

Safer Solihull – 25th July 2023 – SVD SNA V7

Strategic Needs Assessment Solihull

Contents

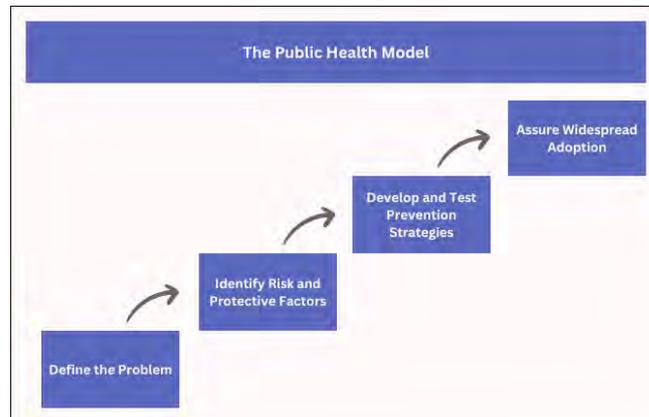
Strategic Needs Assessment Solihull	0
Contents	1
Introduction	2
The Public Health Approach	3
Serious Violence Duty	4
Definition of Violence	5
Scope and Approach	5
Local and Regional Governance	6
An Introduction to Solihull	8
Violence in England and Wales	9
Violence in Solihull	10
Under 25 Violence	13
Exploitation as a Driver of Violence	17
Youth Justice	28
Department for Education and Ministry of Justice	31
Risk Factors	36
Key Areas of Focus for the Local Violence Reduction Partnership	42
References	43

Violence has a devastating impact on communities, and society as a whole. Victims, their families, and people exposed to violence suffer a range of short and long-term consequences including physical, mental, emotional, social and economic issues. Those vulnerable to violence can suffer reduced economic participation, social wellbeing and health, compared to other groups, leading to worse outcomes for individuals and worsening inequality across the whole of society (Bellis et al., 2012). Violence also places a heavy strain on local and national economies with some estimates suggesting the global costs might be as high as 11% of the world's gross domestic product when factoring in homicide, violent crime, child abuse, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence (WHO Violence Prevention Unit, Approach, Objectives and Activities, 2022-2026). It is a major public health issue that, whilst preventable, has complex root causes that must be addressed if violence prevention and reduction is to be successful. Data driven approaches are key because violence can be predicted, tends to cluster and affects some people and places more than others.

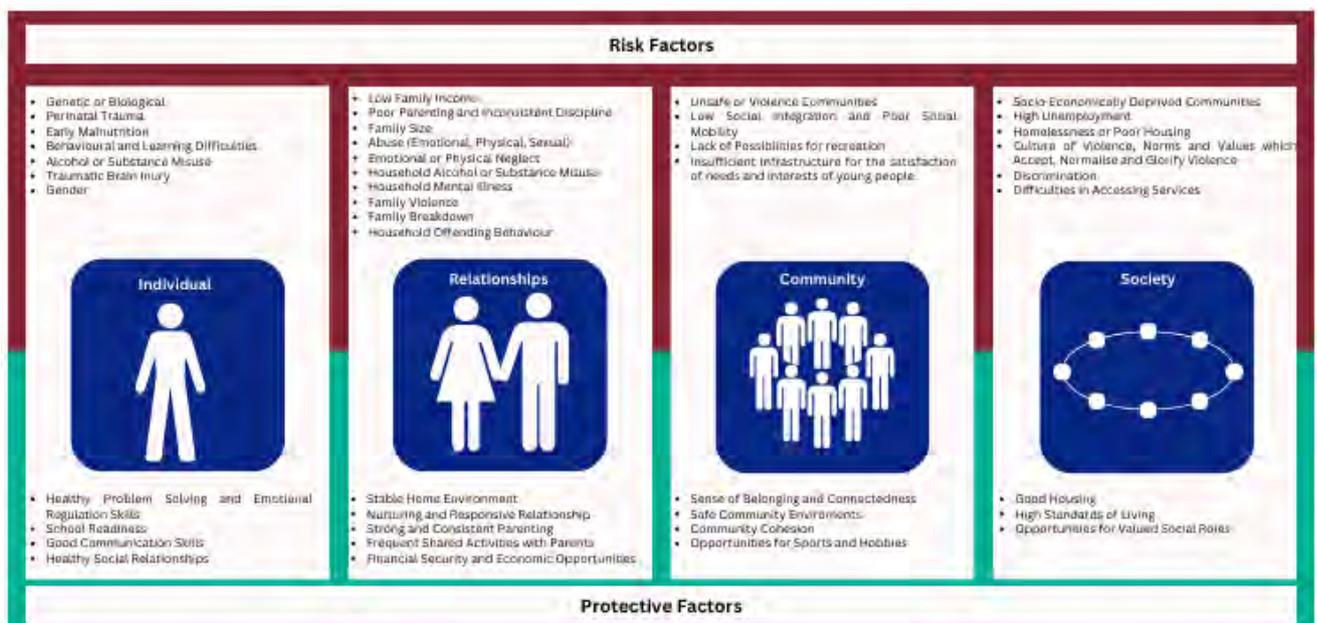
In April 2018 the government published the Serious Violence Strategy stating that they were “determined to do all it can to break the deadly cycle of violence that devastates the lives of individuals, families and communities.” The strategy was framed on four key themes: tackling county lines and misuse of drugs, early intervention and prevention, supporting communities and partnerships, and an effective law enforcement and criminal justice response. Ultimately the strategy sought to establish a new balance between prevention and law enforcement, and advocated for a public health approach to violence prevention and reduction.

The Public Health Approach

The public health approach provides a framework within which we seek to understand the causes of violence, test approaches and develop sustainable, evidence-based approaches to reduce and prevent violence¹.



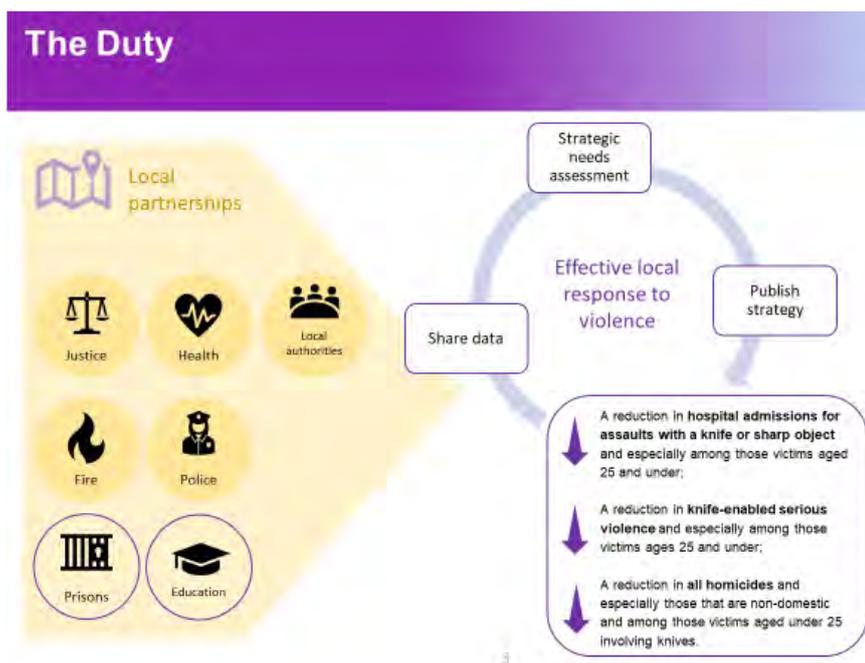
Identifying the risk and protective factors is critical in developing strategic approaches. Mitigating risk and building on protective factors can be hugely impactful, and can involve everyone. We all have a role to play in violence prevention and reduction, some in addressing and reducing risk, and others in increasing protective factors at an individual, relationship, community and societal level².



Serious Violence Duty

Following public consultation in July 2019, the Government announced that it would bring forward legislation which introduces a new serious violence duty on public bodies which will ensure relevant services work together to share data and knowledge and allow them to target their interventions to prevent serious violence altogether. In 2019 this was against a background of increasing incidents of serious violence in England and Wales, specifically knife crime predominantly affecting young people.

The Serious Violence Duty was introduced on 31st January 2023 and requires 'specified authorities', including Police; Probation; YJS; Fire and Rescue; Integrated Care Boards; and Local Authorities to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence. Educational establishments, prison and/or youth custody authorities are able to co-operate with the specified authorities as necessary and are known as the relevant authorities³.



Significant work has taken place locally and regionally over the last two years to ensure that the West Midlands is in a good position to respond to the Duty.

Definition of Violence

The final statutory guidance on the Serious Violence Duty [Serious Violence Duty - Statutory Guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) states that specified authorities need to work together to identify the types of violence that occur in a local area. The Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 does not define serious violence for the purposes of the Duty. In determining what amounts to serious violence in their local area, the specified authorities must take into account the following factors listed in Section 13 (6) of the PCSC Act:

- a) the maximum penalty which could be imposed for any offence involved in the violence;
- b) the impact of the violence on any victim;
- c) the prevalence of the violence in the area, and
- d) the impact of the violence on the community in the area.

Section 13 of the PCSC Act makes clear that violence is not limited to physical violence against the person. It provides that, for the purposes of the Duty, violence includes domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence but does not include terrorism. This does not mean that specified authorities will be compelled to take action on these crime types specifically linked to the Duty alone, but instead that they should consider whether violence of these kinds amounts to serious violence in their area, in accordance with the factors set out above. This approach allows the strategy to take account of new and emerging forms of serious violence as they develop and are identified and recognises the geographical difference in the prevalence of different types of serious violent crimes.

The PCSC Act suggests that specified authorities should include a focus on public space youth violence including; homicide, violence against the person which may include both knife crime and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing. For the purposes of this SNA, this is the definition of violence that will be used throughout, with clear links made to cross cutting strategies that outline approaches to other violence types occurring in the borough.

Scope and Approach

The focus is serious violence, specifically affecting under 25s. This document explores violence and vulnerability to violence, and provides information aimed at helping communities and local statutory and voluntary sector partners to join forces and offer both universal and targeted intervention, at the earliest opportunity. It will

be used to review and refresh local action planning to tackle violence and vulnerability and should be read and understood alongside:

Solihull's All Age Exploitation Reduction Strategy (2023-2026) [Exploitation - Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership \(safeguardingsolihull.org.uk\)](#).

National From Harm to Hope [From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Domestic Abuse Strategy [Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2025 \(solihull.gov.uk\)](#)

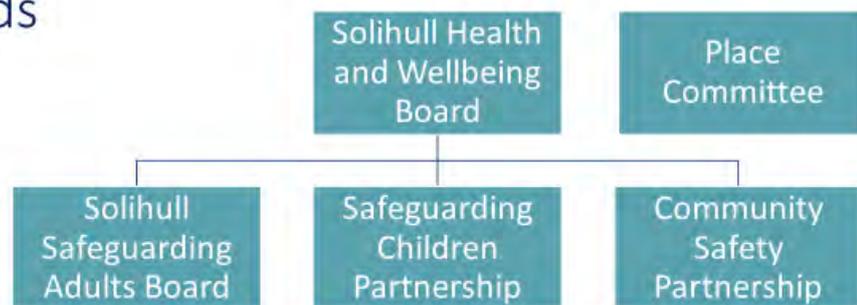
Local and Regional Governance

Progress on implementation of the Serious Violence Duty in Solihull is overseen by Safer Solihull Partnership, local Board structures are as follows:

Progress on implementation of the Serious Violence Duty in Solihull is overseen by the Community Safety Partnership - Safer Solihull, this reports to the Solihull Health and Wellbeing Board. Safer Solihull Partnership is made up of responsible authorities such as the Police, Local Authority, Health, Probation and Fire. The Responsible authorities work together to protect the local community from crime and to make the people of Solihull feel safer.

There are various sub-groups of the Community Safety Partnership - Safer Solihull Partnership which can be seen in the diagram below.

Solihull Boards

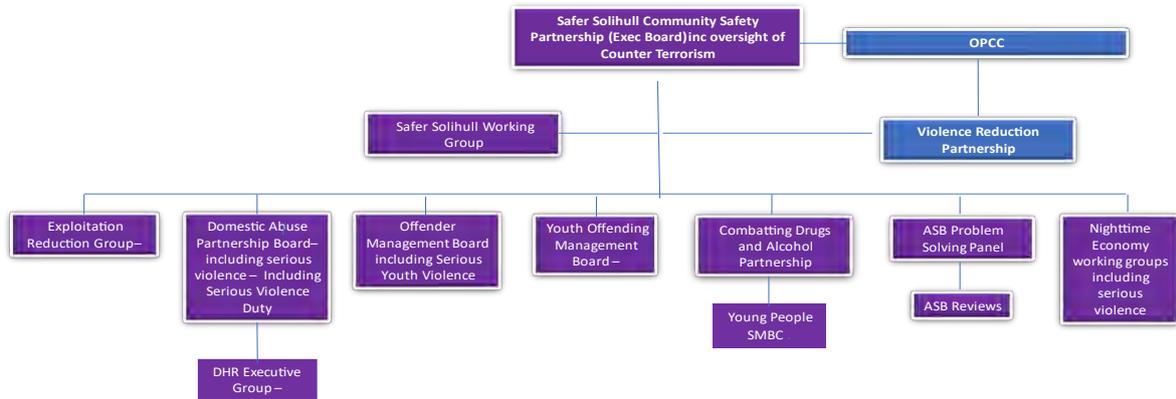


The **Health and Wellbeing Board** is accountable for identifying priority areas and ensuring that services work together. It has a system assurance role in relation to safeguarding of vulnerable people.

