



# Community Safety Plan

Bath & North East Somerset  
Community Safety Partnership

2025 – 2029

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## Introduction

The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) Council have a clear shared aim; to take every opportunity to protect the public and promote safer communities. Its success and that of all partner agencies depends on dedicated teams of staff working together across agencies to keep communities safe.

Our joint working includes a number of key areas:

- tackling domestic abuse
- addressing local anti-social behaviour
- preventing people from being drawn into terrorism
- working in partnership to combat serious and organised crime, and
- reducing serious violent crime.

In B&NES, our community safety and safeguarding governance arrangements look holistically at the needs of children, adults at risk, families, and the wider community through using a trauma informed approach. A unique Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) was established in 2019 with BCSSP governance arrangements developed to meet the statutory requirements of children's safeguarding, adults safeguarding and community safety.

This plan sets out how all partners will work together to protect vulnerable people, prevent crime, and build strong, resilient communities. It focuses on collective priorities with a shared vision, and actions that we, collectively, will take to achieve the best outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.

It sets out the police and council community safety objectives and planned activities for the next four years, identifying the key issues upon which we will focus to tackle crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour in B&NES. The council, the BCSSP and Avon & Somerset Police have worked closely together to prepare this document. This plan reflects our shared priorities and serves as both the Community Safety Plan and the local Police & Crime Plan for B&NES. The priorities in this plan will be delivered through the Community Safety Partnership work plan with scrutiny through the Community Safety Strategic Assurance Group.

Careful consideration has been taken to ensure its alignment with the numerous other strategic plans that steer our work, including:

- [Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan](#)
- [Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2025-28](#)
- [Drug and Alcohol Strategy](#)
- [Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment](#)

- [Youth Justice Plan](#)
- [Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership Strategy](#)
- [Serious Violence Duty for England and Wales](#)
- [Crime and Disorder Strategy for B&NES](#)
- [Plan to Prevent and Reduce Serious Violence in B&NES 2024-2025](#)

The plan utilises the data we hold regarding crime in B&NES and reflects priorities and concerns raised by local people.

Through this plan we ask for the support of our communities, because only together can we keep our communities in B&NES safer.

## Bath and North East Somerset – An Overview

B&NES is a diverse area which includes the World Heritage Site City of Bath as well as vibrant towns, villages, and rural communities. The latest population [2021 United Kingdom Census](#) shows there is an estimated 193,400 residents in B&NES an increase of 9.9% since 2011.

B&NES Council covers approximately 135 square miles. The city of Bath is the largest urban settlement in the area, acting as the commercial and recreational centre of the district. It is home to just over 50% of the B&NES population and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Keynsham lies to the west of Bath and is a traditional market town comprising around 10% of the total B&NES population.

Midsomer Norton and Radstock are in the south of the district with approximately 12% of the total population split between them. They both have a strong heritage of mining and industry stemming from the North Somerset coalfield.

The rest of the district comprises 69 diverse rural communities of varying sizes and characteristics, including a line of villages along the foothills of the Mendips, the Chew Valley, and the Cotswold villages around Bath.

According to the 2021 Census 85.6% of people in B&NES identified their ethnic background as white British. Increases can be observed across other ethnic backgrounds with the area becoming more ethnically diverse since 2011.

There has been an increase in the size of the population between 2021 and today, to an estimated 195,618. This growth is largely driven by the high number of university students attending the two campus-based universities in the area and an increase in housing development.

Despite being an area with generally good health and low crime, there is significant variation within B&NES. Compared with the most affluent communities in the area, the most deprived communities experience a range of inequalities and experience poorer life outcomes.

## Partnership Working in Bath and North East Somerset

In each local council area, there is a statutory requirement to set up a Community Safety Partnership (CSP). CSPs bring together local organisations with the shared goals of reducing crime and the fear of crime, anti-social behaviour, alcohol, and drug misuse and reducing reoffending. CSPs work on the principle that no single agency can address all drivers of crime and antisocial behaviour, and that effective partnership working is vital to ensuring safer communities.

CSPs were introduced in each local authority area by Section 6 of the [Crime and Disorder Act](#) 1998 and in B&NES, the BCSSP provides both the strategic direction for community safety and local delivery of community safety outcomes.

