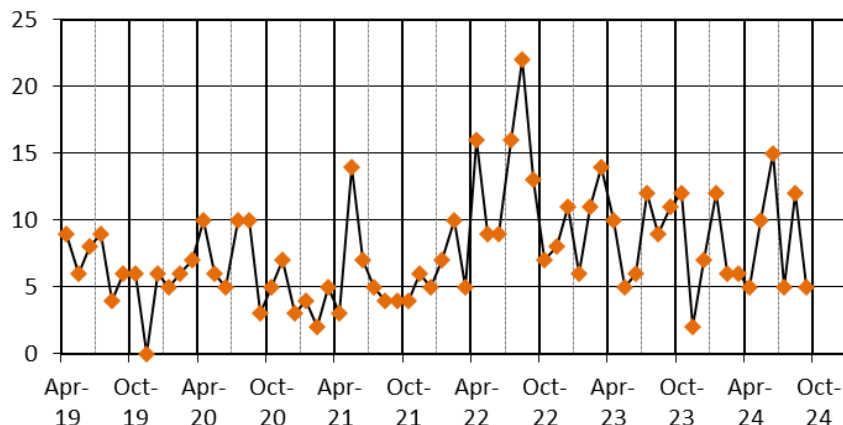
- In 2023/24 there were 2,423 criminal damage and arson offences in the city, 7.6% fewer than the 2,621 recorded in the previous year and continuing a gradual decrease in recorded offences from the 2,934 recorded in 2019/20. The first six months of 2024/25 have seen a further 1,189 recorded crimes, 4% fewer than in the same period in 2023/24.

Figure 30 - Criminal damage crimes, April 2019 to Sept 2024.



- The number of arson offences recorded in the city decreased considerably in 2023/24 compared to the previous year, however it is important to note that 2022/23 had seen a rapid increase in recorded offences compared with previous years. Across 2023/24, 99 arson crimes were recorded by police, whereas in 2022/23 there were 143 crimes recorded. The 99 crimes recorded in 2023/24 are still greater than in previous years; between 65 and 85 crimes per year had been recorded in the four years from 2018/19 to 2021/22. The six months to September 2024 saw a further 52 arson crimes recorded, very similar to the 53 recorded between April and September 2023.

Figure 31 - Arson crimes, April 2019 to Sept 2024.



- Despite the overall decrease in recorded criminal damage and arson offences, there was a notable increase in the number of business and community-related criminal damage crimes in the city in 2023/24. Following the 442 crimes recorded in 2022/23 there were 585 recorded in 2023/24, a 32.4% increase. The first six months of 2024/25 saw a further 297 crimes recorded, a further 3.5% higher than by the same time in 2023/24. Conversely, vehicle-related criminal damage crimes recorded to September 2024 were 17.5% lower than by the same time in 2023.

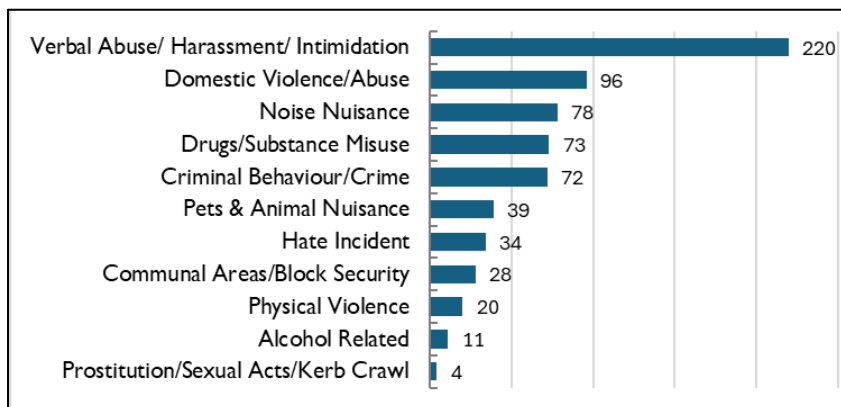
ASB reports to the Community Safety Casework Team

- The number of initial reports of ASB received by BHCC’s Community Safety Casework Team continues to remain between 400 and 500 per year, as it has since 2019/20. In 2023/24 there were 417 reports received by the team and a further 186 in the first six months of 2024/25. This latter number is a 20% reduction against the same period in 2023/24, where 233 were recorded by the team.
- In 2023/24 the wards with the greatest numbers of ASB reports being made to the Casework Team were Regency (36 reports in 2023/24), Central Hove (34) and Kemptown (33). Regency (18) and Kemptown (19) wards continue to remain the most common areas where reports made to the Casework Team originate from.

ASB cases dealt with by BHCC Housing Team

- In 2023/24 there were 675 incidents of anti-social behaviour reported to Brighton & Hove City Council’s Council Housing Team, 2.7% more than on the 657 reported in 2022/23. In the first six months of 2024/25 a further 390 incidents were reported to the team, 6.8% more than the 365 reported in the same period in 2023/24.

Figure 32 - Anti-social behaviour victim or witness reports to Council Housing Team, 2023/24.

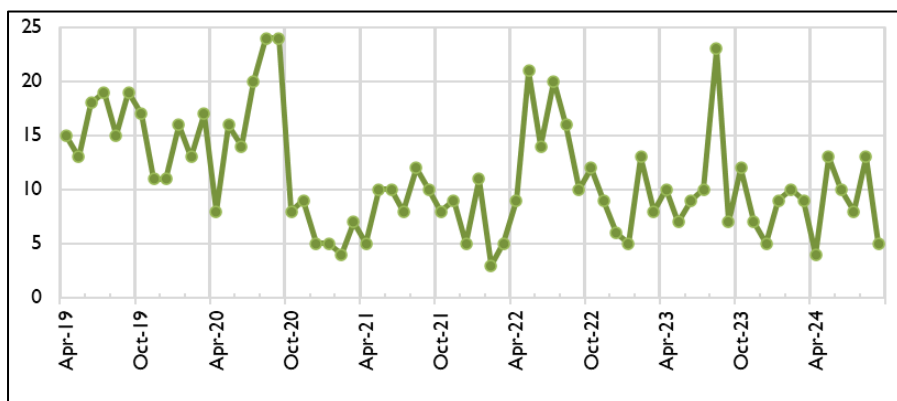


- Verbal abuse, harassment and/or intimidation remains the most common category of anti-social behaviour recorded by the council. This made up 33% of reported cases, followed by domestic violence/abuse (14%) and noise (12%). In 2023/24 there was a substantial increase in the number and proportion of reports made due to domestic violence or abuse, with 96 reports recorded in 2023/24.

Rough sleepers and street community

- The annual snapshot count of people rough sleeping in Brighton & Hove in November 2023⁶⁴ shows a continued increase, with the number of people found rough sleeping in the city having increased to 52 in the 2023 count, up from 41 in 2022. The increase in 2023 is similar in scale to that at the national level, where 27% more people were recorded than in 2022. By proportion of the population, this continues to place Brighton & Hove within the 15 local authorities in England with the greatest number of people sleeping rough. Estimates from the Government’s Rough Sleeping Data Framework continue to suggest as many as 40 to 50 people sleep rough in the city during the summer months on a single night⁶⁵; these data also estimated as many as 139 individuals slept rough across the month of September 2024, marginally fewer than the same month in the previous two years.

Figure 33 - Incidents reported to Community Safety Casework Team, linked to the street community, April 2019 to Sept 2024.



⁶⁴ [GOV.UK webpage - Rough sleeping snapshot in England: autumn 2023.](#)

⁶⁵ [GOV.UK webpage - Tables on rough sleeping.](#)

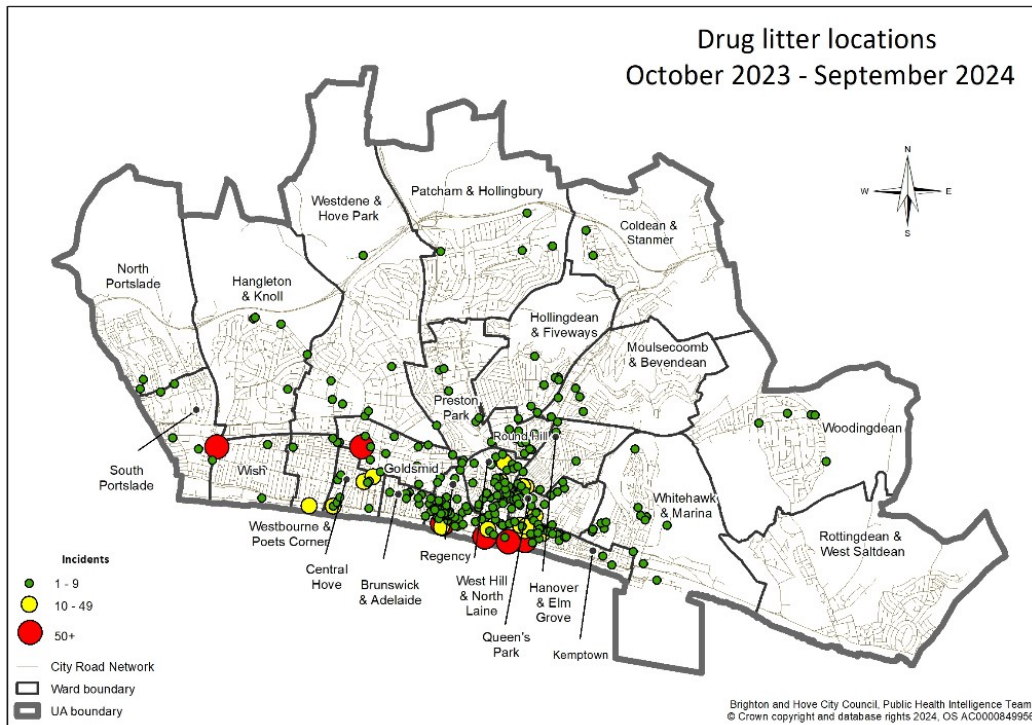
Anti-social behaviour

- In 2023/24 there were 118 reports made to the Community Safety Casework Team related to members of the street community. This is fewer than in 2022/23 (143) but higher than the number seen in 2021/22, where 96 instances were recorded by the team. In 2023/24 this meant just under 20% of all logged cases were linked to the street community, a lower proportion than logged in the previous year.
- The Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) have seen an increase in the number of incidents of rough sleeping reported in recent years, from 12 in 2022, to 40 in 2023. In the first nine months of 2024, up to September, a further 63 incidents had been reported.
- The BCRP recorded 171 begging incidents in 2023, and a further 163 incidents in the first nine months of 2024; 139 were recorded as persistent begging.
- The BCRP has also seen an increase in recent years in the number of reports of street drinking, from 37 reported incidents in 2022, to 105 reports in 2023, and 114 reports already this calendar year, up to September 2024.

