

Agenda



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Date: Wednesday, 20 March 2024

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: Committee Room 1 / Microsoft Teams

To: Councillors E Stowell-Corten (Chair), C Baker-Westhead, B Davies, P Drewett, F Hussain, J Jones, A Morris, M Pimm, A Screen and K Whitehead

Item	Wards Affected
1	<u>Apologies</u>
2	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>
3	<u>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th December 2023 (Pages 3 - 8)</u>
4	<u>Education Achievement Service (EAS) - Value for Money (Phase 1 - December 2023) (Pages 9 - 52)</u> a) Officer presentation b) Committee questioning and discussion c) Formation of comments and recommendations
5	<u>Safer Newport Strategic Needs Assessment 2024-2029 (Pages 53 - 130)</u> a) Officer presentation b) Committee questioning and discussion c) Formation of comments and recommendations
6	<u>Serious Violence Duty: Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy (Pages 131 - 214)</u> a) Officer presentation b) Committee questioning and discussion c) Formation of comments and recommendations
7	<u>Scrutiny Adviser Reports (Pages 215 - 222)</u>

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Date of Issue: Wednesday, 13 March 2024

a) Forward Work Programme Update (**Appendix 1**)

b) Actions Plan (**Appendix 2**)

8

Live Event

[To view the live event please click here](#)

Minutes



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Date: 6 December 2023

Time: 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors E Stowell-Corten (Chair), B Davies, P Drewett, F Hussain and A Screen

In Attendance: Sally Ann Jenkins (Strategic Director – Social Services), Finn Madell (Head of Safeguarding), Amy Thomas (VAWDASV Regional Lead Advisor), Neil Barnett (Scrutiny Adviser), Katharine Majer (Deputy Democratic and Electoral Services Manager), Emily Mayger (Governance Officer) and Taylor Strange (Governance Officer)

Apologies: Councillors C Baker-Westhead, J Jones, A Morris, M Pimm and K Whitehead

1 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

2 **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th November 2023**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th November 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3 **Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Regional Strategy 2023-2027**

Invitees:

- Sally Anne Jenkins – The Strategic Director for Social Services
- Finn Madell - Head of Corporate Safeguarding
- Amy Thomas - VAWDASV Regional Lead Advisor

The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Regional Lead Advisor gave an overview of the report.

The Committee asked the following:

- The Committee sought clarification on the term "Regional Movement" used in the development of the Strategy. The Lead Advisor explained that staffing issues resulted in a lack of data collection and analysis. Additionally, changes in the Public Service Boards during that period had an impact.
- The Committee wanted to know the percentage of reported Domestic Abuse crimes that occurred in Newport, considering regional variations. The Lead Advisor acknowledged the request and mentioned that data collected from Gwent Police limited the ability to delve deeper into the data collection process.

- The Committee questioned the usefulness of partnerships being aware of differences in prevalence of specific VAWDASV categories within areas. The Lead Advisor explained that confirming such differences was challenging due to variations in data collection and categorisation by each Local Authority (LA). The Head of Corporate Safeguarding emphasised the need for data analysis awareness but prioritised meeting service needs.
- The Committee enquired about the total budget available. The Lead Advisor advised of the funding from WG and contributions from partners, noting that funding grants were given for specific projects. However, sustained funding for supported projects was challenging due to the annual availability and amalgamation of funding sources.
- The Committee asked about future funding allocations. The Lead Advisor indicated that funding would be used to meet the needs of victims, which changed annually. They provided examples of previously funded projects and noted the limitations in cost recovery. The Strategic Director for Social Services explained the challenges of determining funding responsibilities and being stretched between funding grants in this area.
- The Committee expressed concerns about the funding model. The Strategic Director highlighted the difficulties in the current financial climate, particularly when working in areas of high vulnerability with long-lasting impacts. The Lead Advisor echoed these concerns and mentioned that the reliance on short-term grants was not unique to the region. They noted that the Welsh Government (WG) had developed a blueprint workstream for sustainable funding but acknowledged that achieving it would take time.
- The Committee acknowledged the recent focus on VAWDASV and hoped that as it becomes more established, there would be improved structure around funding.
- The Committee requested clarification on the source of unconscious bias in relation to male victims when considering intersectionality. The Lead Advisor explained that the bias was systematic, as systems have traditionally been set up in favour of women. They emphasised the importance of representing men in reporting harm.
- The Committee acknowledged the disadvantage experienced by communities from diverse backgrounds in relation to Domestic Abuse. They enquired about the support provided to women from these backgrounds to help them live independently. The Lead Advisor noted working with specialist providers and the availability of WG funding for those without access to public funds. They also highlighted the importance of providing services in the victim/survivor's first language and facilitating their integration into the new community.
- The Committee asked whether victims were encouraged to access language courses to enhance their independence. The Lead Advisor stated that confirmation from frontline staff would be needed but noted links to local colleges and community classes for learning English.
- The Committee questioned the direct relationship between incidents and areas of deprivation. The Lead Advisor noted that while this may have been the case in the past, increased pressures have affected people from all walks of life. The Head of Corporate Safeguarding added that increased promotion has led to an uptick in reporting, with more focus on subtle indicators through campaigns like SOUND by the WG.
- The Committee noted the increased pressure in the housing sector and its potential impact on VAWDASV. The Lead Advisor emphasised the strong relationship between

Housing and VAWDASV for both victims and perpetrators. They noted the shortage of refuge spaces and the need for adequate support, highlighting differences in funding timescales for housing.

- The Committee enquired about the inclusion of input from victims and survivors in the report. The Lead Advisor noted various victim survivor groups under different organisations and providers. They specifically noted meetings with the established survivor group supported by Gwent Police for their input. The Lead Advisor also noted regular communication with the Gwent Police group for smaller projects.
- The Committee praised the report and the management of the multi-agency partnership. They enquired about how the large number of agencies involved was handled. The Lead Advisor explained that the VAWDASV Regional Team managed the relationships, ensuring representation from each agency in meetings, themes, or groups.
- The Committee acknowledged that the positive effects of increased education would take time to manifest and asked about the relationship with the Education sector. The Lead Advisor informed the Committee about the Whole Regional Approach Sub-Group, which included school coordinators to ensure that WG guidance was relevant and tailored to individual schools.
- The Committee highlighted a report stating that 1 in 3 school-age girls believed that schools would not take allegations seriously. They asked about actions taken with teachers, school board members, and staff. The Lead Advisor noted dedicated education training sessions for teachers and support in responding to concerns and allegations through collaboration between the Whole Education Approach Sub-Group, Education Safeguarding Officers, Designated Safeguarding Leads, and Pastoral Care. They emphasised the inclusion of Misogyny and Harassment as a focus area for the next four years and the commitment of the Local Authority to implement support and policies. The Head of Corporate Safeguarding mentioned dedicated Education Staff located at the Hub to support teachers.
- The Committee expressed concern about the lack of feedback from men and asked about refuge provisions for men and efforts to encourage them to come forward. The Lead Advisor noted the absence of a men's refuge in the region but mentioned collaboration with the Dyn project to ensure accessibility and representation for men. They also highlighted the establishment of a new Sub-Group to ensure representation of all protected characteristics.
- The Committee expressed concern about controlling and coercive behaviour in schools and asked whether information was provided to help school-age children recognise such behaviours. The Lead Advisor noted the WG-funded program Spectrum, delivered by teachers to meet curriculum objectives. Spectrum works with pupils from ages 3 to 18, providing specific sessions on relevant topics. The Lead Advisor noted plans to support Spectrum's work through additional campaigns and support.
- The Committee enquired about the link between societal norms in drug and alcohol use and the perpetration of Domestic Violence, and how this could be addressed. The Lead Advisor acknowledged that while a direct link couldn't be categorically stated, many perpetrators regularly consumed alcohol, including those with dependency issues. They noted collaboration with the Substance Misuse Planning Board to determine causal factors and develop appropriate responses.

- The Committee noted the positive impact of campaigns and advertisements encouraging individuals to call out behaviour in their friends. They emphasised that increased availability of such advertisements empowered people to speak out.

The Committee thanked the officers for attending.

Conclusions

- The Committee noted the Gwent VAWDASV Regional Strategy 2023-2027 and endorsed its contents. The Committee appreciated the huge amount of work that has gone into creating the strategy and wished to congratulate all of the officers involved. The Committee also found the feedback included from survivors to be extremely helpful and insightful.
- The Committee were pleased to hear about the Spectrum campaign. They made a comment that young adults are more likely to listen and engage when approached in school and spoken to on their level. This highlights the importance of effective communication strategies to reach and connect with young adults.
- The Committee expressed concern about the funding model for this service and emphasised the need for sustainable funding, to ensure the people who rely on the service are not left without it.
- The Committee requested to be sent the links regarding the 'Sound' campaign and noted the positive steps forward in the recognition of men as victims of domestic abuse, as a result of such educational campaigns. Additionally, the Committee requested to see the final report, including the animations, once it is completed.
- The Committee requested the breakdown of the figures on page 27 of the report at regional, county and ward level for a comprehensive understanding of the data.

4 Scrutiny Adviser Reports

Invitee:

- Neil Barnett – Scrutiny Adviser

a) Forward Work Programme Update (Appendix 1)

The Scrutiny Adviser presented the Forward Work Programme, and informed the Committee of the topics due to be discussed at the next two committee meetings:

Wednesday 7th February 2024, the agenda item;

- Area Planning Board Substance Misuse Service

The Scrutiny Adviser noted to the Committee that the SenCom Regional Support Services for Schools report would now come to Committee to be discussed around June or July 2024.

Wednesday 28th February 2024, the agenda item;

- Newport Barnardos Partnership Update

b) Actions Plan (Appendix 2)

The Scrutiny Advisor updated the Committee on the one outgoing action in relation to the One Newport Wellbeing Plan Final Report and informed them that the information had been sent to the One Newport Partnership on 9th September 2023.

The meeting terminated at 6.18 pm

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Scrutiny Report

Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 20th March 2024

Subject Education Achievement Service (EAS) - Value for Money (Phase 1 - December 2023)

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Geraint Willington	Education Achievement Service (EAS) Director: Resources, Business and Governance
Ed Pryce	Education Achievement Service (EAS) Assistant Director : Policy and Strategy
Marc Belli	Education Achievement Service (EAS) Principal School Improvement Partner
Sarah Morgan	Head of Education

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked

1. Consider the information provided within the submission of evidence in **Appendix A** together with the externally commissioned Education Achievement Service (EAS) Regional Value for Money (VfM) report (Phase 1 - December 2023) in **Appendix 1** and the Education Achievement Service (EAS) Regional Value for Money (VfM) report 2022-23 PowerPoint presentation in **Appendix 2**.
2. Determine if it wishes to make any comments to the Cabinet Member and / or the EAS.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The EAS is the school improvement service for the five Local Authorities in the region (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen). The role of the EAS is to support, monitor and challenge schools with the purpose of raising education standards in South East Wales.

- 2.2 Newport City Council makes an annual contribution to the commissioning of the EAS. The EAS has provided Value for Money reports to each of the local authorities across the Region for the last four years. In Newport, the 2021-22 EAS Value for Money Report was considered by this Committee at its meeting on 9 November 2022 and were previously reported at its meeting on 3 November 2021. **(Links to the Report and Minutes of the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships Meeting held on 9 November 2022 are provided in the Background Papers in Section 7 of this report.)**
- 2.3 The VfM report for 2022-2023 (Appendix A) focuses on the delivery of the regional service and the regional impact set against a number of criteria. Members will note that the report does not break down individual LA detail. The report has been written by external consultants, Rod Alcott and Betsan O'Connor, following a competitive tender process. A key requirement of the South-East Wales Education Achievement Service ('the EAS') is to demonstrate annually that it offers value for money to the five local authorities within its geographical remit and their constituent schools. This report details the findings from a Value for Money (VfM) review that was undertake 'an independent report on value for money functions of the EAS paying particular attention to how the organisation has continued to refine its delivery model from a fully staffed central model to a model where schools are funded to provide support and challenge to peer schools within the region'.

Previous Consideration of this item

- 2.4 The following is an extract from the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 9 November 2022, when the Committee received the EAS Value for Money Financial Year 2021-22 report:

"The Chief Education Officer introduced the Committee to the Partners and introduced the report. The Education Achievement Service (EAS) Director for Resources presented an overview and presentation of the Value for Money Report 2021-2022 and drew the Committee's attention to the main points and invited the Committee to ask any questions they felt were relevant. It was highlighted that 5 authorities own the company and that the report is focused on the S2S (School 2 School) approach.

Members asked the following:

- *A Member referred to the economy and efficiency part mentioning the 96% going to schools and asked if there is any obligation on schools to use it for improvement.*

The EAS Director for Resources responded that two grants come in – the Regional School Improvement of DPP Grants and lots of sub-grants within those grants, then there is an expectation within those to be fulfilled.

EAS have been more flexible with schools, given them the money to decide what to do, the school would show us what they wish to use it and demonstrate how, which is then signed off by the panel following review. The Chief Education Officer mentioned that EAS also have a Head teacher Strategy Group which worked well for the minimum requirements and advised that the model is sensible.

- *A Member highlighted the finance side, mentioned the strain from staffing levels and the cost of living crisis; despite they may have efficient funding at the moment, the Member asked if the partners could see that changing.*

The Director for Resources recognised that it will be challenging moving forward with the funding from the grants and Welsh Government.

The Chief Education Officer explained that the model works on 50% grants and that is dependent on what the Welsh Government. The other 50% is from Newport City Council. It depends if they can afford EAS on annual value but assured the Committee it is excellent value for money. It was mentioned that other regional services have gone up in price but with EAS that has not

happened. The contributions with Local Authorities have decreased but EAS has allowed them to retain a good service to see efficiency.

- A Member noted he found the report quite hard to read as a newly elected Councillor with the range of unfamiliar terms and phrases. The Member asked for the Partners to confirm what they would like from the discussion and asked what the local schools receive from EAS on a monthly basis.

The Principal School Improvement Partner gave an example of where a local Newport school partnered up with a school in Cardiff, both schools had similar socio-economic challenges. The children in the schools come from the 20% most deprived areas in Wales. The Head-teachers of the schools have been working together with a serving practitioner, as an improvement partner alongside Estyn report measures due to a disappointing inspection

It had a significant impact through the process at all levels, which was effective in working to evaluate the standard of pupils work and also established informal relationships in both schools to share effective practice. From this, the schools saw rapid improvements. In December 2021, they saw the Newport school being removed from the notifications from Estyn which is a great improvement for review. The partners will continue to work hard as no school is perfect, as they would like to further build on the confidence of the schools. The Cabinet Member also commended the local high school after having visited it.

- A Member wished to know what has been the significant challenge over the past year for the partnership and if the partners could foresee the next year's challenges.

The School Improvement Principal explained that the new curriculum for Wales and the ALN transformation are two key legislative changes in Wales coming in at a time of the post-pandemic era, will be a challenge for all schools.

- A Member felt it was good that the schools partner up with others in other areas. It was mentioned that some schools may have a larger population of pupils from BAME communities and therefore the Member wanted to know if those schools would have access to extra funding for that, as there must be more costs for the interpreters.

The Assistant Director for Policy advised that would be specific for GEMS, who are separate from EAS but that service is provided through them. Their colleague Sally Bevan is running a team in ensuring the right provision is in place for teachers. Many of EAS programmes go through their provision.

- A Member appreciated how the report writer mentioned that he did not have access to the pupil attainment data due to the change in reporting style. The Member noted there are three case studies within the report and asked if there were more and how extensive the evidence is.

The Assistant Director – Policy (EAS) confirmed that there is a breadth of evidence not included in the report. The way the report was written is in a way that it is not the whole of EAS' work. In relation to a Member's prior point about the jargon, it was written for people with more contextual information. That is why the partners tried to fill in the gaps on that in the meeting and stressed that they would be more than happy to return to do that but assured Members there is a range of evidence available but was not included in the report.

- A Member asked the partners to clarify when they identify a school experiencing issues before partnering up; when the partners would go visit and evaluate the issues; if there is a budget on solving the problem as well as the partnership itself.

The Chief Education Officer explained that on occasion the budget comes in and if there is a host of problems; the partners work together as professionals and recognise the issue that the school

improvement partners cannot improve everything. Such as poor financial management, poor exclusion issues. They do offer support in a targeted approach for those schools.

The Deputy Chief Education Officer added that the EAS work closely with the council with the School Development Plan. Where in the region, local Headteachers would meet to evaluate the progress from the previous plan and evaluate. Then EAS would go to the school, ensure the evaluation is robust and discuss key priorities with the partnerships to identify the key needs. Could be through local authority, EAS or a mixture of both. It was emphasised that every school has a universal offer of eight days of support and in addition to that the learning school network such as the two schools earlier mentioned working together.

It is an opportunity for professional learning in targeted groups in schools, for instance support for the middle leadership in schools who are the engine for learning. The tiered approach evolves every year as they are able to better match their improvement partners in the regions to meet the needs of the schools in a more refined approach. Discussion ensued amongst the Members and EAS partners regarding the budget and the Deputy Chief Officer highlighted the cultural shift of supporting schools without pressure to build it in to partnerships.

- A Member made the observation that pupils were hardly mentioned in the report and that the report almost admits to that as it states that it came to conclusions in the recommendations to make sure that the mechanisms are in place to gather data if the pupils are making progress.