The responsible authorities comprising the CSP are the:

- police
- fire and rescue service
- local authorities
- health partners
- probation

The [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#) introduced a responsibility for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) and responsible authorities in CSPs to act in cooperation with each other in exercising their respective functions. The CSP co-ordinates key services to the local area, working to solve local problems, which also contribute to the delivery of the [Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Plan 2024-2029](#)

The Avon & Somerset PCC's five police and crime priorities for 2024-2029 are to:

1. Strengthen neighbourhood policing
2. Reduce violent crime
3. Prevent crime
4. Support victims
5. Improve standards of policing

This community safety plan sets out how we aim to support delivery of the Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Plan in the local B&NES area. For the council, this covers wide ranging responsibilities, including delivery of those services that help to create healthier communities and address the underlying causes of crime, but also to respond to those concerns and broader issues that contribute to making people feel unsafe in their communities. We can only do all this effectively by working in partnership.

## Policing and Crime in a Local Context

Overall, the B&NES area remains a safe place to live and work, in the context of the police and all public agencies facing significant resource pressures, there are challenges in providing services for our communities that support our strategic assessment of crime and disorder in our area which is developed from a range of data including recorded crime and feedback from local agencies and communities.

The number of people identified as vulnerable in Avon & Somerset is significant and placing increasing demand upon public sector services. Neighbourhood policing teams have an important role to play in supporting and protecting vulnerable people, through reassurance, monitoring and, where necessary, intervention, either in partnership with other agencies or as the lead agency.

All statutory partners work closely with our communities through their local forums to inform our local policing priorities.

Total recorded crime in B&NES increased steadily over the three financial years from 2022/23 to 2024/25.

In 2022/23, there were 11,434 crimes recorded. This increased to 12,724 in 2023/24, and further to 14,877 in 2024/25. In addition, 2,133 ASB incidents were recorded in 2022/23, 2,421 in 2023/24 and 2,347 in 2024/25.

These changes indicate an ongoing upward trend in crime, albeit with some slowing in the rate of growth in the most recent year. However, it must be noted that the data includes the Constabulary's data covering the period 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025.

The Constabulary has mounted a concerted drive to improve its crime recording standards which has improved recording across a number of crime measures included in the accompanying data report. This means that some recorded increases in offences are attributable, at least in part, to improved recording practices. Crime recording continues to be monitored and assessed.

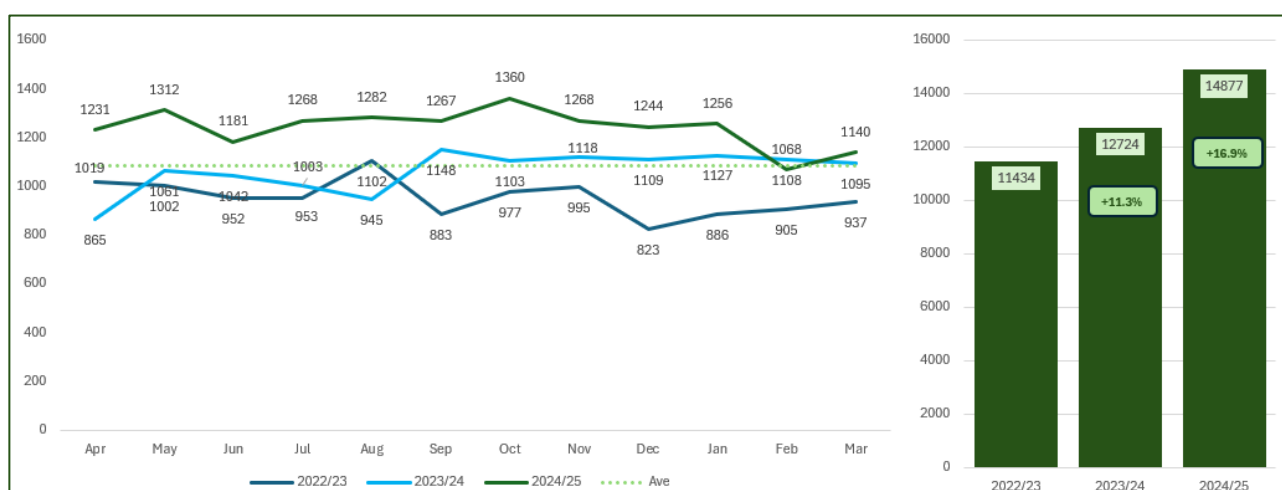
<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
<b>59.11</b>	<b>65.78</b>	<b>76.91</b>

*Crime Rate per 1,000 population*

**2022/23    2023/24    2024/25**

**11.03                      12.52                      12.27**

*Anti-Social Behaviour Rate per 1,000 population*



*(Excluding ASB) Data Source: <https://data.police.uk/about/>*

The most prevalent offence type in B&NES remained consistent across these years, with numbers increasing year on year.