Drug Litter Finds and Incidents

- Brighton & Hove City Council continues to collect records of drug litter incidents found by its services, including Cityparks, Cityclean, and Estates teams as well as its car parks and public toilets teams. Data collection has become more regular throughout 2024/25 compared to previous years.
- In the year to September 2024, more than 1,150 separate incidents where drug paraphernalia was found with a similar number of needles found across the city. These incidents frequently relate to multiple forms of drug paraphernalia including needles, syringes, nitrous oxide containers, spoons and pans. This figure is considered similar to the number that would have been recorded in the year to July 2023, if not for issues with data reporting in 2022/23. The summer of 2024 saw an especially high number of incidents of drug litter found in public toilets, with more than 200 separate recorded instances in July and August 2024 reported by contractors across the city.
- Regency and Kemptown wards are highlighted as the areas where the most incidents of drug litter have been logged (see Figure 1). Hotspots across the city include Shelter Hall - where the greatest number of needles has been found of any location in the city in this period - as well as toilets on Madeira Drive, West Pier arches, in Goldstone Villas and in Station Road, Portslade. The teams reporting on these finds also reported a number of significant one-off incidents throughout the year, including large finds of nitrous oxide canisters near Queens's Park and bags of drug paraphernalia found in Prince's Place.

Figure 34 - drug litter locations recorded in Brighton and Hove, October 2023 to September 2024.



- A survey conducted by Brighton and Hove City Council in 2023 around drug-related harm showed 50% of more than 400 respondents considered public-place drug dealing or drug use to be a substantial problem in their local neighbourhoods.

How work has progressed in 2024/25



- A multi-agency ASB Taskforce has been set up to address and reduce ASB on Council estates. Four geographical areas have been identified and are currently being assessed as to what work needs to take place to reduce harm and increase resident satisfaction.
- An early intervention youth ASB multi-agency meeting has been implemented to identify and address the behaviour of young people coming to the attention of services and businesses due to being involved in ASB at the earliest opportunity.
- Brighton and Hove City Council continues to support Statutory Undertakers and larger local businesses to remove graffiti from their premises, using Community Protection Notices where necessary.
- The city continues to deliver the “Immediate Justice” pilot on behalf of the Home Office, and a community payback pilot with Probation, both with a particular focus on addressing environmental ASB.
- The Community Safety Team, alongside our police partners, continues to work with supported accommodation providers, their commissioners and the Business Crime Reduction Partnership to address reported ASB associated with such premises.

Anti-social behaviour

- Due to a perceived decrease in public confidence in the council to address ASB, a series of training events and briefings has been developed for ASB practitioners across the council. More services are now using Community Protection Notices to address persistent behaviour that is detrimental to communities.
- The Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) continues to meet monthly to discuss complex cases with the highest levels of risk and assessed vulnerabilities.
- The Joint Action Group continues to meet monthly to oversee and co-ordinate operational responses to emerging ASB geographical hotspots. This includes locations frequented by members of the street community, where a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed to give clarity to the role each partner plays in addressing these concerns, and the partnership is enforcing the Public Spaces Protection Order (alcohol).
- Two further Housing Associations have been given delegated authority to use Community Protection Notices in Brighton & Hove, as part of our objective to increase use of ASB powers in the city.
- The Community Safety Team are undertaking an ASB workshop for Elected Members to increase knowledge of our ASB statutory duties and work undertaken by the partnership to address ASB.

Risks and issues of concern

- Budgetary pressures will cause further cuts to non-statutory services, many of whom either specialise in addressing ASB or significantly contribute to partnership working to address ASB.
- Lack of public confidence in agencies to address drug related ASB and a lack of necessary resources to respond to both public concern and the compound multiple needs of those involved in the behaviour.



Conclusion and recommendations for amendments to Strategy/Action Plan in 2025/26

- The focus of the Community Safety Partnership will be to ensure that it is doing all that it reasonably can to address ASB in priority geographical areas and by priority individuals, supporting those individuals and communities harmed by the reported behaviour.
- The multi-agency ASB Taskforce will continue its work to address and reduce ASB on Council estates.
- The Joint Action Group (JAG) will continue to identify and respond to emerging concerns in geographical locations in the city, including ASB linked to the street community, whilst the Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) will assess our high risk and complex cases, ensuring a multi-agency plan is in place to address the ASB and reduce the harm caused.



- We will ensure that work undertaken to address ASB associated with public place drug use is aligned with the new Drug and Alcohol Strategy which is currently out for consultation.
- We will continue to work with supported accommodation providers to ensure that ASB in and around supported accommodation environments is addressed appropriately.
- We will continue to implement the agreed Youth ASB Early Intervention protocol where necessary, working with the business community to ensure successful implementation.
- Brighton & Hove City Council will continue to implement its graffiti reduction strategy, targeting repeat offenders.
- We will continue to provide training and briefings to ASB practitioners across the city, encouraging a harm led approach making the best use of tools and powers available, whilst also promoting the ASB Case Review procedure.
- We will consider and assess any further information from HM Government regarding their crime and disorder priorities and integrate them into the ASB action plan where necessary.

9. Hate Crimes and Incidents

Our aim: An increase in reporting and trust and confidence in statutory services, and a reduction in hate incidents and crimes, and the harm caused to individuals and communities

What we want to achieve

- Persons impacted by hate incidents understand the definition of hate incidents or crimes, know how to report them and have a range of reporting options.
- Reported hate incidents and crimes are assessed and responded to appropriately and consistently, making best use of resources.
- Ensure that the harm caused by hate incidents and crimes to our most vulnerable residents and in identified high impact geographical locations is reduced.
- Hate incidents and crimes committed by priority and repeat perpetrators are reduced, making best use of tools and powers available.
- Successes are communicated to key partners and communities while people are encouraged and supported to report hate incidents to statutory services and third sector partners.
- Trust and confidence in local services is increased so that individuals and communities feel confident in reporting to and engaging with those services.

National or local policy developments or other changing context



National and International

- In December 2023, HM Government produced guidance on PHSE in schools re Trans and LGB students. This remains under review, pending the outcome of the gender questioning children guidance consultation.
- The previous UK Government abandoned its pledge to ban conversion therapy practices. In July 2024, the current UK Government announced its commitment to publishing a draft Bill to ban conversion therapy.
- Stonewall Hate Crime reports an 118% increase in LGBTQ+ victims in the last 2 years⁶⁶.
- Continued divisive narratives, especially online, is impacting community cohesion and increasing the risk of associated hate incidents and disorder, as witnessed in the aftermath of the attacks in Southport in July 2024.

Local

- The Community Safety Team moved into the new Families, Children and Wellbeing directorate on 1st January 2025 as part of the new Community Cohesion Team.

⁶⁶ [Stonewall web article, October 2023.](#)

Hate Crimes and Incidents

- Families reported that local focus regarding the consultation on the Trans Inclusion Schools Toolkit negatively impacted on younger TNBI people and their families.
- The current situation in Israel and Gaza is impacting community cohesion locally and has led to an increase in reported hate incidents, though many of these reports are anecdotal. The increasing divergence between 'official' number of reports and community intelligence is said to be undermining confidence in statutory agencies.
- We received reports of hate incidents in the city which those reporting believed to be because of or influenced by the reported national civic unrest linked to anti-migrant protests.
- Since the last strategic assessment Brighton & Hove City Council funding for three third party reporting centres has been removed due to the local authority having to find considerable budget savings.
- Brighton & Hove City Council Housing are currently reviewing their Hate Incidents Policy, which is currently out for consultation.

Levels, trends and patterns



- Across Brighton and Hove, as nationally, it remains difficult to effectively evaluate the prevalence, variety and impact of hate incidents and crimes, though the Partnership recognises that the number of hate-motivated instances experienced far outnumber those reported to advocacy agencies or statutory authorities.
- Police statistics offer useful insights but will only ever be reflective of the incidents/crimes reported to them. Across the city, campaigns are held to raise awareness and to encourage reporting; changes in reporting statistics will continue to reflect these changes in propensity and confidence in reporting as much as it will the actual number of incidents and crimes taking place.

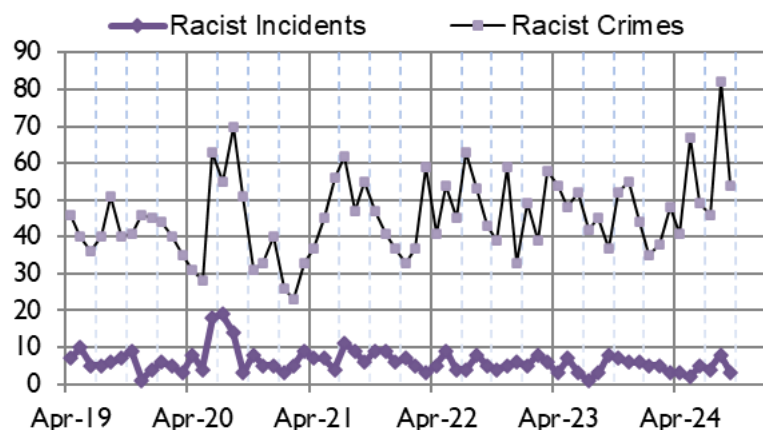
Racist and religiously motivated incidents/crimes

Police data

- In 2023/24 Sussex Police recorded 606 racially motivated hate crimes and incidents in the city, 6% fewer than in 2022/23. As with the previous year there was no specific seasonal pattern; in October and November 2023 there were a relatively higher number of crimes and incidents recorded (59 and 60 respectively), however these were no greater than in the peak months in 2022/23. Recorded crimes and incidents across England and Wales decreased by a very similar 5% in the same period⁶⁷.

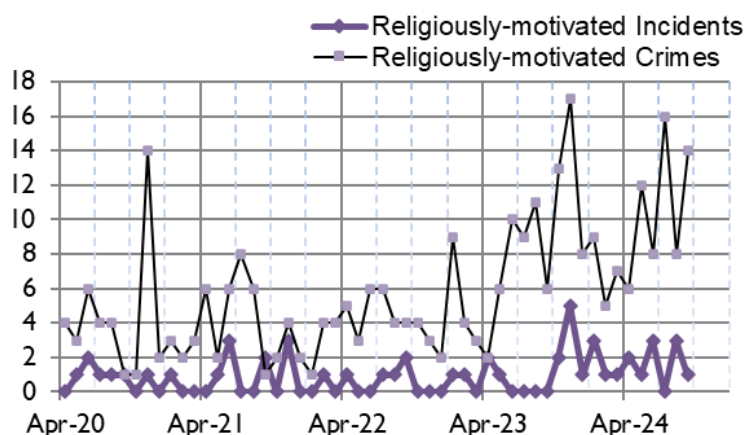
⁶⁷ [Home Office webpage - Hate crime for England and Wales, year ending March 2024.](#)

Figure 35 - Racist crimes and incidents, April 2019 to Sep 2024.



- Contrastingly, in the six months to September 2024 a further 364 of these crimes and incidents were recorded, significantly higher (19.3%) than in the same six-month period in 2023; August 2024 saw the most crimes and incidents recorded (90) than in any other month since at least August 2020, where lockdown restrictions had been eased in the city during the COVID pandemic.
- There were 119 religiously motivated hate crimes and incidents recorded by police in the city in 2023/24, nearly twice as many as the 63 recorded in the previous year. There was a substantial increase in recorded cases in the months of October and November 2023, in the immediate reaction to the beginning of the Israel/Palestine conflict on 7th October 2023; 15 and 24 religiously motivated crimes and incidents were reported in the city in October and November 2023, respectively. Numbers of cases recorded each month reduced substantially following then, however recorded cases remain higher each month than before the beginning of this conflict. Across 2023/24, recorded religiously motivated hate crimes across England and Wales increased by 25% compared with the previous year.

Figure 36 - Religiously motivated crimes and incidents, April 2020 to Sept 2024.



