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Item 2 safer Solihull 28th February 2019



Safer Solihull

Involving local people in keeping Solihull safe

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Safer Solihull

Strategic Assessment 2019

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Key Findings

Total Recorded Crime

- Between 01 October 2017 and 30 September 2018 there were 15,283 crimes reported to the police in Solihull
- Harassment increased by 127% however recording changes in April 2018 would have contributed to this
- Solihull saw a 16% increase in burglary, it was also ranked 7th across the force area for burglaries and 15th in the most similar groups (iQuanta). iQuanta is a web-based portal that allows for crime comparison across different community safety partnership areas. The most similar groups in iQuanta are worked out to be most similar to each other in terms of demographics, economic and social characteristics which relate to crime.
- Theft from motor vehicle decreased by 25%, along with theft of pedal cycle decreasing by 41%
- Solihull was ranked 2nd safest borough in the West Midlands, Dudley came first
- Chelmsley Wood, St Alphege and Smiths Wood were the neighbourhoods with the highest proportion of crime
- Chelmsley Wood and Smiths Wood were also neighbourhoods with the highest number of calls for service, along with Kingshurst and Fordbridge. However the highest demand was from the East locality. This area includes data for the airport.
- Solihull community housing ASB data highlights Chelmsley Wood as the area of highest demand
- Babb's Mill park (north locality) was a repeat location for West Midlands Fire Service
- Bickenhill was the ward with the highest crime severity score
- The 2 long term active areas are Chelmsley Wood (Shopping centre and Meriden Park) and Smiths Wood ward.

Community Issues

- Place survey highlights that 45% of people think their area has got worse over the last 2 years
- In regards to safety, the place survey revealed that people from north Solihull are most likely to say they feel unsafe after dark
- From the Community Safety Partnership survey, the top 3 specific areas that communities want prioritising are burglary, theft of motor vehicle and robbery

Victims

- For 49.33% of victims, the offence location was the same as their home location
- Males tend to be victims of crime, more than females in Solihull
- Both male and female victims peaked at 26-35 years old
- Female victims are more likely to be recorded as victims of violent crimes or domestic abuse
- Male victims there are higher numbers for vehicle crime
- There were 826 repeat victims in Solihull which accounted for 13.7% of total recorded crime
- Females account for more repeat victimisation, this differs to the overall victim profile
- Domestic violence was a main contributor to repeat victimisation, accounting for 33% of the repeat victim offences
- 71.06% of victims were classed as 'White North European'
- The case study of the repeat victim illustrates the cost of crime when victimisation is not stopped

Offenders

- Between 1st October 2017 and 30th September 2018 there were 1645 detected offences, which were detected to 1122 offenders
- 565 of detected offences were committed by Solihull residents

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- Males accounted for the majority of offenders (82%) for detected cases
- The same age category peaked for both male and female offenders, 26-35 years, this is the same age bracket as victims
- Theft from shop or stall was among the most common offences for male and females
- Burglary offences were high for young males, and females between 22-24 years of age
- Repeat offenders that committed 4 or more offences accounted for 17% of detected crime
- Detections for burglary are at 5.6%
- There are intelligence gaps in understanding the profile of offenders who commit crime in Solihull
- The repeat offender case study shows how one offender can cost at minimum £85,380 if not managed effectively (calls for service and demand for other service providers is not included)

Violence

- Injury surveillance data is still in its infancy – however if the number of submissions and data quality improves it will help to holistically inform Safer Solihull of their key locations to help tackle violence
- There were two repeat locations for youth violence: Brooklands Hospital and Walkabout, Solihull
- The health related behaviour questionnaire, schools in the north locality 12% stated they had been a victim of violence or aggression in the last 12 months in the area in which they live
- Knife crime offences in Solihull were mainly ‘robbery – personal property’
- For victims of knife crime, those aged 17 and under accounted for the highest proportion when broken down into categories
- Domestic violence offences account for 9.52% of total recorded crime
- For Solihull, 36% of the victim profile for domestic violence offences are females aged 26-35

Hidden Crimes

- 143 reported offences of fraud took place in Solihull between 1st June 2017 and 31st May 2018
- Child Sexual Exploitation non-crimes increased by 81% compared to last year
- Honour based abuse, forced marriage and female genital mutilation figures remain low
- Modern slavery delivery group attends bi-monthly by multiple agencies that undertake work that directly impacts on hidden crime. There were 19 crimes categorised as modern slavery in Solihull.
- Alcohol treatment requirements and drug rehabilitation requirements are very low in numbers
- 14.29% of crime committed between 00:00-00:59 was allocated an alcohol involved marker
- Serious acquisitive crime has risen in Solihull, with Solihull being ranked 15 out of 15 in the most similar groups for burglary, robbery and vehicle crime (iQuanta)
- Petrol Theft has increased over the last strategic period, with Morrison's Petrol station on the Chester Road being a repeat location
- 22 unauthorised encampments were recorded by Solihull council. In the same period, West Midlands Police received 48 calls for service that were categorised as 'unauthorised encampments'
- The official rough sleeping count for 2017 in Solihull was 2
- There were 408 homeless applications which were accepted as being homeless or in priority need
- Serious organised crime local profiles produced by the West Midlands Police strategic team highlight the key areas of criminality which are link to organised crime

Performance and Activities

This section looks at Total Recorded Crime (TRC) in Solihull between 01 October 2017 and 30 September 2018 providing opportunities to target areas with the greatest leverage. Table 1 lists the **top 20 individual offences** which accounted for 80.3% of Total Recorded Crime.

In total there were 15,283 crimes in Solihull for the period.

For public priority, this is highlighted if considered a priority by the community.

As iQuanta does not measure every offence, the closest match (using the crime classification 24 crime types) has been used to provide a rank for that offence. For the most similar groups (MSG) there are 15 in a group, with 1 being the lowest number of crimes per 1000 population and 15 being the highest. For West Midlands Police force ranking, 1 is the lowest number of crimes per 1000 population and 7 is the highest.

Table 1- TRC table

Offences	Public priority	Count	% of TRC	Last Year	Difference		iQuanta	
					Actual	%	MSG-15	WMP-7
BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL		1530	10.01%	1253	277	22%	15	7
THEFT FROM SHOP OR STALL		1453	9.51%	1446	7	0%	10	5
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE		1333	8.72%	1770	-437	-25%	15	3
MAKE OFF W/O PAYMENT		972	6.36%	816	156	19%	15	5
ASSAULT OCCASION ABH		958	6.27%	886	72	8%	3	1
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE		773	5.06%	753	20	3%	15	5
COMMON ASSAULT		723	4.73%	566	157	28%	3	1
THEFT OTHER		694	4.54%	825	-131	-16%	15	5
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO VEHICLE		693	4.53%	830	-137	-17%	1	1
BURGLARY BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY		404	2.64%	448	-44	-10%	11	2
INTERFERE WITH VEHICLE		393	2.57%	493	-100	-20%	15	4
ATTEMPT BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL		381	2.49%	273	108	40%	15	7
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO DWELLING		319	2.09%	342	-23	-7%	1	1
CAUSE INT HARASSMENT/ALARM/DISTRESS		258	1.69%	174	84	48%	4	1
ROBBERY-PERSONAL PROPERTY		258	1.69%	281	-23	-8%	15	4
SEND COMMUNICATION/ARTICLE CONVEYING A THREATENING MESSAGE		255	1.67%	187	68	36%	3	1
HARASSMENT		245	1.60%	108	137	127%	3	1
FEAR/PROVOCATION OF VIOLENCE		216	1.41%	158	58	37%	4	1
THEFT OF P/CYCLE		213	1.39%	359	-146	-41%	5	4
WILFULLY ASSAULT YOUNG PERSON UNDER 16		202	1.32%	205	-3	-1%	3	1
<i>*Total Burglary offences also includes attempts, distraction, aggravated and equipped for burglary</i>		2381	15.57%	2058	323	16%	15	7
Calls For Service - Demand								
Calls For Service - Demand	Public Priority	Count	% CFS	Last Year	Difference			
					Actual	%		
Anti-Social Behaviour		20859	9.10%	25278	-4419	-17%		
Public Safety & Welfare		160228	69.89%	150708	9520	6%		
Traffic and Transport		34558	15.07%	33610	948	3%		
Unauthorised encampments		289	0.13%	218	71	33%		
Offence Types								
Offence Types	Public Priority	Count	% TRC	Last Year	Difference			
					Actual	%		
Domestic Violence		1455	9.52%	1168	287	25%		
Child Abuse		454	2.97%	423	31	7%		
Hate Crime		232	1.52%	216	16	7%		

Total Recorded Crime

Data obtained from iQuanta dated end of September 2018 indicates that:

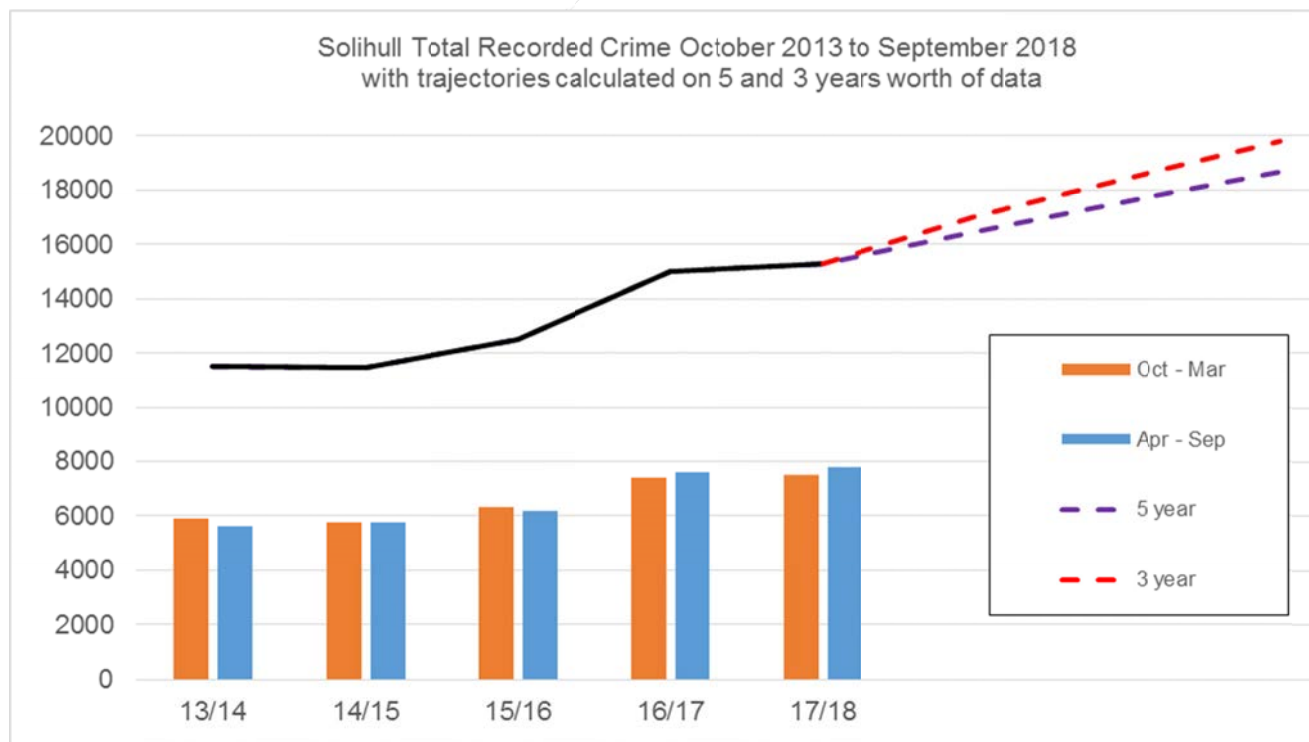
- Solihull was the second 'safest' borough in the West Midlands Force area, behind Dudley. Last year Solihull was ranked 3rd 'safest' in the force area.
- Solihull has a rate of 71.63 crimes per 1000 residents. West Midlands Force has a rate of 84.398
- Compared to the average rate for its Most Similar Group (70.233). Solihull is slightly above the average.
- Amongst its Most Similar Group Solihull was ranked 9 (out of 15). Last year, Solihull was ranked 11th in the Most Similar Groups.
- Compared to the same period ending September 2017 Total Recorded Crime has increased by 299 crimes (2%)

Key Finding

- Although **Solihull is ranked 2nd 'safest' in amongst the other Community Safety Partnerships in the West Midlands area**, when comparing Solihull to Most Similar groups it stands above average for the number of crimes per 1,000 populations.

Crime Trends

Figure 1 - Crime trends



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Data taken from the West Midlands Police Performance Portal shows trends seen across the whole of West Midlands Police Force area have also seen increases in burglary, robbery (excluding Sandwell), business crime and violence with injury. Solihull has seen decreases in most serious violence, vehicle crime, gun crime and knife crime.

The Office of National Statistics looks at both police recorded crime and crime survey of England and Wales. The volume of crime recorded by police has started to increase since 2014, after a period of declining numbers. Whilst year-on-year increases have grown in recent years, the latest increase of 9% is smaller than the previous year (13%)¹. The crime survey for England and Wales's results are based on a face-to-face survey of 38,000 adults and children in which they are asked about their experiences of crime in the previous year, this method is a reliable indicator for long-term trends. The findings showed that levels had remained stable, however when fraud and computer misuse from analysis, figures showed an increase. Over the last year there has been rises in some theft offences and lower-volume but higher-harm types of violence¹.

Emerging issues

The table below highlights offences that were not recorded last year but have been recorded this year. In regards for the emerging issues, there is nothing of significance in terms of dramatic increases.

Table 2 - Emerging crime trends

Offence	16/17	17/18
WILFULLY EXPOSE YOUNG PERSON UNDER 16	0	9
RECKLESSLY/NEGLIGENTLY ACT LIKELY TO ENDANGER AIRCRAFT/PERSON IN AN AIRCRAFT	0	6
CAUSE MALE CHILD U16 SEX. ACTIVITY-NO PENETRATION-OFFENDER U18	0	4
ATTEMPT THEFT FROM AUTO MACH/METER	0	3
MEETING A FEMALE U16 FOLLOWING SEXUAL GROOMING, OFFENDER 18+	0	3
TENDER COUNTERFEIT COIN	0	3
ATTEMPT RAPE OF FEMALE CHILD UNDER 13 BY A MALE	0	3
PUBLIC NUISANCE	0	3
VOYEURISM	0	2
GO EQUIPPED NOT THEFT MOTOR VEHICLE	0	2
REQUIRE PERSON TO PERFORM FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR	0	2
POSSESSING PROHIBITED IMAGES OF CHILDREN	0	2

¹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingjune2018#whats-happened-to-the-volume-of-crime-recorded-by-the-police>

ARSON WITH INTENT TO ENDANGER LIFE	0	2
SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH MALE U13 - OFFENDER U18	0	2
WILFULLY ILL-TREAT YOUNG PERSON UNDER 16	0	2
POSSESS EXTREME PORNOGRAPHIC IMAGES - SERIOUS INJURY	0	2
POSS A/WEAPON WITH INTENT CAUSE FEAR OF VIOLENCE	0	2
ENDANGER AIRCRAFT	0	2
POSSESS S/GUN WITH INTENT ENDANGER LIFE	0	1
ATTEMPT THEFT DWELLING NOT MACHINE/METER	0	1
ASSAULT ON A MALE 13+ BY PENETRATION	0	1
RACIALLY AGGRAVATED CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO A DWELLING	0	1
INCITE FEMALE FAMILY 13-17 SEXUAL ACTIVITY, OFFENDER 18+, NO PENETRATION	0	1
INCITE FEMALE FAMILY MEMBER U13 ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY, OFFENDER 18+	0	1
ENGAGE IN SEXUAL COMMUNICATION WITH A CHILD	0	1
INCITE SEXUAL ACTIVITY WWITH MALE FAMILY MEMBER U13, OFFENDER U18	0	1
POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY	0	1
KEEPING A BROTHEL USED FOR PROSTITUTION	0	1
ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY IN PRESENCE OF CHILD U13 - OFFENDER 18+	0	1
ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY IN THE PRESENCE OF CHILD U13 - OFFENDER U18	0	1
MAKE FALSE STATEMENT TO OBTAIN INSURANCE	0	1
CAUSE SEXUAL ACTIVITY MALE U16 - OFFENDER U18	0	1
ARSON - RECKLESSLY ENDANGER LIFE	0	1
CAUSE MALE 16+ TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY - NO PENETRATION	0	1
CAUSE/INCITE CHILD PROSITUTION OR PORNOGRAPHY 13-17	0	1
USE COPY FALSE INSTRU-NOT PRESCRIPTION	0	1
ARRANGING OR FACILITATING THE COMMISSION OF A CHILD SEX OFFENCE	0	1
COMMIT OFFENCE OTHER THAN KIDNAP/FALSE IMPRISON. WITH INTENT TO COMMIT HUMAN TRAFFICKING	0	1
OBSTRUCT PERSON ASSIST PC	0	1
ABUSE OF TRUST: SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH FEMALE 13-17 OFFENDER 18+	0	1
SOUGHT TO ENGAGE/OFFERED TO ENGAGE IN REGULATED ACTIVITY FROM WHICH BARRED	0	1
OWN/ IN CHARGE OF DOG DANGEROUSLY OUT OF CONTROL CAUSING INJURY ASSISTANCE DOG	0	1
SUPPLY CONTROLLED DRUG-CLASS B-CANNABIS	0	1
ATTEMPT CRIMINAL DAMAGE OTHER	0	1
PAYING FOR SEXUAL SERVICE OF FEMALE U13	0	1
ARRANGE CHILD U13 - INVOLVE IN PROSTITUTION OR PORNOGRAPHY	0	1

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ADMINISTER POISON WITH INTENT	0	1
FRAUDULENT USE REGISTRATION MARK	0	1
CARE WORKER ILL-TREAT/WILFULLY NEGLECT AN INDIVIDUAL	0	1
BREACH A SEXUAL RISK ORDER/RISK OF SEXUAL HARM ORDER ETC	0	1
SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH FEMALE U13 - OFFENDER UNDER18	0	1
POSSESS/CONTROL IDENTITY DOCUMENTS WITH INTENT	0	1
POSSESSION CLASS B - SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID AGONISTS	0	1
POLICE - WOUNDING WITH INTENT TO RESIST/PREVENT ARREST	0	1
CAUSE MALE U13 ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY	0	1
POSSESS OTHER OFFENSIVE WEAPON SCHOOL PREMS	0	1
POLICE - INFLECTING GBH WITHOUT INTENT	0	1

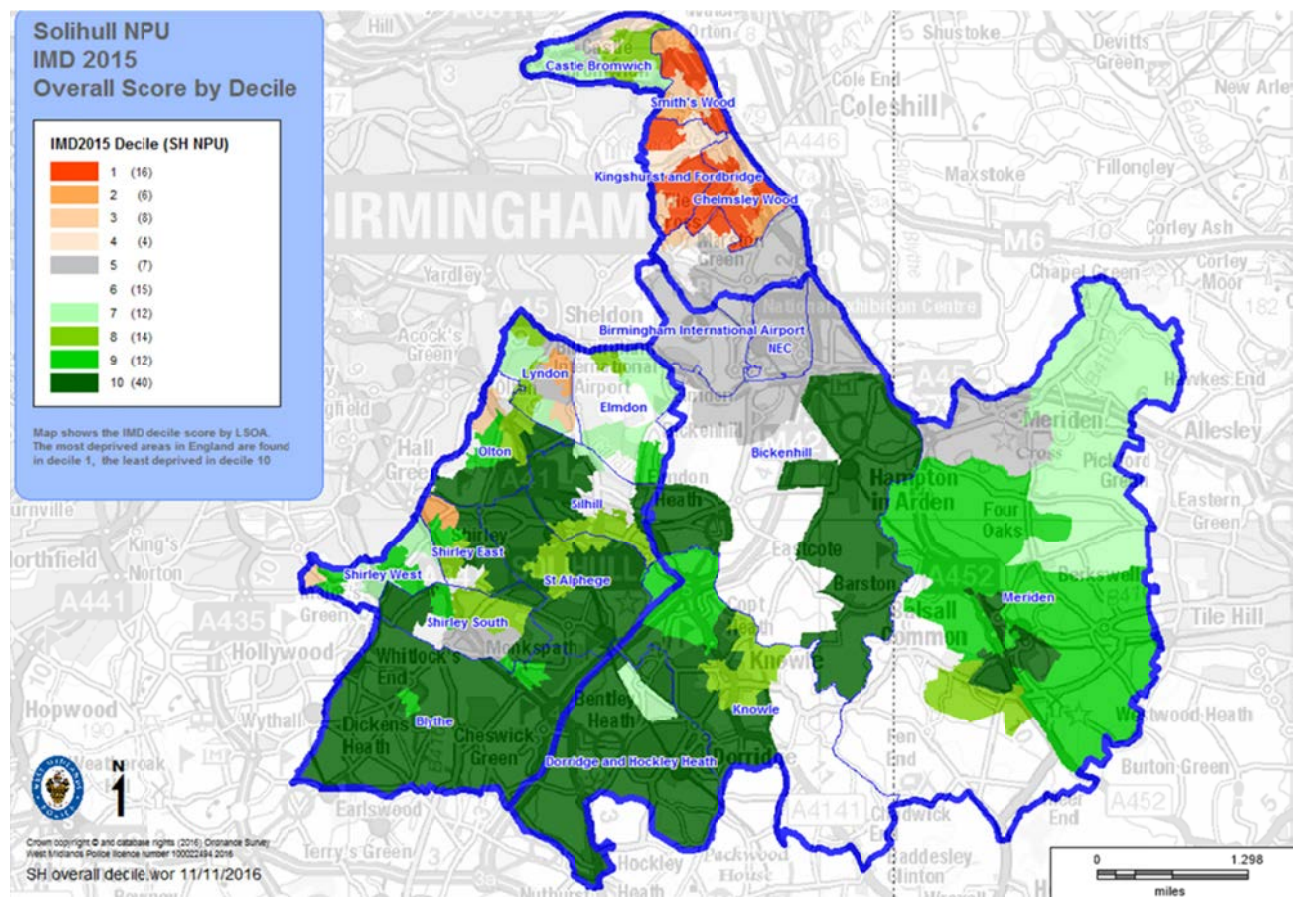
An overview of Solihull Geographic Areas of Focus for Total Recorded Crime & Calls for Service

The section uses a range of techniques and partnership datasets to examine those neighbourhoods and localities in Solihull which are most vulnerable to crime and also generate the most calls for service from the police

Indices of Multiple Deprivation

Solihull as a borough is among the **least** deprived 35% of Local Authorities in the country² but it contains a large degree of inequality within a relatively small geographical area (a risk factor for violence³). The map below helps to visualise the polarisation of the borough, with the majority of the north locality falling within the 10% most deprived.