The **Safeguarding Adults Board** and the **Safeguarding Children Partnership** are responsible for challenging partner agencies on their success in ensuring children, young people and adults are kept safe. Their annual reports are taken to the Health & Wellbeing Board which has a system oversight role.

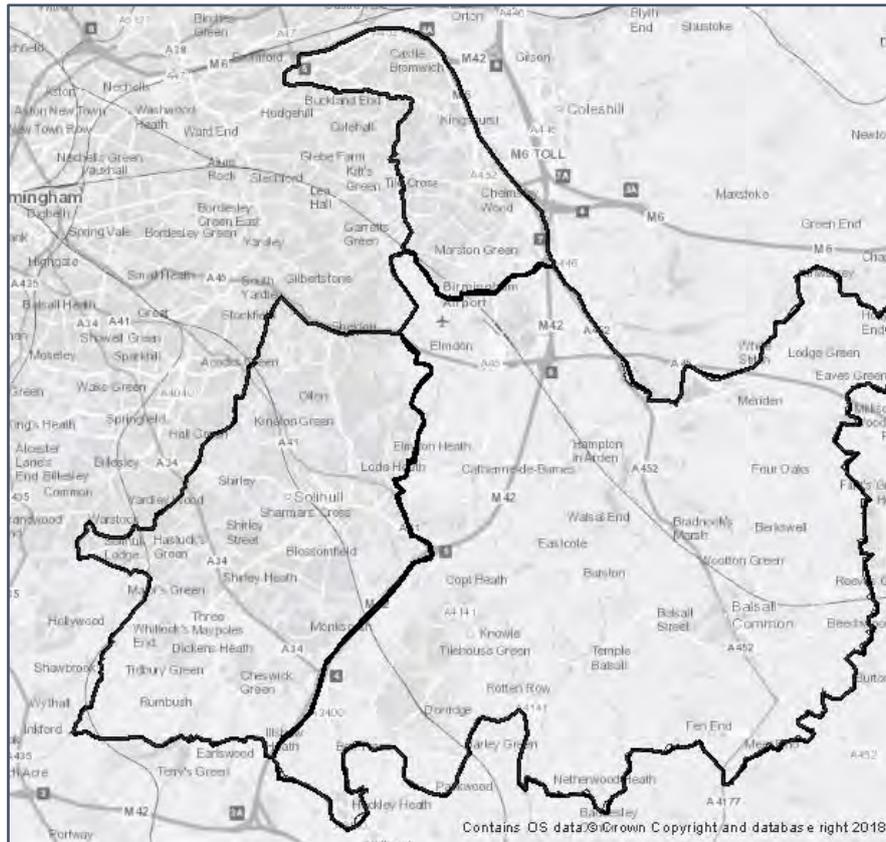
Safer Solihull (the Community Safety Partnership) is made up of representatives from the police, Local Authorities, fire and rescue authorities, health and probation services (the 'responsible authorities'). The responsible authorities work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer.

Solihull Community Safety Partnership



West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) was established in 2019 with the aim of reducing violent crime across the region by implementing a long-term, sustainable public health approach. The VRP works with the seven local violence prevention partnerships across the region and connecting and coordinating violence prevention and reduction activity and initiatives. The regional VRP Strategic Board is also overseeing implementation and progress towards the Duty. Safer Solihull Partnership representative attends the VRP Strategic Board. VRP representatives attend the Solihull Serious Violence Duty Group locally to strengthen joint conversations, contribution and working.

An Introduction to Solihull



Solihull shares many key characteristics with England as a whole, but has a range of unique strengths, opportunities and challenges:

An ageing population. A larger proportion of the Solihull population is aged 65 and over than England. This age group is the fastest growing population cohort and is projected to be so over the next 20 years. This has implications for many services, particularly rising demand for health and social care services. For instance, 69% of new requests for social care support were for people aged 75+.

Over the next 20 years the number of Solihull people aged 65 and over suffering from dementia is projected to increase by 39%, while the number unable to manage a mobility task will rise by 30%.

Increasingly diverse communities. Solihull is increasingly ethnically and religiously diverse, with those from a Black or Minority Ethnic (BAME) background now accounting for 18% of the population. This will continue over the coming years with diversity highest among young people. For instance, 28% of the school population is from a BAME group.

Despite this rapid change, 82% of respondents to the 2022 Place Survey indicated that people from a different background get on well together in their local area.

A cost of living crisis. The Office of Budget Responsibility is projecting a nationwide fall in living standards of 7% over the next two years, largely due to high levels of inflation. 70% of Solihull respondents to the Place Survey say that are more worried about their financial situation than a year ago.

In part, Solihull is well placed to weather this financial storm. The economy is relatively large and productive, albeit under pressure in recent years and employment outcomes are positive for Solihull's well qualified population.

Solihull is also one of the least deprived Local Authorities in the West Midlands but incomes are unequal across the borough as is poverty, unemployment and life expectancy.

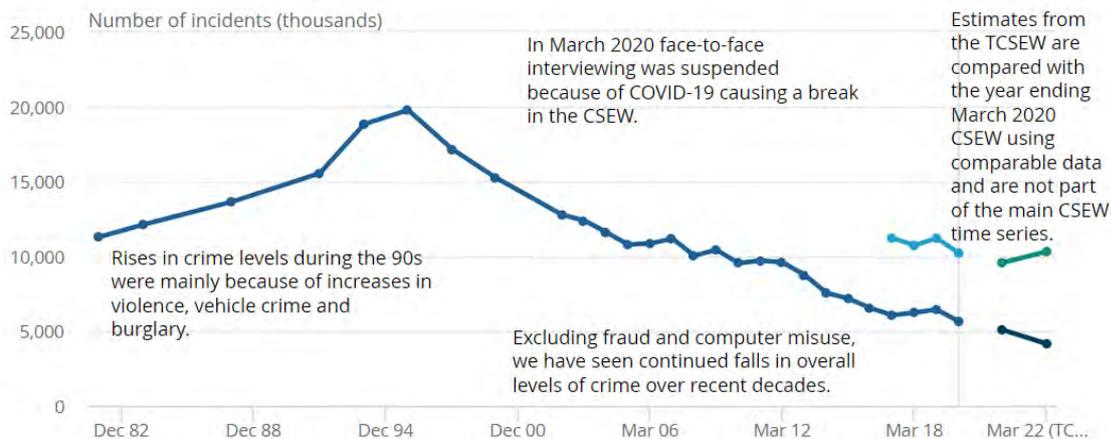
A significant proportion of the North Solihull population lives in the most deprived 10% of England. 62% of social housing in Solihull is located in North Solihull as are 49% of the borough's lone parents.

Rising demand pressure on local services. Increasing numbers of people of all ages require social care, mental health, housing and financial support.

Pressure points are particularly evident in Solihull schools and in children's services. For instance, the number of SEN pupils at school in Solihull has increased by 16% over the last five years. Similarly, the number of Solihull Children in Need has increased by 22% over the last 2 years, and the number of Looked After Children has risen in each year since 2014.

Violence in England and Wales

Long-term crime trends in England and Wales show a gradual, but sustained fall stretching back to 1997. The annual Crime Survey (see below) is the best indicator of people's experience of crime, which is not always reported to police⁴.



However, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) advise that, statistically:

“Police-recorded crime provides a better measure than the Crime Survey for higher-harm but less common violence, such as involving a knife or sharp instrument”

Police-recorded statistics suggest that violent crime in general, in contrast to many other crime types, is rising and has been for years.

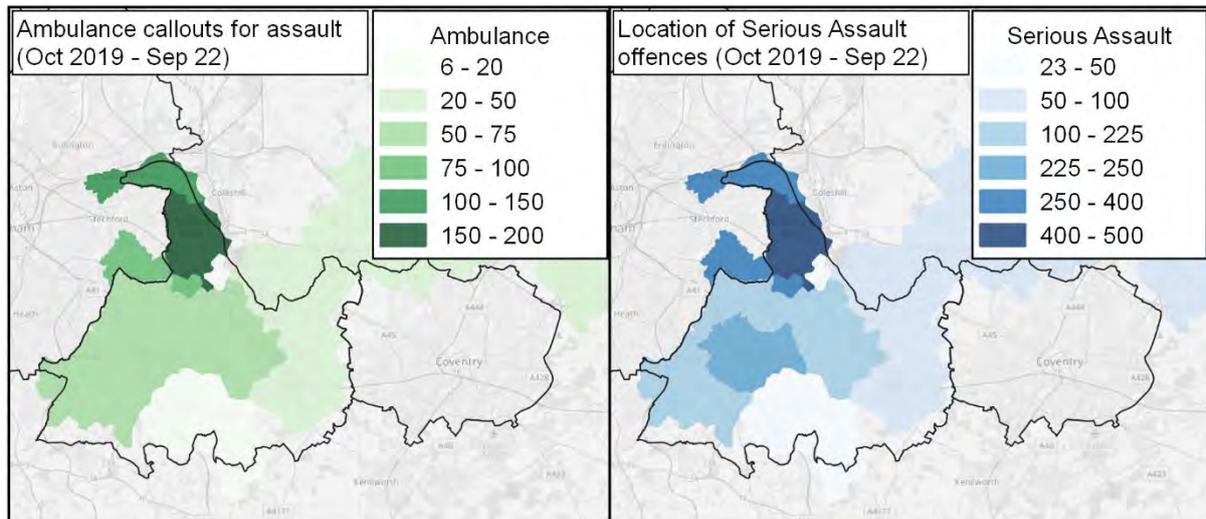
Between April 2021 and March 2022, West Midlands Police recorded the highest rate of Violence with Injury and the highest rate of knife crime of all the police forces in England and Wales⁵. On a positive note, this is 3% down on the previous year⁶, suggesting perhaps that things are starting to turn.

In the following section, we analyse recent trends in violence in Solihull in more detail, using police, hospital and ambulance data.

Violence in Solihull

Ambulance callouts for violence and assault (including stabbings, firearms incidents etc) are compared with police serious assault data in the heatmaps below.⁷

Health sector data is shown as green (the map on the left-hand side) and police data is shown on the right, in blue.

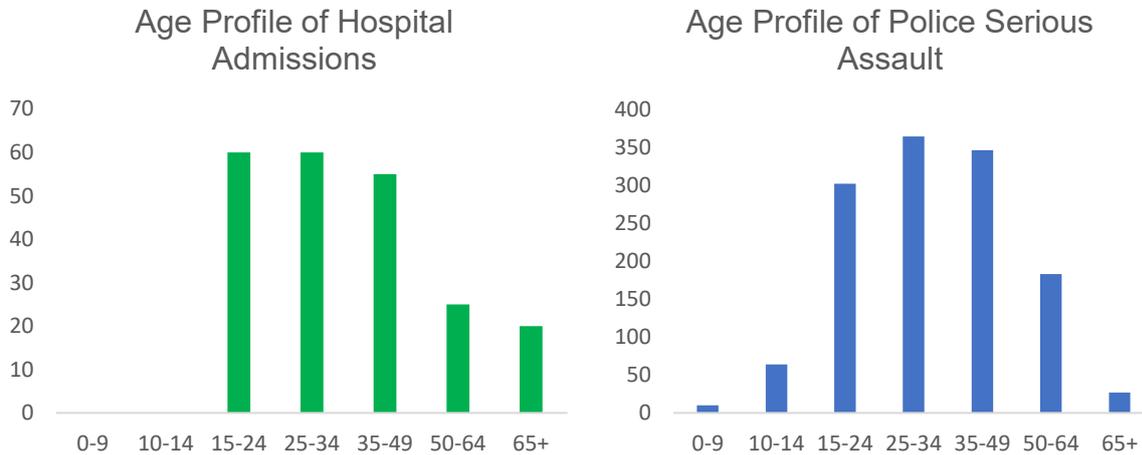


Key findings

- Generally speaking, ambulance crews and police are being called to the same locations
- Both datasets reveal hotspots in Chelmsley Wood in North Solihull – the darker green and blue neighbourhoods on the maps
- Chelmsley Wood is also one of the most deprived part of Solihull

Who are the victims and suspects? - Disproportionalities in the demographics of those involved

The following 2 charts show the age profile of hospital admissions, with the police data for serious assault offences:



Key findings:

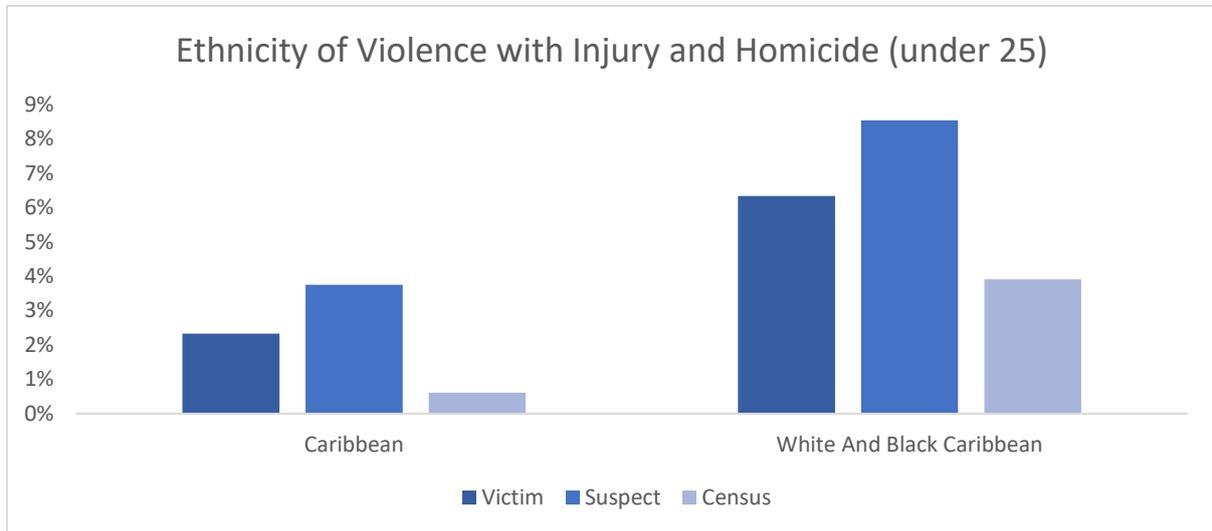
- Both charts show that the highest number victims of assaults are between the ages of 15 and 49.
- The largest peak in the police data is between the ages 25-34 and the largest peaks in the hospital admissions data is between the ages of 15 and 34.
- When comparing gender, 62% of victims are male in the police data, and 84% of victims in the hospital data.
- This suggests that males are more likely to suffer serious injury as the hospital data shows people that require overnight stays
- Across the West Midlands, males are more likely to suffer serious injury and more victims of homicide are male, whereas the number of female victims increase in other Violence with Injury data and hospital data.