- In the first six months of 2024/25 a further 74 such crimes and incidents were recorded, a 57% increase on the same period in the previous year; this previous period (April to September 2023) did not encompass any of the beginning of the Israel/Palestine conflict, after which a sustained increase has taken place.

Community Safety Casework Team and Council Housing Data

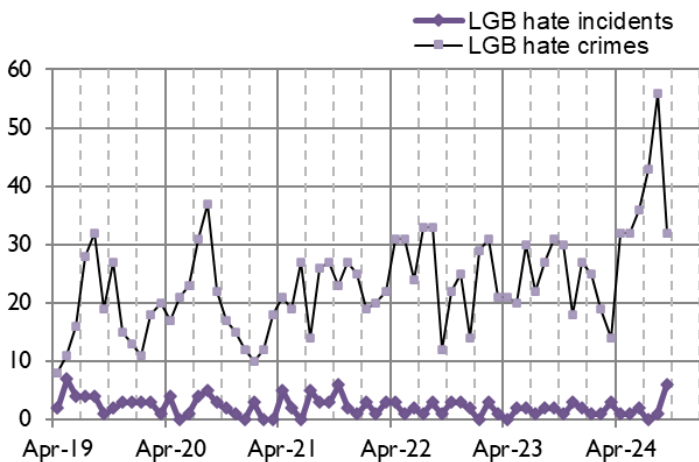
- Brighton & Hove City Council’s Community Safety Casework Team recorded 47 race or religiously motivated hate reports in 2023/24, out of the 79 total reports it received through that year. This is considerably fewer than the 63 recorded in 2022/23, out of the 92 total it received that year. The period April to September 2024 saw a further 18 reports recorded by the team.
- There were 25 incidents of racist or religiously motivated hate recorded by Brighton and Hove City Council’s Council Housing team in 2023/24, an increase on the 19 in 2022/23 and similar to those in 2021/22, where 29 were recorded. In the first six months of 2024/25 an additional nine incidents have been recorded by the team.

LGBTQ+ hate incidents and crimes

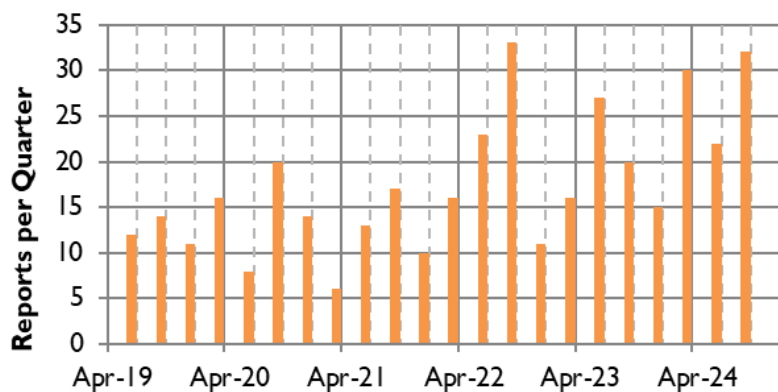
Police data

- Sussex Police recorded 305 Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) motivated hate crimes in Brighton & Hove in 2023/24, 7.9% fewer than in 2022/23. This partially checks a long-term increasing trend in these crimes and incidents across the city; numbers recorded continue to be more than 50% higher than those recorded in 2018/19 and more than double those recorded in 2014/15. The decrease in recorded crimes and incidents is very similar to the 8% overall decrease in related crimes recorded across England and Wales in the same period.

Figure 37 - Sexuality-motivated hate crimes and incidents, April 2019 to Sept 2024.



- The six months to September 2024, contrastingly, has seen a substantial increase in recorded hate crimes and incidents motivated by sexuality; 242 further offences were recorded in the city in this time, 51% more than the 160 recorded by the same time in 2023. Since April 2024, monthly recorded sexuality hate crimes have consistently been substantially higher than in the equivalent months in 2023, especially so in July and August.
- Separately, 90 hate crimes and incidents motivated by gender identity were recorded in 2023/24, slightly more than the 83 recorded in 2022/23. This continues the substantial increase in such hate crimes and incidents since 2021/22. The first six months of 2024/25 saw a further 54 crimes and incidents recorded, 20% greater than the 45 recorded between April and September 2023.

Figure 38 - Gender-identity motivated hate crimes and incidents, April 2019 to Sept 2024.

Community Safety Casework Team and Council Housing Data

- In 2023/24 there were 13 reports made to Brighton & Hove City Council's Community Safety Casework Team where hate motivated by sexuality was recorded, and a further 15 due to gender identity. This regularity of reports of LGBTQ+ related hate incident is similar to that in 2022/23, where 10 reports of hate were recorded due to sexuality and 15 due to gender identity.
- Brighton & Hove City Council's Housing Team also recorded six hate incidents motivated by homophobia, biphobia or transphobia in 2023/24 -there were fewer than five recorded by the team in the previous year.

Zoteria app – National Data

- **Zoteria**⁶⁸ is an initiative between Vodafone Foundation and the LGBTQ+ charities Stonewall and Galop. The app was designed to provide LGBTQ+ users with a simple method to report all types of hate encounters (including encounters that might not satisfy the legal threshold of a crime).
- National data from the Zoteria app of reported LGBTQ+ hate encounters between October 2022 and April 2024 shows that 44% of the people reporting hate incidents nationally via the app were male, 25% female, 26% were nonbinary or described their gender as other, and 5% did not disclose their gender. Those with a Trans history made up 35% of all reports and 45% of overall support requests, suggesting significant need for specialist support services for the Trans community. Notably, whilst verbal abuse was the most frequently reported type of incident, followed by hate speech, incidents which had occurred in a Major Queer City (MQC), including Brighton & Hove, had a higher proportion of incidents which involved physical violence than in other places.

Disability hate incidents/crimes

Police data

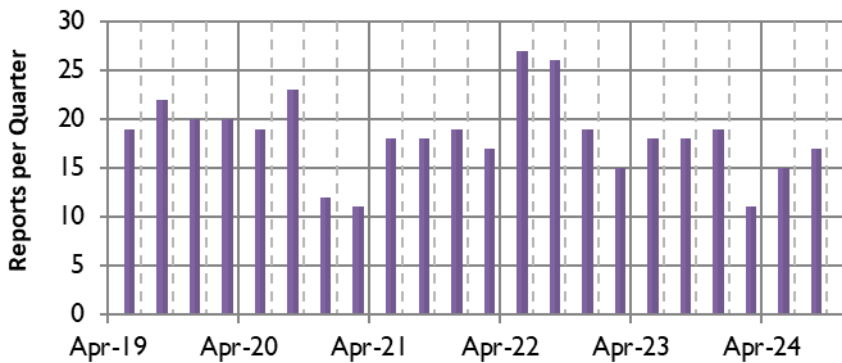
- In 2023/24 Sussex Police recorded 68 hate crimes and incidents related to disability, of which 60 were explicitly recorded as crimes, a 21% reduction from the 86 crimes and incidents recorded in 2022/23. In the first six months of 2024/25 a further 32 crimes and incidents were recorded, slightly fewer than the 38 in the same period in the previous year. As with last year there did not appear to have been any seasonal or monthly pattern to the number of crimes or incidents

⁶⁸ [Hate Happens report from Kevin Guyan, Vodafone Foundation 2024.](#)

Hate Crimes and Incidents

recorded. The overall reduction in disability motivated crimes and incidents is very similar to the 18% reduction seen across England and Wales in 2023/24.

Figure 39 - Disability motivated hate crimes and incidents, April 2019 to Sept 2024.



Community Safety Casework Team data and Council Housing data

- Five reports of hate targeting disability were recorded by the Community Safety Casework Team in 2023/24, following the nine recorded in 2022/23. This continues a trend where under 10 such hate reports have been recorded by the team each year since 2021/22, having previously been around 20 each year. Brighton & Hove City Council's Housing Team also recorded fewer than five hate incidents targeting disability, the same as in the previous year.

Graffiti data

- Offensive graffiti data collated by Brighton & Hove City Council's City Environment Team showed 100 reported instances of explicitly offensive graffiti in 2023/24, and a further 56 instances between April and September 2024⁶⁹.
- Among these 156 offensive graffiti reports, 61 related to generally offensive imagery or writing, 23 in relation to faith or religion, 20 were politically related, 11 were racist in nature, 10 were homophobic and 5 were transphobic.
- The team recorded a notable increase in the first six months of 2024/25 in faith or religiously based offensive graffiti, as well as offensive graffiti which was political in nature. In the case of "anti-faith" graffiti, much was found to consist of antisemitic content, suggestive of a link to the ongoing Israel / Palestine conflict.

⁶⁹ These figures are based upon counting each instance of "offensive" graffiti once, with a predominating category of offence; in practise, graffiti can often be deemed offensive for more than one reason, influenced by individual perceptions of offensiveness. The number of offensive graffiti reports recorded are those reported to City Clean via the local authority's 'Report A Problem' facility. Those cases observed and cleared by the council's graffiti team, the seafront office or environmental enforcement teams independently of any prior reports were not included in these figures.

Health Counts

- Health Counts 2024⁴ asked questions about the health and lifestyle issues local people experience in Brighton and Hove, including worry about hate crime. The survey provides important evidence of inequalities in parts of the city and faced by vulnerable groups.
- Of Black and racially minoritised respondents, 23% overall felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their ethnic heritage or religion, or perceived ethnic heritage or religion, compared to 4% of White British respondents. All ethnic groups had significantly higher proportions of respondents who felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by this type of hate crime compared to all respondents, but this was highest amongst Arab (40% who felt very or fairly worried), followed by Black, Black British, Caribbean or African respondents (36%). For refugees or asylum seekers, 44% were very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their ethnic heritage or religion, or perceived ethnic heritage or religion, compared with 8% of respondents who were not a refugee or asylum seeker. All religious respondents had significantly higher proportions who felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by this type of hate crime compared with all respondents, but this was highest amongst Sikh (69% who felt very or fairly worried), followed by Muslim (45%) and Jewish (43%) respondents. Respondents with no religion had significantly lower proportions who felt very or fairly worried about this type of hate crime compared with all respondents (5%).
- Of LGBTQ+ respondents, 30% felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, compared to 3% of heterosexual or straight respondents. All LGBTQ+ groups had significantly higher proportions who felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by this type of hate crime compared with all respondents. This difference was particularly high amongst respondents who described their sexual orientation as queer; 50% of queer respondents felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation. For gay or lesbian respondents, 38% felt very or fairly worried.
- Of trans, non-binary or intersex (TNBI) respondents overall, 67% felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because they were trans, non-binary or present as gender divergent, compared to 2% of respondents who are not TNBI. This was significantly higher for trans respondents (74% felt very or fairly worried), and non-binary respondents (67%), as well as respondents who prefer to self-describe their gender (46%). Data for intersex respondents has been suppressed due to low numbers of respondents.
- Of disabled respondents, 11% felt very or fairly worried about being targeted by perpetrators of hate crime because of their disability or perceived disability, compared with 2% of respondents without a disability. This difference was significantly higher amongst all types of disability and conditions but was particularly pronounced amongst respondents who had a speech and language disability (50% felt very or fairly worried), a developmental disability (49%), a learning disability (45%), a visible difference with a disabling and/or discriminatory impact (42%), or autism/ autistic spectrum disorder or condition (24%).

