

Southampton Safe City Strategy | 2017-2020

Southampton is a safe city...we are working to make it a safer city

Southampton is a vibrant and diverse city and we are committed to ensuring everyone who lives and works in the city, and those who visit it, can live safe and independent lives. The Safe City Partnership is a group of organisations working together to ensure that Southampton remains a safe city. The Partnership has identified four main priorities for keeping Southampton safe over a three year period. These are reviewed and updated every year to make sure the priorities are based on the latest crime data and intelligence included in the annual Southampton Safe City Strategic Assessment.

Our priorities

Why is this important?



Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

Recorded crime rates in the city have increased in 2016/17 and residents are also reporting feeling less safe. The Safe City Partnership wants to build on the successful activity taking place across the city to reduce crime and keep people safe. Partners will work together to address crime and anti-social behaviour, reduce reoffending, and contribute towards making Southampton a vibrant and attractive city where people feel safe.



Reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol

The effects of drugs and alcohol can reduce inhibitions, leaving people vulnerable to becoming either a victim or perpetrator of anti-social behaviour, violence, and other crime, as well as having negative impacts on their health. Alcohol remains a key contributing factor in violent crimes and sexual offences. Drug related violence rose by over 60% this year (from 62 in 2015/16 to 101 in 2016/17) and drug offences have risen by 2% (from 708 in 2015/16 to 722 in 2016/17). By helping individuals to make better choices their own health will be improved and levels of crime will be reduced.



Protecting Vulnerable People

We want to protect vulnerable people to help improve their quality of life, and prevent the growth of criminal behaviour that targets vulnerable people. This includes supporting victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and vulnerable victims*. 8% (1726) of offences were identified as involving a vulnerable victim in 2016/17.



Reduce Youth Crime

Reducing youth crime in Southampton will positively impact on everyone living and working in the city. There will be less victims of crime and better outcomes for young people who have previously been involved in criminal activity. The Youth Offending Service has been successful in reducing the number of young offenders (from 79 in 2015/16 to 61 in 2016/17), and continuing this trend remains a priority.

*A vulnerable victim is defined as anyone who is (a) under 18 years of age at the time of the offence, or (b) likely to have the quality of their evidence affected by mental disorders, significant impairments of intelligence and social function or physical disability or disorder.

Some of our successes in 2016/17

26%

Theft of a motor vehicle has reduced by 26%, from 599 in 2015/16 to 444 in 2016/17.

8%

Around 8% (1726) of offences were identified as involving a vulnerable victim in 2016/17, this is a large decrease on the 28.5% (4,600) recorded in 2015/16.

11%

Threats to kill have reduced by 11%, from 130 in 2015/16 to 116 in 2016/17.



The numbers of vulnerable people going missing regularly have been reduced significantly through successful partnership working.

There has been a reduction in both the number of road collisions and the number of road casualties. The annual number of collisions fell from 594 in 2015 to 532 in 2016 and the annual number of casualties fell from 681 in 2015 to 650 in 2016.

4th

In 2016/17 First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System fell for the fourth year running; the number of reoffenders also reduced from 342 in 2013/14 to 266 in 2014/15 (latest available data).



However, there are still some areas of challenge:

121.5

121.5 crimes per 1000 population were recorded in Southampton, which is significantly higher than the national average, but similar to Portsmouth, as the other large city within Hampshire Constabulary's area, which recorded 120.6 crimes per 1000 population.



Southampton has higher rates of drug related deaths than England, with 6 recorded deaths per 100,000 population between 2014/16, compared to 4 recorded deaths per 100,000 population nationally between 2014/16.

13.3%

Recorded crime has increased by 13.3% in 2016/17. In the same period, there was a 6.7% increase in calls to emergency services and 1.3% increase in calls to 101 non-emergency.

58%

There was a 58% increase in reported serious sexual offences, from 371 in 2015/16 to 585 in 2016/17; this may be partly due to an increase in reporting of historic sexual offences.

18%

There was an 18% increase in reported domestic violent crimes, from 2403 in 2015/16 to 2825 in 2016/17.

62%

Those committing multiple offences in Southampton were responsible for 62% of all recorded crime.



There were around 1,500 incidents of alcohol related violent crime in Southampton in 2016/17, up from 1457 in 2015/16.

Outcomes for young offenders are improving, however it is important to continue work to understand pathways into criminality for first time entrants.

14%

Violent offences in Southampton rose by 14%, from 8340 in 2015/16 to 9544 in 2016/17.

16%

There was a 16% increase in non-domestic burglaries, with burglaries from sheds accounting for 31% of the total.

This strategy is supported by a number of other strategies and plans, including:



Local Safeguarding Children Board



Local Safeguarding Adult Board





What do residents say?