Ethnic Disparities

Good quality ethnicity data is not reliably captured in police data, but where it is known (in about 50% of cases) it shows disproportionality, particularly in certain ethnic groups when compared to the proportion in the 2021 census.

Mixed (White and Black Caribbean) and Black (Caribbean) are disproportionately over-represented as suspects and victims of violence.

The differences are shown clearly in the chart below, which has the rates of victim and suspect next to the rates in the population more generally.



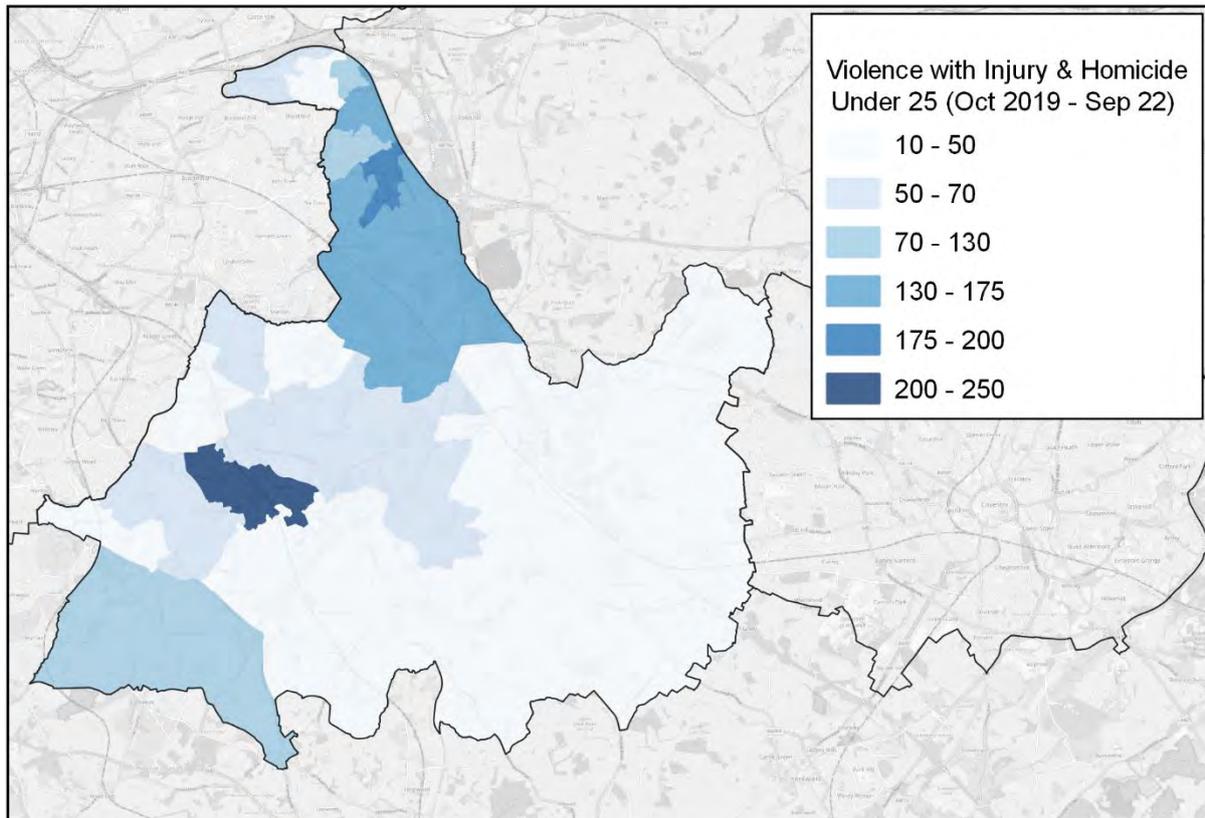
Key findings

- People under 25 in the West Midlands of Black (Caribbean) and Mixed (White and Black Caribbean) ethnicity are much more likely to be a victim or a suspect of Violence with Injury and homicide.
- Young people of Black (Caribbean) ethnicity make up 1% of the population in the Solihull, but over 2% of the victims of violence with injury and nearly than 4% of suspects
- Very similar disproportionalities are seen in young people of Mixed (White and Black Caribbean) ethnicity, shown by the bar chart on the right
- In contrast, young people with White British ethnicity, make up 72% of population, but also 75% of the victims and 78% of the suspects

Under 25 Violence

This section uses police and health data to analyse where and when violent incidents happen, and where the victims and suspects live for under 25s.

The first map shows Violence with Injury incident location where the victim or suspect was under 25. Dark blue is more incidents.



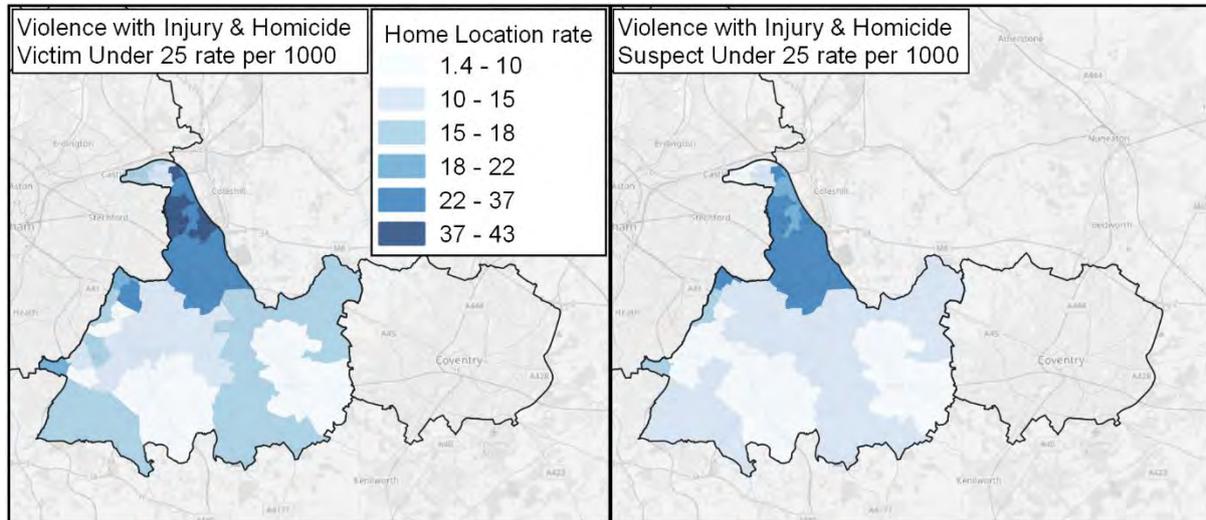
Key findings:

- The largest hotspot for violence is around Central Solihull, which is the location of the town centre, a thriving night time economy and several schools and colleges.
- Other notable hotspots are to the north of Solihull Borough. This is also the area with the largest hotspot in the ambulance callout for all ages.

Victims and Suspects

Town centres are naturally popular with people travelling to and from school and college, shopping or meeting friends and in the evenings and weekends coming together to socialise, in many cases visiting pubs and clubs and drinking.

The following maps show quite clear differences when we compare where violence *happens* with where victims and suspects *live*⁸.



Key findings

- In contrast to incident location, Central Solihull does not feature as prominently in the above maps, showing rates of Violence with Injury home location.
- Most victims and suspects of crimes that happen in Central Solihull do not live there, but there are slightly more resident victims than suspects.
- Analysis comparing the home location of victims showed that 23% of violent crime victims occurred at home

The individual areas on the maps above that have the highest rates of victims and suspects of violence are summarised in the table below⁹.

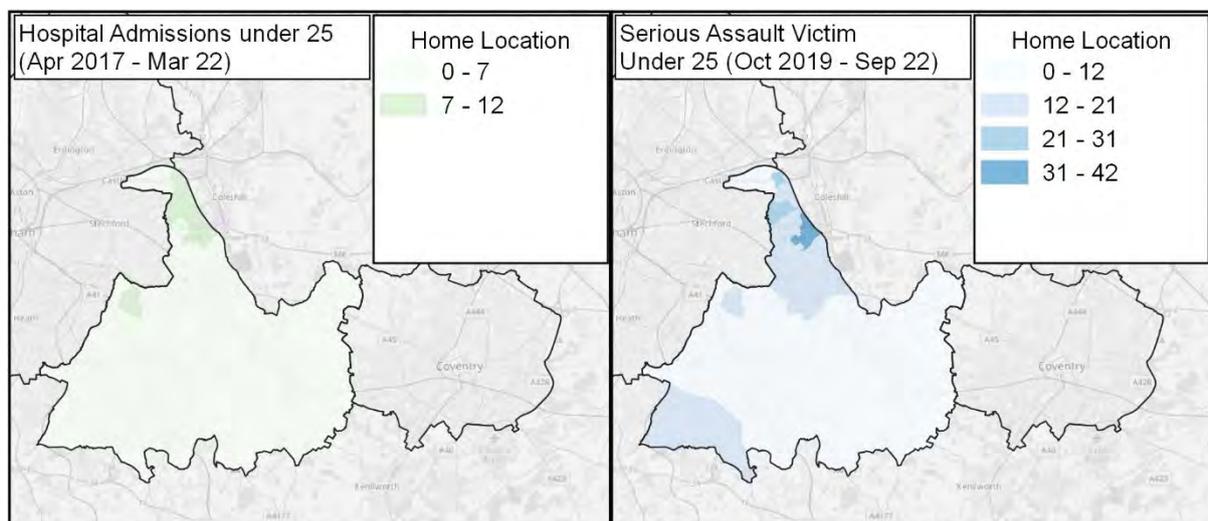
MSOA Neighbourhood	Population Under 25	Victim rate per 1000	Suspect rate per 1000
Chelmsley Wood East	3290	37.7	33.7
Smith's Wood North	2127	40.4	30.6
Fordbridge	2218	39.2	27.1
Marston Green & Airport	2190	31.5	31.5
Kingshurst	2294	37.1	24.0
Chelmsley Wood West	1978	33.4	21.7
Smith's Wood South	2355	32.3	21.2
Lyndon North	1749	20.0	26.9
Lyndon South	2073	31.4	12.1
Solihull Lodge	1625	21.5	15.4
Olton & Kineton Green	1706	17.6	16.4

Home location of victims of serious assault

Here we look at hospital admissions data by the geographical area of where the victim of assault lives and compare it to police data.

Dark green on the map (left) shows higher numbers admitted to hospital for assault.

Dark blue (right) shows the neighbourhoods where most victims of serious assault live, from WM Police data. This includes offences under Section 18 and Section 20 offences (Grievous Bodily Harm), attempted murder and homicide¹⁰.