The most prevalent offence types in B&NES are violent and sexual offences, theft offences and Public Order Offences generally. It should be noted that there was a slight reduction of -3.1% in ASB in 2024/25 on the previous year.



## Strategic and Emerging Issues in B&NES

A range of community safety issues are raised at the Community Safety Partnership and other of the BCSSP's working groups. Agendas reflect changing crime patterns and address local concerns.

The Strategic Assurance Group for Community Safety takes a strategic overview of emerging priorities raised by local partners, particularly those where there may be gaps or where demands are increasing due to external pressures and legislative changes. Partnership resources are coordinated to address new and emerging concerns.

Emerging issues include rising youth involvement in crime, increased weapon possession, serious sexual assault and concentrated urban crime hotspots. These require proactive and innovative responses from all stakeholders.

## What we can Deliver Together

Funding for community safety has declined significantly in recent years and the only dedicated funding of this type is now allocated by the OPCC with occasional short term central government grants that can be bid for, for specific projects, for example, Safer Streets. The OPCC awards a grant to support activities to address local priorities; the current grant has been awarded from 2025 for one year until March 2026. This grant is allocated to part funding an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) domestic abuse service, and a young people's substance misuse service.

Local partner organisations agree the level of resources they commit to the work of the BCSSP, against a backdrop of resource challenges for all partners. In some cases, the level of support can be quantified, for example, investment by the Council in the ASB case review process, and in other cases support is "mainstreamed" through the day-to-work of services such as:

- a) The multi-agency Youth Justice Service brings together staff from a range of backgrounds including Police, Health, Social Care, Youth Services, Education, and the National Probation Service.
- b) The Council's Trading Standards and Environmental Protection teams, taking firm action against people causing nuisance through their behaviour, and against illegal businesses and those selling illegal products.
- c) The Council's Public Protection team working alongside police on tackling serious organised crime, county lines, modern slavery, and rural exploitation.
- d) Licensing and enforcement, which deal with a wide range of local concerns including fly-tipping and noise.
- e) Extensive network of public space closed circuit television cameras and the increased Bath city centre security for hostile vehicle management.

External partners such as Registered Social Landlords provide significant resources to address anti-social behaviour through specialist tenancy support. In many cases, partners also provide significant ‘in kind’ support and partner resources, for example in sharing data which we use to ensure that people are offered the support they need.

As public sector agencies are operating under significant resource challenges, we need to:

- Prioritise our resources based on helping those who most need our help, particularly targeting our work on helping and protecting the most vulnerable people.
- Involve communities more in what we do and support them in addressing local concerns to strengthen resilience.
- Work better together to share resources and identify new ways of working.

## Our priorities within the Joint Community Safety Plan:

### Priority 1:

#### **Working together to reduce violence against the person and to protect the most vulnerable people, families and communities from harm**

Links to Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Plan Priority areas:

- 1: Strengthen Neighbourhood Policing
- 3: Preventing Crime

- 1) Tackle gender-based violence against women and girls, domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual offences and stalking and harassment.
- 2) Using a trauma informed approach to tackle child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation and serious youth violence.
- 3) Reduce the risk from terrorism, respond to national cyber security incidents and threats to public order or public safety.
- 4) Combat fraud, rogue traders and cyber enabled crime.
- 5) Reduce neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour, hate crime, burglary, vehicle crime, robbery, theft and rural crime.
- 6) Support and enable the reporting and response to modern slavery, exploitation and serious organised crime.