The Assistant Director – Policy (EAS) appreciated the Councillor’s comment and explained that in terms of the data, it is not that it does not exist; as it exists in schools. He went on to note that they cannot aggregate up to Local Authorities to compare league tables as referred to in the report. The Director also stated that getting the improvement partners into the school is key and having personalised assessments; which is more qualitative than quantitative.

It was highlighted that the report was written on the year where the systems were based in pandemic era where they were not able to access schools in lockdown. The partners have returned since April to schools much more and explained that physical work is taking place. The Committee Members thanked the officers for the work that they do and for their time and commended them on their partnership work.

Conclusions

- The Committee considered the information provided within the submission of evidence, together with the externally commissioned Education Achievement Service (EAS) Regional Value for Money (VfM) report 2021-22 and PowerPoint presentation. Members. The Committee praised the partnership for their hard work and appreciated that the job is difficult. They were pleased with the figures contained within the report and wished to comment that this feels like a real partnership.

- The Committee were pleased to note that good practice is being shared within the partnership and schools from the examples that were given by the Officers and are hopeful that this continues in future.

- The Committee raised a comment related specifically to the impact of the school support measures on school improvement. The progress made in moving to a new model of school support was acknowledged, however the lack of pupil based data did not yet make it possible to state that the model resulted “in significantly accelerated progress in schools.” Members appreciate that much of the pupil progress data used previously to make judgements on school effectiveness is now not available - the Alcott report acknowledged this. The report recommended, however, that EAS find to systems to gather such data. Members would like to see this data as part of future reports. It is appreciated that it may be necessary to summarise the data if there is a large amount of it. Conclusions drawn from the data could be in the main report, with the supporting data as an appendix- maybe as summary tables.

- *The Committee wished to make the comment that it would be nice to see the benchmark figure of 96% being maintained but were mindful of pressures such as the decreased staff levels, the cost of living, and the pay rise, could affect that.*
- *The Committee queried whether EAS had any direct communications with Norse or previous partnership work with regards to the schools they both represent. Members commented that given both services work directly with the schools in Newport, it may be beneficial if there was partnership work between EAS and Norse to see how they can make the necessary improvements the schools think they would benefit from.”*

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

3.1 The following information has been submitted to the Committee for consideration:

- **Appendix A - Submission of Evidence – Education Achievement Services, Value for Money, Phase 1 – December 2023**
- **Appendix 1 - Regional Value for Money Evaluation, Phase 1 – December 2023 - External Consultants**
- **Appendix 2 - Submission of Evidence – Education Achievement Services, Value for Money PowerPoint presentation**

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

4.1 **Role of the Committee**

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to consider:

- Whether the information presented provides the Committee with evidence of the impact of the EAS providing measurable value for money, within the scope of the definitions provided in the report?
- How should scrutiny be involved in monitoring of the value for money of the EAS collaboration?
- Assess and make comment on:
 - Whether the consortium is providing value for money?
 - The progress being made since the previous year’s Value for Money report?
 - How well the consortium is working together to deliver Value for Money?
- Conclusions:
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the reports?
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion?
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
 - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet?

Suggested Lines of Enquiry

- 4.2 In evaluating whether the EAS is providing Value for Money in the 2022-23 Report attached as **Appendix A**, the Committee may wish to consider:
- How does EAS performance compare with that of neighbouring regional education improvement services, where there is comparable information?
 - Whether the report contains sufficient information to demonstrate that the EAS Consortium is providing Value for Money, within the context of the definitions of value for money provided in the report.
 - How does the EAS plan to maintain or improve its Value for Money (VfM) in the future
 - What impact has the shift to the School to School (S2S) model had on the EAS's Value for Money (VfM)?
 - Are there any areas where the EAS could improve its Value for Money (VfM)?
 - What specific metrics were used to determine the Value for Money (VfM)?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- 5.1 The report links with the Wellbeing-being Objectives and Aims of the Council's Corporate Plan 2022 – 2027;

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
Aims:	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

The EAS Value for Money report has strong links to Well-being Objective 1.

6 Impact Assessment:

6.1 Summary of impact – Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

The Committee’s consideration of the Education Achievement Service’s Value for Money Report 2021-22 should consider how the Consortium is maximising its contribution to the five ways of working. The following are examples of the types of questions to consider:

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
Long-term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.	What long term trends will impact upon the service delivery?
	How will changes in long term needs impact upon the service delivery in the future?
Prevention Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.	What issues are facing the Consortium’s service users at the moment?
	How is the Consortium addressing these issues to prevent a future problem?
Integration Considering how public bodies’ wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.	Are there any other organisations providing similar / complementary services?
	How does the Consortium’s performance upon service delivery impact upon the services of other public bodies and their objectives?
Collaboration Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).	Who has the Consortium been working with to deliver the service?
	How is the Consortium using knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence delivery?
Involvement The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.	How has the Consortium sought the views of those who are impacted by its service delivery?
	How has the Consortium taken into account diverse communities in decision making?

6.2 Summary of impact – Equality Act 2010

The EAS have their own Equalities plan in place.

6.3 Summary of impact – Welsh language

The EAS have their own Welsh Language plan in place.

7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [Socio-economic Duty Guidance](#)
- [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)
- [Welsh Language Measure 2015](#)
- [Agenda and Minutes of Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships 9 November 2022](#)
- [Agenda and Minutes of Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships 3 November 2021](#)
- [EAS Website](#)

Report Completed: 20th March 2024

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Report

Scrutiny Meeting

Part 1

Date: 20 March 2024

Item No:

Subject **Education Achievement Service (EAS) - Value for Money Regional Review: Phase 1 (December 2023)**

Purpose Newport City Council are a local authority co-owner of the EAS Regional School Improvement Service. This paper describes the outcomes of an external report on the Value for Money (VfM) of the Regional Service.

Author Geraint Willington (Director, EAS)

Ward All

Summary The VfM report for this period (Appendix A) focuses on the delivery of the regional service and the regional impact set against a number of criteria. Members will note that the report does not break down individual LA detail. The report has been written by external consultants, Rod Alcott and Betsan O'Connor, following a tender process. A key requirement of the South-East Wales Education Achievement Service ('the EAS') is to demonstrate that it offers value for money to the five local authorities within its geographical remit and their constituent schools. This report details the findings from a Value for Money (VfM) review that was undertaken 'an independent report on value for money functions of the EAS. The report pays particular attention to the extent to which schools are making progress towards becoming School as Learning Organisations (SLO).

Proposal Members are requested to:

- Receive the report for information

Action by The Education Achievement Service in partnership with the LA

Timetable This report is phase 1 of activity that reflects on the current Business Plan period (April 2022-March 2025)

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Sarah Morgan (Chief Education Officer)

Signed

Background and Report

- 1.1. The Educational Achievement Service (EAS) is the school improvement service of the five local authorities in South East Wales: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. The EAS is owned by the five Councils and operates within a robust governance structure which is populated by representative Elected Members from each Council.
- 1.2. The EAS has been in operation since September 2012 and has undergone many changes during this period. Through the commissioning of a Business Plan the EAS delivers key school improvement support to all schools and educational settings across the South East Wales region.
- 1.3. The EAS endeavours to work in partnership local authorities, schools and settings and wider stakeholders, ensuring that service delivery remains of a consistently high standard and meets the needs of the system. The service welcomes external expertise and challenge to support continued improvement and will remain agile and responsive to regional need.
- 1.4. The VfM report (Phase 1 - Dec 2023) was commissioned to review the delivery of the regional EAS Business Plan for the period April 2022 to March 2025. It focuses on the delivery of the regional service and the regional impact set against a number of criteria. Members will note that the report does not break down individual LA detail.
- 1.5. The external tender contract was awarded to Rod Alcott and Betsan O'Connor for them to jointly complete the review. The report has been agreed through EAS Governance structures (Company Board, Joint Executive Group (JEG) and Audit and Risk Assurance Committees (ARAC)) in early 2024.
- 1.6. This report is a departure from previous years' annual reviews. For the first time this will be a two-year study split into two phases. The rationale for this was the significant changes to the context in which the EAS now operates. The EAS faces greater budget pressures in maintaining financial stability, the socio-economic climate has changed, post pandemic recovery and changes to the way in which Welsh Government publishes school and pupil outcome measures, that have all impacted on education and particularly on vulnerable learners.
- 1.7. Over a five-year period from 2018 to 2021 the EAS has commissioned an annual Value for Money (VFM) report based on an evaluation of its performance against the following criteria:
 - **Economy:** minimising the cost of resources used while having regard to quality (inputs) – spending less;
 - **Efficiency:** the relationship between outputs and the resources used to produce them – spending well; and
 - **Effectiveness:** the extent to which objectives are achieved (outcomes) – spending wisely

- **Equity:** the extent to which service provision is needs based to remove barriers and facilitate equal opportunity – spending fairly; and
- **Sustainability:** an increasingly standard consideration within the context of the Well Being of Future Generations Act (WBFG) – spending for the long term.

1.8. The combined effects of resource constraints, changing contexts, shifting focuses, pandemic impact and methodological evolution, are reflected in the overall judgements that were arrived at over the past few of years. It's worth noting that each VfM review focused on a different aspect of the regional programme of work. These judgements, in chronological order are as follows:

- EAS is providing good value for money because overall outcomes are improving from a reduced level of spending as a result of resources being used efficiently, fairly and in a sustainable way; with consequent benefits for schools and pupils across the region. (2018)
- EAS is providing good value for money in terms of those aspects that are within its control – notably economy, efficiency, equity and sustainability. However, collective action involving EAS, its constituent local authorities and school leaders is required to address concerns over educational outcomes across the region and those schools that are underperforming. (2019)
- EAS continues to provide good VfM in terms of the services it provides to schools across the region as evidenced by improved outcomes for some learners and the achievement of the other objectives that it has set for itself. (2020)
- EAS continues to provide good VfM in terms of the services it provides, as evidenced by its successful mitigation of the impact of the pandemic on schools, learners and its own workforce. (2021)
- The overall conclusion is that the refined S2S delivery model represents good value for money. (2022)

1.9. However, there have been significant changes to the context in which the EAS now operates, and consideration of these changes led the Board to reconsider its approach and opt for a two-year study to replace the annual studies previously undertaken. The revised approach comprises two phases with Phase 1 being undertaken in 2023 and Phase 2 in 2024. These contextual changes can be summarised as:

- budget pressures;
- socio-economic climate;
- post pandemic recovery; and
- changes to Welsh Government published outcome measures.

1.10. While each of the above contextual changes provides a significant challenge to service provision, the EAS considers that budget pressures represent the biggest challenge facing them.

1.11. Given the changes to Welsh Government published outcomes evidence gathering for Phase 1 of the study, undertaken in 2023 and reported on here, was broader than previously, and required greater focus on first hand data capture from schools and settings.

This was gathered from a sample of 40 schools across the region utilising a refined methodology for capturing learner progress in schools. The process of evidence gathering was compromised by limited access to schools because of Action Short of Strike (ASOS) following on quickly from pandemic related school closures. This involved over 40% of headteachers exercising their right, not to engage with external agencies, including school improvement.

- 1.12. Measurement of progress will be facilitated by the fact that findings from the Phase 1 evidence gathering exercise have resulted in further refinement to the approach that will enhance the quality of evidence gathered in Phase 2. This, coupled with greater confidence in schools using new measures of progression, leads to expectation that a more comprehensive picture will emerge from Phase 2.
- 1.13. A substantial body of research has identified that schools becoming effective learning organisations is fundamental to learner progress. The EAS organisational vision aligns with this therefore, the central focus for Phase 2 will be gathering evidence on the extent to which schools are making progress towards becoming Schools as Learning Organisations (SLO). This is an internationally recognised, evidence backed guide for school leaders, promoted as part of Welsh Government policy. Significant work has been undertaken, based in part on the findings from evidence gathering in Phase 1, to develop a model that will enable this progress to be measured and enable well-informed judgements to be made in relation to VfM.
- 1.14. The EAS uses its Business Plan arrangements to support its own organisational learning as well as monitor its agreed Business Plan objectives. This year, a known period of change in policy expectations and post pandemic response was utilised to drive and signal upcoming changes. Most significant in a value for money context was the changes to capturing learner progress alongside a critical budget setting context. This year all Business Plan objectives were met, and a mature self- evaluation and risk management approach has been strengthened with an improved focus on impact for current business plan period (April 2022 – March 2025).
- 1.15. It is not clear whether all stakeholders fully understand the overlap between building system and school level organisational capacity. The underpinning added value of building schools' own capacity through its school leaders to work on behalf of the EAS as partners in the improvement journeys of practitioners and schools has not been fully quantified. Nevertheless, its impact is recognised, and work is underway to strengthen the coexistence and capture the impact.
- 1.16. The priority given by the EAS to strengthen the accuracy of school's own self -evaluation threads through all aspects of its work. Schools with the greatest support needs are supported explicitly. Nevertheless, the new arrangements are yet to fully capture the necessary details consistently on groups of learners, or groups of schools with differing support needs. Some of the main findings at the end of this first phase are highlighted below:
 - The EAS' support to schools is leading to strengthening capacity and capability at both practitioner and leader levels.

- The challenge to respond to the socio-economic climate and lower school attendance has seen most schools intensify their efforts to support vulnerable groups of learners.
- Nearly all schools have identified variation in aspects of teaching or in the performance of groups of teachers. Nevertheless, the honest evaluations and subsequent open conversations with EAS colleagues shape bespoke support.
- A few schools have established a secure baseline from which to monitor and evaluate pupil progress.
- Too many School Development Plans have priorities which do not focus on the outcomes of learning and teaching. However, they have focused on the compliance aspects of delivering the curriculum over this last year.
- Only a few schools have minimised the variation in the quality of teaching sufficiently to impact on the outcomes for all learners.
- Nearly all clusters have worked together to better interpret new expectations of evaluating learning and supporting learner participation in benchmarking their own progress. In a few schools, engaging learners in understanding progression and tracking their own progress is enhancing learning.

1.17. The report was sectioned into the following aspects:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Financial Context
- Review Aims
- Evidence Gathering
- Review Findings
- Organisational Learning
- Learner Learning
- System Learning
- Conclusions
- Next Steps

1.18. The full content of the report can be found in Appendix A, but the report below focuses on the key elements of financial context and conclusions.

Financial Context

1.19. From their inception in 2012 regional school improvement consortia have been subjected to a common funding formula from constituent local authorities. While the formula has remained unchanged there has been, for the EAS, a continuous year on year reduction in this core funding as illustrated by the table below.

Year:	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
LA Funding:	£3,376,653	£3,275,353	£3,209,847	£3,145,651	£3,098,465	£3,036,496	£2,960,887
Trading Income:	£601,974	£447,460	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Total Core Funding:	£3,978,627	£3,722,813	£3,209,847	£3,145,651	£3,098,465	£3,036,496	£2,960,887

Grants:	£56,082,261	£52,033,572	£51,991,066	£49,022,408	£51,996,479	£60,830,062	£60,023,836
TOTAL:	£60,060,888	£55,756,385	£55,200,913	£52,168,059	£55,094,944	£63,866,558	£62,984,723
Delegated to Schools:	£50,384,126	£46,481,315	£48,886,304	£46,142,076	£48,754,009	£58,240,283	£57,562,486
Delegation Rate:	90%	89%	94%	94%	94%	96%	96%
Residual Income:	£7,668,633	£7,278,655	£6,314,609	£6,025,983	£6,340,935	£5,626,275	£5,422,237

- 1.20. Over the seven-year period covered in the table there has been an agreed 12.31% reduction in Local Authority (LA) funding which, along with the elimination of trading income, has resulted in a reduction in total core funding of some £1.018m or 25.6% in absolute terms; although in real terms, when inflation and pay awards are taken into consideration, the reduction has been in excess of 30%.
- 1.21. The annually agreed reduction in Local Authority funding represents efficiency savings on the part of Local Authorities that have typically resulted in a reduction, for the EAS, of around 2% per annum in core funding. The agreed reduction has been implemented on a consistent basis across each of the constituent Local Authorities, typically between 0.5% - 3% per annum. However, these reductions are dwarfed by the 10% cut agreed for 2023-24 which, when combined with anticipated pay awards and general inflation, will result in a very significant reduction in real terms. One consequence of this reduction, despite the non- filling of certain vacancies, will be a decrease in the delegation rate to schools.
- 1.22. Over the same time period the amount of grant money received from the Welsh Government reduced year on year up to 2019-20 but has increased over the last two years with a very significant increase of £8.83m or some 17% between 2020-21 and 2021-22 the amount has dropped slightly in 2022-23 by £806k, and will significantly drop in future Grants into the LA Education Grants. When reductions in LA funding, elimination of trading income and increases in grant money received are added together the increase in total funding is £2.92m which represents a 4.87% increase in absolute terms over a seven-year period. However, when inflation and pay awards are taken into account, there has probably been very little or no increase in real terms between 2016/17 and 2022/23. From 2023/24 onwards the scale of the anticipated real terms reduction in income means that, despite achieving £1m savings from the deployment of school based School Improvement Partners (SIPs), financial stability and sustainability represents the biggest challenge facing the EAS.
- 1.23. When increases in the rate of delegation to schools are taken into account then residual income spent on running the organisation, including staffing costs, fell by some £2.25m or 29.3% from 2016-17 to 2022-23. Reduced spending has inevitably resulted in a considerable reduction in staffing numbers, with the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff reducing from 111 in 2016-17 to 64 in 2022-23, taking the total reduction in FTE staff reduction to 47 over the period 2016-17 to 2022-23, representing a reduction of almost 42.4% in staffing levels. This staffing reduction is a direct consequence of the decision by the EAS to refine its delivery model from a fully staffed central model to a self-improving

School to School (S2S) model where schools are funded to provide support and challenge to peer schools within the region.