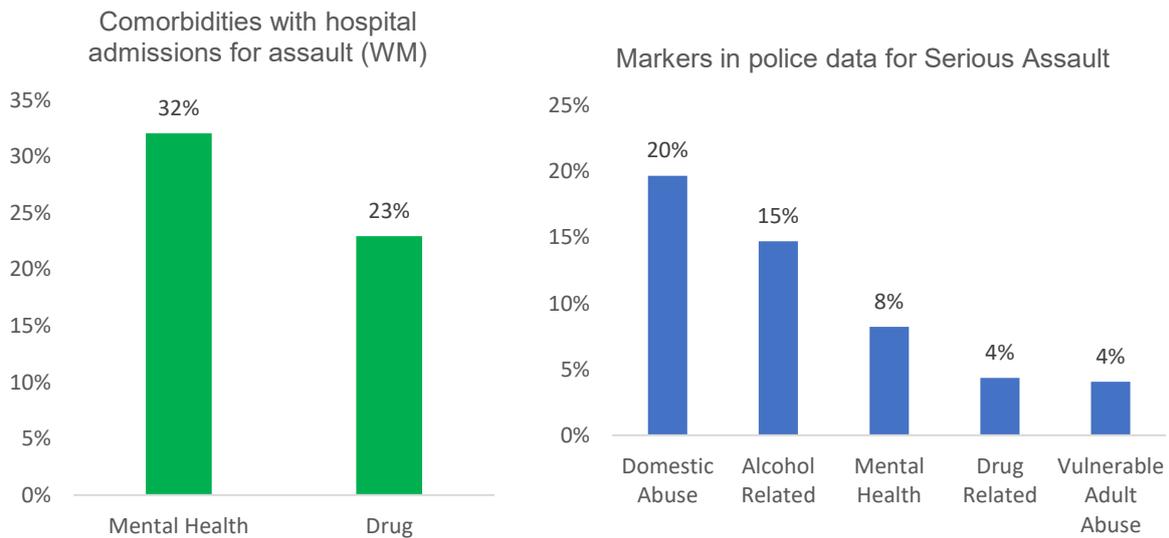


Key findings:

- Both datasets show relatively low numbers of victims.
- However, the maps show larger hotspots to the North of the borough.

Police and Health Markers

The chart on the left shows the proportion of admissions for assault with drug or mental health comorbidities from April 2019 to March 2022 where the patient was under 25. The chart on the right shows the proportion of the serious assault offences in WMP records from October 2021 to September 2022 where a keyword was used and either the victim or suspect was under 25.



Key findings

- The chart on the left shows that 32% of patients admitted as an inpatient also have a mental health diagnosis. The flags do not necessarily mean that mental health or drugs were the reason the patient attended hospital.
- 20% of serious assault offences are flagged as Domestic Abuse
- The chart on the right shows 15% of serious violence offences are flagged as alcohol-related by WM Police, suggesting a link with the night-time economy, but also domestic abuse.

Exploitation as a Driver of Violence

Violence, including serious violence, happens within every form of exploitation: much of which will go unreported to the police until the exploitation is entrenched or it is over. Understanding the typology and extent of exploitation that occurs within Solihull is a priority, in order to better support partners to design preventative and tertiary interventions.

The Solihull definition of exploitation is:

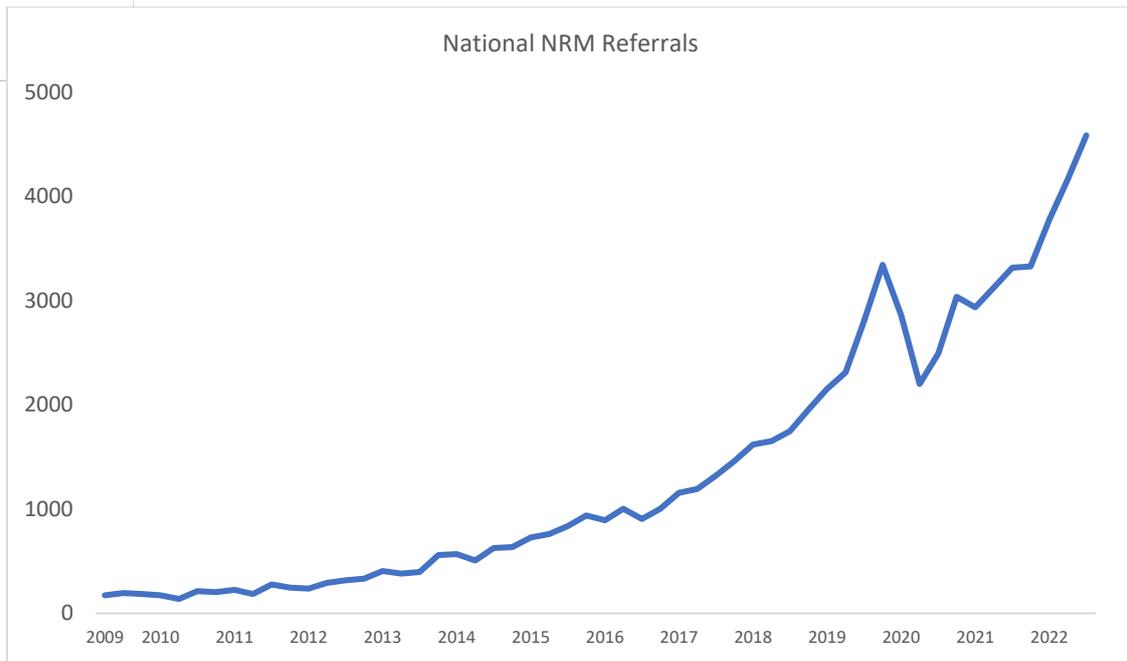
“An individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child, young person (under the age of 18), or adult and exploits them a) through violence or the threat of violence, and/or b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or c) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants. The victim may have been exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology”

National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

The NRM is “a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support”.¹¹

Victims may not always be aware that they are being exploited or trafficked and may have agreed to elements of their exploitation, by coercion, force and control and to some extent ‘accepted’ their exploitative situation.

Referrals to the NRM can only be made by designated First Responder organisations, via an online referral system. First Responder organisations include the police, the local authority, certain departments of the Home Office and a handful of third sector organisations such as the Salvation Army and Migrant Help, who hold contracts for NRM and asylum support.



Key Findings:

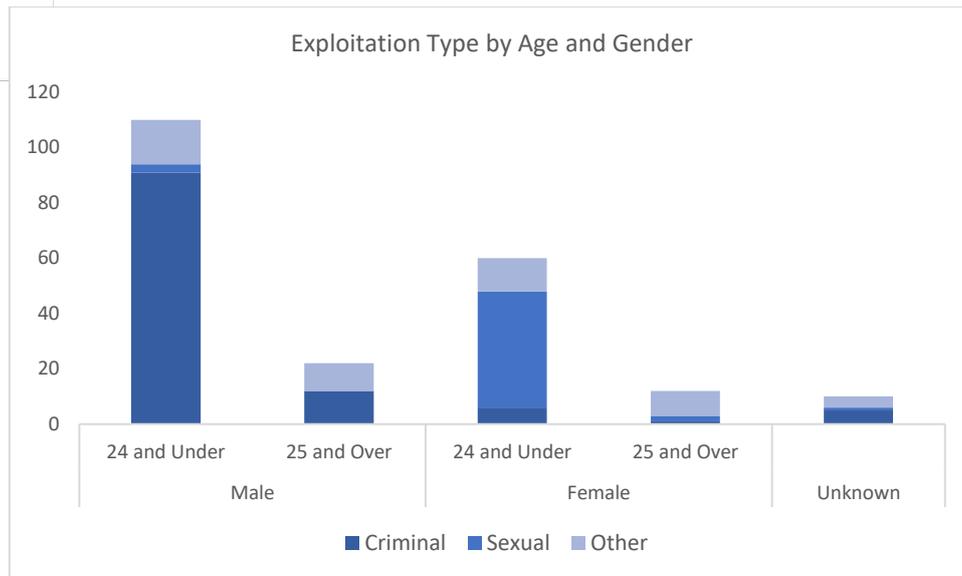
- NRM referrals are at the highest they have been since the beginning of the NRM in 2009.
- In recent years, NRM referrals have been increasing rapidly, apart from an abrupt, but temporary fall in 2020 during the pandemic.
- The increase in referrals is almost certainly partly down to much greater awareness in partners around exploitation.
- But it is also likely to reflect a rise in exploitation, typically of vulnerable young people, in all its forms, including the criminal exploitation of County Lines and cannabis cultivation, labour exploitation of people trafficking and modern-day slavery and sexual exploitation of (usually) young women.

NRM in the West Midlands and Solihull

There were 214 all-age NRM referrals where the exploitation occurred in Solihull. From these 214 NRM referrals:

Key Findings:

- The main exploitation types were predominantly criminal and sexual exploitation. Criminal and sexual exploitation in Solihull accounted for 77% of all exploitation types.
- Most of the referrals were from the United Kingdom (75%) followed by Albanian referrals which made up 8%.
- From the referrals, 65% were male and 35% female.
- Those aged 24 and under added up 79% of referrals, with those aged 25 and over adding up to 16% (5% of ages were unknown).
- The most common ages of NRM referrals in Solihull are those aged fourteen, fifteen and sixteen. These ages made up 48% of referrals.
- 42% of referrals are criminal exploitation who are male and aged 24 and under. 20% of referrals are for sexual exploitation who are female aged 24 and under.



NRM Devolved Panel

The NRM devolved pilot went live nationally in June 2021. The aim of the pilot is to test whether determining if a child is a victim of modern slavery within existing safeguarding structures is a more appropriate model for making modern slavery decisions for children. The pilot also aims to enable decisions about whether a child is a victim of modern slavery to be made by those involved in their care and to ensure that the decisions made are closely aligned with the provision of local, needs-based support and any law enforcement response.

Since the commencement of the pilot, we have seen partners supplying relevant information to assist the decision-making process which has enabled partners to be more able to identify and protect those young people who are being exploited. We have seen a reduction in the length of time that it takes for young people to receive NRM decisions with all reasonable and conclusive grounds decisions being made within 90 days of referral. Solihull had seen an increase in NRM referrals at the start of the pilot through more awareness and an educated workforce, however the high staff turnover and increase in agency staff has impacted on this recently.

The pilot has been extended to April 2024 and will continue to work with our multi agency partners to reduce exploitation and better protect those at risk of exploitation. The pilot will continue to focus on its aims of ensuring that better support is provided to victims in their recovery, strengthen the resilience of victims and communities and achieve higher prosecution rates of perpetrators of exploitation.

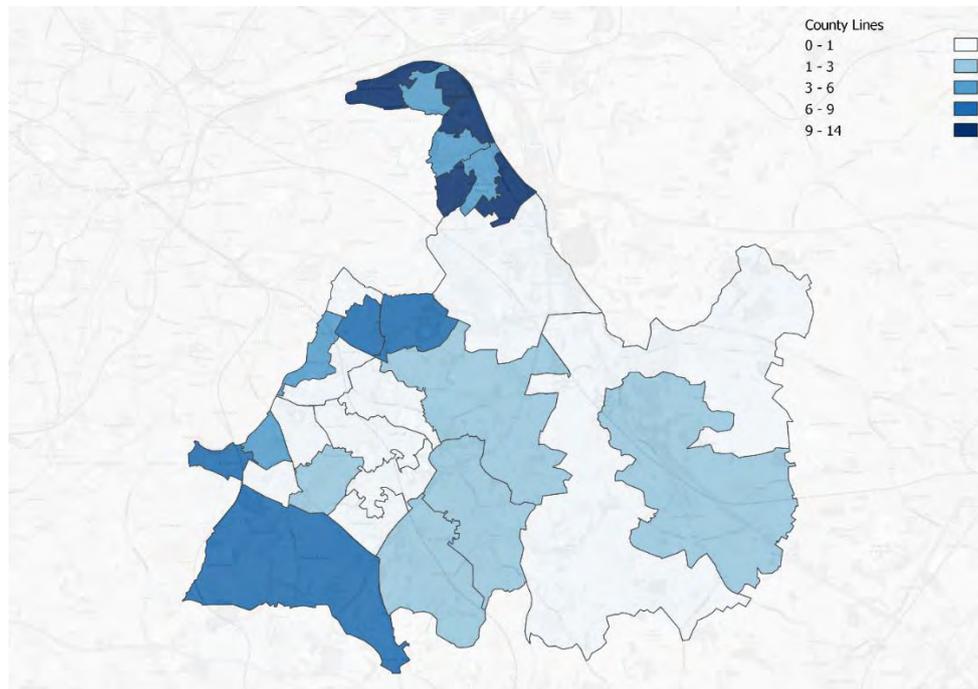
County Lines

County Lines drug dealing is an insidious form of criminal exploitation. The Home Office Serious Violence Strategy defines county lines as follows:

“Gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of ‘deal line’. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons”¹².

Children and vulnerable adults are often targeted for exploitation. In some cases, drug dealers take over homes as a base from which to deal drugs. This is known as cuckooing. Victims are often exposed to physical, mental and sexual abuse and can be trafficked a long way from home.

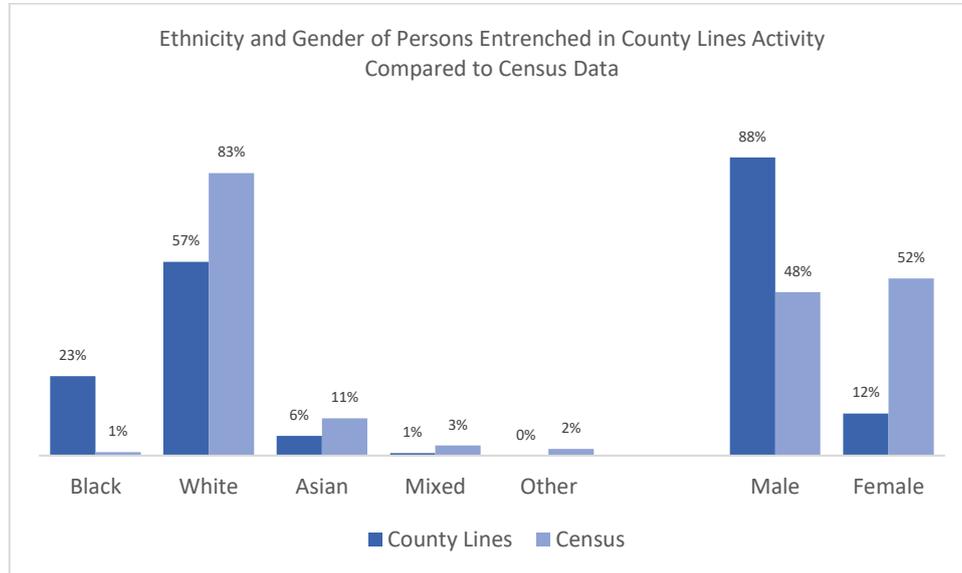
The map below shows county lines activity in Solihull. The areas which are shaded darker blue are areas with a higher amount of county lines activity. Data is from 2019 – 2022.