Figure 2 - IMD Map of Solihull



This is important when analysing community safety across the borough as what will impact one community may impact another area in a different way. There is evidence to suggest that children in custody may be more likely to have lived in unstable or deprived accommodation. A study in

² Index of Multiple Deprivation

³ World Health Organisation – Socio-Ecological Model

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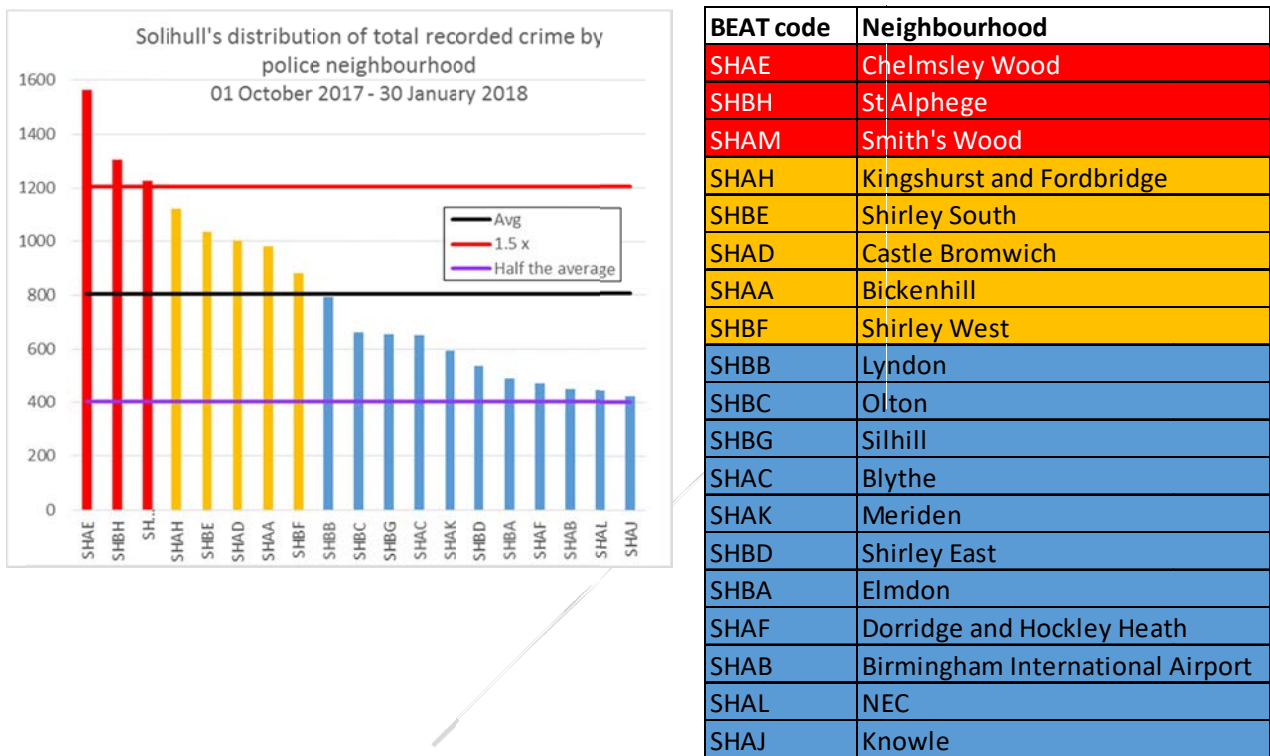
2010 of the backgrounds of 6.5% of children who entered custody in July to December 2008 found that 51% of young people in custody come from deprived or unsuitable accommodation^{4,5}.

The importance of understanding the demographic landscape of Solihull can help to identify where interventions are needed most to prevent the poverty-crime cycle continuing⁶.

Distribution of Crime across Solihull Borough by Neighbourhood

Figure 3 gives a breakdown of how Total Recorded Crime was distributed around the borough. There are 19 police neighbourhoods which make up Solihull Borough.

Figure 3 - Distribution of crime



When compared to the average number per neighbourhood Chelmsley Wood, St Alphege and Smiths Wood were 1.5 times above the average. These are coloured **red**. Compared to the last strategic assessment, Chelmsley Wood has remained in the highest ranking position for total recorded crime, and St Alphege second. However Smiths Wood has moved from 8th to 3rd, as well as now breaching the 1.5x the average mark. A further 5 neighbourhoods were all above the average count, these are coloured **orange**.

⁴ Ministry of Justice. (2014) Transforming Youth Custody Impact Assessment

⁵ 4 Jacobson, J., Bhardwa, B., Gyateng, T., Hunter, G., and Hough, M. (2010) Punishing Disadvantage: a profile of children in custody. London: Prison Reform Trust.

⁶ <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/vulnerable-children-not-offenders-breaking-the-poverty-crime-cycle-requires-a-different-way-of-thinking/>

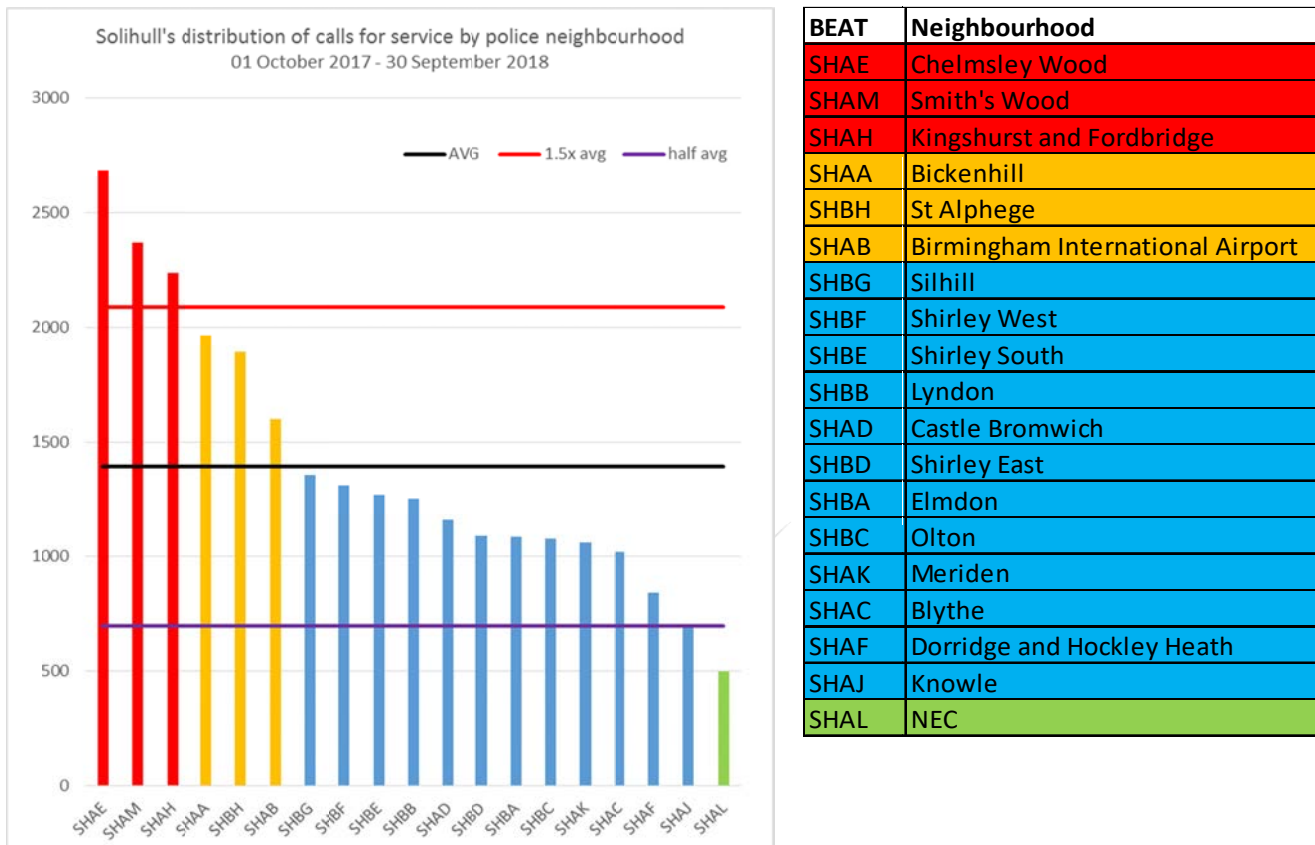
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The neighbourhoods in Figure 3 account for 32.94% of the borough area but over half (59.65%) of Total Recorded Crime.

Distribution of calls for service across the borough

Figure 4 gives a breakdown of how calls for service was distributed around the borough. There are 19 police neighbourhoods which make up Solihull Borough.

Figure 4 - distribution of calls for service



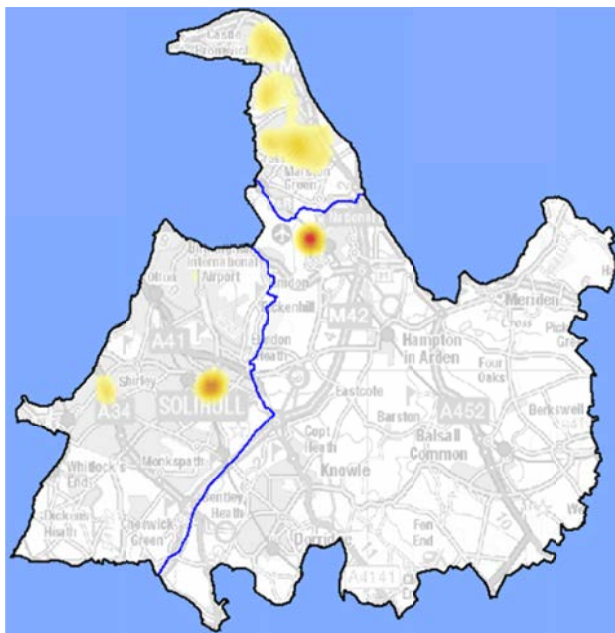
When compared to the average number of calls per neighbourhood Chelmsley Wood, Smiths Wood and Kingshurst and Fordbridge were 1.5 times above the average. These are coloured **red**. A further 3 neighbourhoods were all above the average count, these are coloured **orange**. The 3 top neighbourhoods accounted for 27.42% of the borough areas call for service.

In relation to qualifiers for calls for service:

- 1183 for domestic abuse
- 890 for mental health

Figure 5 - Calls for service hotspots for West Midlands Police

- 689 for youth related Anti-Social Behaviour
- 594 for vulnerable adult/child
- 522 for alcohol



Locality Demand

Solihull monthly groups are split into locality areas: North, East and West. To identify areas of demand hotspots for calls for service have been highlighted and the top streets/locations for TRC, calls for service, West Midlands Fire Service and Solihull community housing.

For calls for service to West Midlands Police the highest demand was in the East locality. This is expected as the airport is in this locality (Birmingham International Airport police neighbourhood accounts for 28% of calls for service in the East locality). Following the demand in the East locality, there is high demand in the north locality, however this is not confined to one particular area (Figure 5).

Table 3- WEST MIDLANDS POLICE Calls for service

Top Caller roads	Count
STRATFORD ROAD	271
STATION ROAD	195
WARWICK ROAD	194
CHESTER ROAD	170
BANNERLEA ROAD	139
HIGH STREET	119
TRENT DRIVE	115
LODE LANE	109
AUCKLAND DRIVE	91
FORTH DRIVE	88

The Solihull Community Housing data also highlights the north as the area of the highest demand, in particular Chelmsley Wood. There were 1476 reports of ASB to Solihull Community Housing, 1247 of these were from the **north locality**. **The dataset provided does not contain road names, however it contains postcodes. The top repeat postcodes for the strategic period are in Table 4.** Reports regarding rubbish, accounted for 23% of all reports of ASB, however all of these were categorised as minor. There were 84 reports that were classified as very serious, 41 of these related to drugs.

Table 4 - SCH repeat postcodes

Postcode	Number of reports
B37 5BS	40
B36 0PG	35
B37 5QB	33
B37 5EW	31
B36 0LU	31
B37 5DG	30
B37 7JS	27
B37 5TB	26
B37 5BX	25
B37 6PH	22

Commentary to support the Solihull Community Housing data from **Sherry McConville, Neighbourhood Services Team Leader:**

“Most of the repeat locations are for minor incidents of rubbish or fly tipping in Solihull Community Housing communal areas or high rise blocks.

There are several repeat incidents of persistent noise being reported but these are linked to one case and are reports by one person.

Where there are repeat locations of incidents of drugs, these are mainly within a tower block and are in different addresses with the one block. These blocks will be targeted by joint patrols by Solihull Community Housing officers and Neighbourhood police, either ad hoc visits or during high visibility planned all out day visits where partners target specific addresses and problematic areas.”

For West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) demand, only arson incidents and False Alarm with Malicious Intent (FAM) have been analysed, as these closely align with the definitions of anti-social behaviour. The majority of calls for WMFS data are within the north locality.

The average number of incidents a month was 22. However, there was a huge spike in demand in July with 74 incidents, 49 of which relate to grass fires.

Table 5 - WMFS demand

Area of demand	Count
ARSON GRASS	96
ARSON RUBBISH	77
ARSON VEHICLE	58
FALSE ALARM MALICIOUS INTENT	16
ARSON NON DOM PREMISES	7
ARSON DWELL	3
ARSON DERELICT VEHICLE	2

Location	Count
BABBS MILL PARK, FORDBRIDGE ROAD	23
MOOREND AVENUE, CHELMSLEY WOOD	13
BLUEBELL DRIVE, CHELMSLEY WOOD	9
AUCKLAND DRIVE, SMITHS WOOD	6
FORDBRIDGE ROAD, KINGSHURST	6

Key Finding

- North locality creates the most demand when calls for service (West Midlands Police), Arson data and Solihull Community Housing data sets are combined
- The number of reports supports the Place Survey findings (see community issue section)
 - Rubbish & litter lying around was the most commonly cited ASB problem (31%)

Inferences

- July marks the start of the Summer Holidays. Grass fires could be carried out by school children who have no other activities to engage with
- Place Survey highlights that 14% of people think there needs to be improvement in the number of things for young people to do
- Rubbish and litter lying around (as highlighted by the place survey) could be the fuel for some of the fire incidents

Distribution of Solihull's Crime Severity

The below table is provided by the West Midlands Police Geo-Spatial Team using the following method:

-
- Total Recorded Crime is broken down by 24 types
 - Each offence is allocated a weighting score
 - The scores were then summed per neighbourhood to give the overall crime severity score
 - Crime severity rate calculated for each neighbourhood by dividing the Crime Severity Score by the Mid-Year Estimates 2017 *1000 population
 - Highlighted **red** is 1.5 times the average, **orange** is above the average and **green** is below the average. The average crime rate severity score is 70.74.

Table 6 - Crime Severity

Ward name	Crime rates population (/1000)
Bickenhill	147.53
Blythe	46.04
Castle Bromwich	88.15
Chelmsley Wood	119.84
Dorridge and Hockley Heath	39.75
Elmdon	41.12
Kingshurst and Fordbridge	87.13
Knowle	39.36
Lyndon	57.31
Meriden	45.21
Olton	51.48
Shirley East	44.53
Shirley South	79.76
Shirley West	72.75
Silhill	51.50
Smith's Wood	95.33
St Alphege	95.88

Key Finding

- North, especially Chelmsley Wood, Smiths Wood and Kingshurst & Fordbridge features in all three data sets (West Midlands Police, Solihull Community Housing and West Midlands Fire Service)
- The crime severity score is a more sophisticated way of calculating the neighbourhood with the highest harm. Using this method, Chelmsley Wood still features as a neighbourhood 1.5x the average, however Bickenhill is the neighbourhood with the highest crime severity score. Bickenhill which includes the NEC and Airport are both areas of high footfall compared to other neighbourhoods in Solihull.