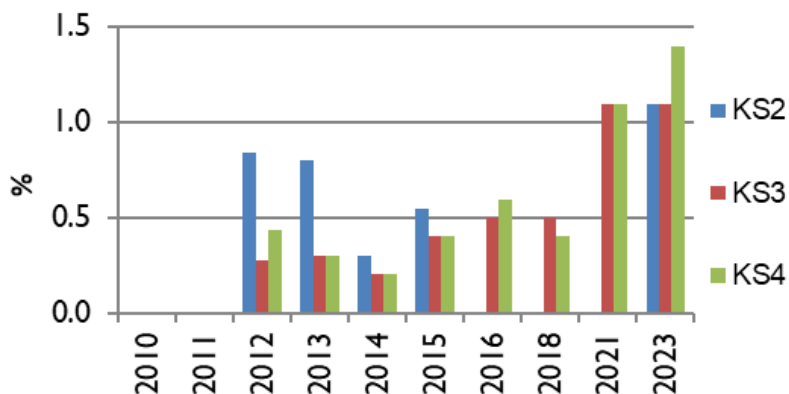
Safe and Well at School Survey (SAWSS)

- In 2023 the latest version of Brighton & Hove City Council’s Safe and Well at Schools Survey (SAWSS)⁷⁰ was carried out with pupils aged 7 to 18 across the city in November and December 2023. One question asked by the survey related to whether children felt they had been bullied, and for what reasons.
- The table below shows the proportion of respondents to the 2023 Safe and Well at Schools Survey who have reported being bullied in the last term, split by the type of bullying.

Table 3 - Safe and Well at Schools survey 2023 results on types of bullying, by Key Stage.

Type of Bullying	Key Stage 2 (ages 8 to 11)	Key Stage 3 (ages 11 to 14)	Key Stage 4 (ages 15 to 16)
Racist	1.3%	2.1%	1.8%
Religious	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%
Sexual Orientation	1.4%	2.6%	2.3%
Transphobic	1.1%	1.1%	1.4%
Disability	1.1%	1.9%	1.6%
No. of respondents	5,807	4,942	2,860

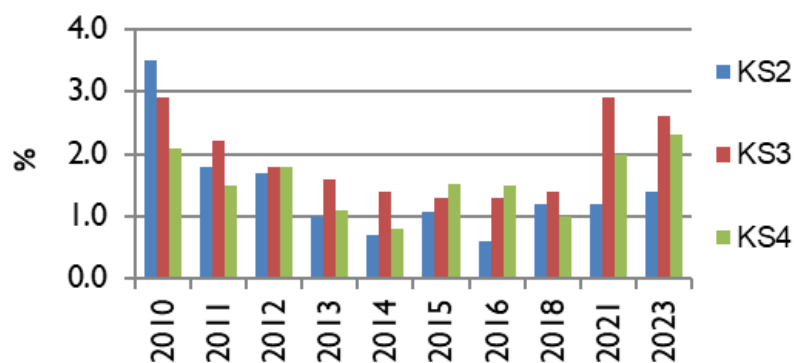
Figure 40 - percentage of SAWSS respondents reporting transphobic bullying by year, by survey year and Key Stage.



- Compared to the previous 2021 version of the survey, all types of bullying at Key Stage 2 increased, while at Key Stage 3 most types of bullying also increased substantially, except for sexual orientation, falling from 2.9% to 2.6%. In Key Stage 4, all the above forms of bullying increased significantly.

⁷⁰ [Brighton & Hove City Council webpage – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) - Safe and Well at Schools Survey.](#)

Figure 41 - percentage of SAWSS respondents reporting sexual orientation-related bullying, by survey year and Key Stage.



- Particularly in relation to sexual orientation and transphobic bullying, the latest two editions of the survey (2021 and 2023) have seen significant increases in the proportion of pupils reporting being bullied, after gradual decreases being seen between 2010 and 2015 and a slower increase in the 2016 and 2018 editions of the survey.

How work has progressed in 2024/25

- BHCC will continue to implement its graffiti reduction strategy, prioritising the removing of offensive graffiti and targeting hate graffiti offenders for enforcement.
- The Community Safety Partnership continues to monitor relevant intelligence and community tensions given national and international conflicts and coordinates a partnership operational response.
- The Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) continues to meet monthly to discuss complex cases with the highest levels of risk and assessed vulnerabilities.
- We continue to ensure alternative reporting mechanisms are clearly signposted to relevant communities.
- We have developed training and briefings for Brighton & Hove City Council practitioners regarding good practice in hate incident victim and witness support.



Risks and issues of concern

- Budgetary pressures will cause further cuts to non-statutory services, many of whom significantly contribute to partnership working to address hate incidents.
- Continued divisive narratives and international conflict impacting locally.
- Lack of public confidence in statutory agencies to address hate incidents.



Conclusion and recommendations for amendments to Strategy/Action Plan in 2025/26



- The focus of the Community Safety Partnership will be to ensure that it is doing all that it reasonably can to:
 - address hate incidents.
 - encourage reporting of hate incidents.
 - provide alternatives to reporting hate incidents to statutory agencies.
 - challenge divisive narratives.
 - improve community cohesion.
- The Community Safety Partnership will continue focused work to strengthen links between diverse communities and reduce tensions.
- Brighton & Hove City Council will continue implementation of the Brighton and Hove Anti-Racism strategy.
- Brighton & Hove City Council will continue to provide training and briefings to hate incident practitioners across the city, encouraging a harm led approach making the best use of tools and powers available, whilst also promoting the ASB/Hate Incident Case Review procedure.
- Brighton & Hove City Council Community Safety Team will continue to work closely with colleagues in International Migration Services as part of the new Community Cohesion Service regarding placement of asylum seekers in hotels and the Homes 4 Ukraine Scheme to ensure that potential community tension is monitored and responded to when necessary.
- The Joint Action Group (JAG) will continue to identify and respond to emerging hate incident concerns in geographical locations in the city, whilst the Hate and ASB Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) will assess our high-risk and complex hate incident cases, ensuring a multiagency plan is in place to address the ASB and reduce the harm caused.
- Brighton & Hove City Council will continue to implement its graffiti reduction strategy, prioritising the removing of offensive graffiti and targeting Hate graffiti offenders for enforcement.
- Brighton & Hove City Council will implement a bespoke communication strategy to regularly update on the work outlined above.

10. Prevent

Our aim: Individuals, institutions and communities are resilient to all forms of terrorism and extremism, harm is reduced, and people have higher levels of trust and confidence in Prevent

What we want to achieve

- Terrorisms and extremisms are better understood, and frontline staff, partners and communities are better equipped to challenge them.
- Individuals susceptible to being drawn into terrorism and extremism are identified at an early stage and supported to reduce risk.
- Individuals at risk of re-engaging in terrorism related activities are identified and supported to reduce risks and rehabilitation.
- Key sectors and institutions are better able to manage risks, and work in partnership to reduce permissive spaces to disrupt radicalising influences (including those who promote it).
- Improved compliance with the Prevent Duty is achieved.
- Cohesive communities have better resilience to the challenges posed by international, national, and local critical incidents, better manage and reduce the risk of harm caused to individuals and communities.

National or local policy developments or other changing context

Terrorism threat: national



- Recent updates⁷¹ set out the threat and risk picture for the UK and Prevent priorities.
- The UK terrorism threat level remains unchanged at ‘Substantial’ – meaning ‘an attack is likely’ since 9 February 2022.
- Al-Qaida (AQ) or Daesh and affiliated ideologies continue to be identified as the primary threat to the UK, accounting for approximately 67% of attacks since 2018, about three quarters of MI5 caseload and 62% of those in custody for terrorism-connected offences. Threat from extreme-right-wing terrorism (ERWT) drives the remainder of the threat to the UK, accounting for approximately 22% of attacks since 2018, about a quarter of MI5 caseload and 30% of those in custody for terrorism-connected offences.
- Threat from self-initiated terrorism with online pathway remains significant.
- Threats from hostile states present the most complex threat picture. Autocratic regimes may increasingly extend their repression at home to aggression overseas, using proxies, including private intelligence operatives and criminals from both the UK and third countries.

⁷¹ [UK Parliamentary Statement from Home Secretary, December 2024.](#) and [Threat Update from MI5 web report, October 2024.](#)

Prevent

- The UK faces varied and persistent terror threat. Presently, terrorism remains one of the most direct and immediate risks to the UK's national security. In a step change in terrorist threat, five terrorist incidents took place in the UK in 2017, and the terrorism threat level was twice raised to 'Critical' (the highest level, meaning an attack is imminent). Since 2017, twelve further terrorist incidents have occurred: three terrorist incidents occurred in 2020, two in 2021, one each in 2022, 2023, and 2024.
- On 2 April 2024, a 25-year-old Eritrean male was stabbed inside a hotel previously used to house asylum seekers. The 34-year-old male perpetrator was previously active online, espousing anti-immigrant rhetoric, had carefully planned the attack, researched hotels housing asylum seekers, bought a knife from the US, and prepared a manifesto. Police arrested him before he could publish his manifesto thus preventing further harm. A search of his address found several weapons, including an axe, a knife, a baseball bat, and extreme right-wing material. Following investigation, police declared the incident as a terrorist incident⁷² motivated by the extreme right-wing ideology, and the perpetrator was sentenced in January 2025 to 22 years and 8 months in prison.
- Terrorists and extremists continue to exploit issues related to migration and asylum seekers in the UK, exploit 'citizen journalism' to generate social media and online content, to get more media exposure to advance their 'agenda', including through misinformation, propaganda or activities often focused on hotels, contingency accommodation or 'channel crossing', promoting conspiracy theories such as 'great replacement', anti-establishment narratives, and 'calls for action'.
- In May 2024, a case of murder and another attempted murder in Hartlepool on 15/10/2023 was regarded as a terrorist act by the sentencing judge⁷³, highlighting the risk that international incidents could directly trigger terrorist action in the UK. The 45-year-old perpetrator reportedly conducted the knife attack to avenge the deaths of children in Israel/ Palestine violence. The case underlines unpredictable ways in which existing views and grievances, online/ media influences, and potential impact of international events/ violence may interact.
- Most of the twelve attacks since 2017 are described as 'inspired terrorism', meaning either attackers or the attack itself was inspired by an ideology rather than directed by terrorist groups in a command and control structure. All of these were carried out by 'self-initiated terrorists' or smaller cells, using low sophisticated methodology such as bladed weapons and/or vehicles, mainly in public or crowded places. Some of these were committed by ex-terrorist⁷⁴/ offenders and sometimes involved using fake suicide vests or emulating elements of previous terrorist attacks. Targeting of public servants or those representing the State or establishment, use of IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices), and unclear motivations for attacks were noted in some recent terrorist incidents. The threat picture is complex, evolving, and enduring, with terrorists choosing to attack a broad range of locations.

⁷² [Counter Terrorism Policing web report, May 2024.](#)

⁷³ [Counter Terrorism Policing web report, January 2025.](#)

⁷⁴ The attacks by prisoners inside HMP Whitemoor, the 2019 Fishmongers' Hall, and 2020 Streatham and Reading attacks by those on probation, demonstrate the significant threat that offenders may continue to pose both in custody and on release' (Contest 2023).