Key Findings:

- Areas with the highest amount of county lines activity in Solihull are predominantly Castle Bromwich, Smiths Wood, Chelmsley Wood and Fordbridge.

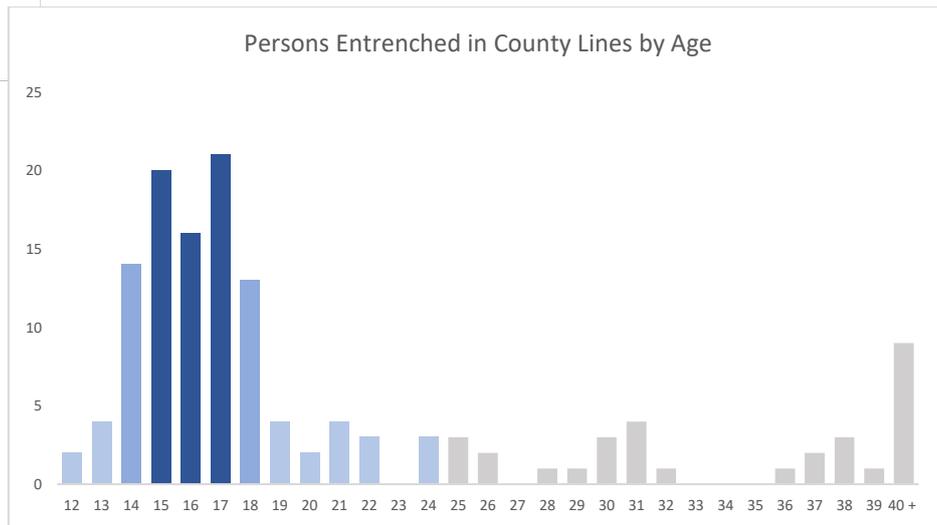
The chart below shows the gender and ethnicity of those entrenched in county lines activity compared to census data of Solihull.



Key Findings:

- There is a higher proportion of people involved in county lines of Black ethnicity than in the census data.
- Persons of White ethnicity are most commonly involved in county lines in Solihull but lower than the proportion of in census data.
- Males are more commonly involved county lines activity than females.

The chart below shows the age of those entrenched in county lines activity, with some of the most common ages highlighted in shades of blue.



Key Findings:

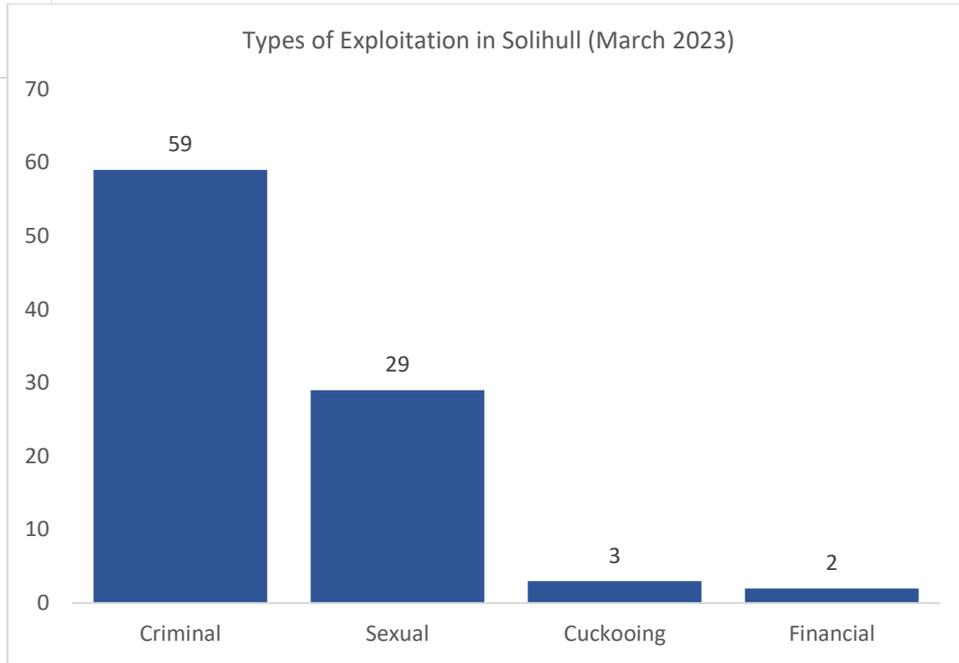
- The youngest age involved in county lines activity in Solihull was as young as twelve years old.
- The most common age for persons involved in county lines is those aged fifteen to seventeen. Seventeen being the most common age.
- Those aged fourteen to eighteen accounted 61% of those entrenched in county lines activity.
- Young people aged 24 and under made up 77% of county lines activity whilst accounting for 28% of the population in Solihull.
- Those aged 25 and over 23% whilst 72% of the population in Solihull.

High Level Vulnerability Tracker Analysis – Q4: January to March 2023

The high-level vulnerability tracker has been live since 27/1/21 and has consistently collected data in relation to vulnerability for nearly 2 years.

There were 93 open exploitation cases listed on the Vulnerability Tracker in Solihull in March 2023, compared to 97 in December 2022, 92 in September 2022, 82 in June 2022, 68 in March 2022 and 70 in December 2021. Of the 93 open cases, 64 were existing open cases and 29 were newly opened.

Below is a chart showing exploitation types in March 2023 (Q4). Criminal and sexual exploitation account for most of the victims.

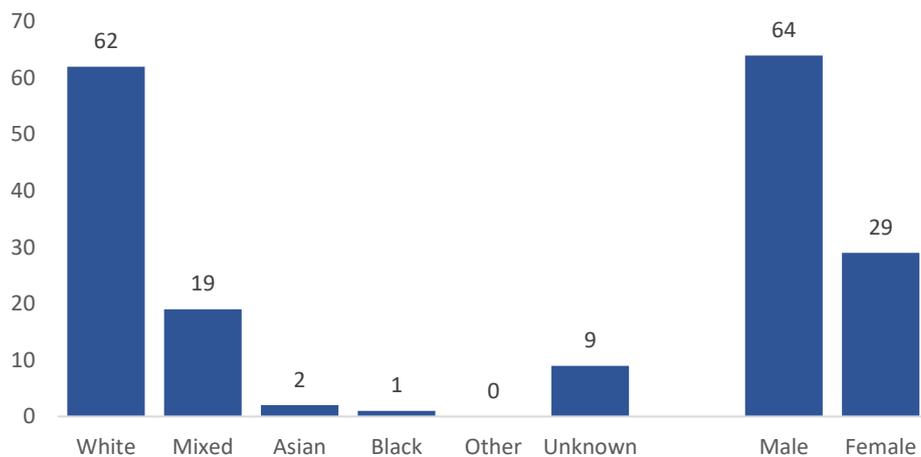


Key Findings:

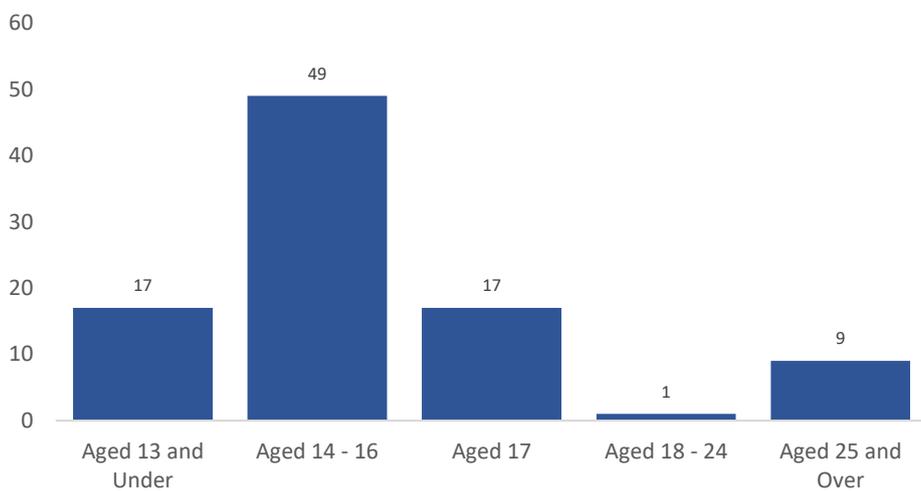
- In Q4, Criminal Exploitation has decreased slightly from 64% in Q3 to 63% in Q4. Criminal exploitation is the main form of exploitation recorded.
- Sexual Exploitation remains at 31% for both Q3 and Q4. There are concerns that sexual exploitation is underreported and is becoming a more hidden form of exploitation.
- Reported incidents of cuckooing has increased by 1% to 3% in Q4, previously 2% in Q2 and Q3. This is similar to financial which has increased by 1% from Q3.

Below are two charts, the first showing gender and ethnicity of victims of exploitation and the second showing age of victims of exploitation in March 2023.

Gender and Ethnicity of Victims of Exploitation in Solihull (March 2023)



Age of Victims of Exploitation in Solihull (March 2023)



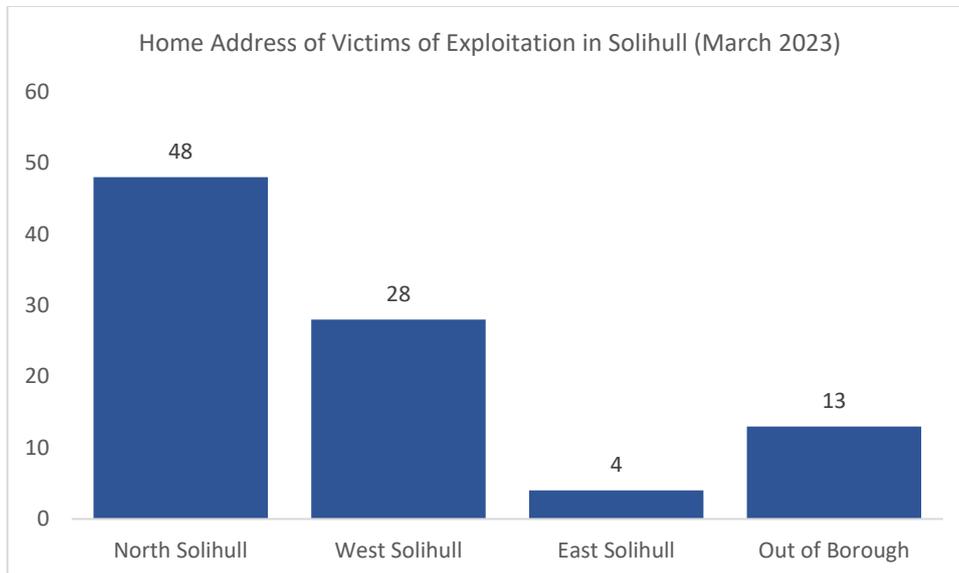
Key Findings:

- There is a clear disparity with 69% of victims being male and 31% female. Male victims have increased faster since Q1.
- It is recognised that female victims of criminal exploitation are underreported. Further work is required around this to identify issues of under reporting and ways of addressing this.
- Among the 93 open cases, 71% of the victims of exploitation are aged 16 or under, this remains the same as in Q3. Age 13 and Under has notably increased in proportion over the last year, in particular contrast with those aged 18-24. The largest cohort of exploitation is the 14-16 year age group.

Safe spaces for this age range in the community require focus and appropriate resourcing.

- 10% are now aged 25 and over which will need to be monitored closely to determine whether the proportion of more mature victims is stabilising.
- The ethnicity of 84 out of 93 (90%) of victims is known, consent is not always given to record ethnicity. Where the ethnicity of the victim is known, White British (74%) is by far the most common, followed by those of a mixed or multiple ethnicity background (23% of known ethnicity).
- Unknown has increased in count (by 1 previously 9).
- Due to the regional dashboard only considering county lines and knife crime, it is currently not possible to make comparisons to the region. Further analyst support would increase the ability to compare Solihull with regional data.

Below is a chart showing where the home address of victims of exploitation are residing.



Key Findings:

- For those victims where residence is recorded, 86% of individuals live in Solihull and 14% out of borough. By area, 48 live in North Solihull, 28 in West Solihull, with only 4 in East Solihull.

- Of the 80 victims who live in Solihull, Smith's Wood is the most common place of residence (20% of those living in Solihull), followed by Kingshurst & Fordbridge (18% - 7 are new), then Chelmsley Wood (15%). Currently, more of the victims identified reside in the North of the borough (52%), this is a significant increase on the same quarter last year. This supports the need for targeted intervention in specific areas alongside a universal support offer across the borough
- **Of the 93 cases open in March 2023:**
 - 16% of the victims are known to be current care experienced children
 - 23% are reported to have a known Learning Difficulty or Disability.
 - 41% of victims have ASD or ADHD.
 - 41% of victims are open to Mental Health services
 - 22% of the victims are classified as being Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
 - There are 17 children on the tracker aged 13 years or under, highlighting the need for support and prevention work to be provided pre-teen particularly in education settings.
 - Whilst exclusion data is not collated within the tracker, local meetings have highlighted the prevalence of child victims being excluded from school and should be included in future data collection.