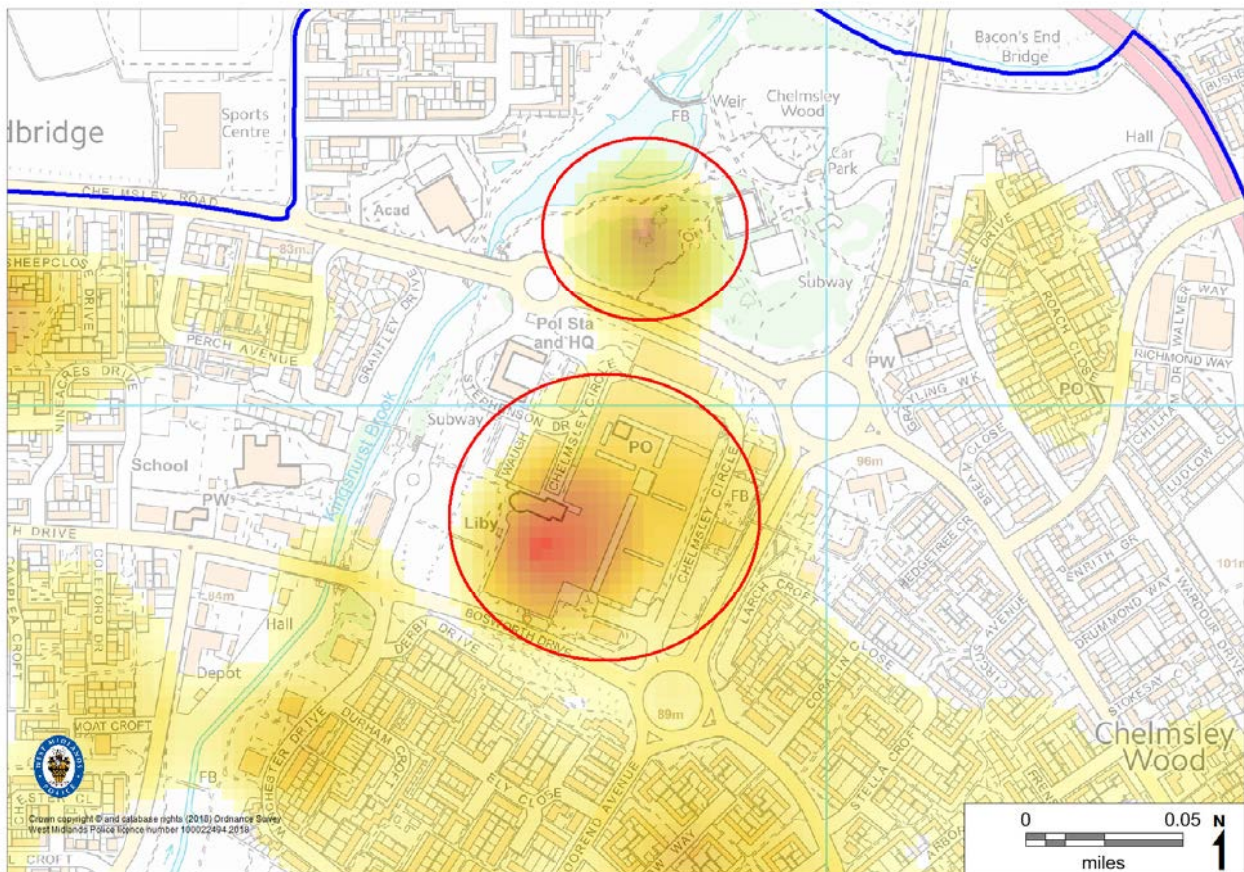
Long Term Active Areas (LTAA)⁷

The force has issued each of the Neighbourhood Policing Units Long Term Active Areas (LTAA). These areas have been identified by mapping Serious Acquisitive Crime and Violence offences over a 5 year period. So far, for Solihull the areas highlighted are Smiths Wood and Chelmsley Wood.

Chelmsley Wood – Taken From West Midlands Police Strategic and Development Document

Analysis of the LTAA has highlighted Chelmsley Wood shopping centre and Meriden Park as the key areas of concern, as shown in the map below.

Figure 6 - Chelmsley Wood Hotspot



Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre

Chelmsley Wood shopping centre falls within one of the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in England and is within one of the three regeneration areas in Solihull North.⁸

⁷ LTAA were completed by the Strategic Development team at WEST MIDLANDS POLICE, documents available on request

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It was constructed in the late 1970's and comprises a number of predominantly single storey retail blocks. The shopping centre benefited from an extension and refurbishment programme in 2009 which saw it anchored by an Asda superstore. The area is earmarked as a key transport hub for High Speed Rail 2 and the tram link between Birmingham City Centre and the International Airport which lies 3 miles to the north.⁹

*This section of the report will identify how the key locations of **shopping centre, Asda, KFC, McDonald's** and the **bus interchange** act as facilitators for crime, the motivations or drivers for offences to take place and how and where victims and offenders all interact.*

***The town centre historically has one of the highest crime and ASB rates in the borough.** The shopping centre and many individual shops have their own security guards, cameras and monitoring and there is good liaison between Neighbourhood staff and the security teams.*

The LTAA for Chelmsley Wood Shopping centre highlights that theft from shops and stalls, violence and public order are the most prolific offences.

Meriden Park

***Meriden Park is a mixed use park and nature reserve** with a play area, skate park, tennis courts, picnic area, football pitch and supervised adventure playground. It is **readily accessible on foot** from the town centre and by public transport as the **bus routes 14, 59A and 72 stop near the park** and **Marston Green train station** a short walk away. There is **free parking** available off Moorend Avenue.*

Violence & robbery, theft from person and theft other are the most prolific offences in the park, with victims being mainly youths.

Smith's Wood - Taken from West Midlands Police Strategic and Development Document

*Analysis of the LTAA has highlighted three key areas of concern: **Pembroke/Clare Houses, Tame Avenue** and the **Auckland Drive/Heather Close Link** as shown in the map below.*

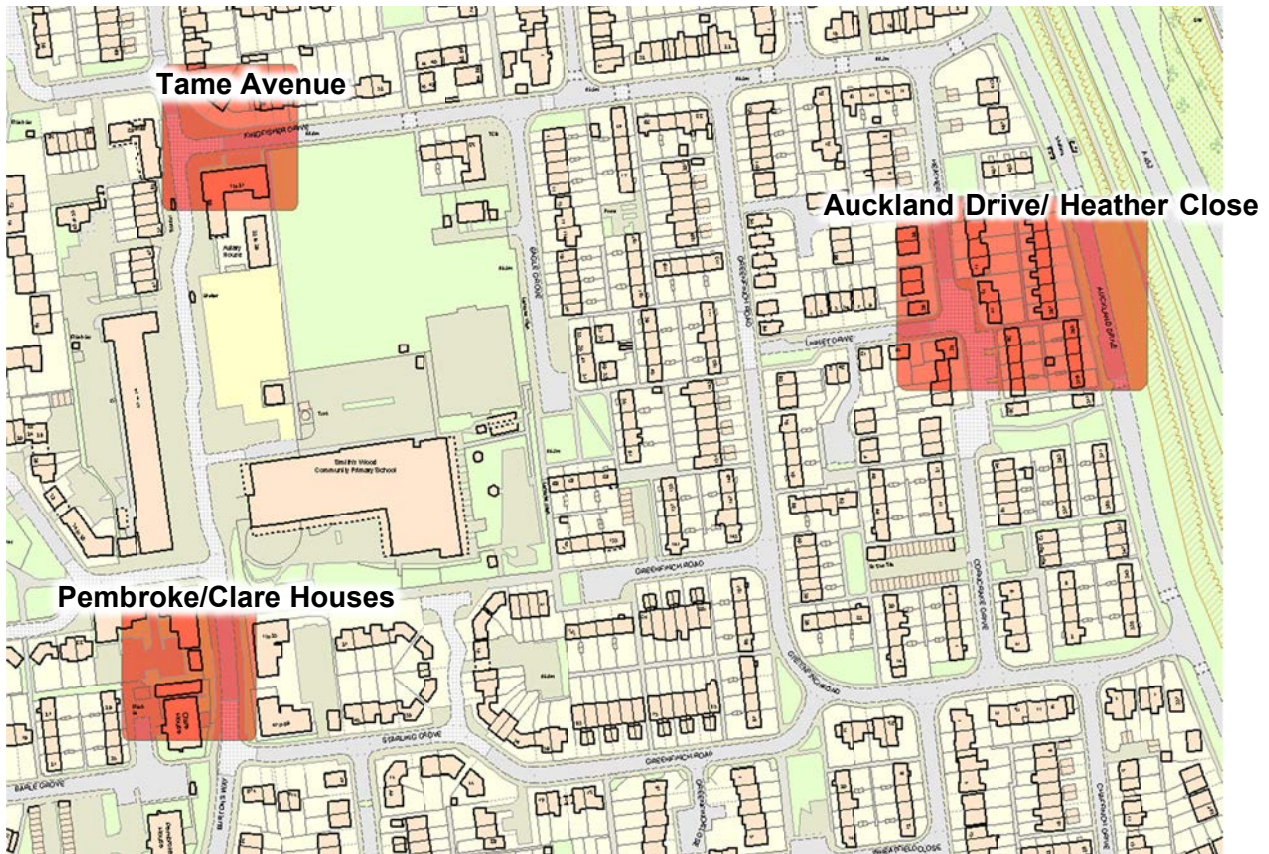
⁸ <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/InfoandIntelligence/North-Solihull-Locality-Profile-2018.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.ellandi.com/portfolio/chelmsley-wood-shopping-centre-birmingham/48>

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The hotspot locations have high levels of Criminal Damage and Violence, in particular Domestic Violence. Exact offence locations within the Tame Avenue hotspot have changed slightly over the 5 year period due to significant regeneration of social housing at the junction with Kingsfisher

Figure 7 – Smiths Wood hotspot



Drive, other than that, offence levels in all hotspot areas have remained consistently elevated.

Next Stage

The document analyses issues within the area and puts forward that having identified geographic areas of focus, the NPU should proceed to generating a SARA¹⁰ plan to understand and prioritise the specifics of problems, generate appropriate interventions, put these into action, and then assess the effectiveness of the interventions. This process is then repeated, refining interventions and continually reducing threat and harm in the treatment area over a sustained period of time.

¹⁰ Scan, Analyse, Respond, Assess

Community Issues

For community issues, there are two surveys that help to understand the communities' priorities in Solihull. The first survey in the Place Survey which is carried out by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. The second is the Community Safety Partnership survey which has been carried out across all seven areas and helps to provide a consistent way in analysing the priorities of the West Midlands communities.

Place Survey¹¹

The place survey was carried out in October 2018 and returned a total of 708 responses. When looking at responses from locality areas the West accounted for 64% of responses, the East 20% and North 16%.

86% of Solihull respondents were satisfied with their local area as a place to live (43% very satisfied) compared to 9% dissatisfied (3% very dissatisfied). Satisfaction levels are highest in East Solihull (92%) and lowest in North Solihull (76%).

13% of respondents think that their area has got better over the last two years, 42% think it is unchanged and 45% think it has got worse (16% a lot worse). People in North Solihull are more likely to say that their area has got worse (50%) as are people with a disability (55%).

Respondents were asked to identify the aspects of life in their local community that most need improving. Across Solihull, 30% of respondents think that both traffic congestion and road and pavement repairs definitely need improving, with the level of crime (25%) and things for young people to do (14%) and old people to do (11%) improvement priorities for many.

Two questions explored people's feelings of safety both at night and in the day-time. In the day-time, 87% of respondents feel safe in their local area during the day compared to 6% who feel unsafe. After dark, people from North Solihull are most likely to say they feel unsafe (37%), as are women (36%), people from a Black and Minority Ethnic background (41%).

Respondents were given the option of nine types of ASB, see table below, and asked if they were a problem in their local area. 42% of respondents said that none of the types of ASB were a problem in their local area. 58% said at least one type of ASB was a problem, including 24% who thought that at least 3 types of ASB were a problem. People living in North Solihull were most likely to say that at least one type of ASB is a problem in their local area (75%) and those in East Solihull least likely to (58%). Rubbish & litter lying around was the most commonly cited ASB problem

¹¹ Carried out by Protel Fieldwork Ltd on behalf of SMBC in October 2018

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(31% of respondents), followed by vehicle nuisance (29%), people using or dealing drugs (19%), vandalism (19%) and gangs (16%).

Table 7 - Place Survey findings

A Problem in Their Local Area	
Type of ASB	% Respondents
Rubbish or litter lying around	31%
Vehicle nuisance, like joyriding, abandoned cars etc	29%
People using or dealing drugs	19%
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles	19%
Gangs hanging around the streets	16%
Uncontrolled animals or dog mess	15%
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	8%
Discrimination, harassment or intimidation	8%
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	6%

Community Safety Partnership Survey¹²

For community issues, the Community Safety Partnership survey was used to help to understand the communities' priorities in Birmingham. The Community Safety Partnership survey has been carried out across all 7 areas and helps to provide a consistent way in analysing the priorities of the West Midlands communities.

For Solihull, **there were 391 respondents, which accounted for 13.8% of the total respondents.** 227 of the respondents were female, 156 were male, 7 'prefer not to say' and 1 transgender. The majority (28.9%) of people were in the 45-54 age bracket, followed by 55-65 (21.5%). 6.1% were aged 16-24 and 11.5% were aged 65 and over. For ethnicity, 92.6% classed themselves as white British, 1.8% as Asian, 1.3% as mixed. 0 respondents identified as black. For disability, 12 (3.1%) people stated they did have a disability.

Each person was asked to rank a general issue as their main priority which was then broken down into more specific areas, see Table 8. For Solihull, the same as the other Community Safety Partnership areas across the force, crime was the priority area, followed by ASB. Unusually for Solihull, the next area which the community thought should be prioritised was gang related crime. When looking at the Serious Organised Crime Local Profile¹³, there is only one active gang¹⁴ in

¹² Carried out by West Midlands Police on behalf of all CSP areas via Snap Surveys

¹³ See Serious and Organised Crime local profile section

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Solihull. Therefore the perception of gangs may mean something different to the community, when comparing it to what is measured as a gang in policing terms.

Table 8 - Issues from survey

Issues for Solihull	Number of responses	Issues for Solihull	Number of responses
Crime	243	Sexual Offences	4
Anti-Social Behaviour	56	Terrorism	2
Gang Related Crime	25	Abuse and exploitation (e.g. Domestic abuse, slavery, child sexual exploitation)	2
Violence	24	Internet Crime	2
Traffic and Transport	15	Fraud	1
Town Centre Safety	9	Substance Misuse	8

The top 10 key priorities to come out of the survey were:

1. Burglary (including distraction)
2. Theft of vehicle
3. Robbery
4. Youth related ASB
5. Disorderly behaviour
6. Street racing
7. Youth gangs
8. Knife crime
9. Youth violence
10. Violence

¹⁴ An Organised Crime Group (OCG) is defined as having "individuals, normally working with others, with the intent and capability to commit serious crime on a continuing basis, which includes elements of: planning / control / coordination / structure / group decision-making."

This definition DOES NOT require the OCG to have committed serious crime. If the OCG has the intent and capability to commit serious crime, it should be recorded. (Definition from West Midlands Police Intranet)

Part of the survey looked at getting people to rank their knowledge of different types of crime, to see which areas need increased awareness. This can also help when setting priorities and interventions, especially the wording of such. The public are well versed in your 'typical crimes' that they can visualise being a victim of, such as burglary and car theft. However when this is categorised as acquisitive crime, many did not have the knowledge to understand this. Additionally crimes which, arguably, cause more harm to communities and victims such as Modern Slavery and Psychoactive substances, are not as well understood by the public. The table below shows the understanding of different issues for the community of Solihull:

Table 9 - Public's understanding of issues

	Level of understanding									
	1 - None at all	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - Expert
Hate crime	23	9	15	16	64	33	83	85	29	34
Modern slavery	33	20	24	30	64	37	73	57	26	27
Child Sexual Exploitation	25	14	25	21	63	25	66	75	38	39
Radicalisation	26	25	17	29	65	41	61	57	34	36
Cyber crime	17	17	23	25	63	36	74	63	38	35
Female genital mutilation	41	33	31	26	53	32	58	50	33	34
County lines	100	38	36	39	48	21	39	29	21	20
Gangs	26	19	31	31	73	42	65	44	27	33
Psychoactive substances	60	26	42	31	69	26	52	36	22	27
Unauthorised encampments	33	18	27	31	64	30	61	55	33	39
Community tensions	39	38	29	50	75	36	36	43	24	21
Hidden Crime	82	55	49	43	59	25	22	19	16	21
Honour Based Violence	61	41	42	36	64	21	42	37	21	26
Acquisitive crime	124	41	38	34	56	22	23	20	18	15

Victims

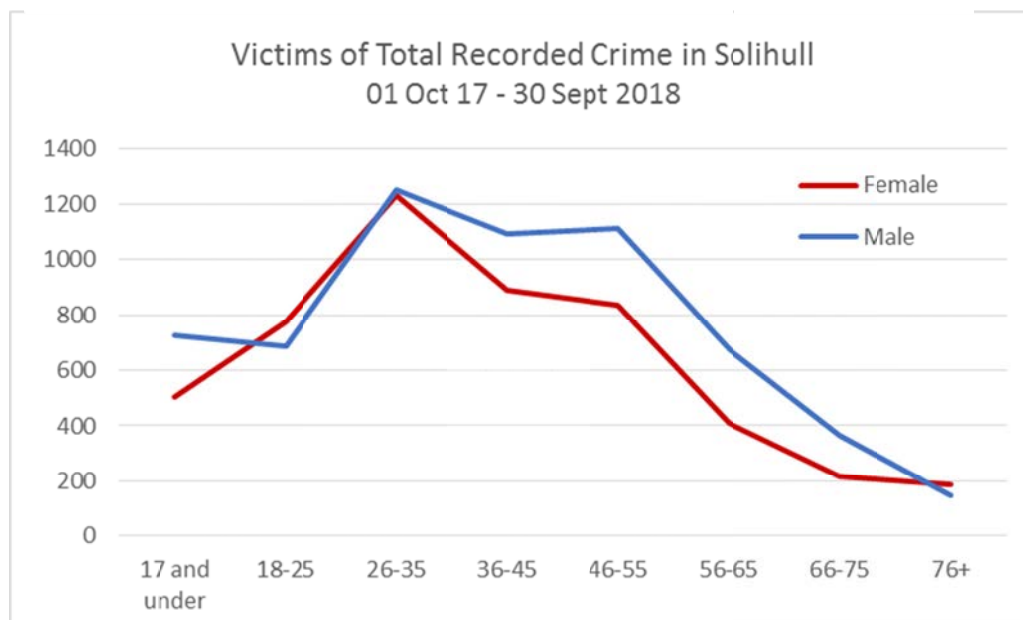
This section explores whether certain people and places, suffer disproportionately from crime and disorder in Solihull, including repeat victimisation. This will enable the partnership to focus its priorities in terms of protecting Solihull's most acutely victimised and 'at risk' communities and reassuring those who need it most.

Profiling victims

Excluding premises, 10322 individuals reported 11509 offences with 826 being the victim of at least two criminal offences in Solihull between October 2017 and September 2018. The number of victims in Solihull is equal to 4.9% of Solihull's 2016 mid-year estimate census population. Compared to the previous Strategic Assessment there is a decrease in the number of victims of 0.5%; or 59 less victims. 65% of the victims were Solihull residents. A further 11% were comprised of those from the West Midlands force area, with the majority coming from the neighbouring area of Birmingham East (7%). The remainder of people victimised in Solihull were in the majority, those who provided addresses which did not sit within the West Midlands (13%) or the data did not hold a local authority area for the address (11%).

5677 offences (49.33%) were committed at the home address of the victim. The top 5 offence categories committed at a victim's home were burglary residential, theft from motor vehicle, assault occasion Actual Bodily Harm, attempt burglary residential and common assault.

Table 10 - victims of TRC



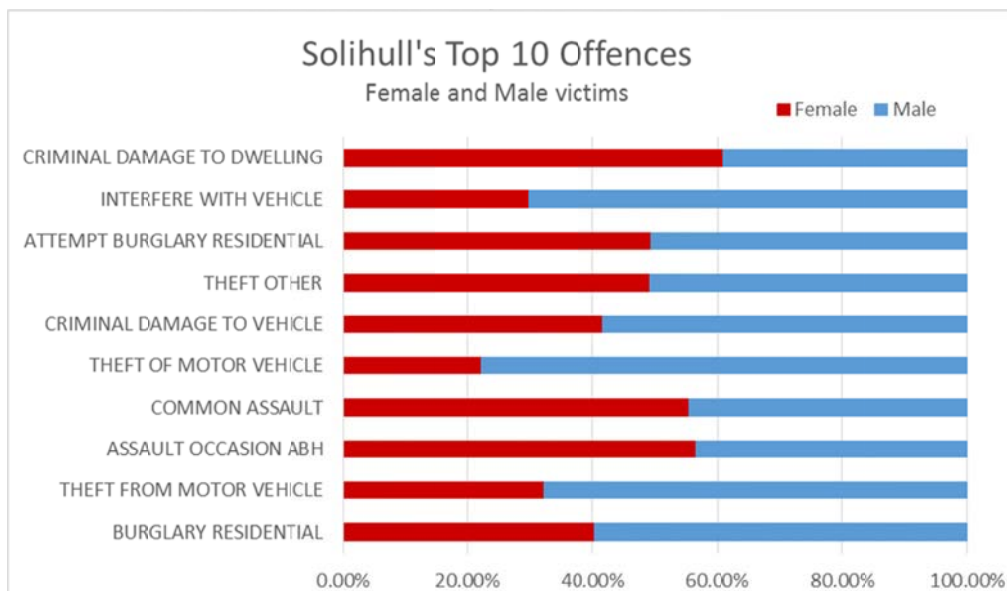
Where the sex of the victim is recorded, males tend to be victims of crime more than female, with males accounting for 54.5% and females 45.5%. This is in keeping with previous findings, however female victims in the age category 26-35 have now increased to be of a similar number to male victims. This was not the case in the previous strategic assessment. Both male and female victims

saw increases from the age of 18 upwards, with the peak age band for both aged between 26 to 35 years old. The majority of victims aged 18 to 25 were female (13.4% higher in number than male). After age range this female victim numbers fell until 76 years and over when females again accounted for more victims than males. Male victim numbers also declined after 35, however aged 46-55 there was a peak.