- The self-initiated terrorism threat is evolving, exploiting modern technologies, such as 3D printing, and evading detection and disruption by use of alternative communication methods, including encryption services and livestreaming. ‘Leakage’ is an important indicator of ‘self-initiated’ terrorist attacks⁷⁵ and can range from admitting a desire to inflict violence more generally, to specific details involving a location, target, or weapon of attack. Individuals may leak their plans for several reasons: as a cry for help, or as a way of seeking increased media attention, or fame for their cause, or to inspire further attacks.
- Additionally, forty-three late-stage terrorist plots⁷⁶ were successfully disrupted by the police, security, and intelligence agencies in the UK since March 2017 (twenty international terrorism plots, thirteen extreme right-wing plots, and two left, anarchist or single-issue terrorism plots; some targeted public figures, events, and iconic sites, some trying to acquire firearms and explosives).
- Two organisations have been proscribed in 2024 in the UK⁷⁷. Members of the proscribed groups or those who invite support for proscribed groups could be jailed for up to 14 years and/or face an unlimited fine. ‘Hizb-ut-Tahrir’ was proscribed in the UK effectively from 19 January 2024 following an assessment that it was concerned in terrorism by ‘promoting and encouraging’ terrorism (reportedly glorified terrorist attack, for example Hamas attack in 2023).
- The threat from Extreme-Right Wing Terrorism is growing and evolving, particularly through the radicalisation of increasingly younger individuals from dangerous online content. In response, the ‘Terrorgram collective’⁷⁸ has been proscribed in the UK effective from Friday 26 April 2024. The ‘Terrorgram collective’ is the sixth extreme right-wing group, albeit the first online group to be proscribed in the UK. It produced and disseminated violent propaganda, including instructional material, glorifying previous extreme right-wing terrorist attackers, with the aim of radicalising readers and encouraging individuals to commit acts of terrorism.
- Explicit affiliation with any specific terrorist organisation and fixed ideological alignment are diminishing. Adherence by terrorists to specific ideologies is in many cases less structured and coherent than in the past, reflecting in part the wide range of material available online from which individuals or small groups may draw. Counter-terrorism efforts increasingly encounter a range of personal and ideological motivations to violence, where a traditional terrorist narrative may only be part of a much more complex picture.
- Increased risks are noted from accessing online materials, forums and influencers, social media, online and gaming platforms from across the spectrum of extremisms and ideologies. Online forums and communities not only provide an environment where it is possible to consume ideology, but they also provide materials or practical enablers of terrorist activity, create networks of like-minded peers, create an echo-chamber and facilitate offline interactions.

⁷⁵ [Tell Mama UK report, 'The Tangled Web of Far Right and Anti-Muslim Hate', PDF.](#)

⁷⁶ [Counter Terrorism Policing web report on Threat Update, October 2024.](#)

⁷⁷ According to the Home Office data, 81 organisations are [currently proscribed](#) under the Terrorism Act 2000, plus 14 organisations in Northern Ireland that were proscribed under previous legislation.

⁷⁸ [Home office webpage, April 2024.](#)

Prevent

Individuals may also move from being a consumer of online content to disseminating and producing online content.

- A growing number of minors are using the internet to plot terror attacks and recruit others to their cause. On 5 December 2024, UK Counter Terrorism Policing, working with their Five Eyes counterparts, issued a joint call to action on youth radicalisation, stressing that they are ‘increasingly concerned about the radicalisation of minors, and minors who support, plan, or undertake terrorist activities’. Potential young extremists have adopted a pick-and-mix approach to extremism, blending different forms of racism, misogyny and homophobia - gaining access to a wide variety of harmful and extreme content that would have previously been inaccessible.
- Conspiracy theories can act as gateways to radicalised thinking and sometimes violence. The conspiracy theories pose potential threat when they and those who propagate them engender distrust in their audiences and encourage violence towards the government. The increasing sophistication and scale of disinformation operations presents real challenges for democratic states, increasing the risk of terrorism, inciting violence between groups with pre-existing tensions and posing longer term risks for public trust. People’s relationships with authority, trust and institutions are likely to remain salient in future.

Terrorism threat: local

- The threat from self-initiated terrorists continues from various extremist perspectives, with Daesh, Al-Qaida and right-wing propaganda continuing to inspire attacks. Concerns around online influences drawing individuals to all forms of terrorism continue, with the movement from online activity and spaces to offline activity and harm to public safety. In 2024, two of the previous failed terrorist plots saw successful prosecution, and increase in sentence, respectively.
- An 18-year-old-male resident of the city was arrested and charged with extreme-right-wing related terrorism offences in June 2023. The individual pleaded guilty to ten of the 11 terrorism-related offences: five counts of collecting information which could be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism, five counts of dissemination of terrorist publications. In April 2024, a trial to hear the eleventh charge of possessing an article for the purpose of terrorism found the individual guilty of preparing to attack a local synagogue⁷⁹ leading to 8 years of imprisonment in June 2024. The perpetrator was found to be the administrator of a Telegram channel which shared extreme-right, antisemitic, and racist views, as well as manuals on bomb building and how to 3D print firearms. He had praised previous extreme-right terrorist attacks and wanted to learn and improve from previous ‘attack manifesto’.
- In September 2022, a young male from Brighton was arrested for a failed terrorist plot at Hyde Park inspired by Al-Qaida. The individual pleaded guilty and was sentenced in December 2023 for preparation to commit acts of terrorism. A further hearing in 2024 increased his life sentence, with a minimum of 24 years to reflect the severity of the offence⁸⁰. The individual had researched the location of the planned attack, his intended target, firearms, and attempted to purchase a gun with plans to kill. The perpetrator held multiple social media accounts across

⁷⁹ [Crown Prosecution webpage, April 2024.](#)

⁸⁰ [Crown Prosecution Service web report, January 2024.](#)

different platforms using false names, including Telegram, Threema, Instagram, Snapchat, and had downloaded illegal online material, and the day before his arrest viewed YouTube videos primarily concerned with firearms and Jihad.

- The risk of support for proscribed organisations in the international context was noted (Israel/Palestine violence that lasted for a long period and expanded to other areas in the Middle East). Trial following a local arrest in 2023 for supporting a proscribed organisation (Hamas) is yet to conclude⁸¹. In June 2024, media reported an alleged 'Hamas' supporter visiting one of the local camps, part of the student encampments in university land across the country⁸².
- With the number of terrorist arrests and convictions in the city, community release of terrorist offenders continues to be likely. The impact of terrorism arrests, investigations, and releases on the city's communities need to be managed to ensure continued resilience.
- Extreme-right activity in the city is noted from the full spectrum of extreme-right groups ('cultural nationalism', 'white nationalism', and 'white supremacism'). Unsolicited leafleting, posters and graffiti were reported, particularly during the violent disorder exploiting the Southport tragedy and in its aftermath. Disinformation, misinformation and focus on the city and its public officials by right wing influencers and media has also been seen. This has promoted anti-Muslim, anti-migrant views through creating and expanding imaginary binary positions, for instance, pitting 'Muslims in position of power and LGBTQI interests' against 'British culture and values'. Anti-Semitic graffiti by extreme-right groups were also reported in the city (see **Section 9**).

National Policy Changes

- **Extremism Sprint:** The Government initiated a Counter-Extremism Sprint in July 2024 to review its approach to extremism, and some of the harms that interface with it, such as political violence, to ensure the UK's strategies and systems to prevent radicalisation are addressing the full range of threats. In December 2024, the following actions were identified:
 - '**Strengthen Prevent Programme**' by reviewing Prevent thresholds, referrals, referrals of people with neurodivergence, and make available wider interventions under 'Channel' amongst other actions.
 - Appoint a new '**Independent Prevent Commissioner**' to review the programme's effectiveness, its quality, and identify gaps to improve performance and standards.
 - Introduce '**Youth Diversion Orders**' to address the growing proportion of under-18s arrested for terrorism offences and as seen in Prevent referrals.
- The National Standards and Compliance Unit (StaCU) was launched on 28/02/2024 as an independent non-statutory body, providing a clear and accessible route for people to raise concerns about delivery of Prevent. Practitioners and members of the public can use an online form to complain⁸³ or raise concerns, for instance about the Prevent Training received, missed referral opportunities or inappropriate referrals, further promoting transparency and confidence.

⁸¹ [The Argus web report, October 2023.](#)

⁸² [Jewish News web report, June 2024.](#)

⁸³ [Complaints webpage for the Prevent programme.](#)

Prevent

- Recent national learning has arisen from two individuals who were repeatedly referred to Prevent, and these referrals were closed, one then went on to be involved in a terrorist attack (in Forbury Gardens, Reading in June 2020), and the other in serious violence (the Southport incident in July 2024) respectively. The learning from these cases relates to key decision points within the Prevent pathway and has direct implications for Prevent practice in terms of the assessment of:
 - referrals entering the Prevent system and for the adoption of Channel cases.
 - Prevent susceptibilities and associated terrorism risk for people with multiple and complex needs (for example presenting mental health issues, unclear ideology or neurodivergence).
- In each instance, it was found that there was premature exit from Prevent process due to assessments that over-emphasised mental health difficulties⁸⁴, and absence of ideology⁸⁵ respectively, to the detriment of other susceptibilities, not assessing the entirety of risk picture, and cumulative risks, including risks posed by the individuals.
- Operational changes nationally include, a revised 'National Prevent Referral Form' launched in July 2024 to improve accessibility, improve understanding of susceptibility to radicalisation by considering behaviours and circumstances or risk indicators which could form part of the Prevent concern, and improve quality of referral for effective assessment from professionals and members of public. Prevent Assessment Framework replaced the previous Vulnerability Assessment Framework tool and is expected to increase consistency, enable more accurate identification of Prevent-relevant referrals, and improve assessment of the support each case may need.
- The Home Office launched its new Training portal (Face to Face and ideology training) on 7 November 2024 to help clarify and implement the recommendations from the Independent Review of Prevent, such as consistency of thresholds and focus on ideology.
- Routes To Intervention is a new national project, launched on 27 January 2025 to extend the support from 'Channel', Prevent, to those eligible recipients who are also the subject of an overt counter terrorism (Pursue) investigation concurrently. The policy change responds to the changing profile of those coming through the counter terrorism system requiring support.
- In September 2024, the Department for Education updated its statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE)⁸⁶ and what schools and colleges in England must do to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18. Previous updates reference online safety (DfE's new 'filtering and monitoring standards' and 'Cyber

⁸⁴ Regulation 28 'Report to Prevent Future Deaths' following the inquests arising from the deaths of three people in the Forbury Gardens terror attack, May 2024. [Forbury Gardens Terror Attack Inquest findings, May 2024 - PDF.](#)

⁸⁵ Prevent Learning Reviews are undertaken where a terrorist attack or serious violence offence has been committed by someone with prior involvement in the Prevent programme. [Prevent learning review webpage regarding the Southport attack, February 2025.](#)

⁸⁶ [Department for Education webpage - statutory guidance on keeping children safe in education.](#)

security standards') were updated in January 2025. The guidance on preventing radicalisation within KCSIE is still to be reviewed and had minor changes reference language.

- The Online Safety Act, 2023 is a new set of laws protecting children and adults online, by introducing new duties on social media companies and search services, making them more responsible for their users' safety on their platforms. Two main categories of content are in scope: 'illegal content and activity', and 'content and activity that is harmful to children'. Terrorism content and UK terrorism offences are listed as priority illegal content. Ofcom is now the regulator of online safety and is taking a phased approach⁸⁷ to bringing various duties into effect. Once Ofcom publishes final codes and guidance the new duties will be effective.