- 1.24. Overall, the EAS has made significant and regular efficiency savings which support the LAs. These have been made alongside a reducing grant from Welsh Government and the cessation of traded income. Over time, school improvement approaches have been trialled and developed to place greater capacity in schools rather than within the school improvement service. This aligns with the principles embedded in the vision of building a self-improving and learning system across the region.
- 1.25. The EAS has shaped its medium-term financial planning around its vision and has over time increased its delegation rates to schools to 96%, placing resources within schools and/or to build system capacity in schools. More recently, during the current business planning cycle (2022-25), the financial planning arrangements, all delivery models, business plan objectives and vision and values dovetail explicitly. The arrangements to evaluate impact under the new policy expectations are yet to fully capture the depth of information necessary to formulate a value for money judgement.

Conclusions

- 1.26. Both the policy and financial context within which the EAS delivers its Vision and Business Plan objectives are challenging and changing. Its approach to signalling change in its own work in response to fundamental external influences are captured in the approaches to financial planning and evaluating impact on learning. The arrangements to build capacity within the organisation to better respond to and capture data to support its own self-evaluation and improvement planning are underway. This report captures some early progress and learning.
- 1.27. The EAS uses its Business Plan arrangements to support its own organisational learning as well as monitor its agreed Business Plan objectives. This year, a known period of change in policy expectations and post pandemic response was utilised to drive and signal upcoming changes. Most significant in a value for money context was the changes to capturing learner progress alongside a critical budget setting context. This year all Business Plan objectives were met, and a mature self-evaluation and risk management approach has been strengthened with an improved focus on impact for 2023-25.
- 1.28. Each objective in the EAS Business Plan contributes towards organisational and system wide improvement and capacity building. The underpinning principles of learning organisations permeates the work of the EAS and schools across the region. However, too often, this is not clear to all staff as they undertake their day-to-day work. Where there are senior level decisions made, such as on the format of school support arrangements or resourcing plans to capture evidence, there is added value to underpin the EAS vision. However, operational level decisions such as those on approaches taken to evaluate learning programmes miss opportunities to draw out the organisational and system level learning. On occasion, the inconsistent explicit focus on the principle of schools as learning organisations means that the EAS can miss opportunities to capture the impact of its work

on wider system transformation. Already, plans are underway to strengthen and make these explicit.

- 1.29. It is not clear whether all stakeholders fully understand the overlap between building system and school level organisational capacity. The underpinning added value of building schools' own capacity through its school leaders to work on behalf of the EAS as partners in the improvement journeys of practitioners and schools has not been fully quantified. Nevertheless, its impact is recognised, and work is underway to strengthen the coexistence and capture the impact.
- 1.30. The priority given by the EAS to strengthen the accuracy of school's own self-evaluation threads through all aspects of its work. This begins with the annual dialogue and the identification of school development priorities. Schools with the greatest support needs are supported explicitly. This leads to better quality teaching over time, and this is reflected in the work of learners. Nevertheless, the new arrangements are yet to fully capture the necessary details consistently on groups of learners, or groups of schools with differing support needs.
- 1.31. The EAS' support to schools is leading to strengthening capacity and capability at both practitioner and leader levels. Where this is clearly and explicitly documented, the correlation between intent and impact is clear. It is too early to judge the scale and breadth of this work fully due to the incomplete picture currently available due to ASOS following quickly on from the pandemic related school closures.
- 1.32. A few schools have established a secure baseline from which to monitor and evaluate pupil progress. In these cases, school leaders can review and seek resolutions to hurdles at pupil or teacher level. These interventions lead to improvements in pupil engagement, progress, and achievement.
- 1.33. Nearly all schools have identified variation in aspects of teaching or in the performance of groups of teachers. In these schools, the scale of progress in learning is diluted. Nevertheless, the honest evaluations and subsequent open conversations with EAS colleagues shape bespoke support. Specific teacher knowledge and expertise is highlighted as driving better outcomes in about a third of schools. Physical education, ICT and maths in particular.
- 1.34. Too many SDPs have priorities which do not focus on the outcomes of learning and teaching. Generally, school leaders have over focused on process compliance or implementation rather than on the impact of change. This does not allow the school or EAS to monitor fully the improvement journey of the school and its subsequent impact on pupils learning.
- 1.35. Only a few schools have minimised the variation in the quality of teaching sufficiently to impact on the outcomes for all learners. In these schools, progress is visible throughout the work of pupils, regardless of year group or ability.
- 1.36. The challenge to respond to the socio-economic climate and lower school attendance has seen most schools have intensified their efforts to support vulnerable groups of learners. Specific strategies and programmes to support pupils to make sufficient progress in their

learning this year have influenced teachers and support staff to create a safe climate for learning where possible. Where school leaders have driven whole school interventions, changes in culture and approaches to support vulnerable learners, progression is stronger.

1.37. In a few schools, engaging learners in understanding progression and tracking their own progress is enhancing learning. As school leaders and teachers work together in clusters to better interpret new expectations of evaluating learning, supporting learners to see their own progress is a useful / relevant benchmarking tool.

2. Resource Implications

2.1 There are no specific resource implications, but resource decisions already taken are considered within finance section of the report.

3. Consultation

3.1. The Consultees are noted below:

- Directors of Education (within South East Wales)
- EAS Company Board
- Regional Joint Executive Group (JEG)
- Individual local authority scrutiny committees (each local authority determines the most appropriate committee and whether to add the report to the work programme)

4. Background Papers

4.1 The South-East Wales Regional Value for Money Report: Phase 1 is attached as Appendix A.

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Value for Money (VfM) Report for the South East Wales Education Achievement Service: Phase 1

December 2023

Rod Alcott

Betsan O'Connor

Contents:

	Page:	
Executive Summary		2
Introduction	5	
Financial Context	6	
Review Aims	7	
Evidence Gathering	8	
Review Findings	10	
• <i>Organisational Learning</i>	10	
• <i>Learner Learning</i>	13	
• <i>System Learning</i>	16	
Conclusions	17	
Next Steps	19	
Appendix 1:		
Summary of annual VfM reports.....	20	
Appendix 2:		
The Seven Dimensions of the Schools as Learning Organisations Model.....	23	

Executive Summary

Over a five-year period from 2018 to 2021 the EAS has commissioned an annual Value for Money (VfM) report based on an evaluation of its performance against the following criteria:

- **Economy:** minimising the cost of resources used while having regard to quality (inputs) – spending less;
- **Efficiency:** the relationship between outputs and the resources used to produce them – spending well; and
- **Effectiveness:** the extent to which objectives are achieved (outcomes) – spending wisely
- **Equity:** the extent to which service provision is needs based to remove barriers and facilitate equal opportunity – spending fairly; and
- **Sustainability:** an increasingly standard consideration within the context of the Well Being of Future Generations Act (WBFGE) – spending for the long term.

The combined effects of resource constraints, changing contexts, shifting focuses, pandemic impact and methodological evolution, are reflected in the overall judgements that were arrived at. These judgements, in chronological order are as follows:

- *EAS is providing good value for money because overall outcomes are improving from a reduced level of spending as a result of resources being used efficiently, fairly and in a sustainable way; with consequent benefits for schools and pupils across the region. (2018)*
- *EAS is providing good value for money in terms of those aspects that are within its control – notably economy, efficiency, equity and sustainability. However, collective action involving EAS, its constituent local authorities and school leaders is required to address concerns over educational outcomes across the region and those schools that are underperforming. (2019)*
- *EAS continues to provide good VfM in terms of the services it provides to schools across the region as evidenced by improved outcomes for some learners and the achievement of the other objectives that it has set for itself. (2020)*
- *EAS continues to provide good VfM in terms of the services it provides, as evidenced by its successful mitigation of the impact of the pandemic on schools, learners and its own workforce. (2021)*
- *The overall conclusion is that the refined S2S delivery model represents good value for money. (2022)*

However, there have been significant changes to the context in which the EAS now operates, and consideration of these changes led the Board to reconsider its approach and opt for a two-year study to replace the annual studies previously undertaken. The revised approach comprises two phases with Phase 1 being undertaken in 2023 and Phase 2 in 2024.

These contextual changes can be summarised as:

- budget pressures;
- socio-economic climate;
- post pandemic recovery; and
- changes to Welsh Government published outcome measures.

While each of the above contextual changes provides a significant challenge to service provision, the EAS considers that budget pressures represent the biggest challenge facing them.

Given the changes to Welsh Government published outcomes evidence gathering for Phase 1 of the study, undertaken in 2023 and reported on here, was broader than previously, and required greater focus on first hand data capture from schools and settings. This was gathered from a sample of 40 schools across the region utilising a refined methodology for capturing learner progress in schools. The process of evidence gathering was compromised by limited access to schools because of Action Short of Strike (ASOS) following on quickly from pandemic related school closures.

Measurement of progress will be facilitated by the fact that findings from the Phase 1 evidence gathering exercise have resulted in further refinement to the approach that will enhance the quality of evidence gathered in Phase 2. This, coupled with greater confidence in schools using new measures of progression, leads to expectation that a more comprehensive picture will emerge from Phase 2.

A substantial body of research has identified that schools becoming effective learning organisations is fundamental to learner progress. The EAS organisational vision aligns with this therefore, the central focus for Phase 2 will be gathering evidence on the extent to which schools are making progress towards becoming Schools as Learning Organisations (SLO). Significant work has been undertaken – based in part on the findings from evidence gathering in Phase 1 – to develop a model that will enable this progress to be measured and enable well-informed judgements to be made in relation to VfM.

The EAS uses its Business Plan arrangements to support its own organisational learning as well as monitor its agreed Business Plan objectives. This year, a known period of change in policy expectations and post pandemic response was utilised to drive and signal upcoming changes. Most significant in a value for money context was the changes to capturing learner progress alongside a critical budget setting context. This year all Business Plan objectives were met, and a mature self-evaluation and risk management approach has been strengthened with an improved focus on impact for 2023-25.

It is not clear whether all stakeholders fully understand the overlap between building system and school level organisational capacity. The underpinning added value of building schools' own capacity through its school leaders to work on behalf of the EAS as partners in the improvement journeys of practitioners and schools has not been fully quantified. Nevertheless, its impact is recognised, and work is underway to strengthen the coexistence and capture the impact.

The priority given by the EAS to strengthen the accuracy of school's own self -evaluation threads through all aspects of its work. Schools with the greatest support needs are supported explicitly. Nevertheless, the new arrangements are yet to fully capture the necessary details consistently on groups of learners, or groups of schools with differing support needs.

Some of the main findings at the end of this first phase are highlighted below:

- The EAS' support to schools is leading to strengthening capacity and capability at both practitioner and leader levels.
- The challenge to respond to the socio-economic climate and lower school attendance has seen most schools intensify their efforts to support vulnerable groups of learners.
- Nearly all schools have identified variation in aspects of teaching or in the performance of groups of teachers. Nevertheless, the honest evaluations and subsequent open conversations with EAS colleagues shape bespoke support.

- A few schools have established a secure baseline from which to monitor and evaluate pupil progress.
- Too many School Development Plans have priorities which do not focus on the outcomes of learning and teaching. However, they have focused on the compliance aspects of delivering the curriculum over this last year.
- Only a few schools have minimised the variation in the quality of teaching sufficiently to impact on the outcomes for all learners.
- Nearly all clusters have worked together to better interpret new expectations of evaluating learning and supporting learner participation in benchmarking their own progress. In a few schools, engaging learners in understanding progression and tracking their own progress is enhancing learning.

Introduction

Early in 2023 a decision was taken by the Education Achievement Service (EAS) Board to change the approach to reviewing, and subsequently reporting on, their performance in providing value for money from the publicly funded services they provide. The decision to change the approach stemmed from recognition of the need to:

- reflect the changed context within which the EAS now operates, and will continue to operate in the foreseeable future;
- rectify potential missed opportunities to learn from previous studies, and
- focus on learning and ongoing improvement.

The changed context relates to several factors, the most significant of which are budget pressures, the socio-economic climate, post pandemic recovery and changes to Welsh Government published outcome measures. The EAS considers that financial stability and sustainability represent the biggest challenge facing them and the financial context is dealt with in more detail in the next section of this report.

The Board recognised that there were missed opportunities to learn due to an historical focus on providing assurance based on a retrospective evaluation of discrete areas of service provision, rather than a broader on-going evaluation.

Taken together, these considerations have led the EAS to commission a longer and broader study that will inform both the next business planning cycle and medium-term financial planning. This also allows for the work on Intent, Implementation, Impact to be included within the organisation's Value for Money (VfM) principles.

Consequently, the decision has been taken to replace the annual Value for Money (VfM) study that has been undertaken for the last five years¹ with a phased study that will be undertaken across two years. This will involve establishing a baseline of evidence to be reported on at the end of the first year of the study with a summative VfM assessment – informed by the findings from Phase 1 – to be reported on at the end of the second year.

Not only has the duration of the study been extended but so too has its scope and timing. In relation to scope, previous studies, constrained by resource limitations, have involved a focus on discrete areas of service provision rather than a wider evaluation of VfM. The intention now is to capture the impact on learners in its widest sense by looking at learning, progress and attainment.

In relation to timing, previous retrospective studies have covered financial accounting years (April to end March) rather than academic years and been reported on in the summer. This has meant that, for example, examination outcomes included within reports reflected the previous summer's results rather than those for the summer in which the report was written. The revised two-year study will capture data for two whole academic years in the autumn of 2023 and 2024. This will ensure that progress data, included within reports, is more up to date.

The two-year approach also allows for learning and improvements to processes and data collation within the life of the report. For example, the way evidence of impact is collected, collated and recorded has been amended to strengthen the range, quality and quantity of information available.

¹ A brief summary of the findings from previous annual reviews is included as Appendix 1 to this report.

Financial Context

From their inception in 2012 regional school improvement consortia have been subjected to a common funding formula from constituent local authorities. While the formula has remained unchanged there has been, for the EAS, a continuous year on year reduction in this core funding as illustrated by the table below.

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
LA Funding	£3,376,653	£3,275,353	£3,209,847	£3,145,651	£3,098,465	£3,036,496	£2,960,887
Trading Income	£601,974	£447,460	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Total Core Funding	£3,978,627	£3,722,813	£3,209,847	£3,145,651	£3,098,465	£3,036,496	£2,960,887
Grants	£56,082,261	£52,033,572	£51,991,066	£49,022,408	£51,996,479	£60,830,062	£60,023,836
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Delegation Rate	90%	89%	94%	94%	94%	96%	96%
Residual Income	£7,668,633	£7,278,655	£6,314,609	£6,025,983	£6,340,935	£5,626,275	£5,422,237

Over the seven-year period covered in the table there has been an agreed 12.31% reduction in Local Authority (LA) funding which, along with the elimination of trading income, has resulted in a reduction in total core funding of some £1.018m or 25.6% in absolute terms; although in real terms, when inflation and pay awards are taken into consideration, the reduction has been in excess of 30%.

The annually agreed reduction in Local Authority funding represents efficiency savings on the part of Local Authorities that have typically resulted in a reduction, for the EAS, of around 2% per annum in core funding. The agreed reduction has been implemented on a consistent basis across each of the constituent Local Authorities, typically between 0.5% -3% per annum. However, these reductions are dwarfed by the 10% cut agreed for 2023-24 which, when combined with anticipated pay awards and general inflation, will result in a very significant reduction in real terms. One consequence of this reduction, despite the non- filling of certain vacancies, will be a decrease in the delegation rate to schools.

Over the same time period the amount of grant money received from the Welsh Government reduced year on year up to 2019-20 but has increased over the last two years with a very significant increase of £8.83m or some 17% between 2020-21 and 2021-22², the amount has dropped slightly in 2022-23 by £806k, and will significantly drop in future years while the Welsh Government pass more of the grants from the Regional Consortia Grants into the LA Education Grants. When reductions in LA funding, elimination of trading income and increases in grant money received are added together the increase in total funding is £2.92m which represents a 4.87% increase in absolute terms over a seven-year period. However, when inflation and pay awards are taken into

² Additional grant funding represented part of the Welsh Government's response to the impact of the pandemic and curriculum reform.

account, there has probably been very little or no increase in real terms between 2016/17 and 2022/23. From 2023/24 onwards the scale of the anticipated real terms reduction in income means that, despite achieving £1m savings from the deployment of school based School Improvement Partners (SIPs), financial stability and sustainability represents the biggest challenge facing the EAS.