There was similarity in the top offences reported by both genders with burglary residential, assault occasion Actual Bodily Harm and theft from motor vehicle all appearing in each genders top 5. The top offence recorded by females was burglary residential which accounted for 12% of the female victim profile. Again, the top offence recorded by male victims was burglary residential which accounted for 15% of the overall male victim profile.

Victimisation tends to vary by offence, with females far more likely to be recorded as victims of violent crimes or offences which are linked to domestic abuse. 22.5% of the criminal damage to dwelling are domestic violence related for females, 59% assault occasion Actual Bodily Harm were domestic violence related and 52.5% of common assault were marked as domestic violence¹⁵. Males are higher in number for vehicle crime. For males that are victim to common assault and assault occasion Actual Bodily Harm, around 1 in 5 of these offences are classed as domestic violence. Table 11 shows the gender split of victims for various the top 10 offences.

Table 11 - Solihull's top 10 offence

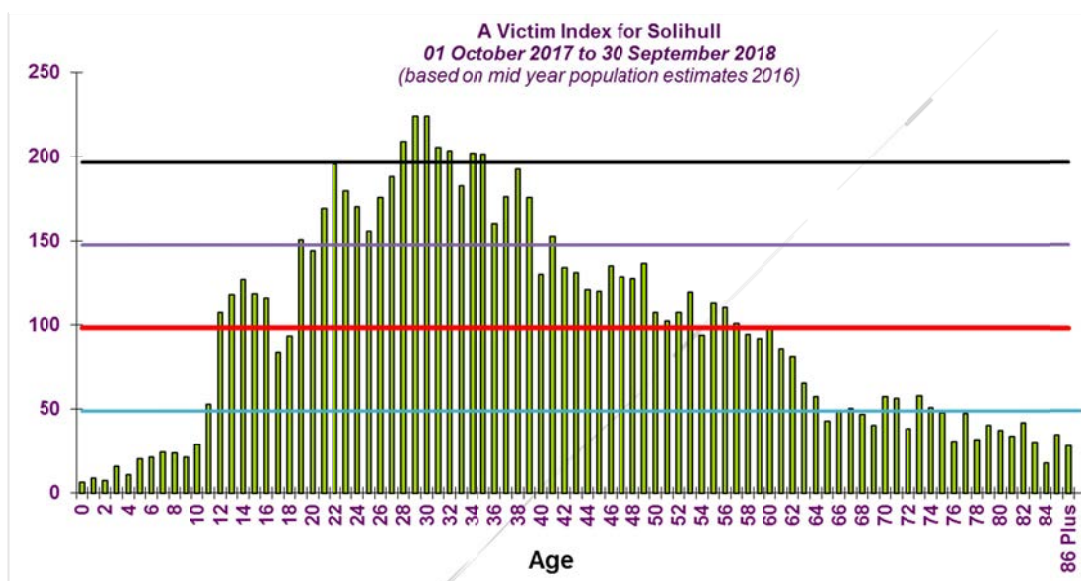


Age

¹⁵ The use of offence type markers relies on the inputter to attach this to the crime report. Therefore the numbers reported should be viewed as the minimum number of offences that are classed as Domestic Violence offences.

Vulnerability to crime and disorder is strongly linked to age. This is illustrated in the graph below which displays risk of victimisation by age, taking into account the population structure of Solihull¹⁶; a score over 98 (the red line) signifies that the age is at greater risk than the Solihull average. The purple line indicates where one and a half times the average would be. Adults aged 21-39 are most likely to be vulnerable to crime, with these ages recorded as being 1.5 times above the average. By the age of 19 the rate of victimisation surpasses the borough average and remains breached consistently until the age of 53. The main peak is between 28 and 32 years of age when victimisation goes through 2 times the average. The chances of being a victim of crime does not fall below the borough average until people are in their sixties.

Table 12 - Victim index for Solihull



Repeat Victimisation

Repeat victims are those most acutely affected by crime and disorder. Those who have been victims of crime once are found to be at a heightened risk of a further crime. Past victimisation predicts future victimisation; understanding this is vital in determining prevention initiatives and reducing overall total recorded crime.

The quality of recorded data has impacted negatively on analysis. Multiple entries for the same person have been found due to various spellings, differing versions of the same name (e.g. Catherine, Katherine, Cath, Katy, Katie etc.) alternative dates of birth, and different ethnicities, from White to Black for the same person. Poor data quality has also been seen in the allocation of Offence Type markers, where the MO clearly describes a domestic situation and the named victim and suspect are in a relationship, but the crime has not been allocated the correct marker.

Therefore, the below analysis only represents the minimum number of offences when

¹⁶ Office for National Statistics – Mid-year population estimates 2016

referring to offence types as many offences are not allocated the relevant marker.

Key Finding

- Inputting data correctly important for making accurate data analysis

There were 826 (minimum¹⁷) repeat victims accounting for 8% of all victims (excluding premises) compared to the last strategic assessment. This is an increase of 17.49% in repeat victimisation numbers. The repeat victims accounted for 13.7% of Total Recorded Crime. Considering that these repeat victims make up just 0.4% of Solihull's population, but experience 13.7% of all reported crime, it is clear that a small core of residents suffer disproportionately.

- The gender split is the opposite of the overall victim profile, with females accounting for 57.6% of repeat victims and males accounting for 42.4%.
- Repeat females accounted for 60.2% of total recorded crimes for the repeat cohort.
- Domestic Violence was a main contributor to the repeat victim profile, accounting for 36% of the victims, and 33% of all crime recorded to a repeat victim.
- 638 (64%) of repeat victims reported 2 offences over the year. However some reported up to 10 offences against them in the 12 month period examined. There were 11 victims who reported 6 offences or more. Only one victim reported 10 offences.
- For crimes committed against repeat victims, 59.5% were committed at the victim's home location. The top 5 offence categories committed at a repeat victim's home were assault occasion Actual Bodily Harm, burglary residential, common assault, harassment and criminal damage to dwelling.

Initial scoping indicates that these victims are vulnerable to crime for a variety of reasons depending on the individual and in certain cases the lifestyle they lead. Detailed analysis into the influencing factors behind repeat victimisation would be beneficial and reveal causal factors. These factors will include such as Mental Health, Substance Misuse, Alcohol Abuse, Domestic Abuse,

Caveat

Detailed analysis into the influencing factors behind repeat victimisation would be beneficial and reveal causal factors

¹⁷ Minimum – repeat victims may be larger in number but because of the poor data quality this was the minimum number recorded

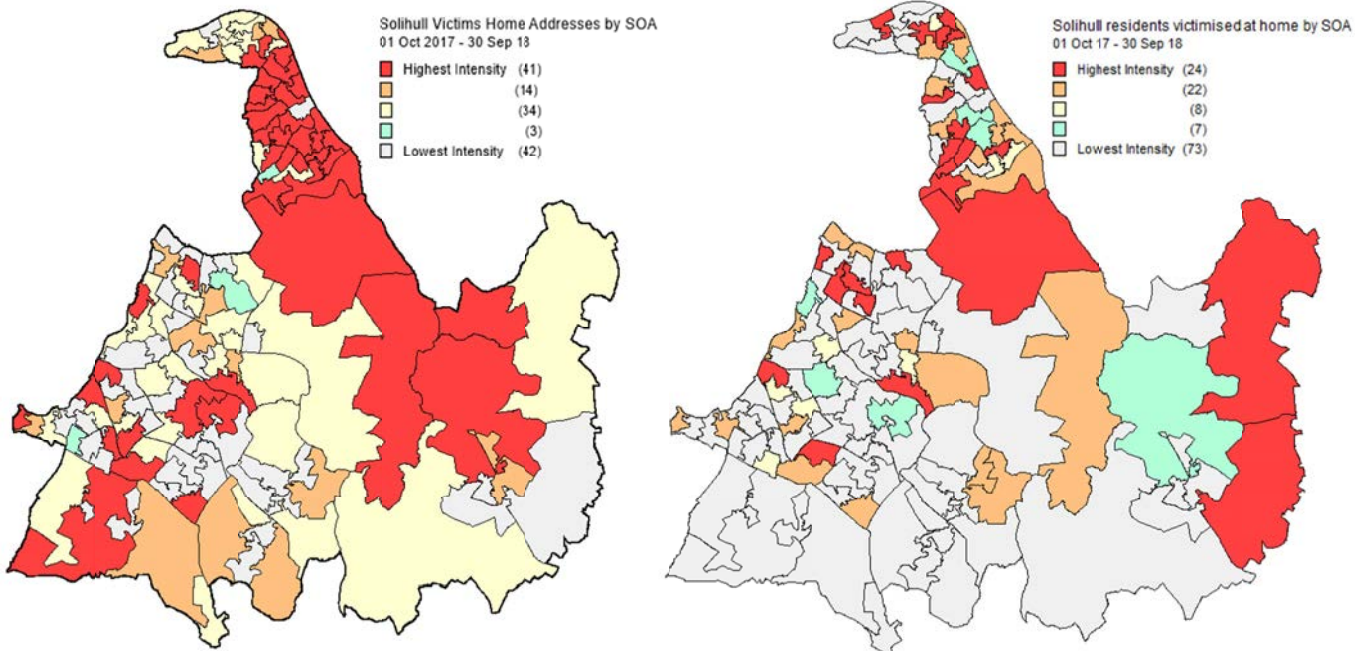
Ethnicity

Robust analysis is limited due to categories in which victims are characterised. 71.06% of victims were classed as 'White North European', 14.36% were 'Unknown/Other', 8.91% as 'Asian', 3.09% as 'Black', 0.56% as 'White south European', 0.47% 'Chinese/Japanese/South East Asian' and 0.27% as 'Middle Eastern' and 0.01% as Bangladeshi. Based on the information available, West Midlands Police victims data shows 'White North European' groups appear to be at a greater risk of being victim in Solihull, accounting for the majority of the victim profile.

Geographical Profile of Victims

The maps below show where the highest intensity of Solihull victims reside. In the 'Solihull victim's home addresses by Super Output Area (SOA) map, there is high intensity within the north locality and some Lower Super Output Area (LSOA's) areas within East and West. When looking at the victims whose offences also took place at their home location, there are some LSOAs that become higher intensity. For example east of the East locality there is a higher intensity of victims who report crimes that happen at the home location. This is also true for LSOAs north of the West locality and north of the North locality.

Figure 8 - Maps for victim addresses



Key Finding

- 49.33% of offences were committed at the home address of the victim

Case Study of a Repeat Victim and the Cost of Crime

For the repeat victim case study, it focuses on a female from the north locality. She has been a repeat victim of domestic abuse and has a young child, who is also vulnerable due to their mother's victimisation. The calculation of cost of crime only looks at West Midlands Police crimes recorded and does not account for the individual being victim to incidents, or reports of incidents with partner agencies.

- Repeat victimisation is defined as an individual being victim to more than one offence within the 12-month period analysed. For this case study, the victim who has been subject to the highest number of offences has been used.
- Between October 2017 and September 2018 there have been 11 crime reports completed, all which were categorised as Domestic Abuse, and since November 2017 there have been 28 incident logs created at the home address by the West Midlands Police.
- Victim is/was known to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Centre (MARAC) as a high risk domestic violence victim.
- The victim has a child, therefore there are concerns for the child's safety because of the victim's vulnerable position with ex-partner.
- Victim has a 3 year restraining order on her ex-partner. However since this there has been use of social media by the offender to contact the victim, which has been reported to West Midlands Police.
- The victim has a history of domestic violence with a series of partners, and has markers for mental health, suicidal and self-harm.
- The Cost of Crime can be considered in 3 different ways¹⁸
 - **Anticipation of Crime**, defensive expenditure and insurances - money individuals and businesses spend on crime detection and prevention.
 - **Consequence of Crime**, property damaged or stolen, physical and emotional harm to the victim, lost output, health services and victim services
 - **Response to Crime**, police costs and other CJS costs.
- Despite the wide range of costs included in the estimates there are inevitably some costs of crime that cannot be estimated due to the lack of available evidence or data. This includes
 - The fear of crime
 - The environmental cost of crime
 - The cost to victims' and their families

¹⁸ Home Office: The economic and social costs of crime. Research Report 99. July 2018

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- Using the Cost of Crime figures published by the Home Office, and taking Violence Without Injury as the closest match in the above Case Study:
 - Violence without Injury. 1 crime = £ 5930 multiply by 11 = **£65,230**
- There are no current official figures relating to Calls for Service.



Offenders

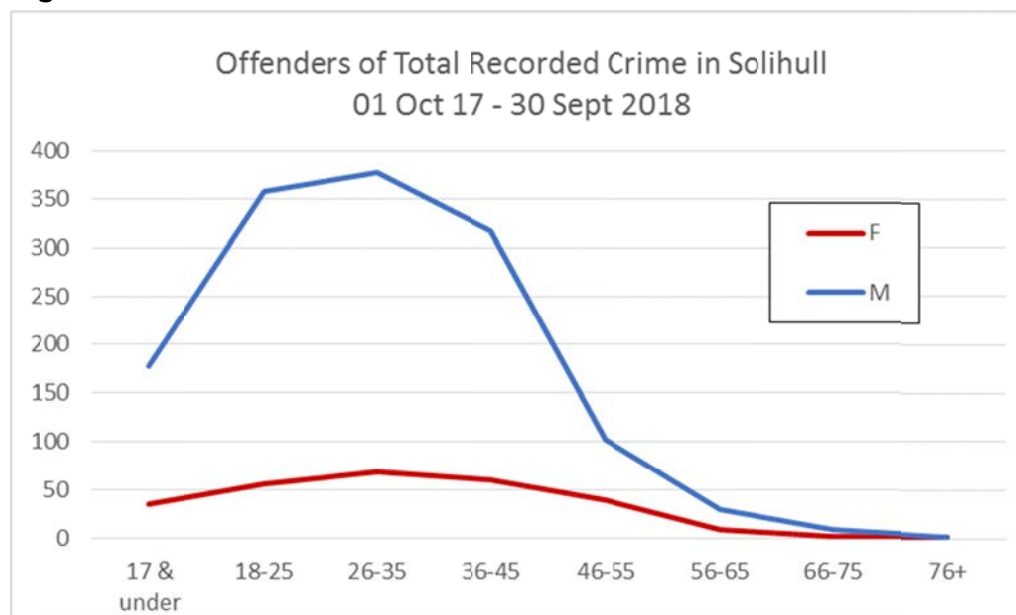
This section examines who commits crime in Solihull and who are the most prolific offenders.

Profiling offenders

Male defendants were in the majority accounting for 82% of the profile and 84% of the offences detected. Females accounted for 18% of the defendant profile and 16% of the offences detected. Figure 9 shows the pattern of age of offenders in Solihull. Male offending increased with age up until the age group of 26-35, with females following a similar pattern but the distinction between age groups is much less pronounced. After 26 to 35 years both genders decrease. Compared to last year's strategic assessment, there have been less defendants in the 26-35 category being detected making the category more level with the 18-25 age group.

In each age band (apart from 76+ where there was 1 offender for both male and female) male defendants outnumbered females by at least 3:1. In the age band of 18 to 25 years old male defendants outnumbered females by 6:1.

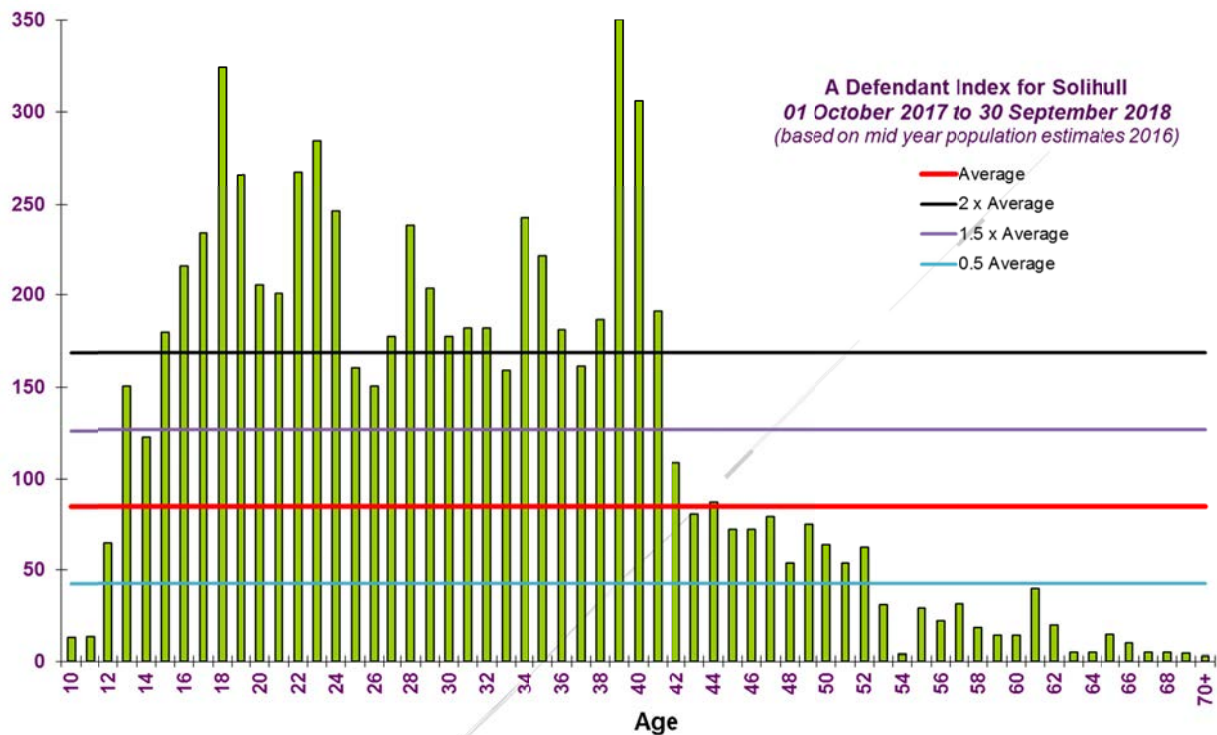
Figure 9 - Offenders of TRC



Age

- Figure 10 shows the likelihood of offending by age, taking into account Solihull's population structure¹⁹.
- A score over 84 (shown by the horizontal red line) signifies that an age is more likely to offend than average. The purple line indicates 1.5 times the average and the black line indicates double the average.

Figure 10 - Defendant index for Solihull



Key Finding

- The peak age range in offending for both males and females sits between 26 and 35 years old

The results are similar to previous assessments, and we can summarise that:

- From 13 years old, the risk of offending rises to surpass the 1.5 x Solihull average, this falls just below the 1.5x mark for the age of 15, but then increases for the age of 15 to double the average.
- A person in their teens and twenties is more likely to offend than a person in their mid-40s.
- 13 is a key age in terms of offending as well as becoming a victim.
- The propensity to offend climbs sharply at 15 and breaches 2x the average index score for Solihull.
- Offending remains at above 2x the average score through to the age of 24.