Context:

In a review of the youth justice system in 2016, the Ministry of Justice observed:

“Many of the children in the system come from some of the most dysfunctional and chaotic families where drug and alcohol misuse, physical and emotional abuse and offending is common. Often, they are victims of crimes themselves”¹³.

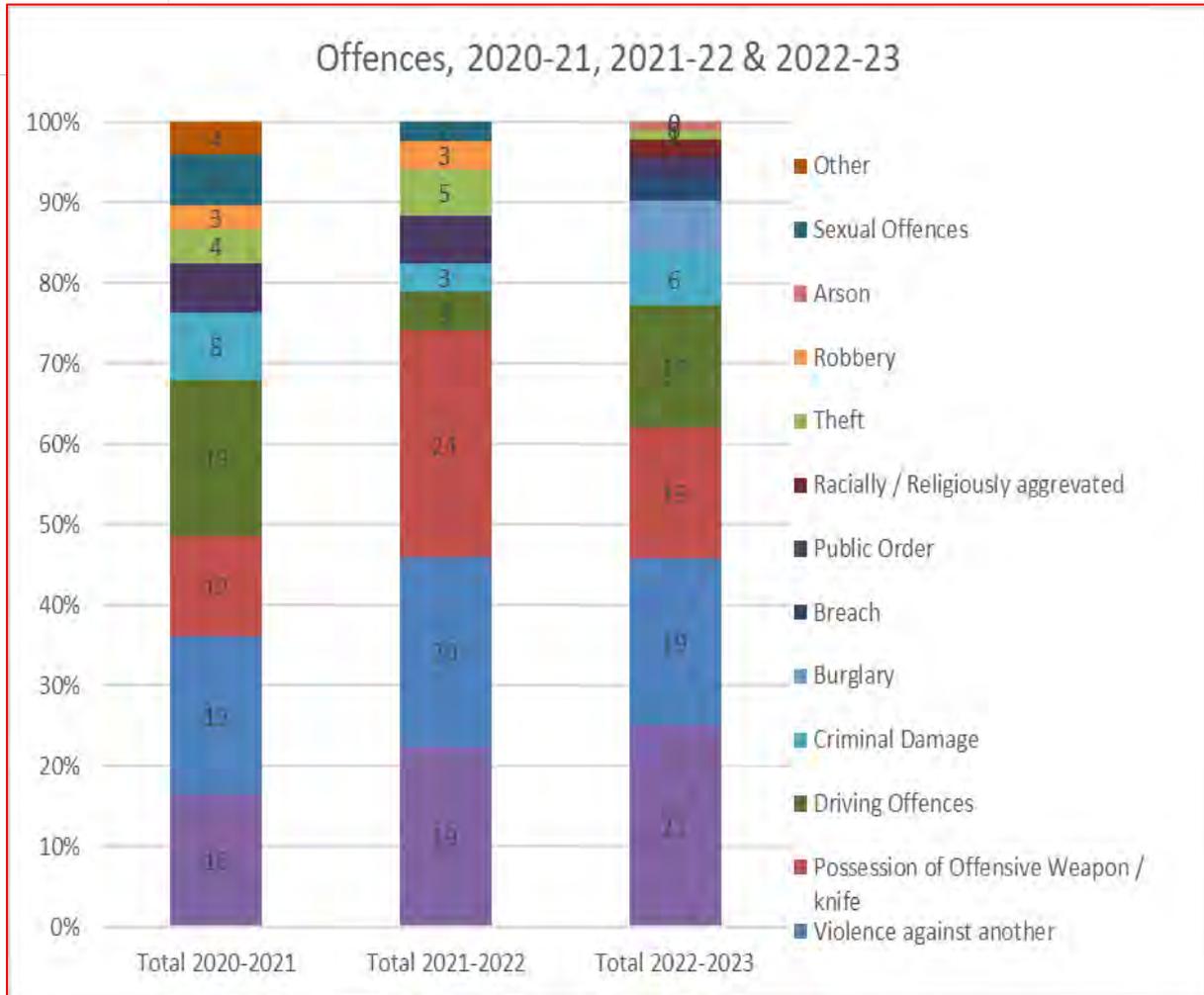
This observation is important context that reinforces the earlier findings from police and health markers hinting at the adversities faced by young victims and suspects of violence and the vulnerabilities of victims of County Lines. The definition of offender and victim is not binary in relation to some children and young people, and the risk is extremely dynamic, meaning that they are victim and offender at the same time in some cases. The risk and protective factors outlined at the beginning of this document should be fully understood in relation to how dynamic the risk is.

The MoJ understood this, and advocated a decade ago for a reversal of the tendency to “criminalise” young people by sentencing and incarcerating them at a young age for often not the most serious offending.

Offence Types

This section of report provides further analysis into the types of offences being committed by children and young people being supported by the YJS in reoffending rates in Solihull. The following themes as shown in the two charts below for out of court and statutory disposals.

This chart outlines the top crime type committed by young people that lie in Solihull over a three-year period.



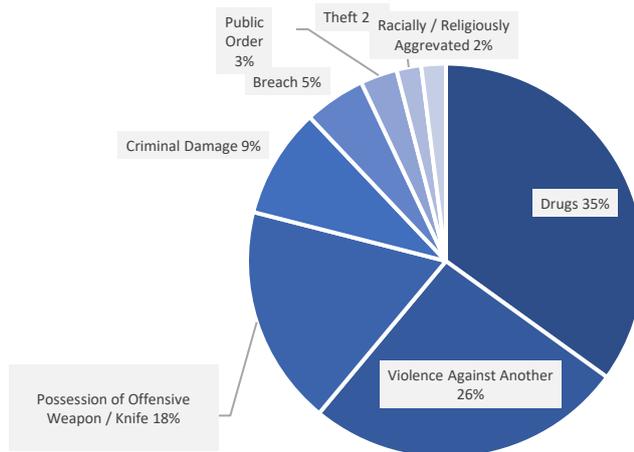
Key Findings:

- There is a notable increase in the number of children and young people that are being charged with possession of an offensive weapon and drugs offences.
- These offence types constitute as serious violent crime and are also indicators of county lines/ exploitation.

Breakdown of Offence Types

The data sets below provides a breakdown of the offences for the period April 2022-March 2023 for Out of court Disposals (pre-court) and post court offence type

OOCD (YC, YCC, CR's, & OC22) - Breakdown of Offences 2022-2023



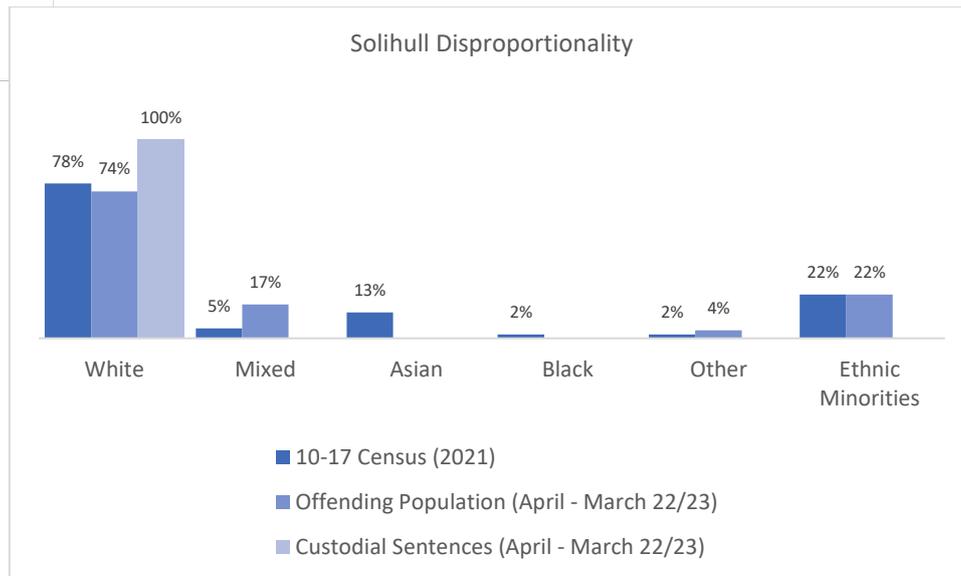
Key Findings:

- Drugs (35% of all OOCB), an increase of 12% from previous years data
- Violence against another (26%, of all OOCB) which is a reduction of 4% from the previous years' data.
- Possession of an offensive weapon (18% of all OOCB) which is an 5% increase to the previous year's data

Over-Representation within the YJS Cohort

In Solihull we note an over representation (29%) of young people of Mixed, Asian, and Black ethnic minorities entering the criminal justice system within Solihull this has increased in disparity compared to 2021-2022 and continues to be a concern.

Solihull data reflects that 29% of young people that have offended are from these ethnic minorities, which is 14% greater difference to that of the national data. This equates to 12 young people for Solihull offending population figures and 1 YP for custody.



A key area of concern for Solihull YJS is the number of young mixed race, males that are overrepresented within the criminal justice system in Solihull. The graphs above show a comparison of the ethnic composition of YJS population (young people who received a youth caution or court conviction) with its region and with its local 10-17 population (2021 census).

The cohort has also seen an overrepresentation of young people within the youth justice system that have identified emotional and mental health needs. Out of the number of young people that engaged with a health assessment (72 in total), which includes 100% of young people on statutory programmes, 45% were known to SOLAR, 36% were in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) with further 9 young people being identified as requiring an Education, Health and Care Plan. The most common conditions include anxiety, ASD and emotional and behavioural issues wellbeing.

Department for Education and Ministry of Justice

The Department for Education (DfE) worked with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on a set of statistics comparing children's education and social care backgrounds with data on children who had been cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence¹⁴.

In the 2019/2020 set of statistics, in Solihull there were 117 **pupils living in Solihull** that were also cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence. This equates to a percentage of 0.8% of all pupils, which is lower than the national average (1.0%).

It was also noted that 149 pupils who **went to school in Solihull** were also cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence. The statistics showed that more pupils attended schools in Solihull than lived in Solihull.

The statistics showed that children who had been permanently excluded, persistently absent from school, eligible for free school meals, had social or emotional needs, and were looked after or in care, were disproportionately more likely to be cautioned or sentenced for serious violence.

This data can be viewed on the [Education, children's social care and offending](#) dashboard.

School provides a protective factor for many children, particularly where home life may be chaotic or challenging. Exclusion from school may represent the removal of one of the last protections against exploitation, criminality and violence.

School Exclusions

The DfE and MoJ ¹⁵report identified that:

- **20%** of children living in Solihull who had been excluded from school were cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence.
- **45%** of the first exclusions occurred over 2 years before the first serious violence offence.

Nationally, 21% of children who had been excluded from school were cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence. The proportion of children cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence is 24 times higher for pupils excluded than the all pupil cohort.

Nationally, the highest rate of exclusions is in pupils with identified Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, which is more than seven times the average¹⁶.

Other Exclusion Data

Suspensions, previously known as 'fixed period exclusions', refers to when a pupil who is excluded from a school for a set period of time. The suspension rate is calculated as the total number of suspensions, divided by the total number of pupils (x100).

Prior to the pandemic, the number and rate of suspensions had been increasing, primarily driven by increases in secondary schools:

Unpublished data			Suspension							
Phase	Measure	Group	LA					National		
			2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Primary	Number	Overall	274	199	176	275	329	132926	94522	92406
Primary	Rate	Overall	1.29	0.93	0.83	1.28	1.54	1.41	1.00	0.99
Secondary	Number	Overall	1449	1063	1229	2189	2534	715430	506614	592448
Secondary	Rate	Overall	8.22	5.95	6.76	12.05	13.92	10.75	7.43	8.48
Special	Number	Overall	38	39	62	58	64	28174	20330	20054
Special	Rate	Overall	5.89	5.79	9.01	7.77	8.45	11.32	7.76	7.29
Total	Number	Overall	1761	1301	1467	2522	2927	876530	621466	704908
Total	Rate	Overall	4.46	3.26	3.67	6.25	7.25	5.36	3.76	4.25

The increase in suspensions in 2020/21 is driven by an increase in suspensions in secondary pupils. Across school types, suspensions increased for secondary pupils by 17%, from 253,300 to 296,200 decreased for primary pupils by 2%, from 47,300 to 46,200 decreased for special school pupils by 1%, from 10,200 to 10,00

Five year trend figures show that for the years 2018/19 and 2019/20 suspensions in Solihull were below the national rates in all school phases (including special).

Data for 2021/22 shows that both primary and secondary school suspensions were below the national rate, but the rate for special schools were above the national by 1.72%. However, the overall rate remained below the national.

2021/22 data is due to be published in July 2023, so the national rate is not yet known. However, the unpublished Solihull data for this year is showing similar rates for Solihull primary schools to the pre-covid academic year 2018/19. Secondary rates are 4% higher than pre-covid levels. Special school suspensions have decreased slightly in 2021/22 but are higher than the pre-covid year of 2018/19.

