

Kirklees Community Safety Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment – Executive Summary 2022



Working together for a
Safer Kirklees

Strategic Intelligence Assessment Refresh 2022/23 DRAFT

Executive Summary

Key Themes

Violence and Exploitation

The number of **serious violent incidents** have remained consistent when compared with 2021/22. There have been a small number, but serious, knife crime incidents, especially in the South of the Borough that have received significant media attention and have resulted in community tension concerns. There is a range of work ongoing in Kirklees, violence-based action plans are developing to tackle and prevent violence in six identified wards and elected members are/will be at the heart of these. In addition to the partnership space, the Police of course, have this as a key priority. Kirklees has been the most successful in West Yorkshire to reduce violent crime in the night time economy.

The **West Yorkshire Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)** Strategy has been launched and work is being done to embed this into the work of the partnership including the night bus, Ask for Angela and work to make parks safer, this work will continue to develop this year, informed by data and insight.

Domestic Abuse incidents are increasing inline with the national trend although the rate for West Yorkshire (33 incidents per 1,000 population) is above the national rate of 24 incidents per 1,000 population. In Kirklees over 1,700 people have engaged with community activities to raise the profile of domestic abuse. Victim support services are due to be recommissioned, providing an opportunity to look more broadly at the support services for victims, children and perpetrators to enable the commissioning of whole family support services, making navigating services easier. Repeat incidents are of concern and require further exploration.

The number of reports of **Modern Slavery** to the National Reporting Mechanism (NRM) is increasing in Kirklees. There has been multi agency modern slavery training delivered in partnership with West Yorkshire Police which has reached approximately 100 people from partnership organisations and services, and this awareness may be resulting in the increase in reports.

Neighbourhood Crime & ASB

Kirklees is the safest place to be in West Yorkshire with 108 crimes per 1,000 population. There has been an 8.3% increase in the **total crime** incidents recorded in 2022/23 when compared with the same period in 2021/22 and currently this is being projected to 50,225 incidents at year end. Theft offences have decreased however violence against a person and stalking and harassment have seen large increases in Kirklees which is mirrored nationally and regionally.

The number of **vehicle offences** reported to Police has increased by 18% to 1,183 incidents. Theft of motor vehicles is on the rise as a result of people being more mobile since the end of the Pandemic. The centres of Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Batley are hotspots.

Although the number of **residential burglaries** have increased by 10%, the decreasing trend that was witnessed at the start of the Pandemic has continued, with the incidents peaking in the winter months around December.

There has been a reduction in the number of reported **nuisance ASB** incidents in 2022/23 by 30%, this is consistent with the reduction in residents that consider ASB a problem in their local area from the Your Views survey. **ASB Driving**, problem parking and youths being rowdy in public places were the top 3 ASB concerns from the survey. All wards apart from Birstall and Birkenshaw, Dewsbury East and Golcar have seen reductions in reported ASB incidents from the previous year and there has been continued partnership action to tackle ASB in local areas.

The number of **fly tipping incidents** reported is increasing, it is projected that there will be over 7,000 fly tipping incidents for 2022/23. Most notably the incidents reported in Dewsbury East have doubled in this period, which is contributing to the Dewsbury and Mirfield area seeing a 20% increase in incidents.

There has been a 55% increase in the number of **deliberate fires** reported to WY Fire and Rescue service, 1,654 incidents are being projected for year end. Batley and Spen have seen the largest increase in deliberate fires by 131% in reported incidents. We will work with the Fire Service to understand what is behind this.

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Building Resilient & Inclusive Communities

The number of **hate crime** incidents have increased in Kirklees with 332 repeat victims compared with 262 in the previous year to date. Better recording methods have been embedded which can partly explain the increase in total incidents but not the necessarily the repeat victims. Going forward there is the focus on delivering the hate crime strategy through a collaborative multi-agency action plan and exploring what we can do to strengthen our prevention work and understand and reduce the repeats.

The % of **young people who report feeling safe** in their neighbourhood has reduced from 72.8% in 2019 to 62.7% in 2022. The top three reasons for young people feeling unsafe in 2022 are, the people who hang about, people carrying knives and drug dealing. The first two of these reasons reflect the perceptions data of knife and serious violent crime, with the media focusing on a small number of tragic incidents.

The percentage of people who agree that **people from different backgrounds get on well together** in the local area has increased from 53.6% in 2021 to 67.5% in 2022. To continue to create the conditions for inclusive communities, the Kirklees Inclusive Communities Framework (ICF) is currently in implementation phase with a number of services now beginning to adopt the approach.

Prevent - The most recently available national threat assessment indicates that the highest risk in term of counter terrorism comes from Islamist Extremist ideologies. However, in Kirklees, most referrals come from the Far Right and increasingly concerns with no or mixed ideology. Online activity continues to be our greatest challenge.

Migration & Asylum – During 2022, over 800 individuals were supported through the migration and asylum seeker workstream called #KirkleesWelcomes

The focus of this work during the year has been reactive, responding to the Ukraine crisis and developing a local response for the Homes for Ukraine programme which was established at short notice and 450 people arrived in 8 months and the support for and impact of, asylum seekers in contingency (hotel or apartments) accommodation, this resulted in some protests from right wing organisations from outside Kirklees.

Families have also still been supported to settle as they arrived at Kirklees in 2022 from Afghanistan and the Middle East and North Africa through the Home Office Afghan Relocation Programmes and UK Resettlement Scheme. This is likely to be an area of continued growth as the Government disperse Asylum seekers from contingency accommodation/hotels.

Reducing Risk

The number of fatal and serious **Road Collisions** in Kirklees is in line with pre pandemic levels and is showing a long-term reduction, with the data for 2020/21 being an anomaly due to the various lockdowns and mobility restrictions. Although the target relates to the number of casualties, we are on target to have a reduction in serious and fatal incidents in 2022/23. Public perception surveys indicate that road safety continues to be a concern in specific localities, despite these reductions, with problem parking also being cited as an issue in surveys.

The Kirklees **Water Safety** strategy primarily focuses on reducing drowning and the risks associated with entering waters either intentionally or by accident. Although incidents can occur at any time of the year, they tend to cluster during hot weather particularly during holidays. There is also an increased risk in freezing conditions and when waters are high and fast flowing. During 2022, the main issues for partners were with large groups of people going to popular sites with potential risks around water safety, anti-social behaviour and inconsiderate parking.

The latest needs assessment estimates around 4% Kirklees residents use **drugs** recreationally and 1% use daily. Proportions indicate high unmet need and data suggested that around 40% of opiate and nearly half of crack users are not in treatment. In terms of alcohol, the same report estimates 78% drink alcohol (32% to excess) which may be linked to an increasing trend in hospital admissions for liver disease. It is estimated that 74% of dependent drinkers living in Kirklees are not in treatment. Work is being undertaken to ensure Kirklees is delivering on the new statutory requirements to develop a Combatting Drugs Partnership and develop a joint response to some of these challenges with a focus on prevention, treatment and recovery and enforcement.

Data Recommendation

Following the data stock take for the Serious Violence Duty it is recommended the serious violence category within the SIA be split into the different domains, as the crimes included are very varied.