¹⁹ ONS mid-year population estimates 2016

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- At 27 years old there is another rise in offending and age related risk to offending remains until 41 years.
- The peak single age for offending was 39 years old. There were 69 individual offenders who were caught committing crime last year. Nearly half (34) of the offences committed by this age was Theft from Shop or Stall.
- From aged 41 there was a drop in offending, from this point the risk of offending shows a steady and sustained decrease and remains below the index average.
- Males are likely to start offending earlier than females, with the age of 13 already breaching 2x the average. Females at age 14 breach 2x the average.
- Males breaching the average continues from aged 13 to 42, with the peak age being 18 with 358 detected offences.

Results are presented in the table below to indicate the top 2 common offences detected for each age bracket in males and females.

Key: **Black** = Top offence for age bracket **Grey** = Second highest offence per age bracket.

Offence - Males	10-12	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30	31-33	34-36	37-39	40-42
Burglary residential			Grey	Grey	Grey						
Robbery – personal property		Black									
Theft from Shop or Stall	Grey	Grey			Black	Grey	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black
Possess Cannabis			Black	Black					Grey		
Assault Occasion Actual Bodily Harm	Black					Black		Grey		Grey	
Breach of restraining order							Grey				
Theft from motor vehicle											Grey

Offence - Females	10-12 ¹	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30	31-33	34-36	37-39 ²	40-42 ³
Common assault											
Theft from Shop or Stall											
Theft from person											
Theft other											
Assault Occasion Actual Bodily Harm											
Burglary residential											
Assault on constable											
Wilfully neglect young person under 16											

1. Only 3 defendants in this category
2. Three categories (all with 2 offences) came 2nd – wilfully assault young person under 16, theft from motor vehicle and intimidate witness/juror
3. The remaining 6 offences in the category all had 1 offence each.

Amongst 10 to 18 year olds, extracting data where the offences were committed Monday to Friday between the hours of 09:00 and 15:00hrs (and the entire month of August omitted) there were 46 offences. 11 of these were described as Education and 11 were shop. All shop offences were theft from shop and stall and took place between 13:00 – 15:00.

When the search was extended to between 08:00 and 16:00 (when most children are either on their way to school/college or on their way home) the number of crimes committed by children who should be engaged in education or apprenticeships increased to 76. 13 of these (17%) were recorded as taking place at a location described as “Educational”. 16 (21%) were recorded as park.

Inference

- 46 offences were potentially committed by school aged children at a time when they should or could have been in education/apprenticeship

Public Health England statistics show that for Solihull, the rate of children (10-18 years) per 1,000, who have formally entered the youth justice system was 3.9. This is better than the benchmarks for the England average (4.8) and the West Midlands average (5.1)²⁰.

Possession of Cannabis is a key offence for 16 – 21 year old males. 22% of this cohort also committed other offences with burglary residential, robbery – personal property and theft from shop or stall. The youngest age where Possession of Cannabis was recorded were detected to a 13

²⁰ <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/wider-determinants/data#page/0/gid/1938133073/pat/6/par/E12000005/ati/102/are/E08000029>

year old male, the oldest was 43. The youngest female found to be in possession of Cannabis was 17 years old and the oldest recorded as 35.

Key Finding

- Theft from Shop or Stall and Violent Crime were common to the majority of age groups for both male and female.
- Burglary offences were high for young males, and females between 22-24

Ethnicity

Robust analysis is limited due to categories in which defendants are characterised. 71.49% of defendants were classed as 'White North European', 9.85% were 'Unknown/Other', 8.88% as 'Asian', 8.75% as 'Black', 0.73% as 'White south European', 0.18% 'Chinese/Japanese/South East Asian' and 0.12% as 'Middle Eastern'. Based on the information available, West Midlands Police offending data shows 'White North European' groups appear to be at a greater risk of offending in Solihull, accounting for the majority of the offender profile, relative to their census 2011 population figure of 89.1%.

Key Finding

- Issues around the recording of ethnicity have been highlighted in previous Strategic Assessments as this has an impact on the robustness of conclusions that can be drawn from any analysis.

Geographical Profile of Offenders

Between 01 October 2017 and 30 September 2018 there were 1645 detected offences (10.76% of Total Recorded Crime) in Solihull. These offences were detected to 1122 individual offenders.

Compared to the last strategic assessment the number of detected offences have reduced by 297 (-15.29%). This down-turn in numbers is also reflected by the drop in the number of offenders; 211 fewer (-15.83%)

Based on those detected offenders with valid addresses:

- 34.35% (565) of offences were committed by Solihull residents.
- 39.57% of Solihull offences (651) were detected to offenders living in the rest of the West Midlands.
 - 436 (26.5%) offences were detected to Birmingham East Offenders
 - 165 (10%) offences were detected to Birmingham West Offenders

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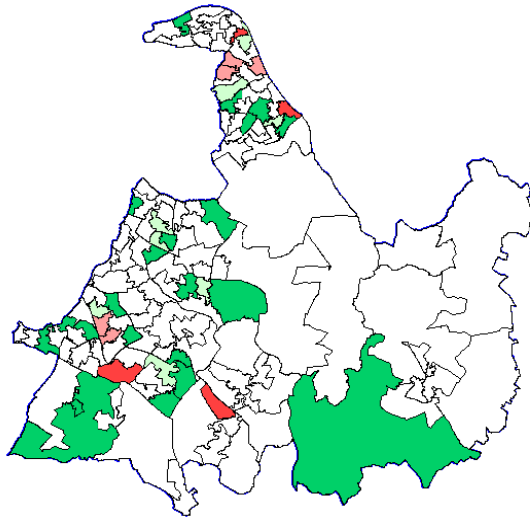
- 277 (16.84%) of offences were detected to offenders who provided addresses which sits outside of the West Midlands Police Force area, or no address was recorded.

The home addresses of Solihull resident offenders are mapped below. They have been separated

Figure 11 - Defendant home

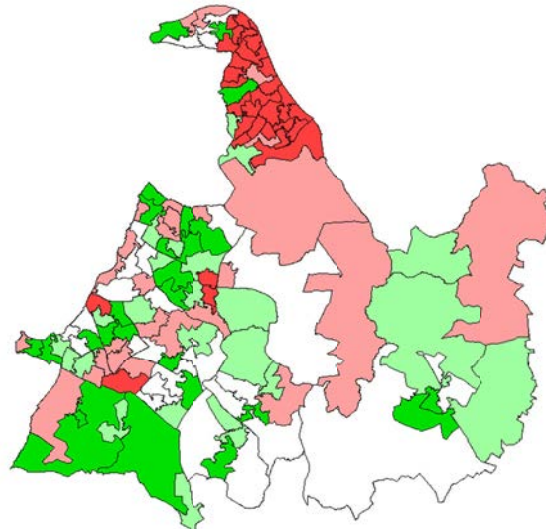
Youth offender (17 years and under) Home addresses by SOA
1st Oct 17 to 30th Sep 18

■ Highest intensity
■
■
■ Lowest intensity



Adult Defendants (18 years and over) Home addresses by SOA
1st Oct 17 to 30th Sep 18

■ Highest intensity
■
■
■ Lowest intensity



into young offenders (up to and including 17 years old) and adult offenders. Figure 11 shows the Lower Super Output Areas where offenders with the most offending live.

The top 3 neighbourhoods where young offenders (aged 10-17) home addresses are were all on Birmingham East (Acocks Green, Shard End and Sheldon), Sheldon was also in the top neighbourhood for offenders addresses aged 18 -24. For youth offenders, the top 3 detected offences were robbery personal property, assault occasion Actual Bodily Harm and theft from shops and stalls.

Inference

- The number of areas categorised with no colour on the young offenders map compared to that of the adults map infers that there a large number of children living with criminally active adults. For example, in a lower super output area in which there are a large number of adult offenders, it is likely there are children in the family, who have not yet come to the attention of agencies. However they are at an elevated risk of engaging in criminal behaviour, if this type of behaviour is the norm to them as violence can be viewed as a learned behaviour (Bandura, 1963).

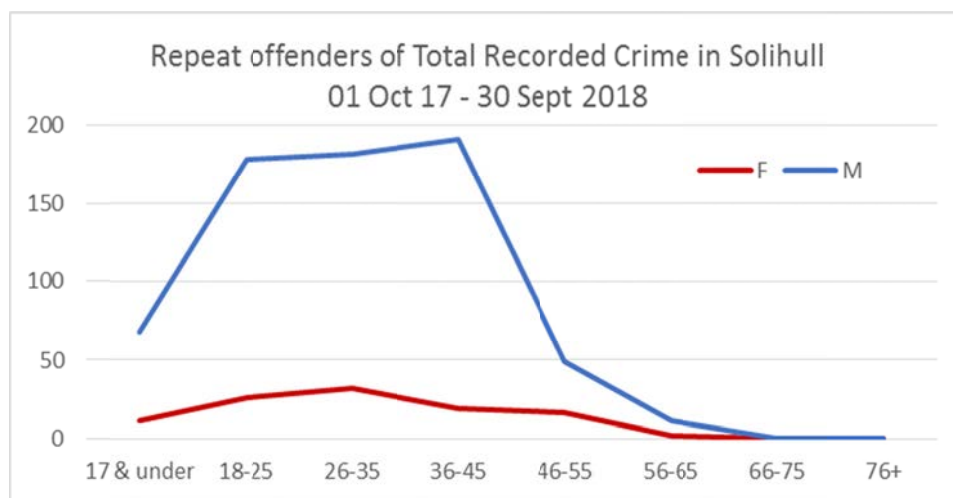
Key Finding

- The top 3 home neighbourhoods for youth offenders (aged 17 and under) were all in Birmingham East.

Repeat Offenders

The same caveat (mentioned in victims section) around poor data quality applies to any analysis regarding repeat offenders.

Figure 12 - Repeat offenders TRC



- Analysis of the defendant data shows 1122 individual people, 263 were repeat offenders.
- The gender divide in this cohort differed slightly to the overall profile with males accounting for 86% of repeat offenders and females 14%.
- Repeat offenders accounted for 786 of the detected offences recorded between October 2017 and September 2018
- The amount of offences committed by repeat offenders is similar to the gender divide with males accounting for 87% of offences and females 13%
- 160 (40.7%) of repeat offenders committed 2 offences during the period examined.
- 5 individuals committed over 10 offences each accounting for 10.1% of the cohort's total number of offences.
- The top offender committed 25 offences in the 12 months, his home address was on Birmingham East. The second top repeat offender with 23 offences, his home address was in Solihull.
- 20 defendants committed 6 offences or more and accounted for 186 detected offences.
- Repeat offender's numbers peak between the ages of 26 and 35 years old for females, and 36-45 years old for males. For both males and females, 1 in every 2 offenders within this age band was a repeat offender (this was the case for both genders)

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- There were more male and female offenders in the repeat cohort for ages 36 to 45 than between 18 and 35.
- In each age band, similar to the overall profile of defendants males outnumbered females on average 5:1, with exception in 36-45 category where males outnumbered females by 10:1.
- The above age profiles for repeat offenders is also true of the highest scoring individuals managed by Solihull's Integrated Offender Management (IOM) (a cross-agency response to crime and re-offending threats faced by the communities).
- A search conducted on 18/12/2018 of the IOM system showed that 9 of the individuals categorised as High Risk in Solihull were aged between 26 and 45 years old. (There are 15 individuals with a high risk score)
- The high risk score relates to the intensity of management related directly to the severity of risk posed by the individual. There is also medium and low risk categories.
- 26 to 35 year olds accounted for 3 of the high IOMs and 6 were accounted for by males aged 36 to 45 year olds

Key Finding

- 15.5% (4 or more offences) of repeat offenders accounted for 17% of the detected

Inferences

- With reduced resources in police and partner agencies it is even more pertinent to work together to apprehend offenders
- Some people have a predisposition to offend, and will be more motivated to commit crime when they see what is placed in the media i.e. bilking cannot be responded to by police (*Daily Mail – 28th October 2018, A fifth of police forces are 'ignoring' fuel thieves in the face of budget cuts*).
- Committing one crime increases the probability of further offending.
- Once convicted it can become more difficult to resume a law abiding community life due to reduced job opportunities which can lead to isolation.
- This in turn leads to increased association with others who find themselves in a similar situation and criminal behaviour persists.
- Early intervention can contribute towards preventing real vulnerabilities such as being coerced into sexual exploitation, or modern day slavery, becoming radicalised, or recruited into a criminal network

Motivations and Drivers

The circumstances around an individual's life can and does determine future behaviour. For some, this means that offending becomes a pattern of behaviour.

Early indications of factors which are risk factors for offending behaviour are:

- Features of a lifestyle,
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Thinking and Behaviour
- Family and Wider Networks
- Emotional Development and Mental Health
- Substance Misuse and Learning Education and Training
- Attitudes of Offending and Behaviour.

Focussing on positive change and development in a person's life can prevent negative labelling based on their past behaviour.

Inferences

- The Reoffending Analysis Tool (RAT) could help with understanding drivers and triggers for offences.

Detections

Detection levels provide an insight into the various crime types and can aid the partnership in apprehending offenders.

Between 01 October 2017 and 30 September 2018 1645 offences were detected, equivalent to 10.7% of Total Recorded Crime. Compared to the Strategic Assessment for 2016/17 this is a reduction of 12.9%.

- 67.78% of detections resulted in a charge/ summons/ postal charge
- 15.38% in community resolutions 4% in adult cautions, including conditional cautions
- 1.64% in youth cautions including conditional cautions

Offenders aged 17 or under accounted for 212 detections (12.8% of all detections). 49% of the outcomes resulted in a charge / postal charge for an offence (104) whilst 29% of outcomes in this age bracket (62) were dealt with by way of Community Resolution.

- Community Resolution was the top disposal method for each age from 10–14 years old.
- 15 year olds saw a shift to charge or summons as being the top disposal method
- At 16 and 17 Charge/Summons and postal charge accounted for 55% of the total disposal methods.

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Volume crime (46% of Total Recorded Crime) in Solihull consists of Burglary, Theft from Shop or Stall, Theft From Motor Vehicle, Actual Bodily Harm, Make off without Payment and Theft of Motor Vehicle.

Detection rates for these are detailed in the table below. This highlights gaps in understanding the offender profile for Solihull and therefore missed opportunities to increase the management of the offenders.

Offence	Detection Rate	No. Crimes	No. Detections	No. Offenders
Burglary residential	5.6%	1530	87	57
Theft from Shop or Stall	26.9%	1453	391	245
Theft from Motor Vehicle	2.3%	1333	30	15
Actual Bodily Harm	12.3%	972	120	115
Make off without	1.4%	958	13	12
Theft of motor vehicle	0.5%	773	4	4

The Information Sharing Protocols are reviewed and updated every year. These agreements create the pathways to permit relevant and appropriate information exchange. There are however partners who resist engagement.

This is further exacerbated by some partners not having secure methods of sharing information in place.

Inferences

- Offenders who have not been brought to justice are motivated to continue offending, thus increasing crime and lowering detection rates.
- There are partners who hold information who could contribute to the prevention and detection of crime; bring offenders to justice, preserve order and prevent the commission of further offences.

Caveat

- There are intelligence gaps in understanding the profile of offenders who commit crime in Solihull

Case Study of a Repeat Offender and the Cost of Crime

For the repeat offender case study, it focuses on a male from the north locality. He has been a repeat offender, whose contact with the police started in his teenage years, he is now aged 20.

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- Repeat offender is defined as the offender committing more than one offence within the 12-month period analysed. For the case study, the defendant who had one of highest number of offences committed and lived within the Solihull borough.
- Between October 2017 and September 2018 there have been 11 crimes committed by this offender detected, 3 of which were categorised as Domestic Violence.
- The offender is aged 20, and was first known to West Midlands Police in 2012 when a young person referral incident was issued after he arrived home intoxicated (aged 15). Individual committed 4 offences in-between 2013-2016. Since 2017, offending has become more frequent, with 11 offences being detected in the analysed period.
- The Cost of Crime can be considered in 3 different ways^[1]
 - **Anticipation of Crime**, defensive expenditure and insurances - money individuals and businesses spend on crime detection and prevention.
 - **Consequence of Crime**, property damaged or stolen, physical and emotional harm to the victim, lost output, health services and victim services
 - **Response to Crime**, police costs and other CJS costs.
- Despite the wide range of costs included in the estimates there are inevitably some costs of crime that cannot be estimated due to the lack of available evidence or data. This includes
 - The cost to victims' and their families
 - The fear of crime
 - The environmental cost of crime
- Using the Cost of Crime figures published by the Home Office, and taking Violence With Injury, Theft of Motor Vehicle, Robbery person, Burglary dwelling and Criminal damage other as the closest matches in the above Case Study:

Offence	Cost of crime - <i>average cost to society of each crime</i>	Number of crimes committed	Total cost
Violence with injury	14050	3	42150
Theft of motor vehicle	10290	2	20580
Robbery person	11320	1	11320
Burglary dwelling	5930	1	5930
Criminal damage - other	1350	4	5400
Grand Total			£85,380

[1] Home Office: The economic and social costs of crime. Research Report 99. July 2018

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Areas of Vulnerability

The purpose of the strategic assessment is to assess future threats and trends that are likely to have an impact on community safety over the next year. The previous strategic assessment highlighted the most significant threats (based on threat, harm and risk) that Solihull was likely to face.

A key thread when looking at threats to community safety is vulnerability, whether that be vulnerable children (looked after, repeat missing person or those vulnerable to exploitation of criminals), communities vulnerable to the impact of anti-social behaviour, individuals with poor mental health who are vulnerable to being exploited and drugs as a driver of acquisitive crime. In addition to this, there is a focus on violence, a crime that causes high psychological and physical harm to victims, their victims, their families and communities.

The partnership approved its priorities for its new 3 year community safety strategy 2018 to 2021. They are:

Priority 1: Better protecting people from harm

To prioritise partnership work to protect those most vulnerable from harm, focusing on those crimes that are often hidden to include domestic violence, hate crime and vulnerable victims of ASB. Working to increase confidence for victims to report crime, supporting victims and to bring offenders to justice.

Priority 2: Bringing offenders to justice and tackle re-offending

To focus on those offenders who cause harm within their local area and those offenders who travel in to the borough to commit crime. We will focus on the links between offending and substance misuse, identifying and targeting persistent and high risk offenders.

Priority 3: Supporting stronger communities

We will keep our communities informed about our work and listen to what matters most to them. We will test our understanding of the things that our communities tell us are important and ensure that we work together in response.

Priority 4: Making our neighbourhoods safer places

We will work to reduce crime, substance misuse and Anti-Social Behaviour ensuring that fewer people become victims. Working together to tackle Anti-social behaviour and improve the quality of life of those affected, we will focus our partnership work, seeking to intervene early and prevent criminality in places to change lives and build stronger communities.

Violence

Violence can be described and measured in many ways. For example it can be analysed using the crime classification tree of 'violence with injury' or 'violence without injury'. It can also be categorised as violence against the person within West Midlands Police systems. Then violence can be broken down into specific areas such as Youth Violence, Domestic Violence and knife crime.

Injury Surveillance data

At present the data available on violence is very much police orientated. There are efforts to adopt the 'public health'²¹ approach to tackling the increase in violence that has been seen across the West Midlands. Below is commentary from West Midlands Police Inspector, Ruth Tissington, and Associate Director of Local Knowledge and Intelligence Services, Gareth Wrench, both from the Injury Surveillance Steering group explaining the aspirational approach to tackling violence in the future:

"The West Midlands Injury Surveillance System products provide key stakeholders with an overview of injuries caused by violence in their area with the use of Police data, Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), and Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (ISTV) data from Emergency Departments (EDs). It is expected that data from West Midlands Ambulance Service will shortly be added to the project.

Violence prevention typically relies on police data, focusing on environmental measures to deter violence. Just as not all people who are victims of violent crime will seek healthcare, not all patients injured through violence report the incident to the police.

Using a variety of data can help to provide a greater understanding of the extent and nature of violence, where and when violence occurs and which population groups are most affected. This can in turn support the development of targeted interventions shifting attention to preventing violence.