When increases in the rate of delegation to schools are taken into account then residual income spent on running the organisation, including staffing costs, fell by some £2.25m or 29.3% from 2016-17 to 2022-23. Reduced spending has inevitably resulted in a considerable reduction in staffing numbers, with the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff reducing from 111 in 2016-17 to 64 in 2022-23, taking the total reduction in FTE staff reduction to 47 over the period 2016-17 to 2022-23, representing a reduction of almost 42.4% in staffing levels. This staffing reduction is a direct consequence of the decision by the EAS to refine its delivery model from a fully staffed central model to a self-improving School to School (S2S) model where schools are funded to provide support and challenge to peer schools within the region.

Overall, the EAS has made significant and regular efficiency savings which support the LAs. These have been made alongside a reducing grant from Welsh Government and the cessation of traded income. Over time, school improvement approaches have been trialled and developed to place greater capacity in schools rather than within the school improvement service. This aligns with the principles embedded in the vision of building a self-improving and learning system across the region.

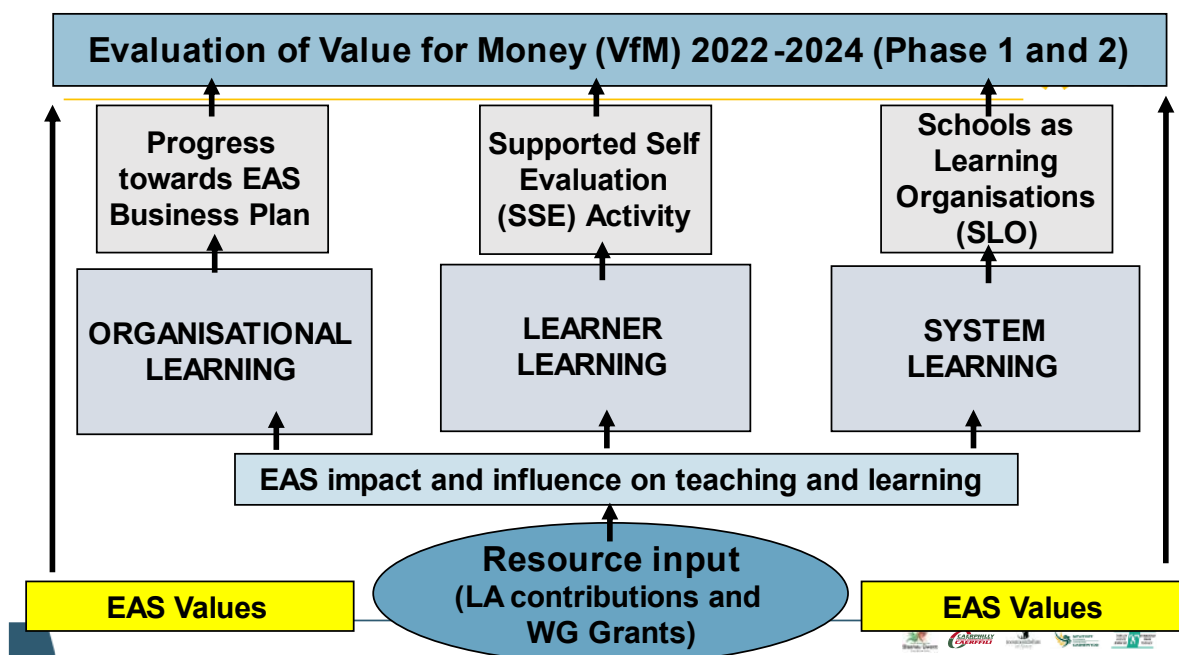
The EAS has shaped its medium-term financial planning around its vision and has over time increased its delegation rates to schools to 96%, placing resources within schools and/or to build system capacity in schools. More recently, during the current business planning cycle (2022-25), the financial planning arrangements, all delivery models, business plan objectives and vision and values dovetail explicitly. The arrangements to evaluate impact under the new policy expectations are yet to fully capture the depth of information necessary to formulate a value for money judgement.

Review Aims

The aim of the review is to bring together the underpinning vision, values and objectives of the EAS and the principles of VfM to reflect the impact these are having on learning. Learning in the context of this review comprises three discrete, but interlinked, areas of learning. These areas are:

- Organisational learning - the progress that the EAS is making towards meeting the objectives set out in its Business Plan
- Learner learning – the impact of supported self-evaluation on learner progress
- System learning – the progress of schools towards becoming learning organisations.

The following graphic provides an overview of the overall approach spanning both phases of the review:



The underlying hypothesis, supported by a substantial body of research, is that improving self-evaluation within schools and supporting progress towards schools becoming learning organisations, are fundamental to improving learner progress. Phase 1 of the review set out to establish a baseline from which to measure progress and to reflect and capture the impact of pandemic related school closures, and Action Short of Strike action³ (ASOS) related access to schools for improvement and monitoring purposes.

Evaluating the impact and influence that the EAS has had, in terms of schools achieving the desired improvement and transition, will be fundamental to a summative assessment of VfM at the end of Phase 2 of the review.

Evidence gathering:

While the findings from the extended study will be based upon analysis of both quantitative and qualitative evidence the gathering of evidence for Phase 1 was confined to qualitative evidence.

Quantitative Evidence:

The changes to publicly available or WG published outcome measures, referred to earlier as contributing to the changed context within which the extended study will be undertaken, will impact upon the analysis of outcome measures. The current position with regard to data availability and use is set out in the following extract from a letter sent out to schools and local authorities by the Director of Education and the Welsh Language at the Welsh Government in March 2023:

‘I would like to reemphasise that the purpose of the AWCDs⁴ is to provide a consistent set of verified data which, alongside each school’s broader set of information, should be used to inform self-evaluation and improvement processes. This data is not to be used in isolation to compare schools or hold schools to account.’

⁴ All-Wales Core Data Sets

Qualitative Evidence:

The gathering of qualitative evidence is essential for evaluating learner progress, particularly given the absence of outcome measures for analysis.

When gathering qualitative evidence, the two essential considerations are those of validity and reliability. Validity is defined as the degree to which you are measuring what you intend to measure. In the context of this study, that necessitated determining an approach to evidence gathering that would enable learner progress to be accurately measured. Reliability relates to the consistent measurement of learner progress based upon the use of the same approach to measurement for all learners within the agreed sample. While reliability is not a guarantee of validity it is true to say that without reliability there can be no validity.

Taking the need for validity and reliability into consideration and recognising pragmatic considerations such as the availability of evidence, the decision was taken to capture information on learning from the EAS intelligence capture system. The primary source of evidence gathering was analysis of Notes of Activity (NOA). These capture activities undertaken in schools but were not generally designed to capture impact on learning⁵. However, there are relevant and useful recordings of activities such as observations, work scrutiny and learning walks included. This information is supported by folders of additional information relating to schools' reviews and visits. In addition, key information on secondary schools, schools causing concern and the annual professional discussions are included.

Having determined what evidence was to be gathered it was also important to determine how the evidence would be gathered. Determination of how the evidence would be gathered required consideration of two factors – the sampling method and the size of the sample. The sampling method chosen was that of probability sampling. This method of sampling involved selecting schools, at pre-determined intervals, from an alphabetical list of all schools within the EAS region.

At the time that the evidence was gathered there were 237 maintained schools within the region, comprising a variety of settings as shown in the table below:

Phase	Number of schools
3-16	2
3-18	1
3-19	1
Infants	6
Junior	4
Nursery	1
Primary	181
PRU	4
Secondary	31
Special	6
Total	237

The original sample size agreed with the EAS was 30. However, the sample size was increased to 40 to ensure the gathering of sufficient meaningful information on learner progress. There was no

⁵ Amended following Phase 1 of the review to better capture impact

specific sampling of sector, Local Authority or medium of teaching; as the sample size was sufficient to capture these aspects.

Review findings

The findings from Phase 1 of the review are set out in three distinct sections:

- *Organisational Learning*
- *Learner Learning*
- *System Learning*

Organisational Learning - the progress that the EAS is making towards meeting the objectives set out in its Business Plan

Each aspect of the EAS' core business contributes to building the capacity of schools as effective learning organisations. Each priority within the business plan therefore has a specific focus and aims to build capacity within schools and settings, as well as the system as a whole. There is an inevitable positive overlap and dovetailing of arrangements to support schools and settings. This section highlights the key findings, based on analysis of quarterly and annual updates to the Business Plan, for each Business plan objective contributing to the overarching vision.

Business plan objective 1
School Improvement: Provide support to schools and educational settings aligned to need. Create and facilitate collaborative networks of professional practice.
Enable. Professional discussions with schools start on the evaluation and collaboration process. Where local authorities and school improvement partners work well together, senior and middle leaders in schools benefit from dialogue to enhance their own evaluations of progress and improvement. Overall schools and LAs have confidence in the school's own understanding of areas for development, and subsequent improvement priorities.
Clarify. Making role and responsibilities clear has been a consistent feature in the EAS' support to schools causing concern or in the Team around the school arrangements. Clarifying what good looks like and a clear focus on expectations helps schools reduce in school variation. In a few schools, new systems have been expanded across whole school, and capacity has been increased through remodelling structures.
Embed. Bringing consistency of approach or expectation. Using systems and approaches across the whole school. Systems and routines become established.
Schools can describe their increased confidence in looking to other schools for support. Working with other schools for professional learning and as SIPs does build confidence

Business plan objective 2

Leadership and Teaching: Provide professional learning and support for the development of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce

Enable. In nearly all schools causing concern, investing time and support to build the capacity of middle leaders has allowed the embedding of new practices. Making sure that the capability and confidence is in the hands of that group of practitioners has consistently opened the door to improvement. In all the secondary schools causing concern in the region, the investment in middle leaders has been significant. Better self-evaluation and understanding of expectation has led to competence and clarity to focus on teaching. The accuracy and relevance of monitoring, evaluation and review systems have led to steady steps towards improvement. Often, the implementation of change, improvement and action is dependent on the enabling role of middle leaders.

Governance. Overall, strengthening arrangements and accountability by using performance management arrangements well to support middle leaders has supported sustaining improvement.

Transform. Many schools can demonstrate at least three factors of SLO. The most significant factor in bringing about change is accurate, transparent self-evaluation. This is most prominent as a trigger for change as practitioners behaviour and attitudes to learning and teaching change.

Empower. Enabling other schools and settings to learn and access professional learning from each other allows staff to see practice elsewhere. They also become empowered to engage with other schools more widely and are open to support from peers as a norm. In time schools who have previously received support are using their skills and knowledge to support and guide others. Informing system change through sharing effective practice and approaches.

Business plan objective 3

Curriculum for Wales: Provide professional learning and support for Curriculum for Wales.

Vision. All schools have engaged with the EAS to establish and shape a new vision and to guide them through the changes necessary for Curriculum for Wales. It is too early to evaluate the transformational nature of this change. In the best cases, governors and learners have been fully engaged and this has enabled the whole school to shape new vision and expectations.

Innovate. The professional learning delivered, which has focused on pedagogical approaches to improving approaches in line with CfW expectations, has allowed many staff to take risks and develop their teaching approaches for the first time. Where staff have been able to take on the required approaches, learners are benefiting. However, a few staff, especially those in schools causing concern have been reluctant to explore and test new ways of working. Undoubtedly, the proportion of collaboration, professional development and engagement in learning by practitioners has been unprecedented, as all school prepare for changes. It is not clear yet whether or not the commitment to resources, time and allocation has permeated sufficiently the practices/ teaching and learning. Nevertheless, recent work with clusters has shown that there is readiness to work together at cluster as new routines become established. The work in clusters has developed to inform system change through sharing effective practice and approaches. It has highlighted how building momentum around challenges can facilitate better collaboration and growth in knowledge.

Empower. Schools and settings have been able to learn and access professional learning together. For example, in the early years settings this approach of peer led and joint training has supported practitioners on improvement journeys.

Business plan objective 4

Health Wellbeing and Equity: Provide professional learning and support for health, wellbeing, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups

Change. Where school leaders invest and support the strategic implementation of programmes to support vulnerable learners, learners are supported to make better progress. The suitable range of programmes available to schools from the EAS focus on leading and facilitating change in attitudes, practice and policy. In the best cases, schools are able to create a positive climate for change. The range of provision to support schools with wellbeing and to support vulnerable learners requires changing culture and expectations. It is too early to review impact as yet but in the best cases schools have worked to shape new visions and expectations.

Equity and Fairness. Practitioners are supported to better guide and enable all learners, including those with ALN, with protected characteristics and vulnerable groups. Engagement in learning is good but the progress and impact on learners is unclear. In many schools, the work is rightly taking time and approaches are careful so that staff and pupils gain confidence.

Explore. Practitioners are supported to build strong purposeful relationships with pupils and parents. Steady steps towards transformation in behaviour and attitudes to learning and teaching are identified at school level but are yet to be confirmed.

Business plan objective 5

School Governors: Provide a broad range of professional learning, support and advice for school governors.

Change. In recent years, influencing improvement in school governance and accountability has been largely focused in schools causing concern or schools where the EAS has been required to help manage complaints or disputes. In these cases, the positive impact on supporting governors to better understand their roles and responsibilities and taking ownership with the senior leadership team, of improvements has led to sustained changes in practice. Governors can create and shape a positive climate for change. When appointing leaders, the EAS supports governors to use these key decisions to drive and influence a vision and expectations in practice. Despite very good feedback on the development programme for new and existing governors, it is not clear whether or not the work is supporting governors sufficiently to drive the accountability arrangements for improvement securely.

Governance. Securing clear governance arrangements and accountability and using performance management arrangements well to support improvement is a thread in professional learning for governors. Where SIPS have supported remodelling structures, retention or recruitment strategies have led to success. However, the impact on sustaining improvement and effective accountability is less clear.

Explore. The broad range of suitable provision exceeds statutory requirements. Investment in high quality learning opportunity have exposed governors to leadership thinking, governance strategies and strategic understanding on school improvement. Nevertheless, we have not yet tested the impact of the approach on influencing SDP monitoring arrangements and driving school level organisational learning.

Business plan objective 6

EAS foundations

Vision. All the EAS' arrangements and systems to drive efficiency are focused on their vision and values. Early indications suggest that these system and process changes are leading to improvements and changing the conditions and approaches to support schools. In general, schools have had the support to build capacity and skills this year to respond to the changes around the new curriculum. Similarly, schools and practitioners were supported during the Covid period to comply with everchanging requirements. This recent track record of responding to need and demonstrating agility establishes secure foundations for further transformation. Shaping new expectations around value for money in response to the change in reporting requirements related to learner outcomes is underway.

Innovate. Staff have been supported to innovate and take informed risks, and additional professional learning has been provided to shape the new approaches. Systems have been refined and refocused to capture information on learner and practitioner impact. Plans are in place to capture precise information this coming academic year.

Learner Learning: - the impact of supported self-evaluation on learner progress

The EAS has taken action to review and refine the way it captures information on learner progress in schools. This has been planned in light of the changes to school performance measures and, following the publication, in June 2022, of Welsh Government's guidance- School Improvement Framework – Evaluation, Improvement, Accountability.

The EAS, began to evolve its approach to capturing learner progress after the joint statement in July 2019 by HMCI, Welsh Government's Director of Education and WLGA's Chief Executive: *We ... strongly advise you to use a broad range of un-aggregated data and information to enable you to discharge your duties when reporting on school performance. Evaluating the performance of individual schools rather than generating aggregated data at local authority level will be more helpful to supporting and challenging individual schools with their improvement.*

However, a period of inevitable and constant change followed. As pandemic related school closures and the relaxation of statutory arrangements came alongside the development of the enabling conditions necessary for the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales. All these factors have combined to create a new space for performance, improvement and accountability.

The EAS has built a collaborative and celebratory approach to recognise the way schools responded to these challenges, and to capture the decreasing reliance on external examinations alone for accountability. This has led to a greater focus on building schools' own capacity and defining improvement and impact through embedded and accurate reflection on learner progress through thorough self-evaluation. This approach underpins the EAS vision to support schools as learning organisations and to build capacity as close to the learner as possible. Nevertheless, the need to support schools to explore and become confident in this new world is significant. Socio economic challenges are increasingly acute for learners and their families and affecting learning. Increasing the quantity of first-hand evidence of learning has also been challenging due to the inevitable reduction in face-to-face contact with schools and learners during the pandemic and subsequent school closures. There are therefore some gaps in the available, up to date information. This year, ASOS has hindered plans to fill these gaps and systematically capture first-hand information.

Nevertheless, the EAS has been able to retain contact with all schools and review the accuracy of school self-evaluation arrangements. Taking a risk-based approach, all schools have engaged in a professional discussion with their Local Authorities and the EAS.

The available information on learning is varied, due to a different focus on aspects or groups of learning in different schools. This bespoke support to schools has been important in responding to need but has left some gaps in the consistent capture of pupils' work.

Schools where risks have been identified have been involved with professional learning, supported self-evaluation and on occasion targeted reviews. In keeping with risk management arrangements, secondary schools causing concern have been prioritised. Therefore, there is a good and detailed oversight of learning in these schools.

The EAS has reviewed at least one aspect of learning in nearly all schools and settings. In general, this has meant working alongside school leaders to evaluate and triangulate the school's own self-evaluation of learning using a range of first-hand evidence. Supported self-evaluation and Review, Refine approaches have provided valuable first hand evidence of teaching and learning. Fewer opportunities to engage with schools due to ASOS have led to fewer opportunities to share and develop practice. In secondary schools causing concern, the collaborative approach has built confidence across school teams to become secure in their own judgments and evaluations.