Local changes

- The city is not a Prevent priority area, and mainstream budget continues to be identified for Prevent delivery to manage strategic risks for the city. Since 2009, the Community Safety Team continues to deliver on Prevent in partnership with our communities. There is reduction of resources from previous years.
- The asylum provision in the city now has a couple of strands: the city is part of national asylum dispersal scheme, and since 2021 the Home Office have commissioned 'Contingency provisions' for single adults and families seeking asylum. Extreme right-wing groups/ influencers are likely to exploit the issue of asylum seekers and migrants in the city to promote grievances, increase support and gain purchase in the city.
- Budgetary challenges for the council and all public bodies create a cumulative impact in statutory partners abilities to resource and respond to community needs, staffing, and service delivery in the immediate future and long term. The picture is further complicated by the cost-of-living crisis, the growing economic difficulties that many people will likely face in future, specifically its disproportionate impact on minority and marginalised communities, and increased vulnerabilities and demands from communities on the public resources. The overall economic inequality continues to shape attitudes and creates openings for division and offer the extreme right and other extremist groups their best hope to expand.
- Engagement of student unions with 'Prevent' has been challenging nationally and this is also reflected locally in the city.

International, national, and local context

- Several macro or structural factors are likely to impact, increase demand and complexity, as well as to drive people into extremism and terrorism: geopolitics, such as the Russia/Ukraine war, Israel/ Palestine violence, global uncertainty about cost of living or the rise of the far right in Europe, climate change, migration, threats emanating from hostile states, increased communication, and the ever-expanding data environment.
- Violent disorder was seen in parts of the UK in summer 2024 as malicious extremist actors exploited the Southport tragedy, which was not connected to terrorism, through 'online'

⁸⁷ The Online Safety Act 'Illegal Content Codes of Practice' and guidance comes into force in March 2025 and the 'Child Safety Codes' should be in place in summer 2025.

Prevent

'misinformation' and 'disinformation' to promote their own agendas by fuelling hatred against migrants, Muslims, and visible minorities. On 29 July 2024 three female children were fatally stabbed, eight other children, and two adults were injured in a knife attack by a 17-year-old young man born in the UK. The perpetrator was arrested and sentenced⁸⁸ in January 2025.

- The Southport tragedy was exploited by a multitude of extremist actors, mainly extreme right-wing, but also conspiracy theorists, those with 'distrust of establishment / political systems' in pursuit of their own agendas. Online 'disinformation' about the identity of the perpetrator was exploited to promote anti-migrant and anti-Muslim sentiments, threatening and encouraging 'direct / violent action'. This was seen in targeting of people perceived to be 'asylum seekers/ refugees', Muslims, visible minorities, places of worships, hotels and places accommodating asylum seekers, infrastructure, and legal offices supporting migrants. The online thus influenced offline activities causing risk to the public safety in the context of polarised, populist, 'nativist', and divisive discourses. The issues were used to promote anti-government/ distrust in establishment, encouragement to target public figures or authorities, and social grievance narratives mobilising 'freedom of speech', 'protecting White children' and 'White victimisation' tropes. Extreme-right exploitation of these issues to frame and amplify grievances and 'preferred solutions' could be exploited to radicalise, recruit, and raise funds.
- Anti-migrant narratives have motivated recent terrorist attacks, like at the Dover migrant processing centre in October 2022, and the attack at a hotel in Hindlip, Worcester in April 2024 that previously accommodated asylum seekers. Further risks associated with the exploitation of anti-asylum or anti-migrant narratives includes hate incidents/ crimes, public disorder, violent incidents with protests and counter protests, and community tensions. Nationally, following the violent disorder in the aftermath of Southport tragedy, a spike has been reported in the number of recorded racist and religiously motivated hate incidents across police forces especially in August 2024. Following trigger events, when racist or religiously motivated hate incidents plateau, this is at a higher level.
- Recently, efficacy of Prevent programme and deradicalisation work have come under public scrutiny due to both reported and perceived 'failures'. Although the Southport stabbing incident is not a terrorist incident, the perpetrator was charged with additional terrorism offences and as discussed above, repeatedly referred to Prevent. Nationally, there are planned reviews, with policy and practice changes being implemented at pace from initial learning. In this context assessing impact of Prevent, promoting transparency, and improving trust and confidence in Prevent locally and nationally will remain important priorities.
- Following the Hamas attack in Southern Israel (on 7 October 2023) and the Israel/ Palestine violence, significant increases continue to be reported in both anti-Semitic⁸⁹ and Islamophobic incidents⁹⁰ in the UK, both online and in community, with significant impact on the communities both locally and nationally. Different extremist groups continue to exploit Israel/ Palestine violence to amplify grievances, and this may increase exposure to narratives that can be used

⁸⁸ [Merseyside Police webpage, January 2025 - joint statements from Merseyside Police, Counter Terrorism Policing and Lancashire Child Safeguarding Partnership](#) and [Crown Prosecution web report, January 2025](#).

⁸⁹ [CST web report: 'Antisemitic incidents 2024'](#).

⁹⁰ [Tell MAMA webpage, October 2024](#) and [Tell MAMA web report, October 2024](#).

to radicalise. The divisive narratives and activities seen in increased community tensions require increased engagement and work with communities to understand concerns, reassure, prevent escalation, and mitigate risks.

- Between 30 November and 8 December 2024, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS, a proscribed group in the UK since May 2017) led a coalition of Syrian rebel forces leading to the collapse of the Bashar al-Assad regime. Reactions to the developments in Syria differed along sectarian lines and were mainly through the prism of Israel/ Palestine violence, which still saturates the ‘attention landscape’. In the unfolding instability and power vacuum, there have been calls by Daesh to increase its influence and activities in the region, with uncertainty surrounding security of the prisons and detention camps holding Daesh affiliated prisoners and families.
- International and national incidents continue to have local impact and affect inter-community relations. Anti-Muslim, Islamophobic, anti-Semitic, anti-migrant, anti-migration, anti-LGBT, anti-minorities, and anti-establishment narratives are also being seen in referrals, in community sentiments following incidents, some media and social media. The cumulative impact of the various international and national conflicts has given rise to a narrative where communities are worried about increased Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and anti-migrant views. This may contribute to grievances that could be exploited to radicalise, recruit and raise funds, especially within the context of pre-existing victimisation narratives.
- All of this combines to paint a picture of a sustained and high tempo threat, and it takes a whole society approach to effectively tackle terrorism. Cooperation/partnership between communities, councils, police, and statutory and voluntary services is crucial in countering terrorism and building resilience.

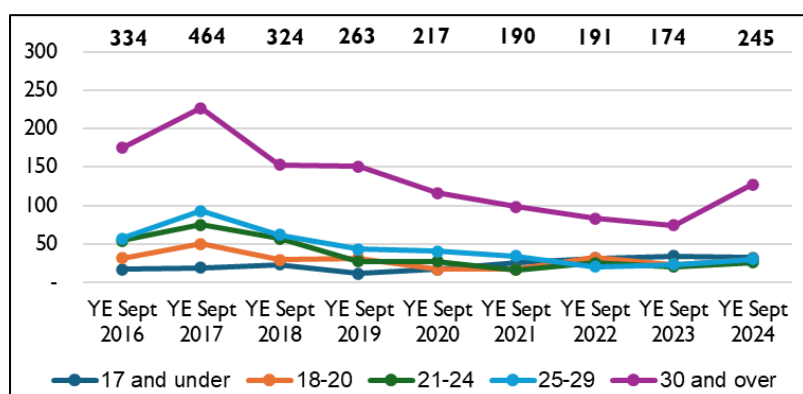
Levels, trends and patterns

Operation of police powers under 2000 Terrorism Act



- Home Office data⁹¹ highlighted that in the 12 months to September 2024 there were 245 arrests across Great Britain for terrorism-related activity. This is 41% greater than the 174 arrests in the 12-month period ending September 2023, reversing a trend in decreasing numbers of arrests between 2018/19 and 2022/23.

Figure 42- Number of people arrested in Great Britain for terrorism-related offences by Reporting Period & Age Group.



⁹¹ [Home Office web report, December 2024.](#)

Prevent

- Of these arrests, 88 (36%) resulted in a charge being brought⁹², 70 of these for terrorism-related offences – nearly double the 36 of the overall 44 offences charged in the previous 12-month period.
- Arrest data continues to show males (202, 82%) were still considerably more likely to be arrested for terrorism-related offences - though 43 females were also arrested in this 12-month period, far more than the 12 in the previous period.
- People aged over 30 accounted for 52% of arrests (127 people), greater than the 74 (43%) arrested in the 12 months to September 2023. The proportion of those arrested aged 17 and under decreased by 6 percentage points down to 13% compared to the same time period the previous year.
- In the same 12-month period ending September 2024, 86 people were tried in court for terrorism-related offences, 62% greater than the 53 people who were tried in the previous 12-month period, and the most in a year since the year ending September 2018. All but one trial led to a conviction in that 12 month period.
- As of 30 September 2024, there were 254 people in custody for terrorism and terrorism-connected offences across Great Britain, the highest since comparable records began in 2020. The majority (62%) held Al-Qaida/ Daesh/ affiliated-extremist views, 30% were categorised as holding Extreme Right-Wing ideologies and 8% were categorised as holding other ideologies.
- Separately, in the 12-month period ending 31 June 2024 a total of 58 prisoners held for terrorism and terrorism-connected offences were released from custody across Great Britain, very similar to the 49 released in the previous year. Among these, 21 had received sentences of less than 4 years, and 33 had sentences of 4 years or more.
- In recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of minors investigated and arrested by Counter Terrorism Police. Of those investigated by MI5 for involvement in UK terrorism, 13% are under 18, which is a threefold increase in the last three years. Arrests of under-18s for terror offences have increased from just three in the year ending September 2010, to thirty-two in the year ending September 2024; and 11-to-15-year-olds now make up 40 per cent of all referrals into Prevent, and half of all cases adopted by Channel where the age is known (up from a third in 2017).
- Most adverse activity conducted by minors has occurred online (the collection or dissemination of terrorist publications), while a small number of minors continue to engage in attack planning and pose a credible threat. Increasingly children as young as 13 have also been investigated particularly in the ERWT cases⁹³. Several minors who engage with terrorism also have additional complex needs.
- The number of minors, people with additional complex needs or mental ill health, significantly complicate risk assessment and management of counter terrorism casework. Investigators must

⁹² The data is from a live database. Given the number of cases still to be resolved, the current charge rate is likely to change and may be lower.

⁹³ [Guardian web article, October 2024.](#)

consider both national security and safeguarding responsibilities in parallel to meet the challenges of investigating children and adults who may also be vulnerable.

- In 2021 research had indicated a link to domestic abuse in Prevent referrals. Intersection with sexual offence is also noted in terrorist convictions and perpetrators' history particularly in the ERWT⁹⁴.