New 'Injuries caused by violence summary data packs' have been presented to the seven Community Safety Partnerships by Public Health England and Police colleagues over the past year. They are circulated on a quarterly basis.

Collection of ISTV (Information Sharing to Tackle Violence) data from EDs is still in its infancy, and data collection varies in completeness across the West Midlands Police (West Midlands Police) area. As a result work is ongoing to improve the submission and quality of data. This work includes

²¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-public-health-approach-to-violence-prevention-in-england>

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engagement visits with emergency departments across the region in an effort to uplift the quality and quantity of the data. Crucial to this work are two things: that feedback is provided on the product (what is useful, what can be improved, if the layout and presentation suit partners' purposes) and how partners are practically using the intelligence so that a set of case studies can be compiled. The case studies will be used to inform ongoing work to improve and expand the data. For example, a case study can be used to illustrate to emergency department staff the value of the information they provide, thus leading to an uplift in quality and quantity."

Youth violence

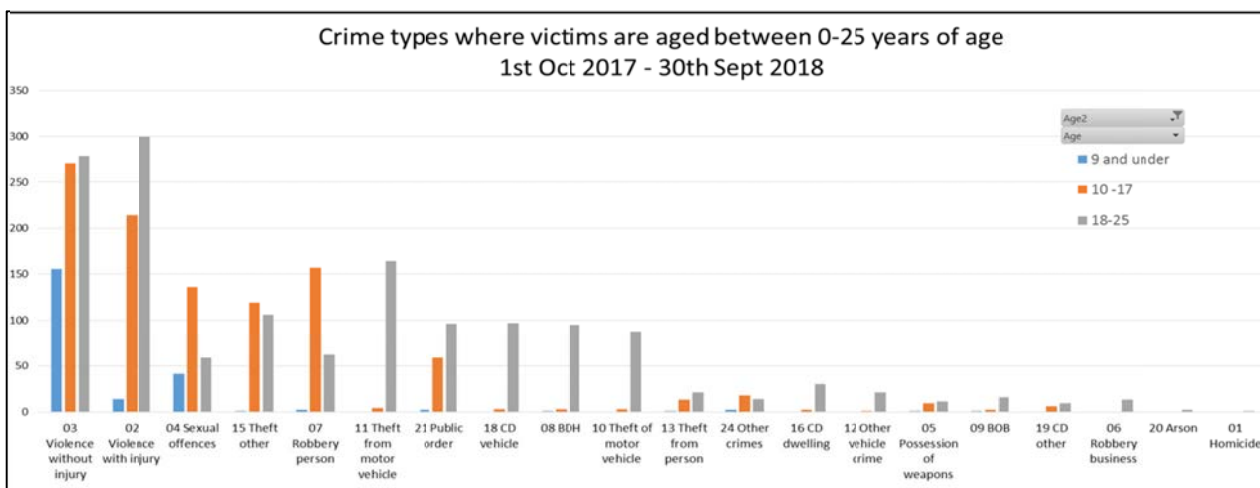
Youth violence is not usually seen in isolation; those that commit violence offences may display other problems such as truancy, dropping out of school and substance abuse and have experienced adverse childhood experiences²². The motivation is likely to be less objective-outcome oriented than say a planned business robbery and as a result, the level of violence involved will range from pushing/shoving to attempts to kill.

The psychological impact of violence on victims can be severe. The impact on the local community is also substantial. Incidents of youth violence feed community fears and are, likely be tied to the image of 'gangs of youths' hanging around in neighbourhoods and making places feel less safe. Sensationalist media headlines may also play an effect at priming the fears of the general population.

When assessing youth violence, there are two approaches which can be used. The first is to look at the demographic of the youth offenders (aged 10-24 years). However this only provides an understanding of people who have been apprehended. For offenders that are aged between 10-25 years, there were 84 (13.4%) detected offences for violence with injury, 27% of which were domestic violence related. 13 of the locations for violence with injury offences had more than one offence committed there. 40 (47.62%) of the offences occurred on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday. However as this sample can only provide analysis of detected offenders it does not provide a holistic understanding of youth violence within Solihull.

²² The relationship between family violence and youth offending, LGA

Figure 13 - Crime types for victims aged 25 and under



Inferences

- Youth victims of violence are likely to be targeted by offenders that are of a similar age to themselves.

The second way to understand the problem of violence is to look at youth victims of violence. From looking at the victim data for Solihull where a victim is aged 25 and under, the largest proportion of offences can be classed as violence without injury, see Figure 13 on the preceding page. However the second category, which is the largest proportion for individuals aged 18-25, was violence with injury – assault occasion Actual Bodily Harm accounted for 207 offences. When specifically looking at violence with injury, there were 2 locations that had more than 15 offences. The first location was Brooklands Hospital, Coleshill whereby the majority of reports are from staff members who have been assaulted by a patient. However, the incidents of violence viewed here cannot be solely linked to youth violence due to patients being of varying ages. The next location is Walkabout, Solihull, whereby the majority of reports are unknown offenders physically assaulting the victims. Although for an annual period the number of violence with injury offences are relatively low, it can be inferred that offences that may be deemed ‘less serious’ go under-reported to the police.

Young People’s Perception of Safety

For location description, 13 offences for violence with injury occurred within an educational setting. The Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire (HRBQ) puts schools result tables into school collaborative areas and the questions provide a reflection on the pupils’ perceptions for a variety of subjects.

Unity represents the North (Grace Academy, CTC Kingshurst Academy and Park Hall). In the West there is Synergy which are central schools (Alderbrook and St Peters) and Mosaic (Lyndon and Lode Heath).

The secondary school data looks at years 8 and 10. The questions pulled from the questionnaire which have been used for this report look at pupils' safety.

For pupils stating they have been a victim of violence or aggression in the area where they live in the past 12 months, the Solihull school average was 9%. Mosaic scored 11% and Unity scored 12% which is above the average for both collaboratives. Synergy fell slightly below the average at 8%. For children living in areas where they have been victim to violence or aggression, it is important to understand the risk factors associated with delinquent peers, being the recipient of verbal and physical abuse and their links to youth offending²³.

Safety after dark was also a question asked on the health related behaviour questionnaire, for Solihull schools average 13% answered as 'poor' or 'very poor'. Falling below the average at 9% was Synergy. For Mosaic, 12% rated their safety as poor. However in Unity 25% rated their safety after dark as 'poor' or 'very poor'. For the north of Solihull, a quarter of pupils did not feel safe after dark. This reflects the hotspot locations and home locations of offenders of weapon crime, which is most prominent in the north of the borough.

When comparing the questions to 2016 data, 11% of pupils said they had been a victim of aggression or violence in the past 12 months, which rose to 12% in 2018. The question regarding safety after dark being rated as poor was 25% in 2018, a decrease from the 29% in 2016. The latter two questions have seen a decrease in percentages which is a more positive outcome with regards to perceptions of safety.

Caveat

- **Brooklands Hospital, although the victims were youths, cannot be solely associated with youth violence as patients are of varied ages**

²³ The relationship between family violence and youth offending, LGA

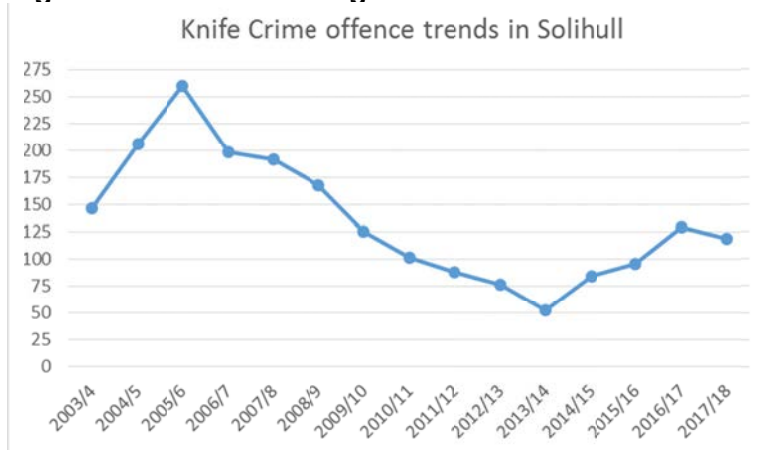
Key Finding

- For violence with injury, the top 2 repeat locations were Brooklands Hospital and Walkabout, Solihull.
- 40 violence with injury offences occurred on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday
- 25% of pupils from the Unity collaborative rated their safety after dark as 'poor' or 'very poor'.

Knife crime

With media headlines stating that knife crime is at a record high in England Wales, it is inevitable that it should be a focus in the strategic assessment²⁴. When looking at knife crime offences, the way knife crime offences is as the ADR 160 (use of knife to cause injury or threat). Since 2013/14 knife crime offences have started to increase, however compared to 2005/6, offence levels in 2017/18 showed a 54%

Figure 14 - Knife crime figures



decrease. Compared to last year there has also been a slight decrease in the number of knife crime offences. The majority of knife crime offences in Solihull were used for **'robbery – personal property'**.

For victims of knife offences, those aged 17 and under accounted for the highest proportion when broken down into age categories. 26 of the offences where a child is the victim were 'robbery – personal property'. For offence location, the majority occurred in parks, this was true for all victim age groups.

As children are more commonly the victim of knife crime in Solihull, it is important to understand their perceptions and feelings towards the topic. The health related behaviour questionnaire asks pupils on their opinion of weapon possession with their fellow pupils. For the question do your friends carry weapons, for Solihull schools average answer for 'fairly sure' and 'certain' was 6%. For Mosaic it was under the average at 3%. Unity was slightly above the average at 7% and for

²⁴ <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/uk-knife-crime-police-gang-violence-stabbings-record-figures-a8589626.html>

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Synergy it was the same as the average - 6%. Even though these % numbers are small they still represent a significant proportion of young people who think or know their friends carry weapons. When comparing the questions to 2016 data, it collates all of Solihull schools data. Compared to 2016 data, this was 11% across all schools and decreased to 7%.

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is considered a hidden crime, therefore the 25% increase in Domestic Violence compared to the previous strategic assessment, could be, in part, interpreted in a positive light that victims now have an increased confidence to report these often hidden offences.

Over the analysed period, there were 614 offences of harassment, in which 136 were marked as a Domestic Violence offence, compared to the last strategic assessment where there were 400 harassment offences in which 78 were Domestic Violence. Since the last strategic assessment, there has also been a change in recording practices for harassment. From 1st April 2018 the Home Office made changes to the recording of Harassment and Stalking offences. The aim of this National change is to help provide a better understanding of harassment and stalking, in particular harassment cases which often escalates to stalking. The previous rules were to record any substantive offence instead of harassment. From 1st April 2018, both offences were recorded.

In relation to total recorded crime, domestic violence accounted for 9.52%. This should be seen as the minimum, as dip sampling shows that some crimes are domestic related without being allocated the maker. Over the analysed period, there were 3036 incidents of domestic abuse (includes crimes and non-crimes) which continue the year on year upward trend²⁵. **This is the equivalent to 14.3 incidents and crimes for every 1,000 people in Solihull's population.** When comparing this to ONS data²⁶, this is below the 19 incidents and crimes per 1,000 people as the West Midlands average.

Although Domestic Violence is commonly thought of as between intimate partners, the definition also encapsulates intra-family abuse (elder abuse and child-on-parent), honour-based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation. The records of crimes for all of these forms of Domestic Violence are very low in Solihull. Therefore the partnership may wish to consider its approach to increasing awareness around these crimes as it can help victims identify with being a victim and also help practitioners and communities be aware of any signs.

A true picture of these threats within Solihull does not currently exist.

²⁵ Commentary from Caroline Murray, Public Health Services, Solihull MBC

²⁶ ONS data, Year ending March 2018 – Domestic Abuse in England and Wales data tool

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Although both males and females can be a victim of domestic abuse, **the data for Solihull tells us that females who are aged 26-35 are particularly vulnerable, as they account for 36% of the victim profile.** When mapping domestic violence for Solihull using the Mosaic profiling²⁷, it is evident that reported domestic violence disproportionately affects the most disadvantaged. Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smiths Wood remain the neighbourhoods with the highest reports of domestic abuse. The north locality group are currently considering actions to understand why this is and develop actions to address the reported inequalities of domestic abuse²⁸.

Tackling domestic abuse, not only protects the victims from harm and susceptibility to repeat victimisation, but it can also reduce those children witnessing or living in abusive homes. Nationally, it is believed that around 1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse²⁹ at some time. There is a large body of research that shows parental conflict can put children's mental health and successful long-term outcomes at risk when exposure to domestic abuse is frequent, intense and poorly resolved³⁰.

Reducing the number of outstanding Domestic Violence offenders is currently a West Midlands Police an area of focus. In Solihull, a model has been adopted whereby officers are given ownership on outstanding offenders and have to report in on weekly task and finish groups on progress³¹. By identifying the repeat offenders and bringing them to justice, this will help to reduce those individuals who are repeat victims. It is important that partners also feed into this process, as some victims will not report offences to the police but may disclose to other agencies.

Commentary from Caroline Murray, regarding Domestic Abuse in the Solihull borough, can be found in Appendix 1.

Inferences

- Information sharing gap with third party sectors. A holistic understanding from all agencies would help to further understand victim profiles and effective interventions

²⁷ Helps provide lifestyles and behaviours of the public to help make informed decisions - <https://www.experian.co.uk/assets/marketing-services/brochures/mosaic-ps-brochure.pdf>

²⁸ Commentary from Caroline Murray, Public Health Services, Solihull MBC

²⁹ Radford, L et al (2011) Child abuse and neglect in the UK today.

³⁰ 'Why reducing parental conflict matters for local government', Early Intervention Foundation

³¹ Conversation with Superintendent Richard Agar regarding Violence in Solihull, 15/11/18

Other Hidden Crimes

Fraud

Fraud can be carried out in many ways, for example Rogue traders and scams. A definition by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, fraud means;

“Any intentional false representation, including failure to declare information or abuse of position that is carried out to make gain, cause loss or expose another to the risk of loss” In the UK, the term fraud is used to describe many acts such as deception, bribery, forgery, extortion, corruption, theft, conspiracy, embezzlement, misappropriation, false representation, concealment of material facts and collusion.”

A document was produced by the strategic development team which provides a focus on fraud in the West Midlands, however Solihull does not feature as a prominent hot spot location when being compared to the West Midlands as a whole³². Between the period of 1st June 2017 and 31st May 2018³³, 698 reports were received at Action Fraud for Solihull, which is consistent with the other local authorities (excluding Birmingham). However, victims may be embarrassed that have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, their true figures are likely to be higher.

Action Fraud data shows that over the past year there have been **2024³⁴ reported cases of fraud and cyber-crime against businesses** located within the West Midlands.

Of these, 143 took place within Solihull. This is similar to the levels seen within Dudley and Walsall. This figure is highly likely to be an **under-representation of the true scale**, as businesses may not report losses brought about by fraud and cyber-crime for fear of causing concern to their customers, shareholders and an increase in their insurance premiums.³⁵

Chief Superintendent Lee Wharmby is the lead for fraud for the Safer Solihull partnership; has provided commentary around the work being carried out on fraud, which can be found in Appendix 1.

Child Sexual Exploitation

The College of Policing defines Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) as³⁶:

³² Commentary from Chief Superintendent Lee Wharmby

³³ Solihull Serious organised crime local profile, strategy and direction team WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

³⁴ 01st June 2017-31st May 2018

³⁵ Solihull Serious organised crime local profile, strategy and direction team WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

³⁶ <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/child-sexual-exploitation/>

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“Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.”

For Solihull, there were 22 crimes that were recorded as in the strategic period, 9 of which were ‘arrange or facilitate travel of another person with a view to exploitation’.

For Child Sexual Exploitation reports that were recorded as non-crimes, there were 96 incidents in the strategic year, an increase of 81% compared to last year. As an underreported issue, rises in recording of Child Sexual Exploitation offences are generally accepted to be due to a welcome rise in reporting rather than increases in offences being committed³⁷.

Commentary from the neighbourhood teams for the quarterly performance document:

Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation

Honour based abuse (HBA) is defined by the National Police Chiefs Council as:

‘An incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community’s code of behavior’

Forced marriage (FM) involved the use of violence, threats of violence, deception or any other form of coercion or in the case of people with learning difficulties cannot consent for the purpose of forcing a person into marriage or into leaving the UK with the intention of forcing that person to marry.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a procedure where the female genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed³⁸. In the UK it is illegal and classed as child abuse as it is usually carried out on young girls between infancy and before puberty starts. Research states that in the UK there is an estimated 65,790 victims of FGM, and an estimate 30,000 girls at risk of FGM³⁹. There the crimes and non-crimes reported in Solihull are low, indicating there may be an issue of under-reporting.

³⁷ <https://west-midlands.police.uk/news/police-and-partners-working-together-tackle-hidden-crimes-birmingham>

³⁸ <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/>

³⁹ Statistical Study to Estimate the Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in England and Wales, 2007.

For the three offences, recording is low in Solihull, however this is mirrored both across the force and nationally.

Inferences

- If agencies help victims to feel empowered and increase their confidence, reports **may** increase. However this should not be seen in a negative light, as increased reporting for hidden crimes is important.

Offence	Crime (Oct – Sept)		Non-crime (Oct – Sept)	
	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018
FGM	0	0	2	2
FM	2	0	0	0
HBA	3	5	1	4

Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking (MSHT) includes a number of offences such as domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, and forced labour. As a result, the physical impact could range from physical restraint to sexual assaults or other serious violence – understandably, the psychological impact is similarly severe. Considering the routes into slavery and the nature of slavery, by definition the financial impact of MSHT is catastrophic for victims and even has ramifications for the wider economy as legitimate businesses are disadvantaged. The impact on the community is such that it would require multiple partners to resolve over a sustained period of time and public expectations are likely to warrant a response on a regional scale.

The prevalence of MSHT is believed to be increasing at a pace due to the Modern Slavery Act enacted in March 2015⁴⁰. A review of the Act in 2016 by Caroline Haughey states that while

⁴⁰ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted>

Modern Slavery remains under-reported, the Act and wider work have increased both practitioners and the public's awareness of slavery happening within the United Kingdom⁴¹.

The tactical intelligence department at West Midlands police have created a briefing document which assesses progress in regards to the Liberate objectives. For Solihull, there were 19 crimes recorded that were classed as Modern Slavery, 12 of which were sexual exploitation. For the victims' country of origin, the majority (9 victims) were of UK origin and 15 victims were female. 12 victims were aged 17 and under, this is a similar picture to what is seen across the force area. 42% of the Modern Slavery crimes in Solihull showed an organised element.

Key Finding

- 42% of the Modern Slavery crimes in Solihull showed an organised element.
- Multi-agency activity is being carried out to tackle Modern Slavery in Solihull

Substance misuse

In addition to Safer Solihull having a statutory responsibility to address substance misuse, it is also a key driver behind acquisitive crime, violent offences and neglect. Substance abuse can also have a detrimental impact for victims who may be left in a vulnerable position due to their addiction. The definition of substance misuse is the harmful use of substances for non-medical purposes. The term "substance misuse" tends to refer to illegal drugs, although legal substances, such as alcohol, can also be misused⁴². The misuse of alcohol and drugs by victims and offenders, impacts upon a wide variety of partners. By identifying substance abuse at the earliest opportunity this can assist in addressing other areas from both the victim and offender perspective.

The Government estimates that alcohol misuse costs the criminal justice system £11bn every year, though this is liable to be lower than the actual cost. People with alcohol problems emerging from the criminal justice system may also place a burden on other health, housing and social care services⁴³.