Where the specific support provided to identified secondary schools has been most focused, improvements in the school's own accuracy of self-evaluation has ensured that the areas identified for improvement are correctly identified and are addressed quickly and systematically. This has led to a larger proportion of learners in more schools making adequate or better progress. Schools have capitalised on the valuable challenge, peer feedback and external view of SIPs to help inform improvement planning.

Overall, most pupils make expected progress from their individual baselines. Where learners make the best progress, there is comprehensive use of base line/ progress data to inform teaching, planning and feedback. Teachers support learners to deepen thinking and there are excellent relationships between pupils and teachers. Where learners make inadequate progress, there is insufficient challenge; questioning is limited and modelling underdeveloped.

The progress of learners living in poverty and/ or in receipt of free school meals is a national priority. On occasion, this is reflected in the priorities and monitoring arrangements for pupil learning. In the schools where pupil progress is notable, there is clear leadership commitment to engaging with vulnerable learners and their families, financial hurdles to access learning resources or opportunities are overcome quickly, and additional support is sought as necessary.

In secondary schools, good quality feedback is supporting progress for learners. In these schools, learners benefit from specific, purposeful, and varied feedback which directly supports their learning and progress.

The development of skills in numeracy, literacy (including Welsh) and digital competence is variable. In the schools where progress is commensurate with age and ability, leaders and teachers are using approaches consistently and to challenge learners.

Many pupils' digital skills have improved significantly as a direct result of the new skills taught and developed during the pandemic. Nearly all pupils make good progress in their learning from their individual starting points. Where learners benefit from a wide range of exciting and stimulating

learning experiences, a wide range of pedagogical approaches are used flexibly and appropriately by classroom staff. However, in and between school variation undermines the progress of too many pupils. This is especially prevalent in schools where evaluation arrangements are underutilised.

Where pupils' learning is consistent and reaches beyond age expectations, they benefit from consistently good teaching. In these cases, teachers demonstrate high expectations for all students and use relevant assessment approaches to check for understanding, track progress and adjust teaching to meet learner needs. In general, effective feedback strategies guide learners on their next best steps in learning.

To support learners achieve, there is effective challenge in areas such as spelling and effective differentiation supports more able and talented learners to make greater progress in core subjects. In the few schools where high levels of challenge support pupils to make greater progress, they can speak, read confidently, and take learning beyond classroom. However, too often reading and writing is generally inconsistent. This affects learners' capacity to engage in further learning.

In early years settings, learners use the engagement with each other and adults to grow their social skills and confidence. In most settings, learners are engaged and develop in line with age related expectations. In the best examples, children can engage in singing and repeat verses. These allow them to partake in social events beyond the setting and grow self-confidence. In a few settings learner progress is less explicit due to limited planning for activities.

Learners enjoy good support for wellbeing in most schools. This means that school leaders often dovetail the most suitable aspects of different strategies. In these schools, the strategies contribute to improved behaviour, learning and attainment. In the best examples, teachers use the available pupil tracking and progress data to inform class level interventions. In most cases, interventions lead to better-than-expected outcomes. This is most prevalent in maths and numeracy. Where schools have taken action to improve wellbeing and use this to strengthen preparedness for learning, all schools have prioritised parental engagement.

Pupils make the best progress in schools where learning and wellbeing are inextricably linked in all school practices. These schools link academic success with wellbeing and understand their learners well. The impact of this is evident in the attitudes of learners. All learners are given the support needed to be successful. The pupils demonstrate positive learning behaviours and strategies to support their learning which results in progress across most subjects. Similarly, the nurture approach to wellbeing and the readiness of pupils to learn despite vulnerabilities is making a difference to learners who need support the most.

For pupils in receipt of free school meals, there is strong pupil progress in lessons, and learners are generally on track to meet targets. However, too often FSM pupils fall below school targets because there is a greater proportion of FSM learners affected by managed moves between schools and higher than average non-attendance.

In secondary Welsh Medium schools, learner progress has accelerated this last year. Recently there has been better and accelerated progress by learners in these schools despite previous concerns. Specific interventions have led to improvements in both preparedness to learn and learning achieved. In primary schools, pupils found that the lack of access to opportunities to speak and use Welsh during the pandemic affected confidence in the classroom. However, this year, pupils appear to have regained their fluency and confidence.

For pupils in receipt of free school meals, there is strong pupil progress in lessons, and learners are generally on track to meet targets. However, too often FSM pupils fall below school targets because there is a greater proportion of FSM learners affected by managed moves between schools and higher than average non-attendance.

This academic year's external examination results as with in 2022, have significant limitations. These include 'Summer Series' exam results only, so do not include any previous awards for early entry; and it is 'All Pupils' only and cannot be split by gender or any other identified grouping. Nevertheless, the trends at school level suggests the stabilising of examination results since the changes to centre assessed and determined grades during Covid. This will help schools better inform their own evaluations of teaching and learning. At school level, information on groups of learners will also contribute to tracking and planned interventions to support learners.

System Learning: the progress of schools towards becoming learning organisations.

The EAS Business Plan sets out how it will implement its vision of: *Supporting and enabling schools and educational setting to thrive as effective learning organisations, learning from each other and the wider educational community.*

This review will establish a base line against which the EAS can begin to evaluate its effectiveness at enabling schools to thrive as effective learning organisations and build a learning system across the region. It will contribute to an interim baseline 2022-23 to inform wider work on efficiency, effectiveness and value for money which will culminate at the end of 2024.

The EAS puts its vision into action through the implementation of its Business Plan. Each objective contributes towards creating a learning and thriving system of schools. The EAS has placed the values and principles of the schools as learning organisations model at the centre of its work.

Responding quickly to changes in delivery methods, policy and expectations during COVID accelerated and facilitated the process of changing approaches and a climate for change within the EAS. This allowed approaches to school improvement to adapt quickly in line with both policy informed practice, best practice and need. Moving to an improvement model primarily driven by peer support and experienced current practitioners has been a feature of the EAS' work for some time. But moving it to the core SIP function has been significant and places the maintenance of recent and relevant practice in the system at the centre.

The EAS recognises that the logistical implementation of its SIP model is variable despite its strengths. There are arrangements to strengthen and secure quality and consistency underway. Progress in reducing this variability is underway and securing improvements. Leaders within the EAS and in schools know and understand that the principles underpinning the approach are secure and will yield system improvement in time. This aspect is key to enabling the vision and to enabling all schools to develop as learning organisations.

Research and critical self-evaluation have informed and influenced the EAS' work. Nevertheless, there are gaps in the evidence available to signify and demonstrate change and impact. School closures related to COVID and ASOS have undermined efforts to strengthen this work. The EAS has put arrangements in place to improve collation and capture during this and the next business planning year.

The proportion of schools formally using the SLO framework to shape and drive improvement are few. However, nearly all schools are using and building on its principles and values to shape and inform their work on Curriculum for Wales and to build leadership capacity.

The most significant aspect of EAS influence on schools' work which has led to improvements is self-evaluation. Many schools in need of significant improvement have built on the own intelligence and the accuracy of their evaluations through specific support from SIPs and partner schools. This aspect underpins the work of schools as learning organisations. All schools engage in dialogue with their SIP annually, which builds on strengthening and triangulating the school's own evaluation of its work.

Many schools can demonstrate at least three features of the School as a Learning Organisation (SLO) model in their progress this academic year. Firstly, in general staff are better informed or can use and understand new strategies to support their work. Secondly, leaders have engaged in support or organisational change and improvement. The most significant factor in bringing about change is accurate, transparent self-evaluation. This is most prominent as a trigger for change.

It is too early to judge the impact of curriculum support on the quality of teaching and learning. Many schools can describe improvements in staff knowledge and on systems to support teaching. But the correlation and impact on learning is yet to be fully captured.

A few schools plan and support vulnerable learners in line with their strategy and vision. However, the impact is yet to be fully captured.

The EAS has used its resources to build capacity and respond to gaps in school capacity during a time of pressure on the system. These decisions have supported the principle of building capacity in and between schools.

Conclusions

Both the policy and financial context within which the EAS delivers its Vision and Business Plan objectives are challenging and changing. Its approach to signalling change in its own work in response to fundamental external influences are captured in the approaches to financial planning and evaluating impact on learning. The arrangements to build capacity within the organisation to better respond to and capture data to support its own self-evaluation and improvement planning are underway. This report captures some early progress and learning.

The EAS uses its Business Plan arrangements to support its own organisational learning as well as monitor its agreed Business Plan objectives. This year, a known period of change in policy expectations and post pandemic response was utilised to drive and signal upcoming changes. Most significant in a value for money context was the changes to capturing learner progress alongside a critical budget setting context. This year all Business Plan objectives were met, and a mature self-evaluation and risk management approach has been strengthened with an improved focus on impact for 2023-25.

Each objective in the EAS Business Plan contributes towards organisational and system wide improvement and capacity building. The underpinning principles of learning organisations permeates the work of the EAS and schools across the region. However, too often, this is not clear to all staff as they undertake their day-to-day work. Where there are senior level decisions made,

such as on the format of school support arrangements or resourcing plans to capture evidence, there is added value to underpin the EAS vision. However, operational level decisions such as those on approaches taken to evaluate learning programmes miss opportunities to draw out the organisational and system level learning. On occasion, the inconsistent explicit focus on the principle of schools as learning organisations means that the EAS can miss opportunities to capture the impact of its work on wider system transformation. Already, plans are underway to strengthen and make these explicit.

It is not clear whether all stakeholders fully understand the overlap between building system and school level organisational capacity. The underpinning added value of building schools' own capacity through its school leaders to work on behalf of the EAS as partners in the improvement journeys of practitioners and schools has not been fully quantified. Nevertheless, its impact is recognised, and work is underway to strengthen the coexistence and capture the impact.

The priority given by the EAS to strengthen the accuracy of school's own self-evaluation threads through all aspects of its work. This begins with the annual dialogue and the identification of school development priorities. Schools with the greatest support needs are supported explicitly. This leads to better quality teaching over time, and this is reflected in the work of learners. Nevertheless, the new arrangements are yet to fully capture the necessary details consistently on groups of learners, or groups of schools with differing support needs.

The EAS' support to schools is leading to strengthening capacity and capability at both practitioner and leader levels. Where this is clearly and explicitly documented, the correlation between intent and impact is clear. It is too early to judge the scale and breadth of this work fully due to the incomplete picture currently available due to ASOS following quickly on from the pandemic related school closures.

A few schools have established a secure baseline from which to monitor and evaluate pupil progress. In these cases, school leaders can review and seek resolutions to hurdles at pupil or teacher level. These interventions lead to improvements in pupil engagement, progress, and achievement.

Nearly all schools have identified variation in aspects of teaching or in the performance of groups of teachers. In these schools, the scale of progress in learning is diluted. Nevertheless, the honest evaluations and subsequent open conversations with EAS colleagues shape bespoke support. Specific teacher knowledge and expertise is highlighted as driving better outcomes in about a third of schools. Physical education, ICT and maths in particular.

Too many SDPs have priorities which do not focus on the outcomes of learning and teaching. Generally, school leaders have over focused on process compliance or implementation rather than on the impact of change. This does not allow the school or EAS to monitor fully the improvement journey of the school and its subsequent impact on pupils learning.

Only a few schools have minimised the variation in the quality of teaching sufficiently to impact on the outcomes for all learners. In these schools, progress is visible throughout the work of pupils, regardless of year group or ability.

The challenge to respond to the socio-economic climate and lower school attendance has seen most schools have intensified their efforts to support vulnerable groups of learners. Specific strategies and programmes to support pupils to make sufficient progress in their learning this year

have influenced teachers and support staff to create a safe climate for learning where possible. Where school leaders have driven whole school interventions, changes in culture and approaches to support vulnerable learners, progression is stronger.

In a few schools, engaging learners in understanding progression and tracking their own progress is enhancing learning. As school leaders and teachers work together in clusters to better interpret new expectations of evaluating learning, supporting learners to see their own progress is a useful / relevant benchmarking tool.

Next Steps – Phase 2

As stated in the introduction to this report the EAS has taken a decision to replace the annual Value for Money (VfM) study that has been undertaken for the last five years with a phased study undertaken across two years. This report covers Phase 1 which was undertaken in 2023. Phase 2 will be undertaken in 2024 and reported on at the end of the year.

The intention of Phase 2 is to build upon the evidence gathering and findings from Phase 1 to enable a valid evaluation of the VfM being achieved by the EAS in relation to a central focus of its activity. This focus is that of supporting progress towards schools and settings becoming effective learning organisations, something which a substantial body of research has identified as being fundamental to improving learner progress.

To arrive at a valid evaluation of the progress schools and settings are making towards realising the seven dimensions within the Schools as Learning Organisations (SLO) model⁶ it will be necessary to gather evidence of:

- the accuracy of schools' self-evaluation and improvement priorities, to determine the extent to which the school's development plan is based on learning from continuous self-assessment and is appropriately focussed on pupil progress and wellbeing;
- the extent to which schools and settings are collaborative, open and inclusive, based on high expectations and the extent to which the EAS is capturing the impact of its work on pupil progress; and
- the extent to which the EAS, in its self-evaluation, considers the impact of implementing its vision and its impact on organisational and system wide capacity and improvement.

Within this overall approach there will be a particular focus on progress being made by secondary schools across the region.

⁶ The seven dimensions of the model are described in Appendix 2 to this report

Appendix 1

Summary of annual VfM reports

The EAS has long recognised the need to demonstrate that it offers value for money to the five local authorities within its geographical remit and their constituent schools. To this end it has, for the last five years, commissioned an annual review and subsequent report to evaluate the extent to which that requirement has been met.

These reviews have been based upon the gathering of sufficient evidence to enable an evaluation of performance in relation to each of the criteria that comprise the VfM framework. These criteria are defined within the reports as follows:

- **Economy:** minimising the cost of resources used while having regard to quality (inputs) – spending less;
- **Efficiency:** the relationship between outputs and the resources used to produce them – spending well; and
- **Effectiveness:** the extent to which objectives are achieved (outcomes) – spending wisely

From the outset it was recognised that basing the reviews on an evaluation of the above criteria would, in an educational context, be too limiting. Consequently, each annual review and report also considered:

- **Equity:** the extent to which service provision is needs based to remove barriers and facilitate equal opportunity – spending fairly; and
- **Sustainability:** an increasingly standard consideration within the context of the Well Being of Future Generations Act (WBFGE) – spending for the long term.

The adoption of this framework allowed an annual judgement to be made of performance against each criterion that could then be aggregated up into an overall judgement of how well resources were being used to achieve intended outcomes.

While the reviews, and subsequent reports, were based on a consistent framework; the context, focus and methodological approach evolved and varied over time. The evolving approach reflected the impact of the global pandemic and a growing realisation that time and financial constraints did not allow for a detailed consideration of the above criteria across the full range of activities undertaken, and services provided by the EAS.

The chronology of this evolution can be traced as follows:

- The first two reviews, 2018 and 2019, were more broad brush in approach and were undertaken in a pre-pandemic context.
- The next two reviews, 2020 and 2021, were more focused on evaluating achievement of specific objectives, and performance in adapting service delivery to respond to a global pandemic.
- The last review, 2022, had a very specific focus on one area of service delivery i.e. school to school working.

The pandemic had an enormous impact on both the availability and collection of evidence. The measures of educational outcomes that had informed previous reviews such as examination results, school categorisation and Estyn inspection reports and were either not available or, where available, did not provide a valid measure of progress. Similarly, evidence gathering and analysis took place remotely to reflect the exceptional circumstances of adapting working practices to combat the spread of the pandemic.

The combined effects of resource constraints, changing contexts, shifting focuses, pandemic impact and methodological evolution are reflected in the overall judgements that were arrived at. These judgements, in chronological order are as follows:

EAS is providing good value for money because overall outcomes are improving from a reduced level of spending as a result of resources being used efficiently, fairly and in a sustainable way; with consequent benefits for schools and pupils across the region. (2018)

EAS is providing good value for money in terms of those aspects that are within its control – notably economy, efficiency, equity and sustainability. However, collective action involving EAS, its constituent local authorities and school leaders is required to address concerns over educational outcomes across the region and those schools that are underperforming. (2019)

EAS continues to provide good VfM in terms of the services it provides to schools across the region as evidenced by improved outcomes for some learners and the achievement of the other objectives that it has set for itself. (2020)

EAS continues to provide good VfM in terms of the services it provides, as evidenced by its successful mitigation of the impact of the pandemic on schools, learners and its own workforce. (2021)

The overall conclusion is that the refined S2S delivery model represents good value for money. (2022)

While all judgements have been positive there is a clear trend towards focusing the judgement on consideration of:

- performance in pursuit of specific objectives;
- the changed context of operating in a pandemic; and
- the impact on schools and learners of a discrete area of service provision.

It is also worth noting that the concentration on S2S working in 2022, based on case studies constructed from Head Teacher interviews, represented a positive response to earlier recommendations. These recommendations included:

Consider whether there are cost-effective ways to secure the involvement of Head Teachers in further developing the annual VfM report. -2019

Extending engagement with recipients of its services to triangulate evidence and further validate findings and conclusions. -2020 and 2021

Methodological evolution has now led the EAS to make the decision to significantly amend its approach to reviewing and reporting on VfM for 2023-24. One of the biggest challenges to this revised approach will be the availability of data on learner outcomes that would typically be central to formulating a judgement on the impact and by extension the VfM of its service provision.

