

# Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2025 - 2028

## FOREWORD

Reducing reoffending is about preventing those, who have committed crimes already, from going on to commit further crimes. About 80% of all crime is committed by those reoffending, the national cost of which is estimated to be £18.1 billion.

Re-offending rates in the country remain high, and the growing increase in the prison population has led to concerns about reducing reoffending.

Continuing to reduce crime across Avon and Somerset requires a significant collective effort across a multitude of organisations including statutory partners and the voluntary and community sector. This strategy sets out our strategic objectives as partners to reduce reoffending from 2025- 2028.

## BACKGROUND AND GOVERNANCE

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on certain defined authorities to exercise their functions with due regard to the likely effect on, and the need to do all that they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reducing reoffending in their area. Those defined authorities include Police, Probation, Local Authorities, Health and Fire.

Section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 places a statutory duty on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce reoffending by adults and children.

In Avon and Somerset, there are 5 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) for the local authority areas of Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) and Somerset. This strategy is jointly owned by the Community Safety Partnerships in compliance with their statutory duty as set out above.

The Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Board is a sub-group of the Avon and Somerset Local Criminal Justice Board and works closely with the 5 Community Safety Partnerships to address reoffending.

The Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Board also seeks to align itself with the aims and objectives of the South West Reducing Reoffending Partnership and South West HMPs Reducing Reoffending Plan.

In respect of children who offend, the Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Board works closely with the 5 Youth Justice Partnerships across Avon and Somerset to support the objectives of this Strategy through their local delivery of their Youth Justice Plans.

This Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Strategy for 2025-2028 also supports the Prevention Priority of the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2024-2028.

The aims and objectives set out in this strategy align with the South West Reducing Reoffending Partnerships aims and objectives

## STRATEGIC AIM

**To reduce the frequency and harm of reoffending by adults and children in order to reduce crime and improve outcomes for people (victims and offenders) and communities.**

## OBJECTIVES

### For Adults (Over 18 years old)

- 1) Improve resettlement support for offenders from prison returning to the local communities of Avon and Somerset to reduce their risk of reoffending. With an additional focus on 18-25 year olds and women. The following key pathways for resettlement will be prioritised: housing including retention of accommodation, continuity of drugs and health care support and finance, benefit and debt support.
- 2) Improve support for offenders managed via the Integrated offender management schemes with the key pathways of housing including retention of accommodation, drugs and health needs and finance, benefit and debt support.

### For Children (Under 18 years old)

- 1) Maximise alternative sentencing and use of restorative opportunities to build confidence in and educate sentencers to make a meaningful impact on behaviours to reduce reoffending. Recognising the value of out of court resolutions to prevent entering the CJS in the first place, to intervene as required and offer diversions which will protect communities and enhance cohesion.

## DELIVERY PLAN

To effectively deliver these objectives over the next 3 years will require partners to work together alongside the voluntary and community sector.

All partners are already investing time and resources into delivery of these objectives so the focus will be to ensure our collective efforts are maximised to achieve the best outcomes for individuals involved and improve productivity and utilisation of public resources.

To deliver these objectives, Community Safety Partnerships will have a re-invigorated role in reducing reoffending.

Community safety partnerships are well placed to contribute to reducing reoffending as partners and providers of services. By way of example, the services that local authorities have responsibility for include housing, education, employment, substance misuse and mental health treatment as well as supporting families. These services are of great importance in

addressing the complex needs of many offenders, as are the relationships with the local community and stakeholders.

National Probation Service, as a statutory partner and with support of other partners within the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), will have a leadership role in coordinating the work of local partners in providing support to offenders in support of these objectives.

As part of the delivery plan for this Avon and Somerset strategy, all Community Safety Partnerships will develop their own localised governance arrangements and delivery plans. This will involve improving CSPs' oversight and understanding of the number of offenders being released from prison and managed via IOM in their areas and offenders' characteristics and their needs (for example, access to accommodation). The development of a rich picture of what is working well and/or areas for improvement will influence local delivery plans. Views of professionals working in the system as well as, where appropriate, service user feedback should be sought.

Strong links with voluntary and community sector organisation supporting reducing reoffending in local areas will also be needed.

The partnerships shall seek to embed trauma informed principles and practice into the work we are doing to address reducing reoffending. [Principles for Trauma-Informed System](#)

The role of the Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Board will be updated to support the work of the Community Safety Partnerships to deliver this strategy. This will include assurance work, a collaboration and convening role, explore co-commissioning and funding opportunities, training and development workshops and strong links with local Prisons. The Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending board will also provide the link into the South West Reducing Reoffending Partnership and other regional and national meetings and ensure the information is shared locally.

We look to use existing sector led improvement tools to measure our performance. If an appropriate tool is not available, we will work collectively to develop one in support of this strategy.

Consistent reporting from the Community Safety Partnerships to the Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Board will be developed and will help with improved updates to the Local Criminal Justice Board to ensure wider accountability and system oversight.

For children, Avon and Somerset Police, the Youth Justice Services and Youth Justice Partnerships will continue to work to local Youth Justice Plans to deliver this objective which supports the Child First priority locally.

Reporting to the Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Board by Youth Justice Partnerships will be developed to provide assurance this objective is being delivered.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

A refreshed performance dashboard will be developed to support this strategy and we will strive for this to include Probation, Police and partner data.

A reduction in reoffending will be the overarching performance measure. However, other measures will also be tracked including comparators where available:

- % Basic Custody Screening Part 2 and 3 completed (to ensure the needs of offenders being released from prison are known)

- % in accommodation on night of release.
- % in accommodation 3 months post release
- % in stable accommodation for 12 months post release
- % accommodation need IOM offenders
- Duty to refer referrals numbers
- % accepted as priority need and then successfully housed.
- Continuity of care performance (drugs)
- Engaged in drug treatment (IOM)
- GP registration
- Continuity of care (other health needs)
- Registered for Universal Credit/appropriate benefits as proportion of eligible individuals.
- Numbers in receipt of Advanced Universal Credit claim (in HMP Bristol Prison)
- Recall rates
- Numbers being managed by IOM and successfully coming off scheme and arrest rates.
- Gender responsive needs of women met upon release from prison

All the above to include breakdowns for women and 18-25 year old groups.

- Number of children dealt with by way of OOCR and diversion.

## REVIEW

These objectives will be reviewed annually and if the partnership feels sufficient progress has been made, they could be reviewed to add new or additional priority cohorts and/or pathways.

## CONCLUSION

By working in partnership to deliver the aims and objectives of this Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Strategy we will help prevent reoffending and to ensure safer communities in Avon and Somerset.

## APPENDICES

[Police and crime plan](#)

[Community Safety Plan \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

[Bristol Community Safety Partnership Plan 2023 - 2026](#)

[Draft Joint Community Safety Plan 2022 to 2025 | Bath and North East Somerset Council \(bathnes.gov.uk\)](#)

[North Somerset Safer Communities Plan | Safer stronger \(saferstrongerns.co.uk\)](#)

[Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership Plan 2022-25 \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)

[B&NES Youth Justice Plan 24-26](#)

[North Somerset Youth Justice Plan 2024 - 2025](#)

[South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Plan 2025-26](#)

[Somerset County Council](#)