Drug offences within Solihull have shown a long term linear decline, this is also replicated across the force area. An inference into why this might be is that a significant tactic in detecting possession offences is via the use of Stop and Search. The use of these powers is stringently monitored and the volume has been reducing over time but the proportion of positive results has

⁴¹ <http://library.college.police.uk/docs/homeoffice/Haughey-Review-of-Modern-Slavery-Act-2016.pdf>

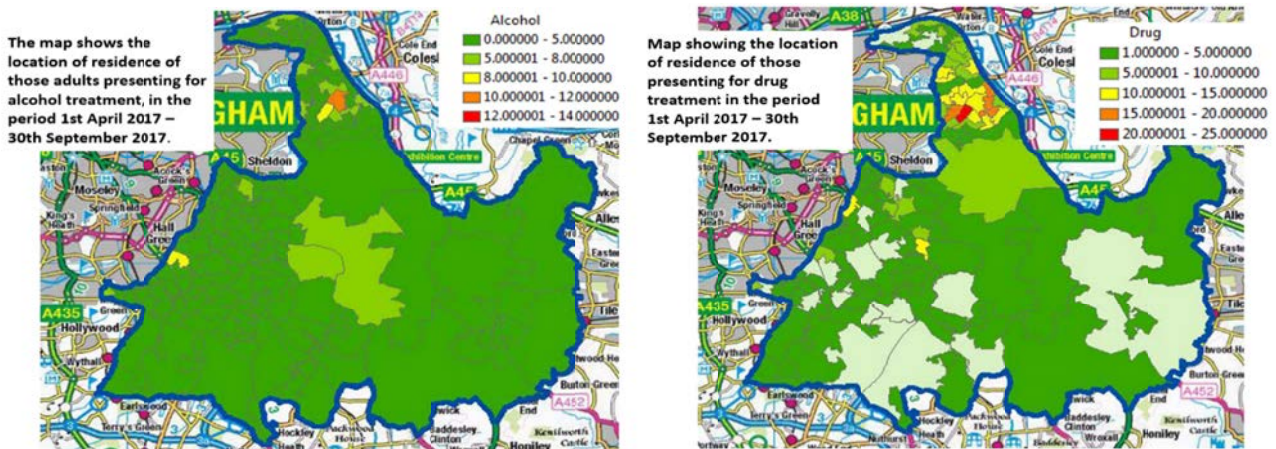
⁴² <https://www.lifeline.org.au/static/uploads/files/what-is-substance-misuse-and-addiction-wfyzigyyljub.pdf>

⁴³ Alcoholchange.org.uk

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increased. In addition to this, restructuring of processes has focussed resources into specific tasks and priorities that are not necessarily towards possession of drugs as such.

Figure 15 - Location of residence of adults presenting for treatment



Analysis carried out in the Solihull Substance Misuse Needs Assessment⁴⁴ found there are an estimated 961 Opiate and/or Crack (OCU's) users in Solihull, compared to the previous estimate there has been a significant increase, however rates still remain lower than both regional and national comparisons. In relation to individuals with alcohol dependence who are in need of specialist treatment, it is estimated that there are 1,796 adults. The number of adults in treatment as a proportion of the estimated number requiring treatment is also known as the penetration rate. In Solihull this rate is 45%, ranking Solihull the highest local authority in the country. When looking at the location of residence, Figure 15, the majority that present for treatment are in the north locality.

Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR) and Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) are pathways that can be used, if the court sentences an offender to this⁴⁵. In Solihull, ATRs are very low numbers, there was 1 issued in 2017 (Jan – Dec 2017) and 2 issued in 2018 (Jan – Nov 2018). When looking at only cases in MOJ Payment by Results cohorts (cohort of 14) where a 12 month "reoffending" period has elapsed (from October 2015 to Jun 2017), it was predicted that 32.43% of cases with an ATR would reoffend, the actual reoffending rate was 28.57%.

For DRR, there were 12 recorded in 2017 (Jan – Dec 2017) and 6 in 2018 (Jan – Nov 2018). Although for 2018, there is not yet data provided for December, there is a decrease of 50%. When looking at only cases in MOJ Payment by Results cohorts (cohort of 34) where a 12 month "reoffending" period has elapsed (from October 2015 to Jun 2017), it was predicted that 52.26% of cases with an DRR would reoffend, the actual reoffending rate was 47.06%.

⁴⁴ <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/InfoandIntelligence/Substance-Misuse-Needs-Assessment-2018.pdf>

⁴⁵ Data provided by Adrian McNulty on 11th December 2018, Head of CRC

There were 406 community orders in this period (from October 2015 to Jun 2017); therefore the number of and ATR's and DDR's issued was low. Looking at the number of DRR and ATRs commissioned there is clearly a gap in the process. Recent media coverage of the topic, has found that due to lack of provision and resources, doctors are having to tell patients to keep drinking when they seek help⁴⁶. This is because someone who is an alcoholic is physical dependant on alcohol, and the 'detox' from the alcohol needs to managed either in a community setting or an inpatient treatment order needs to serve to the individual seeking help.

When people are arrested and tested positive in custody, they are suitability tested. The number of positive suitability tests is much higher than the number of DRR's and ATR's. The lack of service provision for the pathways might be why the numbers are low⁴⁷.

Night Time Economy

Substance misuse can be looked at through to assess the increase of crimes in the night time economy (NTE), crimes committed between 20:00 – 07:59 were assessed, and compared to the previous year. The two time periods with the largest increase were 02:00-02:59 and 03:00-03:59. A search was run to specifically look at crimes where **alcohol was involved (AI)** and **public place violence (PPV)**. Within the table the TRC is provided for the previous strategic period (Oct 16 – Sep 17) and the strategic period this year (Oct 17 – Sep 18). The AI and PPV markers show what percentage of the crime at that time had been allocated those markers.

Hour first committed	01/10/16-30/09/17	01/10/17-30/09/18	Difference	% difference	Alcohol involved (% of TRC)	Public Place Violence (% of TRC)
20:00-20:59	906	817	-89	-10%	5.95	5.94
21:00-21:59	715	689	-26	-4%	7.44	3.82
22:00-22:59	743	731	-12	-2%	10.86	4.03
23:00-23:59	562	652	90	16%	9.52	4.14
00:00-00:59	810	1033	223	28%	14.29	4.3
01:00-01:59	339	376	37	11%	6.99	3.18
02:00-02:59	247	335	88	36%	6.55	1.65
03:00-03:59	220	299	79	36%	5.06	1.7
04:00-04:59	176	183	7	4%	3.27	1.27

⁴⁶ https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/12/alcoholic-patients-keep-drinking-doctor?CMP=fb_gu

⁴⁷ Discussion at West Midlands Community Safety Partnership meeting

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05:00-05:59	125	114	-11	-9%	1.34	0.27
06:00-06:59	141	153	12	9%	0.74	0.8
07:00-07:59	247	241	-6	-2%	0.74	1.11

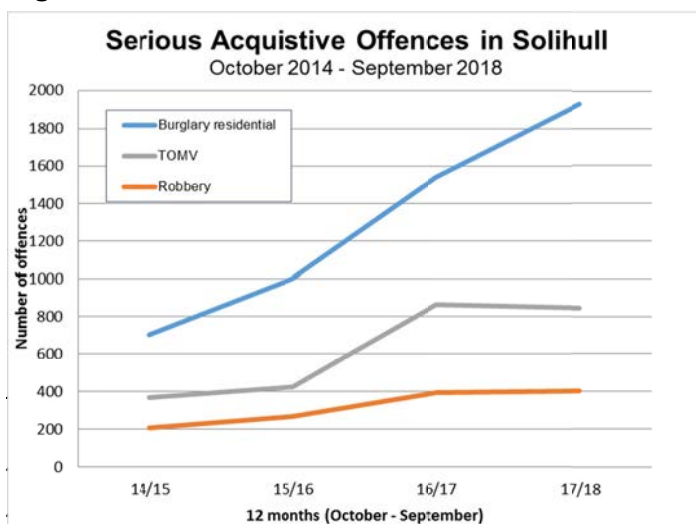
When looking at the time periods, 00:00-00:59 had the highest number of crimes reported, with 14% being related to Alcohol, and 4% classified as PPV. A breakdown of the top 10 offences (which accounted for 50% of total recorded crime between 00:00-00:59) for this time period are below:

Offence	Total	Offence type				
		OT	DV	CA	HA	VA
BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL	110	107	3			
HARASSMENT	81	42	35		1	3
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	60	60				
ASSAULT OCCASION ABH	55	15	39			1
SEND COMMUNICATION/ARTICLE CONVEYING A THREATENING MESSAGE	40	21	17	2		
RAPE OF FEMALE 16 OR OVER	40	16	21	2		1
ATTEMPT BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL	37	37				
COMMON ASSAULT	34	13	19	1		1
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO VEHICLE	34	31	3			

Serious Acquisitive Crime

For serious acquisitive crime, there has been a rise has been in Solihull, however this is reflected both across the force and nationwide. Solihull was the top of its most similar group (ranked 15 of 15) for burglary, robbery and vehicle crime⁴⁸. Solihull was also ranked 7 out of 7 for the force area for burglary. As well as the physical loss that victims experience in acquisitive crime, there is a big emotional impact on both victims and the wider communities experiencing an elevated fear of crime⁴⁹. **For Solihull residents there was also an overwhelming response in the public survey to address vehicle crime and burglary.**

Figure 16 - SAC offences Solihull



For theft of motor vehicle, which has doubled in 16/17 and 17/18 compared to 14/15 and 15/16, there is the inference that the large increase is due to the link to organised crime groups, with cars being stolen that are stolen 'to order'. **This was also highlighted in the public survey as an area of concern for residents.** As

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mentioned in the COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP survey section, crimes such as burglary and TOMV are commonly understood and well known by the public; therefore they are obvious choices to choose as a priority. The rise of neighbourhood social media groups means that crimes and suspicious activity are more commonly known about. The use of social media groups can however form an online presence of community cohesion and social action⁵⁰.

Robbery has increased since 14/15 but not at such an elevated rate compared to TOMV and burglary. Over the last two strategic periods it has also remained stable. Robbery figures for Solihull also included offences which would be viewed as 'one incident' but because of multiple victims involved in the incident, separate crime numbers have to be issued. Street watch groups have been set up in Solihull to help provide extra visible presence to potential problematic areas.

Bilking

Bilking is more commonly known as making off without payment i.e. petrol theft and taxi runaways. In Solihull, the main issue is petrol theft. As the price of fuel increases, fuel becomes more of a commodity. Since 2016, fuel prices have been increasing, with a slight decrease being seen at the end of November (Figure 17)⁵¹. Fuel has become more desirable for both personal use, and for syphoning and selling on at a lower price than the market value.

Over the past strategic period, bilking offences have increased dramatically with 759 Make off without payments offences recorded at petrol stations in between October 2016 – September 2017, compared to 837 in between October 2017 and September 2018. For make off without payment, Solihull was ranked 15 out of 15 in the most similar groups⁵².

One prominent location, which has been highlighted in the Solihull monthly locality document is Morrison's petrol station on the Chester Road (North locality), however other petrol stations are

Figure 17 - Petrol and diesel prices over the last 10 years



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Key findings that may help to prevent future thefts and demand at Morrison's are:

- Friday and Tuesdays were key days for bilking at Morrison's
- 65% of offences occurred between 13:00-20:00, with the key time frames being 14:00-14:59 and 18:00-18:59.
- Staff reported seeing offenders fill up containers through the back window, but did not stop the fuel being dispensed
- Repeat offenders visited the location, sometimes in the same vehicle

Key to reducing offences and demand is work with the businesses and partners; for example staff training needs to be provided to ensure pumps are stopped if a known offender is at the location. Preventative measures could also be put in place, i.e. buying petrol before you fill up.

In addition to this, there is a serious risk to the safety of people within the vicinity of the car if it was to become exposed to a naked flame. There are regulations around the containers that should be used to collect and store petrol⁵³, which offenders often do not abide by. Along with the demand burden upon the police and loss to businesses bilking could also lead to a demand on the fire service. The petrol being stolen in large quantities or on consecutive days means that the petrol has to be stored somewhere, again there is legislation regarding the safe storage of petrol⁵⁴.

At present there is a burden on the police service for the high volume of calls for service, but this crime could also lead to a demand on the fire service. The petrol being stolen in large quantities or on consecutive days means that the petrol has to be stored somewhere, again there is legislation regarding the safe storage of petrol⁵⁵. If petrol is not stored correctly, this could have devastating consequences.

As some of the offenders are stealing full tanks of petrol on consecutive days, or filling up multiple containers it is inferred that the petrol is being syphoned off and resold at a price lower than the

Inferences

- **The theft of petrol is linked to serious and organised crime**

⁵³ [Hse.gov.uk/fireandexplosion/owner-petrol-station.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/fireandexplosion/owner-petrol-station.htm)

⁵⁴ <http://www.hse.gov.uk/fireandexplosion/petrol-storage-club-association.htm>

⁵⁵ <http://www.hse.gov.uk/fireandexplosion/petrol-storage-club-association.htm>

Anti-Social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour was defined in the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) as acting 'in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator'. There are 3 police categories in which ASB falls into:

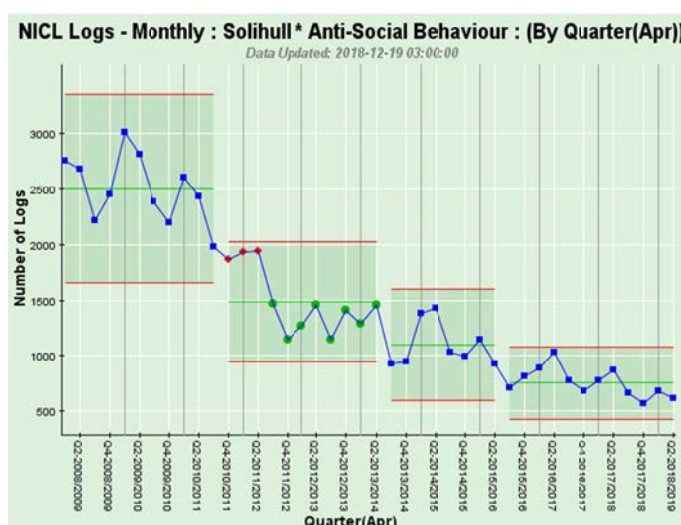
- Personal, where Incidents perceived to be targeted at an individual or specific group rather than the wider community,
- Nuisance, where incidents cause annoyance to the local community rather than a targeted victim, and
- Environmental, the interface between people and places.

The categories help to identify individuals, communities and environments which are most at risk and therefore in need of a response before the problem escalates. Further failure to recognise the signs can result in the ASB incidents escalating and causing feelings of helplessness with the victim which can result in tragic consequences⁵⁶.

The subjective nature of Anti-Social Behaviour and the resulting wide range of issues covered, means that it is not possible to identify a likely level of 'harm' or 'risk' with any specificity, however the case of Fiona Pilkington is always a stark reminder of the risk of not tackling repeat incidents of ASB.

In the **Locality Demand** section under the heading 'An overview of Solihull Geographic Areas of Focus for Total Recorded Crime and Calls for Service', there is an overview of ASB figures for West Midlands Police, WMFS and SCH. These collectively highlight that for Solihull, the highest demand comes from the north locality, in particular Chelmsley Wood and Kingshurst & Fordbridge. These areas are also in the lowest 10% decile for IMD, making the area a challenging place.

In both the place survey and the COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP survey, residents of Solihull highlighted ASB as an issue they wished to be prioritised.



⁵⁶ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/116658/count-nsir11.pdf

Hate Crime

Hate crime can be defined as an act of hostility or physical violence towards an individual, which has been motivated by the individuals characteristics such as; disability, race, religion, transgender identity and sexual orientation. In Solihull, hate crimes have increased slightly compared to last year (216 offences in October 2016 to September 2017 to 232 in October 2017 to September 2018). However for hate crime incidents there has been a significant decrease in hate non-crimes compared to the last strategic period (29 to 12), the numbers remain low for non-crimes.

For hate crimes, the majority were carried out in St Alphege (63 crimes, 1 non-crime), the second top neighbourhood was Chelmsley Wood (38 crimes, 5 non-crimes). The top offence type was 'racially/religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress' which accounted for 171 crimes (34.97% of the total hate crime offences). 77.87% of offences were categorised as hate strand – race, 10.25% were categorised as Homophobic. 173 Offences had a racist hate crime marker attached.

The victim profile for hate crime:

- 25.41% of victims were aged 26 – 35
- 57.38% of victims are male
- 31.97% of victims were white – British
- 9.02% were unemployed (caveat – 52.87% of victims occupation were not recorded)

Unauthorised encampments

Unauthorised encampments (UE's) are when an individual or a group of individuals move onto a piece of land that they do not own without the permission on the landowner. UE's are a matter of civil trespass between the landowner and the individual(s) illegally camped on the land in question⁵⁷. Much work has been done in the West Midlands to understand the causes of recent rises in UE's in the local area and better plan long, medium, and short-term responses. Whilst some responses may require a national lead in terms of legislation, partners more locally also have opportunities to better plan for future rises in UE's by way of community engagement, site provision and 'tolerant' approaches⁵⁸.

In terms of number of UE's over the last strategic period there were

⁵⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/unauthorised-encampments-using-enforcement-powers>

⁵⁸ Why has there been an increase in Unauthorised Encampments within the West Midlands area? West Midlands Police, Strategy and Direction Team, WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

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- 13 council owned land (Tudor grange park and Babbs Mill park were repeat locations)
- 9 on private land (Castle Bromwich Parish Council was a repeat location)

The estimated cost for dealing with the UE's was £48,100 (£16,000 of costs were in relation to private owned land). For eviction, 16 UE's had Common Law powers used against them, 1 has Section 77 powers, 3 had Section 61 powers and 2 had no powers used.

In relation to injunctions, Solihull Council has been successful in getting a High Court injunction against the Cassidy family in relation to UE's in the borough. The injunction, which was granted on 13 March, is for three years⁵⁹.

In the same period of the 22 recorded UE's, WEST MIDLANDS POLICE received 48 calls for service in regards to UE's.

Homelessness

Homelessness is not a static situation and can be defined in a number of ways. The Government defines a household as homeless if⁶⁰:

“Either, they do not have accommodation that they are entitled to occupy, which is accessible and physically available to them or, they have accommodation but it is not reasonable for them to continue to occupy this accommodation.”

People who are assessed as meeting this definition are referred to as 'statutory homeless' or 'priority housing need'. People who are assessed and do not meet the Government definition are referred to as 'non-statutory homeless'.

Street Homelessness is defined by the Government as⁶¹:

“People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or ‘bashes’).”

Homelessness can be caused by a number of different life experiences such as; breakdown in relationships or families, a significant change in someone's individual circumstances or something out of a person's control⁶². Although the causes of homelessness are complex, mental health problems are a major contributing factor with an estimated 70% of people accessing

⁵⁹ <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/encampments>

⁶⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-data-notes-and-definitions>

⁶¹ <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/birmingham-homelessness-prevention-strategy->

2017/supporting_documents/Birmingham%20Homelessness%20Prevention%20Strategy%202017%20Consultation%20Summary.pdf

⁶² <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/birmingham-homelessness-prevention-strategy-2017/>

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homelessness services experiencing them - homelessness charity St Mungo's estimate 64% of their clients also have drug and/or alcohol problems.

In addition, a scheme that has already proved successful in Finland, Housing First, has been put forward in the Conservative manifesto to be given a trial period in the UK. West Midlands' mayor, Andy Street, has put in a bid for the region to be part of the pilot scheme⁶³. The scheme looks at providing homes straight away to homeless people to provide them with a solid foundation in which to build their lives and give them stability.

In Solihull, the rough sleeping count for 2017 was 2 people⁶⁴ who were both male, aged over 25 and UK nationals. This number is a decrease on previous years (2011 – 2016) counts where there were 5 or 6 rough sleepers. Rough sleeping counts and estimates are single night snapshots of the number of people sleeping rough in local authority areas. In 2017, similarly to previous years, the majority of data is based on the estimates. These are intelligence-based assessments of people sleeping rough⁶⁵. It is worth highlighting that the rough sleeper count is often under-recorded as the recording method for identifying rough sleepers is unreliable.

For homeless applications⁶⁶, there were 408 applications which were accepted as being homeless and in priority need in Solihull. This works out at 4.57 applications per 1,000 household in Solihull. Of those that were eligible, 49 were homeless and in priority need but intentionally, 116 were eligible, homeless but not in priority need and 77 were eligible but not homeless. There were 122 household in temporary accommodation.