Appendix 2

The Seven Dimensions of the Schools as Learning Organisations Model

Developing: *The SLOs vision is a motivating force for sustained action.*

- A shared and inclusive vision aims to enhance the learning experiences and outcomes of all learners.
- The school's vision focuses on enhancing learners' cognitive and social-emotional outcomes (including their well-being), encompasses both the present and the future, and is inspiring and motivating.
- Learning and teaching are orientated towards realising the vision.
- The school's vision is the outcome of a process involving all staff, including governors and other stakeholders.
- Learners, parents/carers, the external community, and other partners are invited to contribute to the school's vision.

Creating: *The SLOs staff are responsible for their own professional learning.*

- All staff engage in continuous professional learning to ensure their practice is critically informed and up to date. New staff receive induction support.
- All staff have access to coaching and mentoring support.
- Professional learning is focused on the learner's learning and the school's goals.
- Staff are fully engaged in identifying the aims and priorities for their own professional learning.
- Professional learning challenges thinking as part of changing practice.
- Professional learning connects work based learning and external expertise.
- Professional learning is based on assessment and feedback from a range of sources including the learner.
- Time and other resources are provided to support professional learning.
- The school's culture promotes and supports professional learning.

Promoting: *Collaborative working and collective learning are central to the SLO.*

- Collaborative working and collective learning, face-to-face and/or using ICT, are focused and enhance learning experiences, learner outcomes and/or staff practice.
- Staff reflect together on how to make their own learning more powerful.
- Staff learn how to work together as a team.
- Staff feel comfortable seeking advice from each other. Collaborative working and collective learning are central to the SLO.
- Trust and mutual respect are core values.
- The school allocates time and other resources for collaborative working and collective learning.

Establishing: *SLOs uses enquiry to establish change and innovation in educational practice.*

- Staff are willing to take risks and experiment and innovate in their practice.
- The school supports and recognises staff for taking initiative and risks.
- Staff engage in forms of enquiry to investigate and extend their practice.
- Enquiry is used to establish and maintain a rhythm of learning, change and innovation.
- Staff are open to thinking and doing things differently.
- Problems and failures are seen as opportunities for learning.
- Learners are actively engaged in enquiry.

Embedding: *SLOs ensure they are "information-rich" or, more appropriately, "knowledge rich".*

- Systems are in place to examine progress and gaps between current and expected impact.
- Structures for regular dialogue and knowledge exchange are in place.
- Examples of good and failed practices are made available to all staff to inform learning.
- Sources of research evidence are readily available and easily accessed and are used by staff to improve their practice.
- Staff have the capacity to analyse and use multiple sources of data for feedback, including ICT, to inform teaching and allocate resources.
- The school's development plan is based on learning from continuous self-assessment and is updated at least once every year.
- Staff regularly discuss and evaluate whether actions had the desired impact and change course if necessary.
- The school evaluates the impact of professional learning.

Learning: *SLOs exchange information and collaborate with the wider learning system.*

- The school is an open system, welcoming approaches from potential external collaborators.
- The school scans its external environment to respond quickly to challenges and opportunities.
- Staff collaborate, learn and exchange knowledge with peers in other schools through networks and/or school-to-school collaborations.
- The school collaborates with parents/carers and the community as partners in the education process and the organisation of the school.
- The school forms partnerships with higher education institutions, businesses, and/or public or non-governmental organisations in efforts to deepen and extend learning.
- Partnerships are based on equality of relationships and opportunities for mutual learning.
- ICT is widely used to facilitate communication, knowledge exchange and collaboration with the external environment.

Modelling: *Leadership is the essential ingredient connecting the seven SLO dimensions.*

- School leaders ensure that the organisation's actions are consistent with its vision, goals and values.
- School leaders model learning leadership, distribute leadership and help grow other leaders, including learners.
- School leaders are proactive and creative change agents with a strong focus on improving learning and teaching.
- School leaders ensure the school is characterised by a 'rhythm' of learning, change and innovation.
- School leaders develop the culture, structures, and conditions to facilitate professional dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange.
- School leaders promote and participate in strong collaboration with other schools, parents/carers, the community, higher education institutions and other partners.
- School leaders ensure an integrated approach to responding to learners' learning and other needs.



Scrutiny Report

Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 20th March 2024

Subject Safer Newport Draft Strategic Needs Assessment Final Plan

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Designation
Rhys Cornwall	Strategic Director – Transformation and Corporate
Janice Dent	Policy and Partnership Manager
Helen Gordon	Senior Policy and Partnership Officer
Dr Carl Williams	Local Policing Area Commander, Chief Superintendent – Gwent Police (Co-Chair)

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider the report on the Safer Newport Draft Strategic Needs Assessment Final Plan.
2. Decide if the Committee wishes to make any comments or recommendations in relation to the report.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 Community safety is a partnership approach to reduce crime and disorder in local communities. The Morgan Report introduced the idea of 'community safety' by taking a 'holistic' local approach to crime reduction and prevention. This was expanded within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, giving key agencies a legal duty to work together to address crime and improve public safety rather than police alone.
- 2.2 Under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) each local authority in England and Wales were given the responsibility to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder in their area. The Act also requires the local authority to work with every police authority, strategic health authority, social landlords, the voluntary sector and residents and businesses - known as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).
- 2.3 Safer Newport is Newport's Community Safety Partnership established under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) as a community safety partnership board providing strategic oversight and governance of identifying, preventing, and protecting community safety issues across the city. It delivers on emerging local community safety issues and problem solving regarding a range of themes including:
 - Anti-social behaviour (ASB)
 - Serious and organised crime (SOC)
 - Safer Pill
 - Safer City Centre
- 2.4 Safer Newport aims to ensure a partnership approach to preventing and tackling aspects of community safety across all areas of Newport and works closely with related boards and forums including the Gwent Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Board, the Area Planning Board and Counter Terrorism processes.
- 2.5 Membership of Safer Newport includes Gwent Police, Newport City Council, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS), Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) and the National Probation Service. The Partnership is jointly chaired by Gwent Police and Newport City Council.
- 2.6 A Strategic Needs Assessment for Community Safety involves a comprehensive examination of various elements impacting community safety within a specific geographic area overseen by the local authority. The primary goal of this assessment is to pinpoint the underlying causes, patterns, and significant community safety issues, including but not limited to Anti-Social Behaviour, Serious Violence, Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse, and Sexual Violence. Through the analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data, it equips Safer Newport with a profound understanding of the problem at hand.
- 2.7 The Strategic Needs Assessment plays a pivotal role in determining the necessary resources, policies, and strategies required to effectively prevent and address community safety concerns. It is recognised that collaborative efforts between Safer Newport, Gwent Police, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB), Youth Justice Service (YJS), South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFR), and other stakeholders are indispensable for devising a targeted and evidence-based approach to addressing recurrent community safety issues.
- 2.8 It is important to note that while Safer Newport takes direct action in response to this Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), various supporting Boards and Strategic Groups also share responsibility for implementing measures to enhance community safety.

Previous Consideration of the Safer Newport Strategic Needs Assessment

- 2.9 The Committee considered the Safer Newport Draft Safer Needs Assessment at the meeting held on 8th November 2023.
(A link to the Safer Newport Draft Safer Needs Assessment report held on 20th November 2023 and Minute is included in Background Papers in Section 7 of this report.)

Partnership Committee Terms of Reference

- 2.10 At the AGM meeting of Council held on 16th May 2017 a new Scrutiny Committee Structure was agreed including the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships, the remit of which includes:

Scrutiny of community safety issues and associated partnerships: Designated Committee for Crime and Disorder

- To consider Councillor Calls for Action (CCfA) that arise through the council's agreed CCfA process;
- To consider actions undertaken by the responsible authorities on the CSP.

The Committee should therefore focus its questioning on how the Safer Newport Partnership is delivering on emerging local community safety issues.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The following information is attached for the Committees consideration:
Appendix A - Safer Newport Strategic Needs Assessment Final Report

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Consider the information that is included fully.
- Identify any gaps in data or learning that may be present.
- Consider feeding in knowledge that the committee members hold and any case study or emerging themes the members are aware of.

- Conclusions:
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the reports?
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the performance of the Safer Newport Partnership?
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
 - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet?

Suggested Lines of Enquiry

4.1 In considering / evaluating the Safer Newport Partnership (SNP) Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment the Committee may wish to consider focusing questions on:

- What role does each of the responsible authorities play in the SNP's work?
- Are all of the responsible authorities fully engaged in the Strategic Needs Assessment?
- How will the community be involved in the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the actions taken to address the community safety issues identified in the report?
- What specific actions will be taken to address the community safety issues identified in this report?
- How will the effectiveness of the actions taken be measured and evaluated over time?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

5.1 The report links with the Wellbeing-being Objectives and Aims of the Council's Corporate Plan 2022 – 2027;

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
Aims:	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

Step 7 links to the Safer Newport Community Safety Partnership;

7	Promote positive community inclusion and culture by engaging with key stakeholders and communities to address issues of anti-social behaviour and crime.
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6 Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality. A copy of the relevant EAS Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA) has been produced.

Impact Assessment:

6.1 Summary of impact – Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

Safer Newport is the city's community safety partnership established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The priorities of Safer Newport have been set based on data and intelligence relating to the key community safety issues for the city. All of the priorities reflect the five ways of working and contribute to a number of the national well-being goals and the interventions in the Well-being Plan.

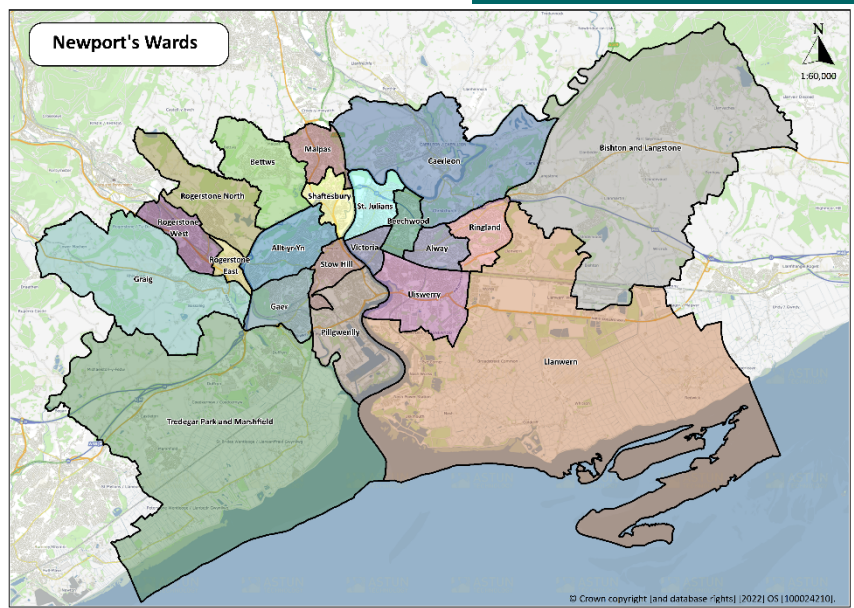
6.2 Summary of impact – Socio-economic Duty

The Safer Newport Partnership has extensive programmes with communities through organised crime funding, including work with schools, community engagement and direct prevention work with families and young people.

7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Report to Annual Council 16 May 2017 upon New Scrutiny Committee Structures](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-27](#)
- [Agenda and Minutes of Performance Scrutiny Committee – Wednesday 8th November 2023](#)

Report Completed: 20th March 2024



Safer Newport Strategic Needs Assessment 2023



Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Safer Newport Community Safety Partnership	2
Executive Summary and Key Findings	3
What is a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA)?	6
Contributing Legislation and Key Guidance	6
Methodology	7
Supplementary Documents	9
About Newport	10
Profile of Newport	10
Community Safety Issues	11
Crime Data	11
Community and Social Determinants	18
The Voices of Citizens and Partners	36
Focus Group – The Sanctuary	62
Interventions and Activities	64
Emerging Themes	67
Summary	68
Next Steps	69

Safer Newport Community Safety Partnership

Safer Newport is Newport's Community Safety Partnership established under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) as a community safety partnership board providing strategic oversight and governance of identifying, preventing, and protecting community safety issues across the city.

Safer Newport delivers on emerging local community safety issues and problem solving regarding a range of themes including:

- Anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Serious and organised crime (SOC)
- Safer Pill
- Safer City Centre

The Partnership also acknowledges the need to consider groups that are vulnerable and are at increased risk of crime abuse or harm directed towards them, such as, People Sleeping Rough, Gypsy, Roma-Traveller Communities, and Adults at Risk of Sexual Exploitation.

Gwent Police and Newport City Council (NCC) jointly chair the Partnership.

Safer Newport aims to ensure a partnership approach to preventing and tackling aspects of community safety across all areas of Newport and works closely with related boards and forums including the Gwent Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Board, the Area Planning Board and Counter Terrorism processes.

The vision for Safer Newport for 2024-2029 is 'to have a positive impact on the lives of our communities'.

Executive Summary and Key Findings

Safer Newport Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment is a partnership commitment to ensuring that the needs, opinions, and experiences of Newport Residents are considered, analysed, and provide a suitable foundation for the Safer Newport Community Safety Plan 2024-2029.

As Wales's third largest city Newport has both opportunities and risks to manage. Newport is known as a gateway city, providing easy and quick access from England into Wales. This geography brings in a significant number of new people settling in Newport. According to the 2021 census data, Newport became the fastest growing unitary authority in Wales from 2011-2021.

Whilst Newport is growing, it is important to note that Newport is 70% rural, meaning that a significant portion of its 159,600 residents live within 30% of Newport land area. Population density such as this concentrates not only amenities and services but also infrastructural and community challenges.

Community Safety is a significant part of a resident's experience and welfare and can have direct impact on an individuals' quality of life and needs. The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act seeks to ensure the following.



1

These 7 wellbeing goals are a bedrock of Welsh Government's intention for Wales, both now and into the future. These goals are not intended to be considered in isolation, rather holistically considered for the mutual benefit of those living and working in Wales across all aspects of life.

Safer Communities in and across Wales can be and should be considered against these 7 wellbeing goals.

2

For example, we can consider this additional illustration to see how the spectrum of community safety needs could interact and connect to these 7 wellbeing goals. A more prosperous, cohesive, and more equal community would likely see a reduction in community safety issues, whether that be via perception changes or improvements in general area provision.³

There are therefore a multitude of ways in which we can and should approach Community Safety issues and needs.



¹ [The Well-being of Future Generations | GOV.WALES](#)

² [Safer Communities for Wales - Wales Safer Communities](#)

³ [A review of evidence on socio-economic disadvantage and inequalities of outcome \(summary\) | GOV.WALES](#)

National and Social economic issues have been shown to have a direct impact on community safety and wellbeing. With the Covid pandemic and an ongoing cost-of-living crisis, the toll it takes on society cannot and should not be underestimated.⁴ Some of this can be seen via the data sets included within this SNA where dips and spikes of crime and needs of residents in Newport are illustrated.

You will observe within the following data sets that most comparable data shows Newport at a higher level of reported crime than the rest of the Gwent region. It is necessary to caveat this fact with Newport being demographically very different to other Local Authority areas in Gwent.

When compared to other similar forces in the UK⁵ Newport's rates for some crime types are average or below. Further comparison work will be done moving forward as part of annual reviews of the Safer Newport Community Safety Partnership.

Crime and the perception of crime has a direct impact on people's experience of a city, area or even street. As such, this SNA made sure to establish and include the perception of residents across the city with public surveys being completed over a 10-month period. We have seen 3646 responses to these surveys, including from businesses, partner agencies, community members and young people which were conducted via online, paper based and face to face group sessions. Overall residents reported that they feel safe in Newport, more so during the day than at night.

From crime data, partner data and public surveys the 3 priority areas identified for the Safer Newport Partnership are. Serious Organised Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, and Vulnerable Groups.

These areas have been chosen based on the following,

1. Serious Organised Crime

Analysis of data, public and partner information related to serious violence, and areas of ASB indicates in Newport there are links whether directly or indirectly to serious organised crime.

2. Anti-Social Behaviour

Analysis of data, public and partner information shows that Anti-Social behaviour is consistently a concern across the city. Data associated with this area of community safety requires further consideration and as such will be a priority moving forward.

3. Vulnerable Groups.

As an increasingly diverse city there are groups of people which are, for various reasons, are at increased risk of crime abuse or harm directed towards them, such as, Children and Young People, People Sleeping Rough, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Communities, Adults at Risk of Sexual Exploitation, and those experiencing any form of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. More depth and details on each can be found in the remainder of this document.

What has also been identified in the compilation of this SNA is that there are emerging areas or themes which do not have significant or broad enough data sets attached to them but need to be noted and monitored moving forward by the Safer Newport Community Safety Partnership. These emerging areas and themes can be found towards the end of this document on page 67.

From all the data gathered, it is also noted that we have identified data gaps and acknowledge that there is a bigger underlying picture we do not yet understand.

Therefore, a priority for Safer Newport and its subgroups will be to provide a continuation of analysis to all data and information contained within this document. There too will be an overarching priority to conduct a data gap analysis and development workstream.