In Solihull, the most predominant recorded reason for suspension in 2021/22 was persistent disruptive behaviour at 44% and is reflected nationally in the last published data. Other reasons most cited in Solihull are:

Physical assault 27%

Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour 16%

Suspension rates generally increase with age, and are highest at age 14 (ranging from 0.18 for the youngest and 12.38 for those aged 14). This follows similar trends seen in recent years. Nationally, boys account for twice the number of suspensions as girls and this is also reflected locally.

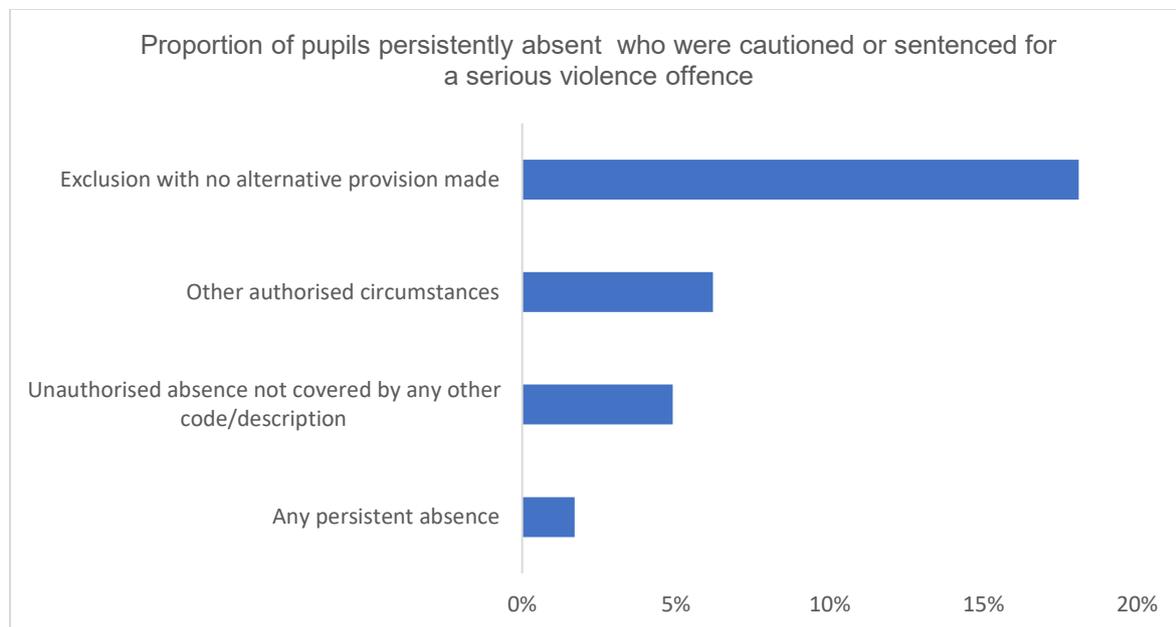
Overall children in Solihull with SEN support and EHCPs are below the national average rate for suspensions in all categories of school.

There are two exceptions to this: primary with an EHCP in 19/20 when Solihull was 3.28% above the national rate, and special schools (with an EHCP) in 20/21 where Solihull was 2.05% above the national rate.

Absence

School absences have been found to have an association with exclusion¹⁷ and may, in some instances, be an indicator of exploitation taking place¹⁸.

The chart below shows the reasons for persistent absenteeism in Solihull and the proportion of children living who were cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence based on the MoJ/DfE report. Pupils are considered persistently absent if they have missed 10% or more of lessons over the course of a school year.



Key findings:

- 18% of pupils who were persistently absent due to 'Exclusion with no alternative provision made' also committed serious violence offences.
- Pupils that are persistently absent due to 'Other authorised circumstances' and 'unauthorised absence not covered by any other code/description' also disproportionately committed serious violence offences. This is over 2 times the proportion who were persistently absent, and 5 times the proportion for all pupils.
- Unauthorised absence not covered by any other code/description has increased from 0.96% in 2018-19 to 1.9% in 2021-22 across Solihull secondary schools¹⁹

- 99% of pupils who committed a serious violence offence were persistently absent before the first serious violence offence.

A national survey of 13-17 year olds by YEF showed that:²⁰

- **14%** had been absent from school in the last 12 months because they felt they would be unsafe.
- **14%** also said they struggled to concentrate in lessons due to worries about violence.
- **50%** of victims said they'd skipped school due to safety concerns.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The Royal College identified that many children and young people with behavioural difficulties, including SEMH, also have speech, language and communication needs.

The DfE and MoJ report identified that:

- **3.4%** of pupils who lived in Solihull and had a EHC plan were cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence.
- **5%** of the pupils with a SEN type of 'Social, Emotional & Mental Health' were cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence.

This is similar to the national statistics where 4.2% of pupils had an EHC plan and 5.9% had a SEN Type of 'Social, Emotional & Mental Health'.

SEMH and exclusions by ethnicity

Between 2018-19 and 2020-21 the highest number of exclusions in Solihull secondary schools was amongst pupils of White British Ethnicity, followed by pupils of White and Black Caribbean ethnicity²¹.

However, the percentage of exclusions amongst pupils of White and Black Caribbean ethnicity was 0.8% compared to 0.2% for White British pupils. This is a rate of over 4 times higher.

Pupils with a White and Black Caribbean ethnicity also had the highest rate of SEMH²².

The DfE and MoJ report identified that 2.7% of White and Black Caribbean pupils were cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence. This is over 3 times the average. This disproportionality is also observed in the police data.

Children in the Care System

The DfE and MoJ report identified that:

- **14.3%** of pupils who lived in Solihull who were looked after were cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence.
- **4.5%** of the pupils who lived in Solihull who were Children in Need were cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence.
- This is similar to the national statistics where **14.6%** of pupils were looked after and **5.2%** were children in need.
- **67%** of the pupils who lived in Solihull and committed serious violence offences were identified as a Child in Need before the first serious violence offence.

Risk Factors

Risk factors are characteristics linked with violence, but they are not direct causes of violence and protective factors lessens the likelihood of violence. A combination of individual, relationship, community and societal factors contribute are risk or protective factors of violence²³. Deprivation, homelessness, care experience and missing episodes are all considered in this section in relation to the risk factors that make violence more likely.

- **Deprivation**

A strong factor of being involved in violence is the link to deprivation, especially child poverty. We have seen that areas with high rates of violence also have high rates of deprivation too. The 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 shows that Solihull is the least deprived upper tier Local Authority in the West Midlands and is ranked in the 2nd top quintile nationally.

Solihull is relatively polarised between large parts of the borough that rank among the least deprived areas of England and a concentration of neighbourhoods in North Solihull among the most deprived.

Population Living in Most and Least Deprived Neighbourhoods in 2019

	% Population		
	Solihull Population	North Solihull Population	Rest of Borough Population
Most Deprived 5% of areas in England	5%	16%	0%
Most Deprived 10% of areas in England	11%	41%	0%
Least Deprived 10% of areas in England	28%	0%	39%
Least Deprived 5% of areas in England	23%	0%	31%

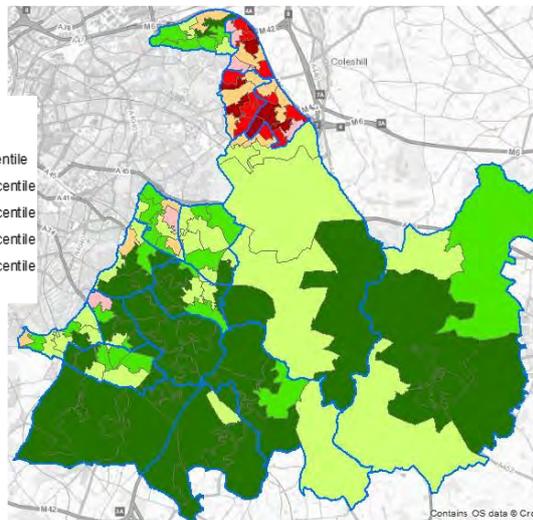
Source: Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government English Indices of Deprivation

2019 IMD

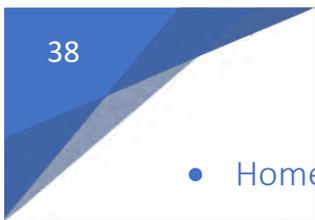
Overall Rank

Percentile Rank

- Bottom 5%
- 5th to 10th percentile
- 10th to 20th percentile
- 20th to 40th percentile
- 40th to 60th percentile
- 60th to 80th percentile
- Top 20%



A large number of Solihull LSOAs are in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods in England in the employment (30), education (26) and income (24) domains. By contrast Solihull has very few deprived LSOAs from a Living Environment perspective (2).



In 2021/22 850 Solihull households were accepted as being owed a homelessness duty, equating 9.2 per household lower than the England and West Midlands averages of 11.7 and 10.9 per 1,000 respectively.

80% of homelessness acceptances in Solihull were among households headed by someone aged 18 to 44 years of age. Single adults account for 61% of all homelessness acceptances in Solihull, with lone parents accounting for 29%.

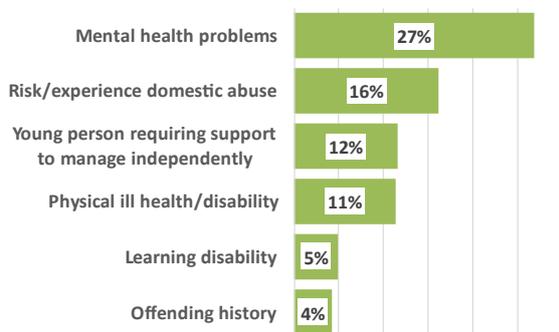
The most common reasons for homelessness in Solihull are the inability of friends or family to accommodate (30%). 20% of Solihull homeless households used to live in socially rented accommodation while private renting accounted for 19% of previous residence.

The most common support need of Solihull homeless households is a history of mental ill health (27%), followed by a risk or history of domestic abuse (16%). Domestic abuse accounts for a larger proportion of support needs in Solihull than across England (10%).

At the end of June 2022 there were 160 Solihull household in temporary accommodation, 71% of which contained children (113 households). In total 262 children were in temporary accommodation at this point. Proportionally more Solihull households in temporary accommodation contain children than England (71% vs 63%). 54% of Solihull households in temporary accommodation are single parents, whereas for England it is just 38%.

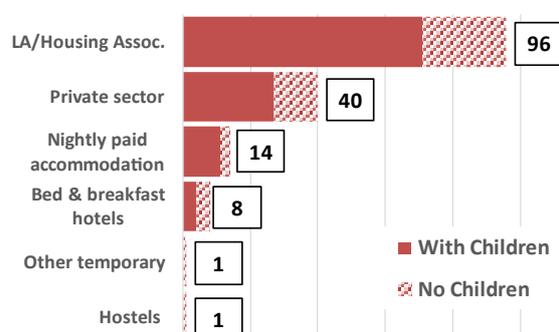
60% of Solihull households in temporary accommodation are in Local Authority or housing association accommodation, with a further 25% of households in private sector stock leased by the Local Authority to house homeless households.

Most Common Support Needs of Solihull Homeless Households 2021/22



Source: Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government – Live Tables on Homelessness

Solihull Households in Temporary Accommodation June 2022

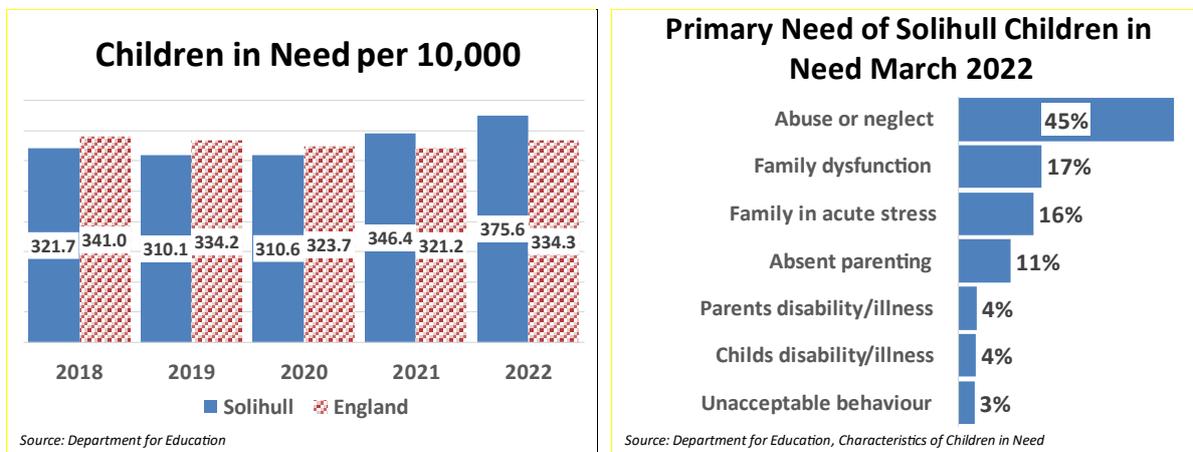


Source: Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government – Live Tables on Homelessness

- Children in Need

The number of Solihull Children in Need (CiN) during 2021/22 was 12% higher than England, having increased in each of the last two years. Between 2020 and 2022 the number of CiN in Solihull increased by 22% (from 1,477 to 1,801) compared to an increase of just 4% across England.