- Most people feel safe in their local area during the day (76%) but this figure falls to 42% at night. This has decreased since 2015, when 91% reported they felt safe during the day, and 52% at night.
- 33% of residents felt that rough sleeping was a very big issue in Southampton.
- 58% of residents felt that begging in the streets was a very big or fairly big problem in Southampton, compared to 37% in 2015.
- 56% thought that dealing or using drugs was a very big or fairly big problem in Southampton, compared to 39% in 2015.

*Southampton Community Safety Survey 2017

How we are going to make Southampton safer?

Priorities	Key actions	Lead Agency	How we will measure success in March 2020?
 Reduce crime, reoffending and anti-social behaviour	Continue to raise awareness and improve communication to help people understand what they need to do to avoid becoming a victim of crime and encourage reporting focusing on deprived and hard to reach communities/areas.	All	Increased percentage of people in the city who feel safe in their local areas during the day and night
	Continue to engage with the public to identify and respond to issues specific to each neighbourhood area that most significantly impact communities (crime and anti-social behaviour).	Hampshire Constabulary	Decreased recorded anti-social behaviour rate
	Support evidence based approaches to tackle emerging crime patterns and prevent crime, while supporting initiatives in deprived areas.	Hampshire Constabulary	Reduced offending rate
	Support communities to give victims of hate crime the confidence to report incidents, and ensure this crime data is monitored to identify trends.	Hampshire Constabulary	Number of reported hate crimes across the city
	Working collaboratively with the Probation Services to reduce reoffending by improving outcomes for offenders through timely access to substance misuse services, mental health services, diversion services, employment training, family support, accommodation and education opportunities.	Probation Services	Decreased reoffending rate
	Continue to address activity in the city associated with anti-social behaviour through joint working, in order to disrupt and reduce begging and improve awareness through education.	Southampton City Council / Hampshire Constabulary	Reduced numbers of residents reporting street begging as a problem
	Explore opportunities with businesses to monitor commercial burglary hot spots in order to prevent and reduce the number of burglary offences in the city.	Hampshire Constabulary	Reduced number of commercial burglary offences committed
 Reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol	Monitor data from a range of sources in order to better understand violent crime trends.	Hampshire Constabulary	Reduced violent crime rates
	Work with the Health and Wellbeing Board to monitor and support the delivery of the Alcohol Strategy to reduce alcohol-related crime, disorder and violence in the city.	All	Decreased number of alcohol related violent crimes being committed
	Implement the Drugs Strategy, focusing on prevention, treatment and enforcement, working to reduce drug related deaths and the impact of drug related litter.	Hampshire Constabulary	Reduced number of drug offences across the city.
 Protecting vulnerable people	Maintain operations to safeguard vulnerable people against drugs activity and associated crime.	Hampshire Constabulary	Increased numbers of people safeguarded via Operation Fortify
	Work collaboratively with Public Health and the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategic Group to implement the Multiagency Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2017-20.	Southampton City Council	Reduced number of High Risk Domestic Abuse (HRDA) cases recorded
	Investigate the rate of arrests and charges for domestic violent crime and review practices and officer training if necessary to ensure the most effective method of reducing Domestic and Sexual Abuse in the city.	Hampshire Constabulary	Increased proportion of recorded incidents of domestic related violence resulting in arrest and criminal charges
	Ensure there are appropriate referral routes in place to programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.	Probation Services	Increased number of identified perpetrators of domestic abuse engaged in and completing programmes or interventions
	Encourage increased reporting and sharing of local intelligence related to Modern Day Slavery, Harmful Practices, those Missing, Exploited or Trafficked, Domestic Violence and Abuse to better understand the extent of these crimes and increase learning regarding intervention and safeguarding.	Hampshire Constabulary	Decreased Missing Exploited or Trafficked cases
	Enhance support to identified vulnerable people through health and safety community projects and work to build community resilience.	Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service	Increased number of people supported by HFRS projects
	Continue to support the counter extremism and Prevent agenda and maintain routes for safeguarding people at risk of radicalisation.	Prevent Working Group	Number of referrals to Channel Panel (South East Region)
 Reduce youth crime	Continue to address rough sleeping activity within the city, ensuring strong pathways of support are available for vulnerable and high risk individuals with complex needs.	All	Reduced numbers of rough sleepers
	Work together to ensure that families of children who offend have support, prioritising resources for the most high risk offenders.	Youth Offending Service	Increased numbers of families turned around through Families Matter programme
	Promote child-friendly restorative practices, working with partners and schools to achieve our ambition of becoming a restorative city.	Youth Offending Service	Increased number of schools and agencies adopting Restorative Practices
	Monitor reoffending rates for young people, prioritising resources at those assessed as the most high risk and high need young offenders in the city.	Youth Offending Service	Reduced reoffending rates for young people
	Work collaboratively to reduce children's use of weapons and raise awareness with schools and youth groups.	Youth Offending Service	Reduced weapon related incidents in schools