## Priority 2:

### **Working together effectively with our communities and improving positive outcomes for local people**

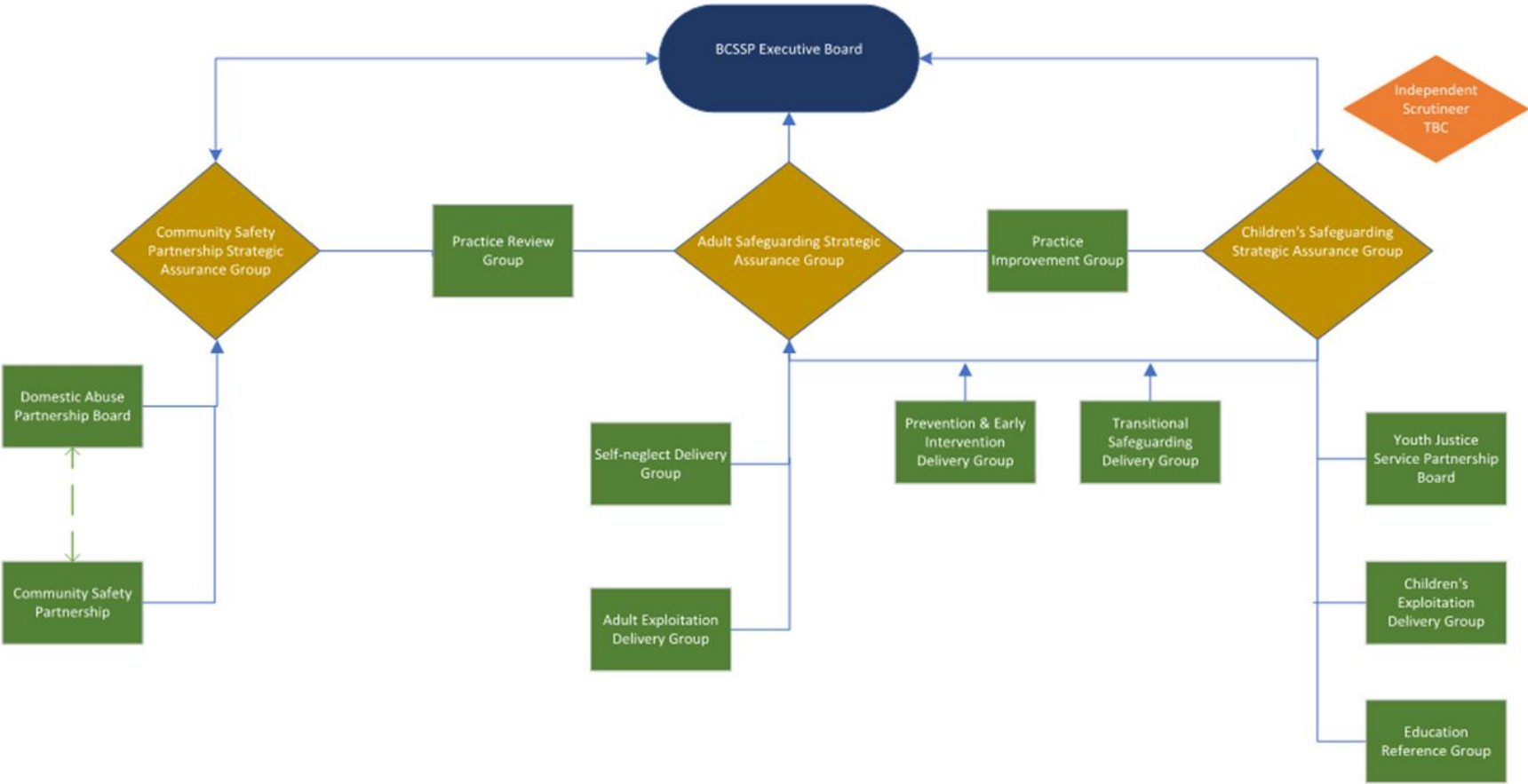
This priority has a strong link across all five of the Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Plan priorities, with community at its heart of our local plan.

- 1) Remain agile using a data informed approach to respond effectively to changes in legislation through collaboration and partnership working.
- 2) Facilitate closer partnership working with our communities including marginalised groups when tackling local issues.
- 3) Work closely with public forums on key community safety issues demonstrating our commitment to neighbourhood policing.
- 4) Collaborate with partners to address key themes; supporting victims, addressing perpetrator behaviour, focussing on reducing reoffending, resettlement from prison and offender management in our communities.
- 5) Promote safety in public spaces including in the night time economy tackling VAWG, river safety and promoting drink spiking awareness.
- 6) Strengthen outreach and drug support services.

## Acronyms

B&NES	Bath and North East Somerset
BCSSP	Bath & North East Somerset Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
IDVA	Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor
OPCC	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

Appendix 1 – BCSSP Structure



## Appendix 2 – Feedback from Local Communities

The most recent community feedback available when drafting is from Voicebox 32 published in March 2024. Voicebox is a survey of B&NES residents views on a range of topics, to help shape the area and improve local services. However, this document is cognisant of the Police and Crime Plan that was subject to extensive public consultation.