Trends that are being seen in homelessness are⁶⁷:

- Reduction in applications
- Increase in preventions
- Decrease in acceptances
- Increase in temporary accommodation
- Increase in approaches from single people
- Increase in rough sleeping

⁶³ <https://inews.co.uk/news/west-midlands-bids-pilot-housing-first-homeless-scheme-imported-finland/>

⁶⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-in-england-autumn-2017>

⁶⁵ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/682001/Rough_Sleeping_Autumn_2017_Statistical_Release_-_revised.pdf

⁶⁶ Financial year April 2017 – March 2018 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness>

⁶⁷ Solihull multi-agency homelessness forum, special meeting, 11th December 2018

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Horizon Scanning

Whilst there will always be community safety issues that arise unannounced throughout a strategic period that will require rapid assessment and a tactical response, this section highlights some issue that can be predicted to occur with relative certainty and provides brief detail about the issue.

Issue	Explanation
New housing developments	<p>The plan to build housing will attract people to the area to live and work, in turn boosting the local economy. However if the housing is not made affordable young people may be forced out of the area to seek housing that matches their budgets. During the construction phase, construction site business models involve multiple levels of subcontracting which creates a loss of visibility, creating the perfect environment for modern slavery and exploitation to thrive. Construction sites also lend themselves to being a hotspot for crimes such as theft from motor vehicle (tools). Once completed the area new housing developments may contribute to a rise in burglaries. Below are some areas in which housing developments are underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheswick Green • Catherine-De-Barnes • Shirley • Balsall Common • Smith's Wood
Loss of jobs at JLR	<p>It has been widely reported in the media (https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/dec/16/jaguar-land-rover-to-axe-up-to-5000-jobs) that Jaguar Land Rover are going to axe up to 5000 jobs. This will have a detrimental impact on Solihull as the factory employs people from the borough. As a result of unemployment, individuals begin to suffer economic deprivation and unemployed people have increased chances of being victims of violent crime (ONS, The nature of violent crime in England and Wales, 2017).</p>
Gambling addiction	<p>A conference attended by analysts shed light on the issue of gambling addictions and its link to crimes and vulnerability of victims. Rob Birkett (<i>from Gambling Commission</i>) stated that the understanding of gambling addiction is where our understanding was for alcohol and drug addiction 15 years ago. Gambling addiction remains a very much hidden addiction. However nationwide</p>

	<p>there is estimated to be 400,000 problem gamblers (https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/aug/24/problem-gamblers-uk-gambling-commission-report). These individuals lend themselves to being vulnerable, and can easily be exploited by loan sharks, or fall into a life of crime to try and fund their addictions. Research and the understanding of the impacts of gambling addictions are in the early stages, but as research continues and awareness is raised, this will be an issue that is likely to become a point of interest for community safety partnerships.</p>
HS2 in Solihull	<p>Proposed plans for a station in Solihull will bring revenue to the area and opportunities for people in the borough to commute to capital, in an even quicker time. However, locals who are prospective home buyers may be out-priced of the area as people who live in the capital may begin looking for houses outside of London, to 'get more house for their money'. An increase of foot-flow inevitably means an increase in crimes such as theft from person, parking provided for HS2 users will also present an opportunity to vehicle offenders.</p> <p>In addition to this, locals in Berkswell have expressed concerns regarding lorries making deliveries during the construction phase due to the congestion and air quality (https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/hs2-solihull-15164534)</p>

Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) Local Profiles⁶⁸

SOCLPs should inform multi-agency partnerships, in particular police and crime commissioners, policing teams, local authorities and other relevant partners (such as education, health and social care and immigration enforcement), of the threat from SOC and the impact it is having on local communities.

Violence

Within WEST MIDLANDS POLICE, firearms discharges are commonly linked to organised crime. **Peripheral**, lower ranking members within criminal hierarchies, often operating at Urban Street Gang (USG) level, are more likely to carry out attacks, becoming the targets of police intervention rather than the upper tiers of the OCG.

This activity has a negative effect on the communities in which these criminal gangs and groups operate. The fear of becoming involved in or affected by such violence can encourage members of the public to carry weapons - particularly knives – for their own protection⁶⁹.

While gang-related violence can assume a variety of forms (such as acid attacks), these are of a significantly lower volume, therefore the primary focus of this subsection will be firearms discharges and stabbings.

It is almost certain that other groups (not yet identified by Intelligence) will utilise violence in order to obtain what they want, but currently there are **no tracked⁷⁰ OCGs involved with violent crime within Solihull.**

Firearms

Firearms are a valuable commodity for OCGs that are often utilised to intimidate and inflict violence upon identified rivals and to ensure that members of local communities remain 'blind' to their criminal activities. **There are currently 12 tracked OCGs using firearms within the Force area.** There are currently no tracked OCGs using firearms within Solihull. It is highly likely that other OCGs will also have access to firearms – however, the identities, number and capability of these OCGs has yet to be established by WEST MIDLANDS POLICE.

From May 2017 to August 2018 WEST MIDLANDS POLICE data indicates there have been **271 discharges⁷¹**.

⁶⁸ Produced by the Strategy and Direction team, West Midlands Police, document available on request

⁶⁹ WEST MIDLANDS POLICE, (2017) *Vision Statement: Working Together to Eradicate Knife Crime*

⁷⁰ A tracked OCG is mapped by WEST MIDLANDS POLICE with intelligence on them as recent as 3 months.

⁷¹ Due to the nature of data recording, it is difficult to state how many are attributable to gang violence.

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Of these, 5 took place within Solihull. This is similar to levels observed within other force areas – e.g. Walsall (12) - but significantly less than Birmingham (169).

Knife Crime

While USGs inflict violence upon one another through the use of firearms, knife crime is more prevalent in the wider community. Over the past year, there have been 3110 incidents where a knife was present. Of these there were **802 incidents where a knife was used to inflict injury upon a victim**⁷², often occurring within the region's city centres.

Of these incidents, 26 took place within Solihull. This is the lowest level of the Force area.

Narcotics

At least 70% of all tracked OCGs within the West Midlands (WM) are involved in drug-dealing⁷³. The one currently tracked OCG in Solihull is known to be involved in drug-dealing. It is likely that other groups currently unknown to West Midlands Police Intelligence are dealing drugs as well.

Large profits combined with a thriving market make this a particularly attractive area of illegal business. It is causally associated with various other crime-types, including extreme violence, money-laundering, prostitution, human trafficking, corruption – as well as broader societal issues⁷⁴, such as poor mental health, high demand on public services and fatalities. This section comprises identified changes and emerging trends within prohibited drugs, the growth of the illicit pharmaceutical trade (prescription drugs) and the proliferation and evolution of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS).

Fraud and Cyber Crime

Over the past year⁷⁵ there were 11,091 incidents reported to Action Fraud with victims located in the West Midlands. Out of these incidents, 9067 were classed as having an individual victim. 3590 incidents involved an element of cyber-crime⁷⁶.

Of these incidents, 698 took place within Solihull. This is consistent with levels seen across the other local authorities aside from Birmingham. The true figures however, are highly likely to be higher due to victims' perceived embarrassment of falling prey to fraud or cybercrime.

⁷² Data ranging May 17- May 18. Not inclusive of Domestic Violence

⁷³ 55 out of 79

⁷⁴ Europol (2017) How Illegal Drugs Sustain Organised Crime in the EU

⁷⁵ 01st June 2017-31st May 2018

⁷⁶ Keyword search for online, internet, computer, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram within Action Fraud Data.

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Counter-Terrorism Local Profiles

The document is provided by West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit (WMCTU) and again is shared with agreed individuals on a need to know basis.

Please contact Sue Haywood Head of Community Safety for further information.



Appendix 1

Commentary supporting areas of vulnerability

Commentary from Caroline Murray regarding Domestic abuse –

Domestic abuse was priority for the partnership in 2018/19 period. Specialist support for victims continues to work at full capacity. Access to initial information and advice and support to victims assessed as high risk is prioritised, but the demand for casework heavily outweighs the capacity. Similar the local refuge is operating at full capacity and the overall increase in those presenting as homelessness is starting to impact, with increased residents staying longer in the refuge, whilst they await suitable move on accommodation. There is emerging evidence which indicates that the majority of women who need refuge accommodation are staying within the west midlands region and women who moving out of refuge relocate in the region. Highlighting the importance and need for a strong regional network of refuges. A Solihull led successful collective regional bid to the MHCLG (Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government will provide additional resources which will be used to provide additional refuge space and support for women who are homelessness as a consequence of domestic abuse.

Solihull has worked with the regional Prevent Violence Alliance and Clinical Commissioning Groups to secure funding to roll out IRIS across the region. IRIS is evidenced as best practice and is based on a package that provides training, resources and support to allow General Practices to identify and respond to patients who are experiencing domestic abuse. Implementation in Solihull started in April 2018, and we are expecting to 80% of local practices to engage. Evaluations of the programme show that it is particularly effective at reaching older women, a cohort that least likely to access support through established pathways.

Commentary from Inspector Darren Wilson, regarding Modern Slavery in the Solihull borough:

“Solihull has a Modern Slavery delivery group which sits bi-monthly chaired by the Solihull Police Partnerships Inspector and is well attended by multiple agencies who undertake work that directly impacts on this hidden crime. The Solihull delivery group has worked to uncover previously unknown areas of this hidden crime within the borough, scoping has included multiple visits and engagements within business premises such as Car Washes, Nail Bars and Restaurants. Where appropriate coordinated multi agency activity is undertaken, invoking the enforcement powers of the different agencies. The group has more recently commenced work to better understand the footprint of indoor sex work on the borough and has been provided funding from the community safety fund. This has commissioned a 12 month pilot project from a business “Turnaround” who offer support and diversion to vulnerable people caught up in sex work. The Solihull Modern

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Slavery local delivery group feeds directly into the West Midlands Anti-Slavery meeting and also into the West Midlands Police tactical leads group.

In the past year the modern slavery delivery group has coordinated over 20 visits to Car Washes and 12 visits to Nail Bars, plus visits to businesses based on specific intelligence. Visits have resulted in enforcement action against 4 premises. Many of the multi-agency visits have resulted in an uplift in standards and improved awareness from both employees and employers regarding labour exploitation and rights. Warrants have been executed at 3 Solihull brothels since the inception of the Modern Slavery delivery group and multiple visits have been made to indoor sex workers promoting healthier lifestyle options, crime prevention advice and signposting to support agencies.”

Chief Superintendent Lee Wharmby is the lead for fraud for the Safer Solihull partnership; has provided commentary around the work being carried out on fraud:

“Most of the work that the force carries out is generic across the Neighbourhood policing Units but the Force Economic Crime Unit (ECU) are developing an investigative capability so that assurance can be given to those that report via Action Fraud that there is the capability to investigate all referrals.

We have also invested in our victim care unit in the ECU so we now give that service to all cybercrime victims reporting to action fraud as well as fraud victims.

We have the digital Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) and have rolled out training to all Solihull neighbourhood teams over the last year. The training will;

- 1. To up skill all PCSO’s around Fraud & Cyber Prevention to enable them to provide this advice to their communities when approached;*
- 2. To identify Fraud/Cyber Champions who will attend a Fraud/Cyber Protect Panel and deliver bespoke training packages to our communities/businesses.*

Those Champions would attend the Protect Panel which would be chaired by the Protect Coordinator within the ECU. The Panel would discuss the requirements of each of the communities along with upcoming events and recent trends identified by our analysts. Plans could be discussed and implemented to address the concerns of the communities as well as addressing seasonal trends etc. and feedback would be discussed regarding events undertaken.

We are piloting an outreach solution in Birmingham (East and West), and Coventry (the 3 worst affected NPUs) where we deliver resilience training to elderly groups – one of our most vulnerable

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*and enable community groups to cascade that information. **That could be extended to Solihull if we feel there is a need, and it is agreed by board and I would consider Active Citizens funding for this.** On that front our two most vulnerable groups of victims are the young, as the older and less digitally aware demographic. Training for these groups can be coordinated through our Digital PCSO supported by neighbourhood teams.*

We are about to roll out an app to frontline officers to equip them better when facing digital crime scenes and advising the public etc.

These are the headlines from both our force and local approach, but essentially our force 5 point strategic plan emphasises as one of its points, Protect, as 85% of attacks can be prevented by use of strong passwords, anti-virus software, firewalls and promptly updating software patches.”

Chief Inspector Colin Barnes has provided an update for the strategic assessment in relation to ASB and demand in Solihull:

“Basing my observations from the ASB performance chart it is noteworthy that the NPU continues to show reductions in demand well below the mean. This is attributed to the partnership working on the NPU, and the Harm Reduction Forum. The new Locality working groups should continue to support this trend. Repeat demand locations are a continuing focus for the NPU with case management plans in place to ensure that appropriate attention continues. The NPU have invested in upskilling a member of the Partnerships team in the civil enforcement and injunction area of business. The ambition is that they become the Subject Matter Expert (SME) and offer support and guidance to neighbourhood teams in order to exploit all enforcement opportunities rather than just Criminal Justice options to further mitigate threats to the community.

ASB Performance

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE have developed new intelligence products referred to as Long Term Areas of Activity (LTAA's) based upon five years crime data. These areas are subject of detailed Problem Orientated Policing utilising the SARA methodology (Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assess) In conjunction with the new Locality working groups it is anticipated that focussed and driven activity across the Partnership and VCS agencies will further protect the community, reduce demand and improve the quality of life. It is also hoped that Active Citizen Groups will be identified, supported and allowed to thrive; the new Sport England pilot sites cover these areas also and may yield further partnership opportunities.

Operation Intercept

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An operation working at scale to brigade all of the NPU staff to work in identified demand areas with partners utilising a range of Offender Management visits, licensing visits, high visibility patrols, plain clothes operations and incorporating the MAVE operations that have been successful on the NPU for some time. These operations also bring into play, HMRC, Trading Standards, Border Agency etc. There is also an increase in community engagement signing up residents for the West Midlands Police WMNow service, an average fortnight would see 180 signups, Op. Intercept raised this to 580 with social media impressions hitting over 72,000 impressions in some areas of the Borough. This communication strategy was designed to inform the community of the joint action

taking place with updates throughout the day and seek to increase trust and confidence and reduce the fear of crime.

The above chart demonstrates that during the operation average total recorded crime was reduced below the average for the period.

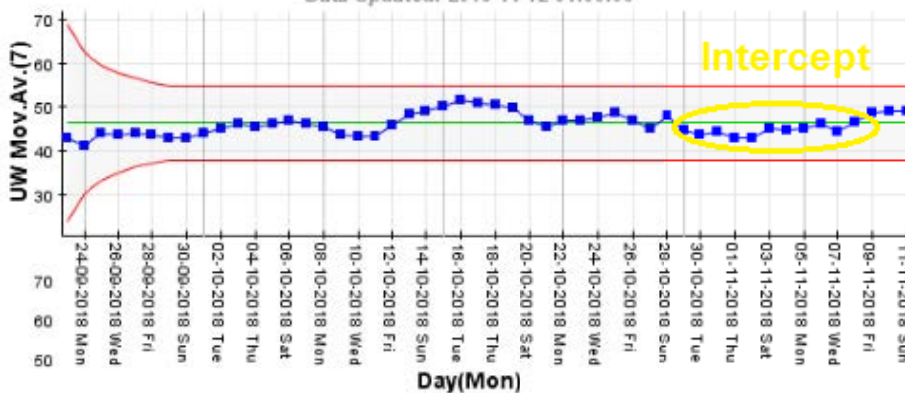
Crime Comparison Oct 2017 - Oct 2018

- TRC +6.1% (+ 84 offences)
- Burglary Dwelling -6.6% (-13 offences)
- Robbery -20.9% (- 9 offences)
- Vehicle -12.0% (- 29 offences)

- Increases in Business crime, Sexual Offences, Bilking, Domestic Violence.

Recorded Crime - Day : Solihull

Data Updated: 2019-11-12 04:00:00



Operation Intercept is a continuing operation that takes place every couple of months, different locations are identified based upon the current demand and threat; tactics are delivered based upon

feedback from staff and partners to ensure that the operations remain effective and efficient.”

Comments on the proactive work being carried out in Solihull in regard to hate crime were made by Solihull’s partnership supervisor Tim Evans on hate crime:

‘All hate crime reporting centres were invited to the annual conference on the 18th October alongside victim support. The event was opened by Councillor Rolf and there were inputs from

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West Midlands Police, Victim Support and the Safer Places project. The aim was to up skill practitioners so they can best support victims. All but one hate crime reporting centre attended and the event was felt to be a success. This annual conference aims to keep Solihull's hate crime reporting centres informed and supported in delivering the important role they undertake. Solihull partnership team will offer on-going support to hate crime reporting centres, including individual inputs for staff (due to turnover) or organisations.

An Office of Police and Crime Commissioner funded Victim Support project which focuses on victims in Solihull and Wolverhampton began in October. The project aims to engage and inform practitioners on how to best support victims, undertake work within 48 local schools and take an increased number of referrals from victims of hate crime. Victim Support recently presented at the North Police and School panel and are due to deliver at the South Panel later this month. Working alongside SMBCs Lorraine Lord, the police partnership team have assisted Victim support in prioritising schools within Solihull who its felt would benefit from this intervention work, including schools which have high proportions of SEND pupils, those in areas where hate crime is of concern and those schools who offer specialist provision. Additionally both authorities are further facilitating Victim Support in navigating the partnership to ensure partnership inputs are delivered to the right practitioners. This work is in its infancy but has got off to an excellent start.'

The below is an insert provided by Solihull Councils Housing Strategy officer⁷⁷;

“Solihull Community Housing (SCH) provides the homelessness and housing advice service on behalf of the Council. There are several stages in this process. The stages below apply to the way the service was delivered up to 31st March 2018. From April 1st 2019 a new customer pathway has been in place to reflect the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act.

- i. Advice and assistance is provided at first point of contact through the duty officer on the front desk. The duty officer will respond to issues such as requests for information on a customer's case, customers providing further information to support their case, requests for housing application forms, hostel or lettings agent lists and any other related inquiries.*
- ii. Where a more detailed discussion of housing options is required the customer is referred for a **housing options interview** to discuss their circumstances, aspirations and options in more detail. The interview is provided within 5 working days of their initial visit / contact.*

⁷⁷ Gemma Thompson, Housing Strategy Officer on 16/08/2018

- iii. *At the Housing Options Interview officers will explore potential housing options with the customer and look at a number of tools that could prevent homelessness by either helping the household to remain in their existing accommodation or to access suitable alternative accommodation. If this action is successful the case will be recorded as a **homelessness prevention outcome**.*
- iv. *Where all alternative options have been explored and officers are satisfied that homelessness cannot be prevented the case becomes a homeless presentation (a homelessness application is completed at this point).*
- v. *The officer will carry out the investigations required to determine whether the applicant is homeless or threatened with homelessness, eligible for assistance and if so what duty is owed to them. Following the investigation each customer is informed of the duty owed to them and are either ‘accepted’ as homeless which means the Council has a duty to provide them with accommodation or issued with a negative decision (with a right to review) and provided with advice and assistance (but with no duty to accommodate).”*

Quarter	Housing Options Interviews Carried Out	Cases where Homelessness was Prevented or Relieved	Homeless Presentations	Homeless Acceptances
Apr – Jun 15	614	69	239	130
Jul – Sept 15	604	144	196	107
Oct – Dec 15	485	78	169	76
Jan – Mar 16	660	79	176	106
15/16 TOTAL	2363	370	780	419
Apr – Jun 16	549	101	188	106
Jul – Sept 16	476	122	200	107
Oct – Dec 16	435	108	187	102
Jan – Mar 17	457	124	214	103
16/17 TOTAL	1917	455	789	418
Apr – Jun 17	375	158	184	101
Jul – Sept 17	309	169	158	87

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Oct – Dec 17	272	154	172	112
Jan – Mar 18	154	182	139	108
17/18 TOTAL	1110	663	653	408