⁴ [Understanding the impact of the pandemic on crime | National Statistical \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

⁵ [Compare your area | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

It is important for the effectiveness and meaningfulness of this document that no single piece of data be considered in isolation or out of the context of this document.

What is a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA)?

A Community Safety needs assessment is a detailed evaluation of the current state of a variety of factors that contribute to community safety issues within a specific geographic area under the remit of the local authority. This assessment aims to identify the root causes, trends, and highlight key community safety themes such as Anti-Social Behaviour, Serious Violence and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. Analysis of data, which is both quantitative and qualitative, enables Safer Newport to develop a comprehensive understanding of the issue.

The assessment helps us determine the resources, policies, and strategies needed to effectively prevent and address community safety issues. It is acknowledged that collaboration between, Safer Newport's statutory partners including, Gwent Police, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB), Newport Youth Justice Service (YJS), South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFR) and other stakeholders is essential to develop a targeted and evidence-based approach to identifying recurring themes of and improving community safety.

Whilst Safer Newport will have a direct responsibility for this SNA it is important to note the range of supporting Boards and Strategic Groups that all hold responsibility for action.

Contributing Legislation and Key Guidance

Crime and Disorder

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 one of a suite of UK legislation aimed to address and prevent crime and disorder. It introduced various measures such as Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), Parenting Orders, and provisions to tackle youth offending. The Act also emphasised partnerships between different agencies, like police and local authorities, working together in addressing crime and disorder issues in communities.

Serious Violence Duty 2022

Serious violence has a devastating impact on the lives of victims and families, instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society. Incidents of serious violence have increased in England and Wales since 2014. The Duty is a key part of the Government's programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence: taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence. The Duty aims to ensure that agencies are focussed on their activity to prevent and reduce serious violence whilst also providing sufficient flexibility so that the relevant organisations will engage and work together in the most effective local partnership for any given area. ^[100]

Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003

The Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 introduced measures to address and tackle antisocial behaviour. It amended existing laws to enhance the powers of authorities to deal with behaviours that were causing harm or distress to communities. The act also introduced other measures to address housing-related antisocial behaviour and to empower local authorities and police to act against those responsible.

Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Wales Act

The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 aims to address and prevent gender-based violence. It provides a comprehensive legal framework to tackle issues such as domestic abuse, sexual violence, and other forms of violence against women. The Act mandates the development of strategies, support services, and training programs to raise awareness, protect victims, and hold perpetrators accountable. It also focuses on promoting collaboration between various agencies to ensure a coordinated response to these issues.

Domestic Abuse Act

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 covers England and Wales introduced to strengthen the legal framework around domestic abuse. It broadens the definition of domestic abuse to include not just physical violence, but also emotional, coercive, or controlling behaviour. The Act introduces protective measures such as Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders, which aim to provide better protection for victims. Additionally, the act criminalises the non-fatal strangulation or suffocation of a partner or family member.

Methodology

This Strategic Needs Assessment adopts a public health approach that considers community safety across the entire population of Newport. A public health approach involves the adoption by all partners of a systematic and evidence informed process for understanding communities experience of safety and using evidence-based approaches that are evaluated for effectiveness to make positive changes. The first step is to understand the problem and issues in relation to community safety within a defined population.

Community safety is influenced by a wide range of factors across the conditions within which people are born, learn, work and age. This involves interactions with multiple agencies and organisations interacting as a whole system. Data has therefore been gathered from across the Safer Newport partnership including Gwent Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Newport City Council.

Population profile

Quantitative data has been gathered to describe the demographic characteristics of the population including age, sex, ethnicity, and sexuality. Community safety is also influenced by wider determinants such as education attainment, deprivation, and employment status. A summary of key indicators in relation to these wider determinants has been identified.

Prevalence of violence and risk factors for violence

Crime data has been analysed to understand the prevalence of violence within Newport using relevant comparators. This has focused upon three key themes of: Serious Violence; Anti-Social Behaviour and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

Local data has also been gathered to understand the prevalence of protective factors that impact upon community safety and are important determinants for safe and resilient communities including housing status and school attendance.

Preventing violence happening in the first place (primary prevention) and intervening early to reduce further harm when it has occurred (secondary prevention) requires a shift to address the root causes of community safety concerns. Root causes will include vulnerability factors such as child exploitation, substance use, and adverse childhood experiences including domestic violence. Data is provided to understand at a local level the current prevalence of risk factors for community safety.

Qualitative insights

Quantitative data has been complimented with insights from people across Newport to strengthen and provide a more holistic understanding of community safety. This approach understands the importance of ensuring that the community voice is heard, and people can share their lived experience of safety.

A Community Safety Perception Survey has been undertaken which was available as an online survey and paper-based copies where needed. A total of 3646 survey and engagement responses were received with results analysed.

The findings of both the quantitative data and qualitative insights have been considered to establish key findings and emerging trends for consideration by the Safer Newport partnership. This will lead to the development of targeted and evidence-based interventions to address the specific community safety concerns in Newport.

Wellbeing of Future Generation Act

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is a piece of legislation in Wales, which aims to promote the long-term sustainability and well-being of both current and future generations. The Act introduces a framework that requires public bodies in Wales to consider the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of present and future generations when making decisions. It emphasises collaboration, integration, and prevention in policymaking to ensure that the choices made today have positive impacts on the well-being of people and the environment in the years to come. The Act also establishes a Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to monitor and advocate for the implementation of its principles.

Five ways of working

Throughout this Strategic Needs Assessment, the WBFG five ways of working have been considered. This threaded throughout the sections.



Supplementary Documents

As part of the extensive data and informational review, there is a sizable set of information that has contributed to this needs assessment and its findings. For ease of use this data and information can be found in supplementary documentation upon request by emailing, onenewport@newport.gov.uk.

About Newport

Profile of Newport

General information (2021 Census⁶ or Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019⁷)

Population	159,587	% of the Wales Population	5.1%
Population Density (population per km ²)	838	Area (km ²)	217
% of people who identified as non-White	14.5%	% of the population are Female	50.9%
% of people are aged 65 and over	17.0%	% of people aged 16+ are LGBTQ+	2.88%
% of people aged 16+ have no qualifications	21.7%	% of people aged 16+ are economically inactive	39.3%
WIMD 2019 – Overall (% of LSOAs in most deprived 10%)	24.2%	WIMD 2019 – Community Safety Domain (% of LSOAs in most deprived 10%)	35.8%

A Community Well-being Profile⁸ (including six local area profiles) have been developed for Newport in support of the Gwent Well-being Assessment⁹.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (WIMD) is a measure of relative deprivation for small areas. WIMD is currently made up of eight separate domains (or types) of deprivation. Each domain is compiled from a range of different indicators.

⁶ [ONS Census 2021 Maps](#)

⁷ [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019](#)

⁸ [Newport Community Well-being Profiles 2021](#)

⁹ [Gwent Well-being Assessment](#)

Community Safety Issues

Community safety issues cover a range of crimes, behaviours, and concerns. These issues have all been identified as issues of concern within communities across Newport impacting on the public's experiences and perception of safety.

As a large city in Wales, Newport has a range of issues that impact directly on the public's experience, and feelings, of safety.

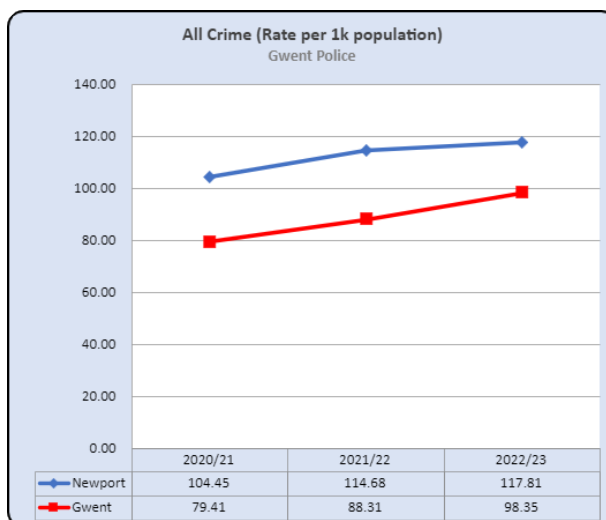
Via both quantitative and qualitative data obtained for this assessment we have been able to identify the 3 key police data sets community safety themes.

- 1) Anti-Social Behaviour
- 2) Serious Violence
- 3) Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

Please see the following sections for more information and a summary of each area in relation to data used for this needs assessment.

Crime Data

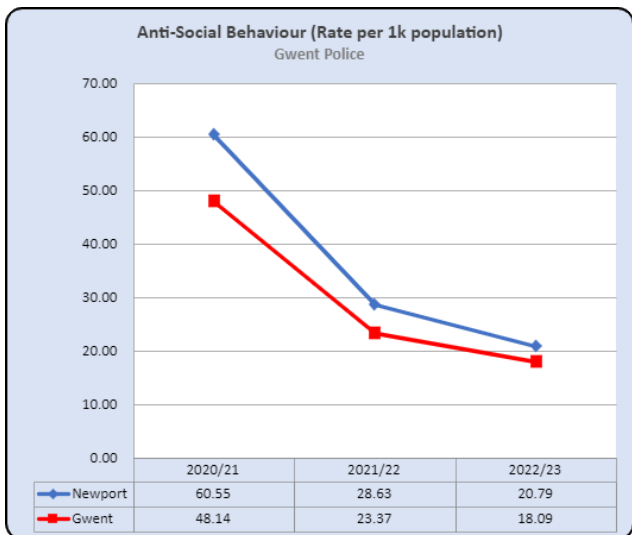
All crime data detailed below has been provided by Gwent Police. Overall crime in Newport sits above the Gwent average, though the gap has closed over the last 12-18 months. Newport's density and deprivation index impacts on crime data we can see below. Please note that data below is reported incidents to the police and as such we should note that there will be more incidences that go unreported and will be experienced by the public and residents of Newport and may not be captured in the crime data below.



For the purposes of this Strategic Needs Assessment the following crime data will focus on the 3 key areas outlined above in relation to their impacts on Community Safety.

1. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is conduct that has caused – or is likely to cause – harassment, alarm, or distress to any person. ASB impacts on individuals and communities. The impact of ASB can be low to severe based on individual impact and community impacts on quality of life and perception of safety as a result. Oftentimes ASB will be low level, non-criminal activity. Whilst non-criminal the effects on communities can be significant. ASB also can be a precursor for more serious and violent crime types.



Whilst this data shows us a steep decline of ASB in Newport, ASB still remains above the Gwent average. Antisocial behaviour is often known to be exasperated by limited alternative activities, especially for young people. This heightened level in 2020/21 would demonstrate this with most activities being closed. The decline correlates to reopening of facilities and programmes for engagement and diversions in place. This decline could also be considered in line with an increase or levelling up to more serious and violent crime incidents.

It is important to note that this is reported crimes and as such many aspects of ASB will be felt by communities and impact on daily life without being reported and recorded as a crime. Please consider this data set in relation to following sections of this SNA.

2. Serious Violence

Serious Violence is defined as ‘specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing. It also includes emerging crime threats faced in some areas of the country such as the use of corrosive substances as a weapon.’¹⁰

The Knife Angel

The Knife Angel is a statue created from confiscated or surrendered knives by Police Forces across England and Wales (including Gwent Police) and was created to highlight the impacts of violent behaviour. The Knife Angel was situated in Friars Walk for the month of November 2022. As a Community Safety Partnership, Safer Newport committed to support the Knife Angel’s Legacy by becoming an active contributor of the National Anti-Violence Charter for UK cities and towns. As part of this, Safer Newport pledges to work in partnership to reduce violence and aggressive behaviour through continued and sustained educational efforts and to increase intolerance to violence in all its forms throughout Newport’s communities.

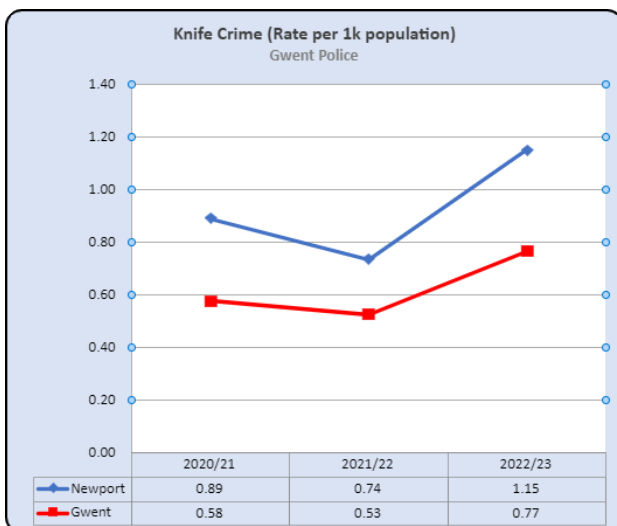
Crime data

It is important to note that UK Home Office requirements have called for regional partnership responses to the Serious Violence Duty and have required that there be a Regional Strategic Need Assessment and Strategy to be completed. Please review the attached in conjunction with this SNA.



Gwent Serious Violence Duty SNA 2020/21 [Gwent Serious Violence Duty Strategy](#) *(Link will be added once published)*

Newport Crime Categories	Population	154,676	156,447	159,658	% Change (previous year)	
	Year	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23		
Homicide	No. of people	0	2	3	50.0%	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Rate per 1k population	0.00	0.01	0.02	47.0%	<input type="checkbox"/>

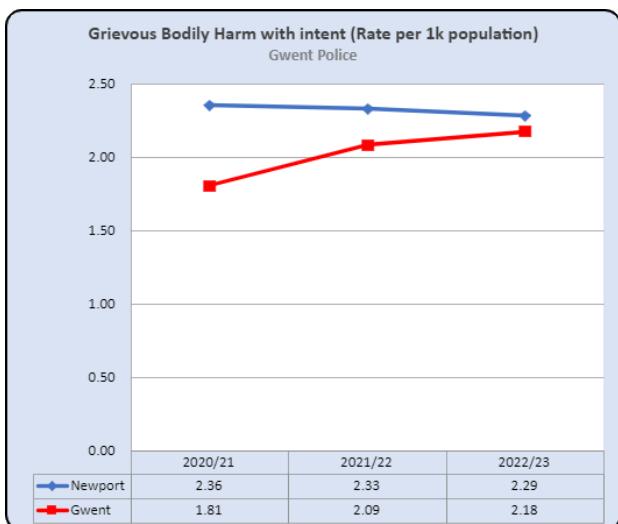
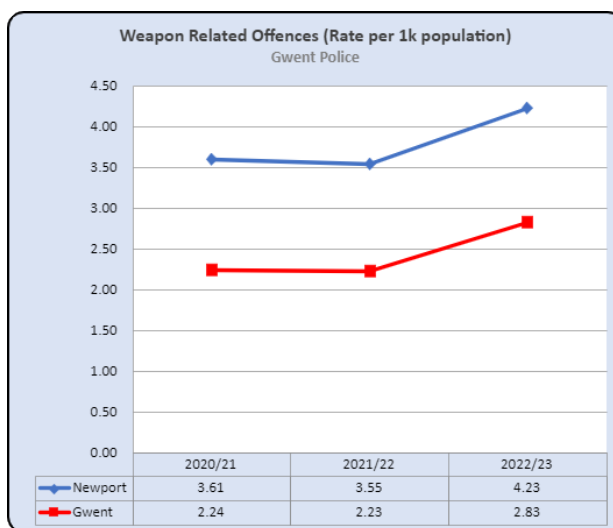


From the data above it is seen that since the end of covid restrictions and lockdowns, the incidents of knife crime have increased. This is likely due to a resuming of ‘normal’ life, increased social gatherings and a return to nighttime economy activities.

[https://www.newport.gov.uk/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/698009/serious-violence-strategy.pdf](#) p14

The use of weapons has been a rising issue over the years with cases increasing steadily. Once again Newport’s figures remain above the Gwent average for this crime set. However, Newport is not alone, and we know that weapon related crimes have been increasing across the UK over the last few years with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reporting a 21% increase from September 21-September 22¹¹.

Grievous Bodily Harm by its name indicates the severity of these offences. From the graph we can see that within the scope of Serious Violent Crime data, this is the most significant in terms of occurrences. More than 100x that of homicide. Violent crime and its increase within Newport have a direct impact on perceptions of safety within. Please see the below section on ‘The Voices of Citizens and Partners.’