National referrals to Prevent

- In the year to March 2024 there were 6,922 referrals made to the Prevent⁹⁵ programme due to concerns that an individual was susceptible to radicalisation – a 1.5% increase on the number of referrals in the previous year and the highest number recorded since 2017/18 (7,318 referrals). From these, 893 (12.9%) were discussed at a Channel Panel and 512 (7.4%) went on to receive Channel support. As a proportion of all cases referred through the Prevent programme these are significant reductions from 2022/23 (16.3% discussed and 9.5% taken up) and 2021/22 (23.2% discussed, 12.6% taken up).
- Across Great Britain in 2023/24, the greatest proportion of referrals continue to come from education sources (40%) and police sources (28%), both similar proportions to the previous year. Other key sources nationally are health (9.7%), and Local Authorities (8.4%) which continue to refer between 550 and 700 people per year to the Prevent programme.
- 36% of Prevent referrals nationally related to people for whom a vulnerability is present, but with no identified ideology or counter-terrorism risk – the most common type of concern; 19% related to Extreme Right-Wing ideologies, and 18% related to people with conflicted ideologies.
- Among all cases discussed at a Channel Panel, 42% related to a concern over Extreme Right-Wing ideology, 25% over Islamist ideology and 17% over Conflicted ideology.
- In the immediate aftermath of the 7 October 2023 Hamas terrorist attack in Israel, analysis of referrals to the Prevent programme show only a marginal increase (under 1%) in cases being referred to the programme in the period 7 October 2023 to 31 March 2024 compared with the same period the previous year⁹⁶. While the numbers of cases referred to the programme were substantially higher between 7 October and 31 December 2023 (1,926) compared with the same period in 2022 (1,691) and 2021 (1,756), the number of referrals this period as a proportion of each financial year remained very similar.
- Compared to the cases seen between October 2022 and March 2023, the cases referred to the Prevent programme between October 2023 and March 2024 contained a similar proportion of concerns related to people having a vulnerability present but no ideology or counter-terror risk (37.4% of referrals compared with 36%) and significantly more due to Islamist-extremist ideology (14.1% of referrals compared to 9.8%).

⁹⁴ [Sussex Police webpage, January 2025](#); [Guardian webpage, November 2024](#); and [BBC News webpage, November 2019](#).

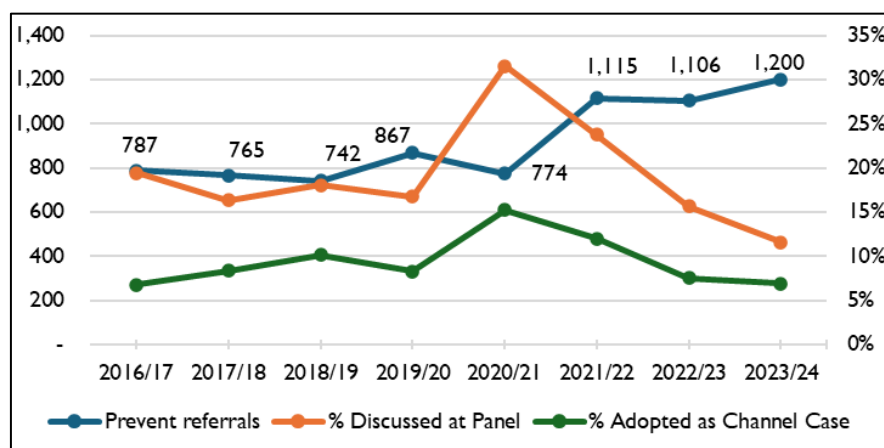
⁹⁵ [Prevent programme webpage - individuals referred to and supported by the programme, year ending March 2024](#).

⁹⁶ Home Office analysts cannot directly attribute any change in the trends to conflict-related factors.

Prevent

- Overall, there were 62 referrals per month with an Islamist concern before 7 October compared to 91 referrals with an Islamist concern after 7 October. For 'Extreme right-wing concerns', there were on average 98 referrals per month before 7 October and 121 referrals per month after 7 October.
- As shown in **Figure 43**, in the South East, 1,200 referrals were made in this 12-month period, from which 139 (11.6%) were discussed at a Channel Panel and 83 (6.9%) formally adopted as a Channel case. The number of referrals was slightly higher than the 1,106 made in 2022/3, however the number discussed was lower than in the previous year (173, 15.6% of cases) and the same number taken up (83, 7.5%) as full Channel cases.

Figure 43- Prevent referrals & percentage discussed at Channel Panels or taken up as cases, South East



- Among the 1,200 referrals made within the South East region:
 - the plurality of referrals (468, 39%) related to young people aged 11 to 15; in total, 683 (57%) referrals were in relation to a person aged under 18. Among those cases discussed at the Channel Panel, 66% (92 cases) were also for people aged under 18, while 69% of those referrals formally adopted as a Channel cases related to someone aged under 18.
 - Eighty-eight percent of referrals referred to males and 11% to females; among those adopted as Channel cases, 95% related to males.
 - 515 referrals (43%) relate to people for whom a vulnerability is present, but with no identified ideology or counter-terrorism risk – the most common type of concern; 354 (30%) related to people with conflicted ideologies and 200 (16.7%) related to Extreme Right-Wing ideologies.
 - Among the cases discussed at a Channel Panel in the region, 39.6% discussed in the South East related to those with an Extreme Right-Wing ideology, 30.2% with a Conflicted ideology, 18.7% to people with a vulnerability but not ideology or counter-terrorism risk, and 6.5% with an Islamist ideology.
 - Separately, since Summer 2024 people nationwide were convicted of offences in relation to riots and disorder that broke out nationwide following a knife attack at a Southport dance

studio on July 29, 2024⁹⁷. Data compiled by the Press Association news agency showed 417 individuals were sentenced, of which 369 received immediate custodial sentences. Of the remainder, 14 received suspended jail sentences, 25 (all aged under 18) received referral orders which the remainder received fines, community orders, referrals to youth offender panels or community orders.

How work has progressed in 2024/25

- Due to the rapid pace of national changes since 2023, work to understand and absorb the changes, its implications, advise partners, and align practice to the new requirements has been focused on. The changes have been reflected in the updates to policies and procedures including information governance, some of the work continues due to ongoing national changes. Work to embed the operational changes, like the updated National Prevent Referral Form and the new Prevent Assessment Framework, has been completed successfully.
- Work to understand the threat, risk and vulnerability picture for the city is carried out in partnership with our communities and statutory partners; we disseminate the strategic risks, and threats appropriately to all partners, and coordinate responses to manage those risks. Understanding of strategic risks is dynamic and updates are provided regularly and as appropriate.
- The Prevent Board continued its quarterly meetings, understanding strategic risks and threats, the impact of work, and compliance with the Prevent Duty. There is democratic oversight and scrutiny of the Prevent work.
- Development and communication of accessible information on Prevent continues. We maintain good online presence both for our communities in terms of universal information, and for partners and staff appropriately. All relevant partnership websites have been updated with Prevent information.
- A cross-directorate Prevent SharePoint Site has been developed that hosts resources centrally for all council staff to increase awareness of risks in the city, improve recognition, increase referral and appropriate support to individuals susceptible to being drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorism, and challenge narratives appropriately to stop recruitment and support to those extreme groups and causes.
- We continue to improve understanding amongst professionals of risks in the city, susceptibility to radicalisation, referral pathways and support available, and countering extremist and terrorist narratives through Prevent training and briefings, disseminating headline risks and factsheets on key local threats. Work had continued to ensure that Prevent e-learning is part of induction and mandatory training for staff across partners and that new training requirements are disseminated and understood to improve adherence.
- With the national launch of the new Prevent face to face training portal and clarity on ideology training, locally we will need to focus on this. Prevent Train the Trainer model (to deliver in



⁹⁷ [Perspective Media webpage, December 2024.](#)

Prevent

person training) had previously experienced challenges due to pressure on resources across partners, and whilst this remains the most viable strategy, in future we will need to support trainers with appropriate training and communication plans. In the meantime, reliance on e-learning and team discussions continues.

- Work to identify and support individuals from being drawn into or supporting terrorism robustly continues. Channel Panel has continued to meet monthly, virtually, with good attendance from partners. Referral levels had reduced for a period and have since reverted to the previous levels.
- As part of the annual monitoring and quality assurance framework from the Home Office, we completed the Channel Annual Assurance Statement for the fourth year in consultation with partners. This is a self-assessment identifying areas of strength, and we continue to achieve across all areas of work. The assessment includes robust consultation, and partners continue to positively feedback on the Channel delivery in the city. The Quality Assurance lead from the Home Office attended local meetings and fed back to partners positively.
- The Prevent Lead Officer completed the Prevent Annual Self-Assessment (June 2024), an assurance process that looks at the ten areas of work outlined in the 'Prevent Duty Toolkit'. This benchmarks how the Council and partnership is delivering its Prevent Duty. The Home Office as the Policy Lead and regulator of this area of work has provided very positive feedback that we continue to achieve in all areas of Prevent delivery in the City.
- We continued to engage and work in partnership with our faith, BME and other minority communities and partners in response to various local and national concerns. We continue to engage 'One Voice Partners' to understand and respond to community sentiments and Prevent concerns, work to prevent escalation of any community tensions, reassure communities, and support communities and partners to counter some of the narratives/ grievances that could be exploited. Communities continue to be engaged and supported through all the reported issues, and partnership responses coordinated to mitigate risks.
- Strategic engagement, communication, and work continue both universally and with targeted audiences in response to community tension and critical incidents, for reassurance and risk reduction. For instance, Synagogues and Jewish communities were supported through the extreme-right wing trial and prosecution and through the concerns around Israel / Palestine violence, rise in reported anti-Semitic incidents, and associated issues.
- Following violent disorder post Southport incident, several public statements were issued via political leaders and disseminated to 'One Voice Partnership' in the city to reassure communities and to address any concerns. Muslim, refugee, and BME communities were supported during this critical time when nationally incidents targeting people perceived to be 'asylum seekers/ refugees', Muslims, visible minorities, hotels and places accommodating asylum seekers were being reported, causing concerns in our local communities. A couple of our local mosques were supported with additional security arrangements via the 'Mosque Security Funding' from the Home Office due to concerns around targeting of mosques during violent disorder nationally.

- We continue to work with internal and external partners to strengthen our work on 'No Platform Policy', to ensure that our resources are not used to promote extremism or terrorism as required by the Prevent Duty and to ensure that we respond to the requirements 'to reduce permissive environments'.
- We continue to receive complaints from communities about different groups and their activities causing concerns about radicalisation of children and adults. This work is being managed under 'reducing permissive environment' workstream and this has necessitated work with several commissioned services and third sector organisations to ensure the safeguarding arrangements are robust, referral pathways and responsibilities of commissioned organisations are clear. The Prevent Duty on the council and other public bodies, applies to all our funded and commissioned services.
- We continue to support the educational sector to understand strategic risks, Prevent Risk Assessments, and support individuals appropriately. We have worked with the educational establishments across the city and the higher education institutions following critical incidents and Israel/ Palestine violence to ensure safety of all residents, and to ensure that Prevent concerns are appropriately understood and responded to.
- Briefing was developed and disseminated widely to create an effective response across education settings by increasing understanding of online risks, misinformation, and impact on communities following the Southport incident and violent disorder, to appropriately support and improve safety and wellbeing of all and challenge the threat from the extreme-right. We continued to support the educational sector and colleagues through associated issues and risks.
- The Prevent Lead Officer continues to lead on all communication and responses related to Prevent in the city.