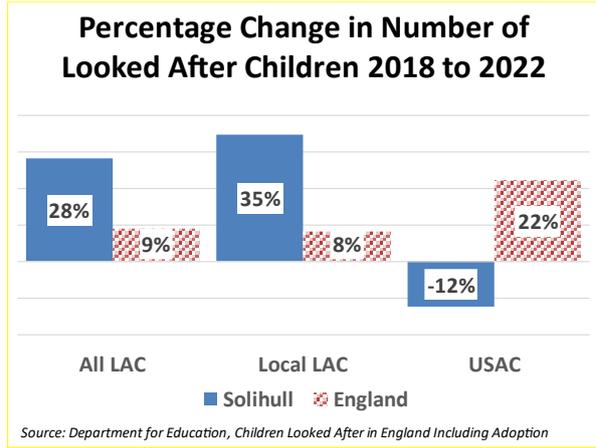
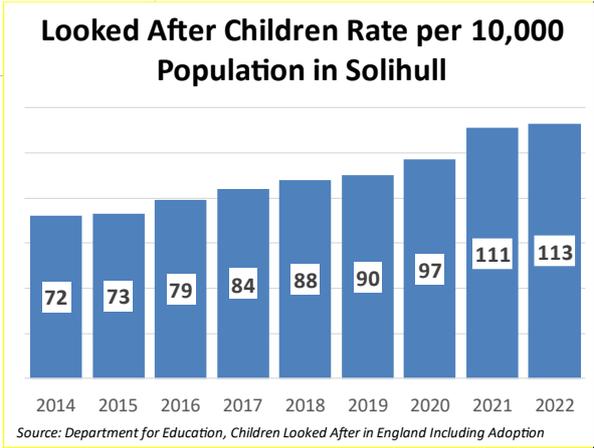
The primary need of Solihull CiN was broadly the same as England, with abuse of neglect accounting for 45% of the total, followed by family dysfunction (17%) and family in acute stress (16%). Between 2020 and 2022 the number of children classified as being in need because of abuse or neglect increased by 70%, family dysfunction more than doubled as a primary reason, partially offset by a fall in number CiN due to family being acute distress (-33%).



At the end of March 2022 there were 528 Looked After Children (LAC) in Solihull equating to 113 per 10,000 population. This is 61% higher than England (rate 70 per 10,000). The number of Solihull children LAC has increased each year since 2014, with the rate going from 70 to 113 pr 10,000 over this period. This represents a 57% increase in Solihull LAC.

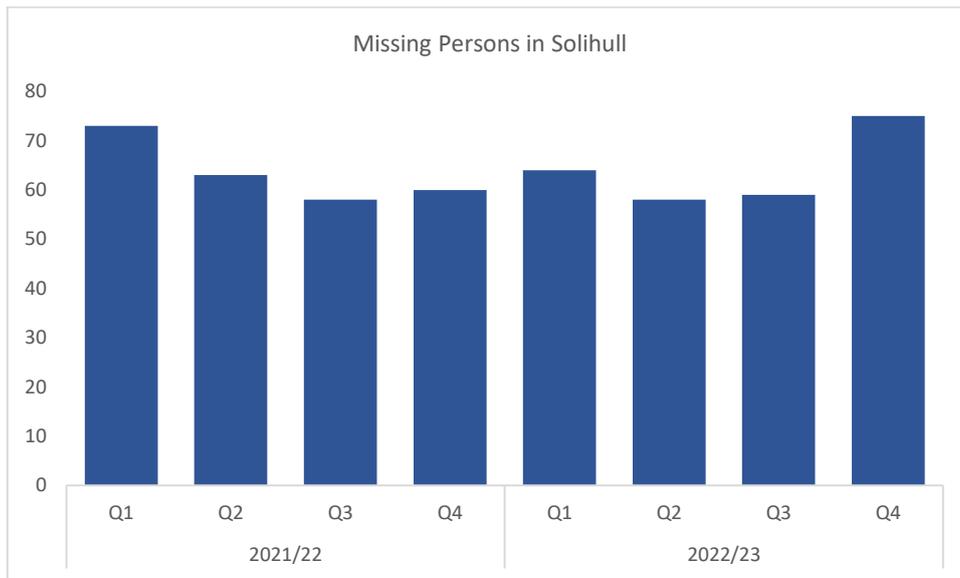
9% of Solihull LAC are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (50 out of 528). This is broadly in-line with the England average (7%), with the Solihull USAC rate falling in each of the last two years.

Between 2018 and 2022 the number of local children looked after increased by 35% in Solihull compared to 8% across England. At the same time USAC numbers fell by -12% compared to a 22% increase for England.

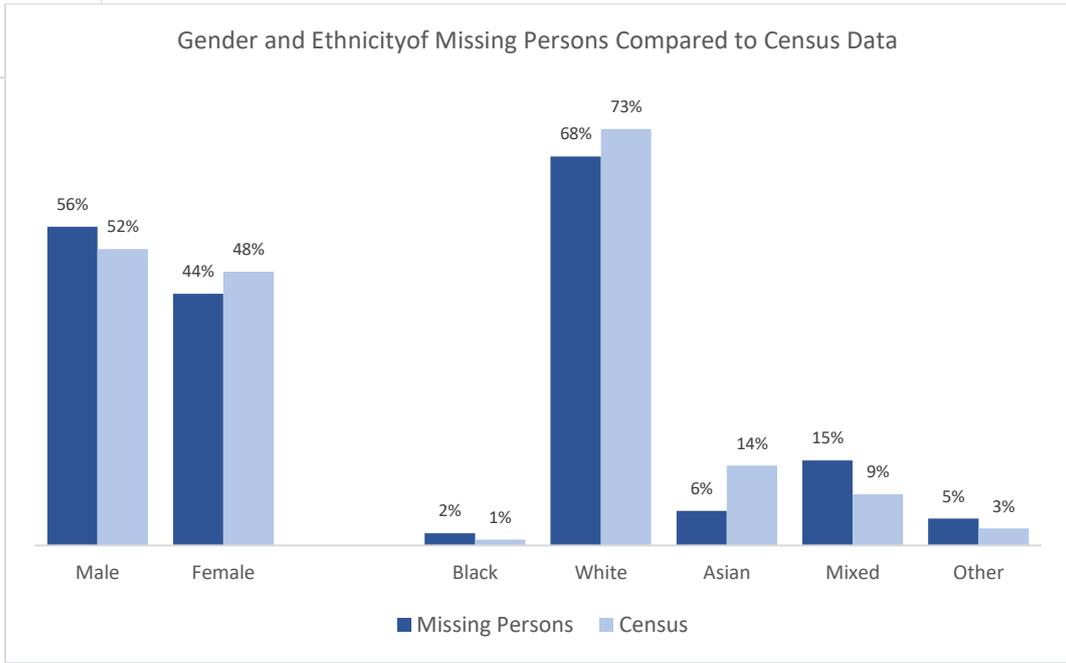


- Missing Persons

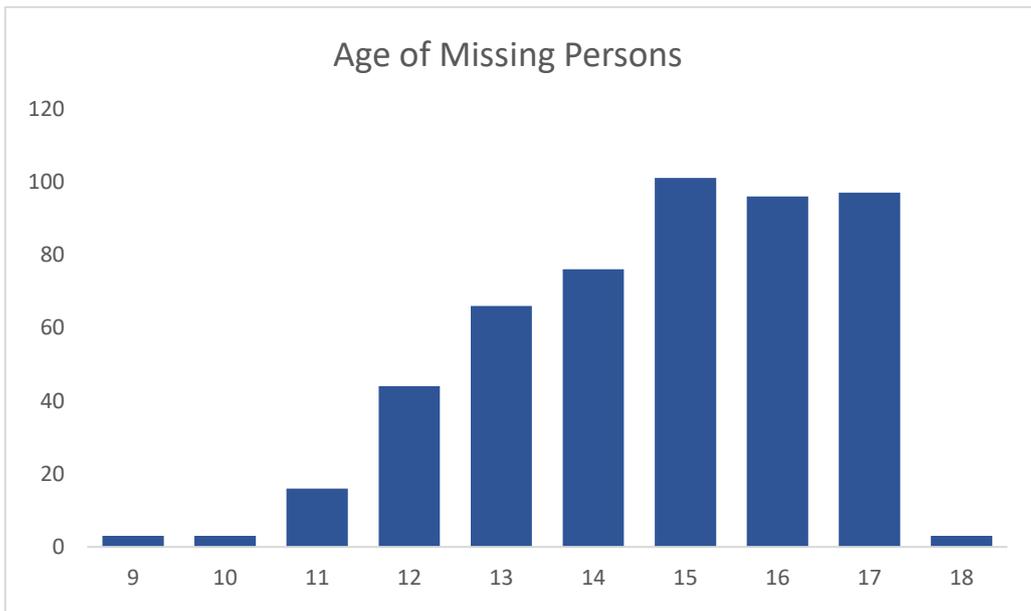
Below is a chart showing the number of missing persons in Solihull per financial quarter. On average there is 64 missing children and young people per quarter in Solihull.



The chart below shows gender and ethnicity of missing persons in Solihull compared to census data. Males go missing slightly more than females in Solihull and persons of white ethnicity most commonly go missing. Although persons of mixed ethnicity have a higher proportion of missing than census data.



Below shows a chart showing the age of missing persons. The most common age for missing persons in Solihull is those aged fifteen, this age group accounts for 20% of missing children and young people.



We need a key findings box here to summarise the risk factors section.

Key Areas of Focus for the Local Violence Reduction Partnership

1. Work collaboratively with specified authorities across the region and WM VRP to develop a local response plan by August to address the findings from this strategic needs assessment. The plan will then contribute to the regional response strategy which will be published by 31st January 2024.
2. Extend the review of strategic boards to ensure that approaches to violence prevention and reduction are consistent, sustainable and effective.
3. Review current commissioning approaches and frameworks, drawing together and connecting investment where possible to secure systematic activity and intervention to tackle violence. Consider opportunities for joint and co-commissioning approaches locally and regionally.
4. Develop a borough wide plan for embedding trauma informed practice and approaches throughout the workforce. Ensure that implementation plans include key metrics from the outset in order that the impact of a Solihull Trauma Informed Approach to communities can be measured.
5. Work with specified and required authorities to develop a robust primary prevention programme, initially delivered through schools but also available to key settings that children, young people and families access. Ensure that implementation of a programme includes key metrics that allow long-term prevention activity to demonstrate impact and outcomes.
6. Establish an Inclusion Group to address issues related to exclusions, SEMH and persistent absence from Solihull schools. Aim to create best practice guidance around inclusion.
7. Produce an asset map for the borough that can be regularly updated, focused on where provision, resources and places are available to children, young people and families to access support, positive activities and targeted intervention. Utilise a whole life course approach when exploring the assets available in Solihull, and where gaps exist.
8. Develop a plan to enhance co-design and co-production activity with children, young people and communities broadly. Community consensus is critical to embedding a successful public health approach to preventing and reducing violence.
9. Review existing data sharing agreements to enhance arrangements between specified authorities.
10. Integrate the learning from recent inspections and thematic CSPR's specifically into local planning to address violence, sharing lessons learnt and avoiding duplication.
11. Address disproportionality through the local action planning process, underpinning primary prevention delivery with awareness the impact of disproportionality and deprivation.
12. Deliver targeted interventions in areas impacted more by violence, keep this under review and maintain flexibility to respond to emerging patterns and trends.

References

¹ CDC (2020)

² Public Health England

³ Home Office

⁴ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingseptember2022>

⁵ Office for National Statistics (2022) Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area Data Tables

⁶ [Knife crime statistics - House of Commons Library \(parliament.uk\)](#)

⁷ Ambulance data obtained from a Freedom of Information Request (4116) from West Midlands Ambulance Service

- For the period from the 1st October 2019 to the 30th September 2022 (inc).

- Incidents where the Chief Complaint of the call was categorised as either 'assault' related, 'stabbing', 'substance attack' or 'firearms' - - The Chief Complaint is categorised at the point of call, however, further cases may be identified once a resource has arrived at location, therefore we are unable to report on these and will not be included in this report. Conversely some of these cases identified at the time of call may not be confirmed as such once a resource arrives at location, however they are included within this report.

- One (1) or more WMAS resources arrived at the location of the patient, which may not necessarily be the location where the incident initially took place.

- Where the Chief Complaint of 'Assault' is stated, this will encompass 'personal' and 'domestic' assaults as it is not possible to differentiate between them within the CAD system.

- WMAS does not record information in the form of Medium Super Output Area (MSOA), therefore the Coventry & Rugby, Dudley, Birmingham & Solihull, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell & West Birmingham CCG's (pre April 2022) and the Birmingham & Solihull, Coventry & Warwickshire and Black Country ICS thereafter were used.

Police data obtained from WMP and the Offence types include the following HO codes with:

Homicide - 001/01, 001/02, 004/01, Violence with injury: 002/00, 005/01, 008/01, 008/81, 008/84, 008/91, 008/94

Date Recorded from October 2019 to September 2022 where the victim was under 25

⁸ Victim : Age <25 and Role in (Victim, Legacy additional victim)

¹⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

¹⁹ <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england>

²⁰ <https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/YEF-Children-violence-and-vulnerability-2022.pdf>

²¹ <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/permanent-and-fixed-period-exclusions-in-england/2020-21>

²² <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england>

²³ <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/riskprotectivefactors.html>