Risks and issues of concern

- Key threats continue to arise from the self-initiated terrorists (individual/s who may be inspired by the rhetoric of groups or causes across all extremist perspectives to carry out attacks), extreme right-wing terrorism, online influences and online risks of radicalisation including gaming, and Al-Qaida/ Daesh and affiliated or inspired terrorism.
- The risk from Self-Initiated Terrorists (S-IT) acting on their own or in smaller cells continues from various extremist perspectives, with Daesh, Al-Qaida (AQ) and extreme right-wing propaganda continuing to inspire attacks. The unpredictable and unconstrained operation of S-ITs make prevention more difficult.
- The extreme right-wing terrorism threat has grown with online space providing a major platform for this growth. Increased reach of the ERW to young people is evidenced in prosecutions as well as Prevent referrals (both nationally and locally).
- Al-Qaida (AQ), Daesh and associated terrorism concerns and referrals are likely to see an upward trend in view of their capitalisation of the Israel/ Palestine conflict to their own ends and geo-political developments (widening of the violence to Lebanon, and Syria changes).



Prevent

- Migration, asylum, and LGBTQ+ issues as topical issues continue to be exploited by the extreme-right.
- We now need to manage a diverse spread of narratives and beliefs that may be used to motivate and support terrorist violence, including conspiracy theories, anti-establishment narratives, targeting of political leaders/ public servants. Partners continue to report concerns related to misogyny, and other INCEL content and report an increase in young men accessing this content than in the past. Young Autistic men are reported to be particularly vulnerable to this content. Fascination with violence, weapons and mass casualty are other emerging risk (minor).
- The city has a high level of single issue groups, with high level of protest activities (highest outside of London). Their membership or protest activity causes tension within certain communities and provides a fertile ground for exposure to particular narratives and engagement factors.
- There is high value on communication to maintain professional and community trust and confidence in Prevent and to ensure that community referrals are appropriately made. With continuation of an anti-Prevent lobby, and Prevent in public debates and media, perception of public and communities, especially some minority communities about Prevent fluctuates and needs to be continually engaged with.

Conclusion and recommendations for amendments to Strategy/Action Plan in 2025/26

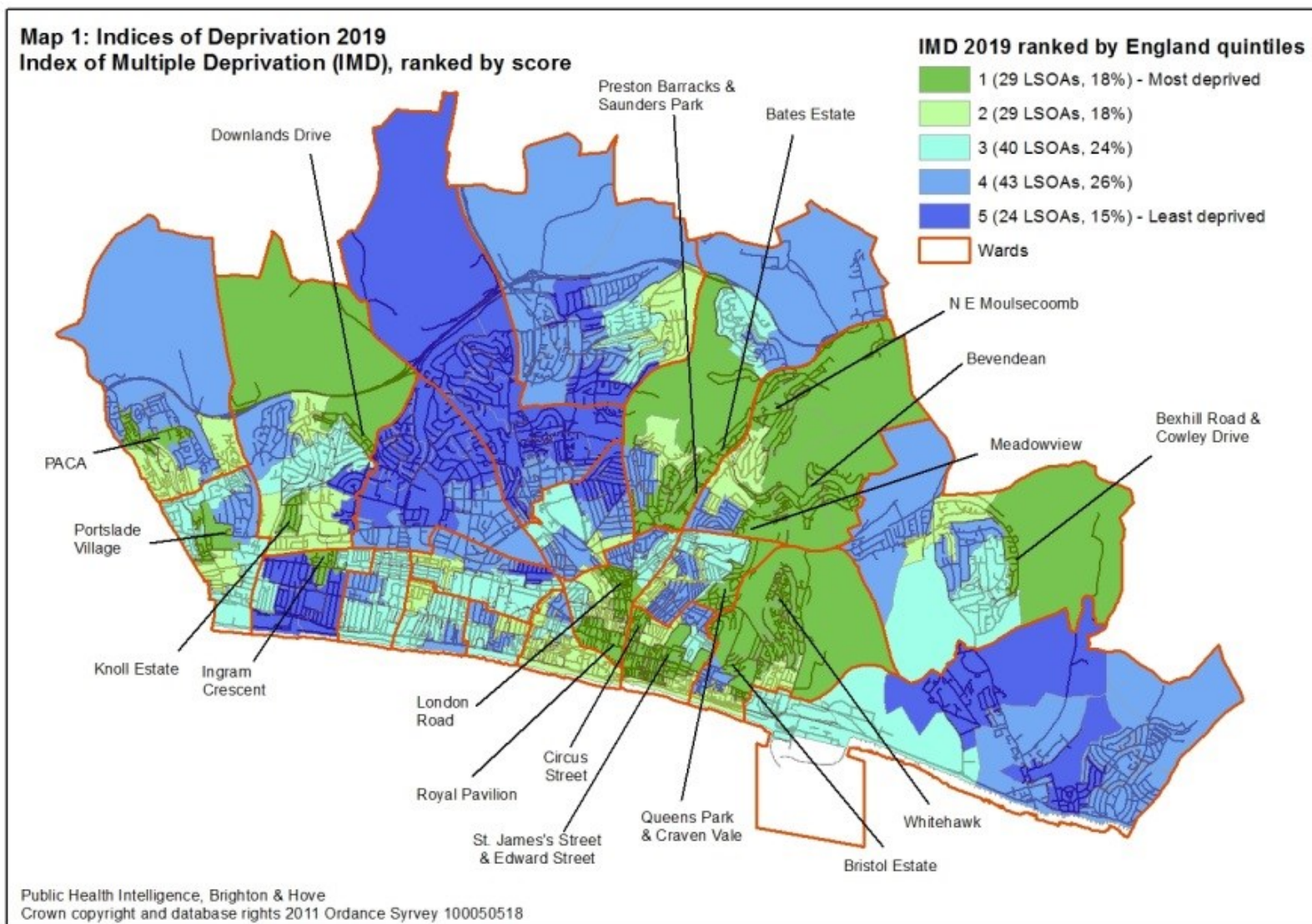


- Based on the strategic assessment, there are no proposed changes to the outcomes. The Prevent landscape has been changing rapidly in the last couple of years, with much national learning from inquests (Manchester Arena, Reading), learning from case reviews, and planned Prevent programme reviews. We will continue to reflect the national changes and align local delivery appropriately. We will continue to learn from the national best practice and focus on improving effectiveness and impact of Prevent delivery.
- Since the start, local Prevent delivery has adopted an anti-racist approach and the 'Prevent Action Plan' continues to be guided by the principles of proportionality, flexibility, and inclusivity. Empowered individuals and communities are at the heart of effective Prevent delivery. We will continue to have an effective dialogue with our communities on Prevent and improve partnership work and communications with communities to increase trust and confidence.
- Work to re-energise structures to engage and work in partnership with our diverse communities including 'One Voice Partnership' to create shared understanding on Prevent, deliver the new trainings, embed Channel Changes, work to reduce permissive environment and disruption of radicalising influences will continue to be focused on.
- Following consultation with communities there were concerns raised about the potential impact of the diverse narratives that we now need to manage in terms of impact on religious and academic freedoms. To clarify that these diverse narratives relate to motivating and supporting terrorist violence, we have added 'Cases adopted onto Channel have a susceptibility to being drawn into terrorism' in the Strategy.

- Concern was also expressed that we get the right balance between Al-Qaida, Daesh and Extreme Right-Wing or the full spectrum of threats. On the other hand, communities also expressed that cultural competence needs to be clearly focused on to ensure that there is no bias and targeting of specific communities in practice. The Strategy has therefore reiterated the 'Anti-Racist approach', proportionality, and risk-based approach to local Prevent Strategy and Delivery. The Prevent Duty supports Equality Duty and other positive duties has been emphasised. Focus on working with young people and online risks were also other areas identified in the consultation and have been addressed in the assessment and the strategy.

11. Appendices

Appendix A: Multiple Deprivation Index 2019 for Lower Super Output Areas in Brighton & Hove



Appendix B: Note on police recorded crime and incident data

Important note about police recorded crime data

Police crime data are drawn from a live database and reflect numbers on the system at the time the data are taken.

Changes in police recorded crime over time (trends) are likely to be impacted by several factors. These may include improvements to recording processes and practices, introductions of new offences, variations in police activity, more victims reporting crime, as well as genuine increases in some types of crime (CSEW, 2022).

Appendix C: Crime statistics

2023/24 compared with 2022/23 and to 2019/20 (pre-COVID)	number of crimes 2019/20 (pre-COVID)	number of crimes 2022/23	number of crimes 2023/24 ⁹⁸	2023/24 compared with 2022/23 (% change)
Police recorded crimes				
Total crimes	29341	28283	29078	+2.8%
Criminal damage (incl. arson)	2945	2620	2423	-7.5%
Injury Violence	3124	2750	2907	+5.7%
Violence against the person	9334	9429	9662	+2.5%
Sexual offences	999	1204	1209	+0.4%
Robbery	453	299	362	+21.1%
Burglary	1795	1048	1005	-4.1%
Vehicle crime (incl. vehicle interference)	2021	1453	1308	-10.0%
Pedal cycle theft	1143	891	752	-15.6%
Total theft (assorted) ⁹⁹	6089	5747	6410	+11.5%
Police recorded incidents and crimes				
Domestic violence incidents and crimes	6126	5138	5130	-0.2%
Racist incidents and crimes	572	646	606	-6.2%
Religiously-motivated incidents and crimes	160	60	119	+98.3%
LGB hate incidents and crimes	255	329	305	-7.3%
Gender identity hate incidents and crimes	53	83	80	+8.4%
Disability hate incidents and crimes	81	88	68	-22.7%
Anti-social behaviour incidents	7279	4316	4870	+12.8%

⁹⁸ Data are taken as a snapshot from a 'live database' and are subject to fluctuation over time.

⁹⁹ Created from a selection of theft offences (theft from the person, theft of a cycle, shoplifting, theft of a motor vehicle & aggravated vehicle-taking, theft from a motor vehicle and vehicle interference & tampering) to reliably compare across years. Does not include offences such as handling stolen goods and other theft.

Appendix D: Timeline of Covid restrictions in Brighton & Hove

2020	
16 th March	People told to work from home where possible
24th March	National lockdown 1 commenced; schools closed for most children
1 st June	Lockdown eased, some primary school classes returning and hospitality businesses open for food-based sales
15 th June	Non-essential retail reopens
4 th July	Pubs permitted to open with restrictions
3 rd - 1 st August	Eat out to help out scheme
31st October	National lockdown 2. Hospitality and non-essential shops closed, but schools open
2 nd December	Tier 2. Non-essential shops and hospitality open with restrictions
26th December	Tier 4. Shops and hospitality closed
2021	
6th January	National lockdown 3. Stay at home; schools closed for most children
8 th March	Schools reopen; two people can meet outdoors
29 th March	Six people or two households can meet outdoors
12 th April	Non-essential retail, hairdressers, public buildings, etc. can reopen
17 th May	30 people can meet outdoors; 6 people or two households can meet indoors; indoor venues, incl. pubs, cinemas can reopen
19 th July	Lifting of remaining restrictions, such as for nightclubs.
10 th December	Face coverings required in indoor public spaces
15 th December	Covid Pass required for specific venues, like nightclubs
2022	
27 th January	'Plan B measures', like the Covid Pass and face covering requirements, lifted

Further details on national Covid restrictions are available at the [Institute of Government website](#).



Brighton & Hove
Strategic Assessment of Crime and Community Safety, 2024

Email: community.safety@brighton-hove.gov.uk

December 2024

Brighton & Hove
Community Safety Partnership