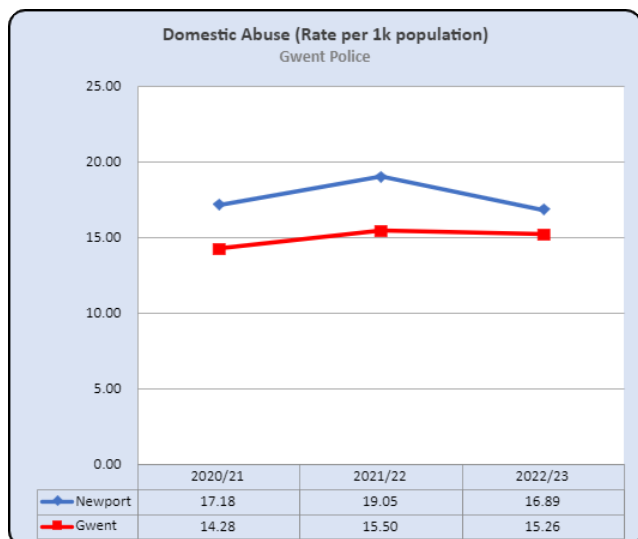


¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/knife-and-offensive-weapon-sentencing-statistics-july-to-september-2022#:~:text=The%20recent%20police%20recorded%20crime,in%20year%20ending%20September%202022.>

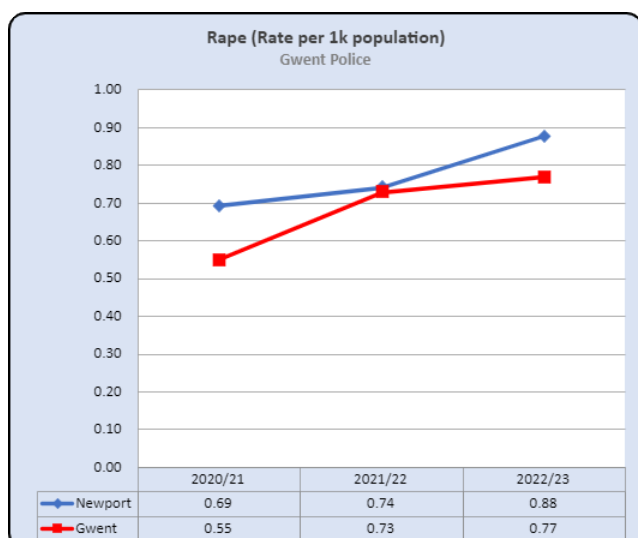
3. Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence is a three-pronged approach to tackling violence and abuse within homes and public spaces.

- Violence Against Women: This refers to any act of gender-based violence that results in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women which are rooted in unequal power dynamics between genders.
- Domestic Abuse: This is a pattern of controlling behaviour by one person against another person whom they have an intimate connection with be that a partner or family member. It can involve physical, emotional, psychological, and financial abuse, and is aimed at establishing power and control over the victim.
- Sexual Violence: This encompasses any non-consensual sexual act or behaviour inflicted on an individual against their will. It includes rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and any unwanted sexual advances or actions that violate a person's autonomy and dignity.
- Areas of Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation all sit within this area as all are predominately experienced by women highlighting these crimes as a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) issue.



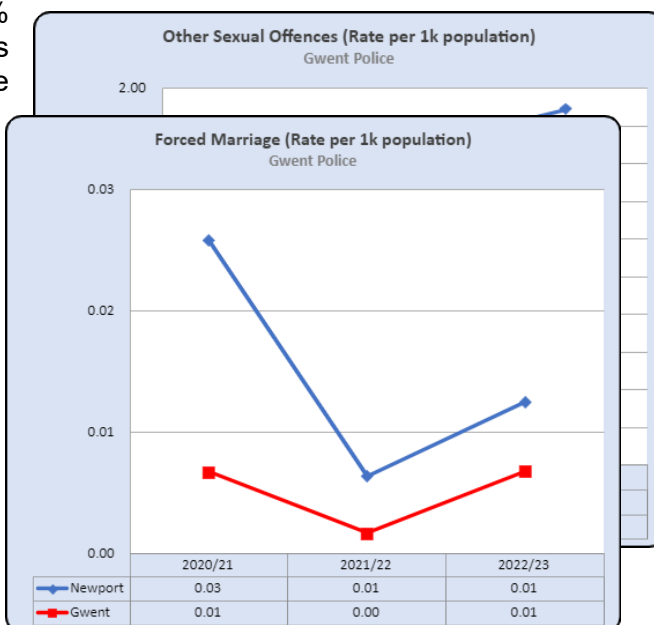
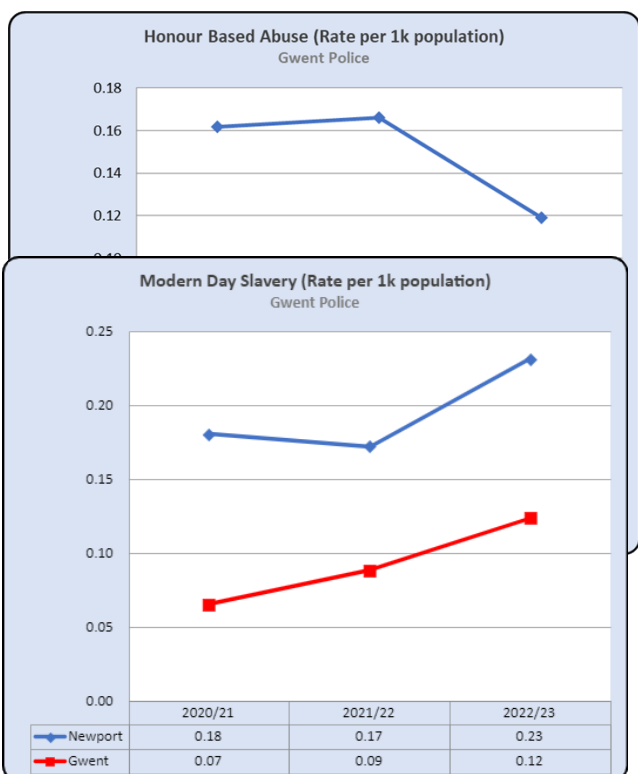
Domestic abuse saw a significant impact from Covid in Newport and across the UK Reporting and disclosures were all impacted by lockdowns, lack of easy access to services and being in further isolation with their abuser. A lasting impact of cases reported has seen that the complexity and severity of these cases has increased significantly with more sector support required. [08] Reflected on this crime data, it is the fact that many cases of DA will go unreported to police, and many will suffer in silence.



UK wide there has been an increase over the last few years in reports and prosecutions of rape and the data for Newport echoes this trend. Serious Sexual Violence attacks and Rape have a lasting impact on community safety and in particular women's sense of safety both in public and private settings. We know that within Newport there are hotspot areas for this crime category and whilst work has been done to mitigate some of these risks, there is still more to be done. Issues around the justice system in relation to rape offences is well publicised, with the Justice system and this publicity will give rise to reporting increase as we more see prosecutions and convictions increase.

These crime type can be considered as other touching, exposure and predatorial behaviour. This rise is much like the above rape statistics in that public perception and concern has grown of with this crime and as such is more reported by the public. National and international campaigns have led to greater public awareness and indignation.

This data set shows the number of police reports of Modern Day Slavery, of which the categories are sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude, Criminal exploitation, and can include organ removal; forced begging; forced benefit fraud; forced marriage and illegal adoption.¹² This is placed within the VAWDASV crime section as globally 71% of victims are women and girls, and often includes abuse of many kinds including sexual for both male and female victims. This data for Newport would need to be further considered to measure impact and resources needed.



As can be seen with many of the other data sets, Newport’s figures on HBA are significantly higher than the Gwent average, it is likely that this is due to Newport’s profile of higher levels of diversity and population density. HBA is a multifaceted issue and one that, due to its elevated level of risk, is under reported. We can therefore anecdotally assume that individual lived experience of Honour Based Abuse is significantly higher than is reported.

A spike in reporting and discovery of this crime could be linked to the limited travel options and lack of options for abroad marriages to take place during the pandemic. Again, much like HBA, this crime will

¹² [6.3679 PH Modern Slavery further materials \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

be under reported due to cultural community expectations and repercussions. Newport's levels once again remain high in compassion to Gwent due to population profile.

Community and Social Determinants

In addition to the crime data outlined and detailed above it is important that crime is not seen in isolation but rather as part of systemic community and social influences. Below are details of five additional areas that need to be considered.

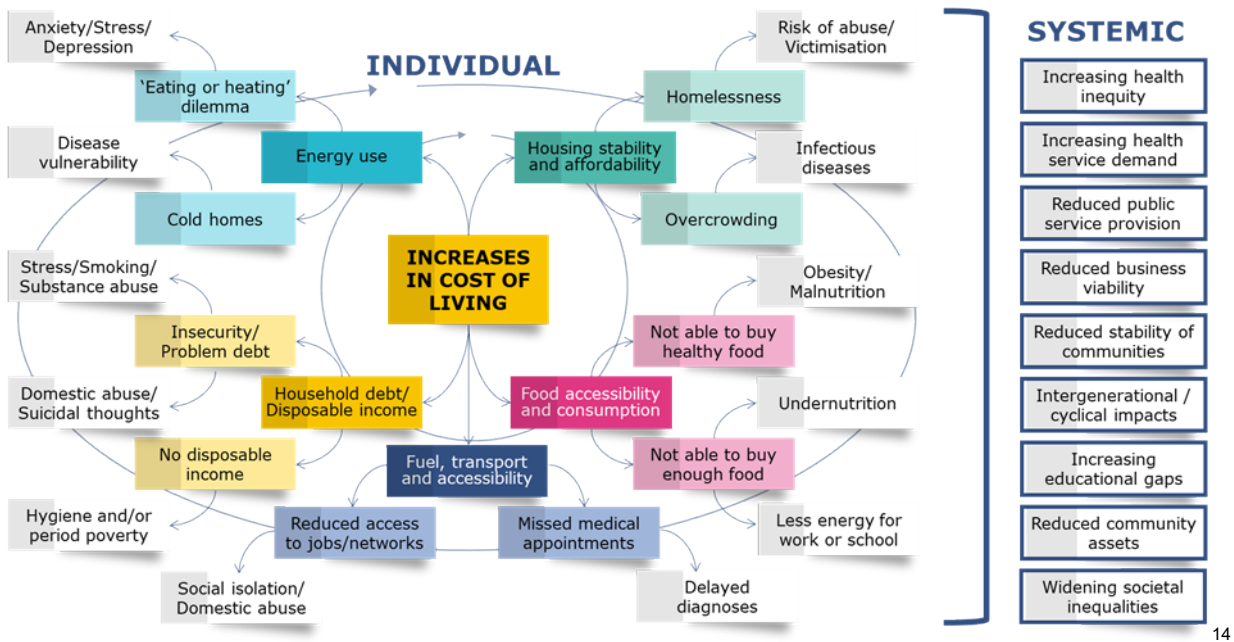
Newport Geography

According to the 2021 census data, Newport became the fastest growing unitary authority in Wales from 2011-2021.

Whilst Newport is growing, it is important to note that Newport is 70% rural, meaning that a significant portion of its 159,600 living in 30% of Newport land area. Population density such as this concentrates not only amenities but also issues.

Cost of living

The cost-of-living crisis impacts upon wider social factors beyond finances.¹³ Social issues and challenges contribute to health and community factors. The impact is varied and wide. With impacts not limited to community safety, this work is a key part of the ongoing work of Gwent as a Marmot Region.

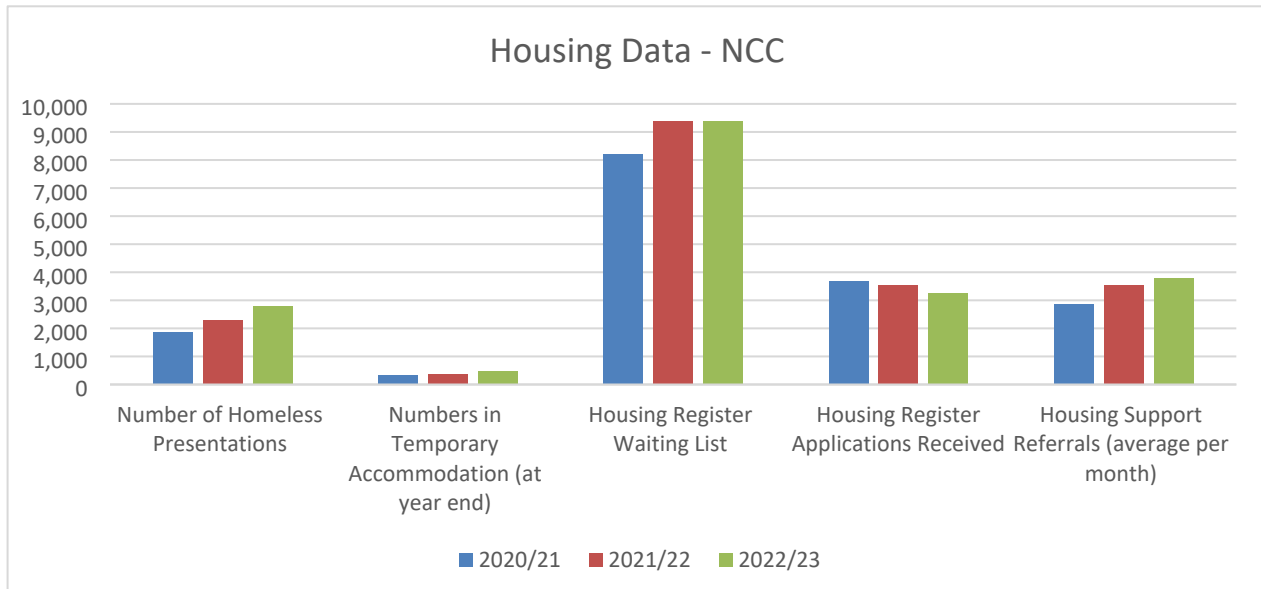


¹³ <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/the-cost-of-living-crisis-is-a-public-health-issue/>

¹⁴ [The cost-of-living crisis is a public health issue | British Politics and Policy at LSE](#)

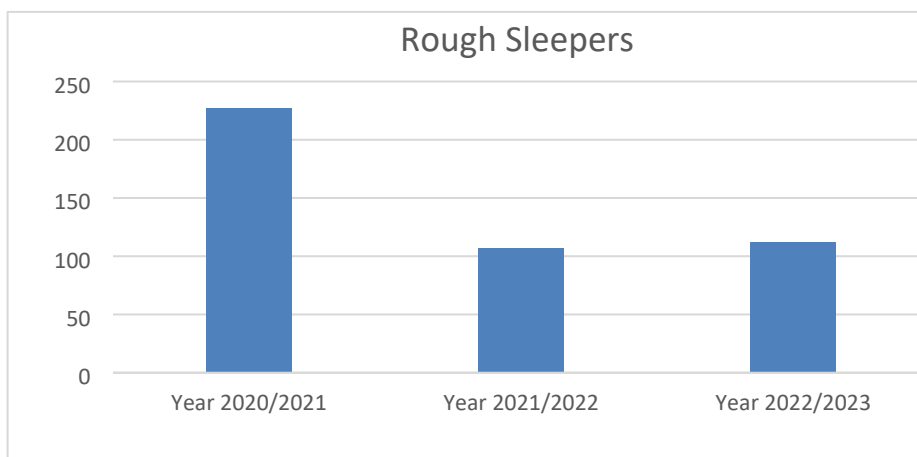
Housing Needs

Housing need, issues or difficulties alone are not precursors for Community Safety issues. However insecure housing can contribute and increase risk and perception of community safety issues. Research shows that stable housing options and ownership can have a positive impact on communities as a whole and reduce crimes and risks of criminal activity within a community.¹⁵



Rough Sleeping

Whilst the graph shows a decline in rough sleeping in Newport over the last 3 years. Support services and Housing interventions have contribute to this decline.



Impacts on community safety can be perception with increasing rough sleeping and the public feeling less safe, but this also puts a vulnerable group of individuals at an increased risk of abuse and violence.¹⁶

Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

¹⁵ <https://academic.oup.com/ej/advance-article/doi/10.1093/ej/uead040/7190617?login=false>

¹⁶ ["It would take your soul away": Major new research from Crisis reveals the inhumanity faced by people sleeping rough in England | Crisis | Together we will end homelessness](#)

Whilst the Home Office have now moved to a system of full dispersal, Newport has been a traditional dispersal area, bringing into the city a variety of nationalities and cultures. However, due to the trauma many suffer on their journey to the UK Asylum seekers and refugees are often vulnerable and isolated. This can make them a target for recruitment into crime or a victim of abuse and hate. Public perception of asylum seekers and refugees also has an impact.

Table 1: Asylum seekers arrived in Newport and granted leave to remain.

	Asylum seekers arrived. in Newport	Refugees (Granted leave to remain)
April 21 to March 22	198	168
April 22 to March 23	191	126
April 23 to January 24	199	176

Table 2: overview of total numbers of accommodated asylum seekers in Newport from March 2021- January 2024

□

Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
444	457	428	415	417	414	425	431	426	436	438	429	445
Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
445	483	491	485	483	489	483	483	460	463	450	444	429
Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24		
429	437	437	430	437	425	416	398	362	345	362		

Children and Young People

The number of children living in Newport is 31,410¹⁷ It is the intention of Welsh Government to ensure that children’s rights to be safe, healthy and to flourish are a top priority.¹⁸ As such Newport’s youngest residents will be considered, in their own right, as part of this SNA. Children and young

¹⁷ [Community Wellbeing Profile 2019 - Newport Population](#)

¹⁸ [CCFW-FGCW-Report- English 01.pdf \(childcomwales.org.uk\)](#)

people can be more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, and as such need to be considered in more detail.

Education Data

Education in Newport is made of 57 schools under the following categories.

- Primary Schools
- Secondary Schools
- Independent / Church Schools
- Special Schools
- Pupil Referral Units

School Year Groups	Nursery*	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
October 2023	1494	1975	1943	2080	2131	2066	2026	2068
Newport Pupils Total ¹⁹	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Grand Total
**	2007	2020	1976	1977	1992	865	682	27,308

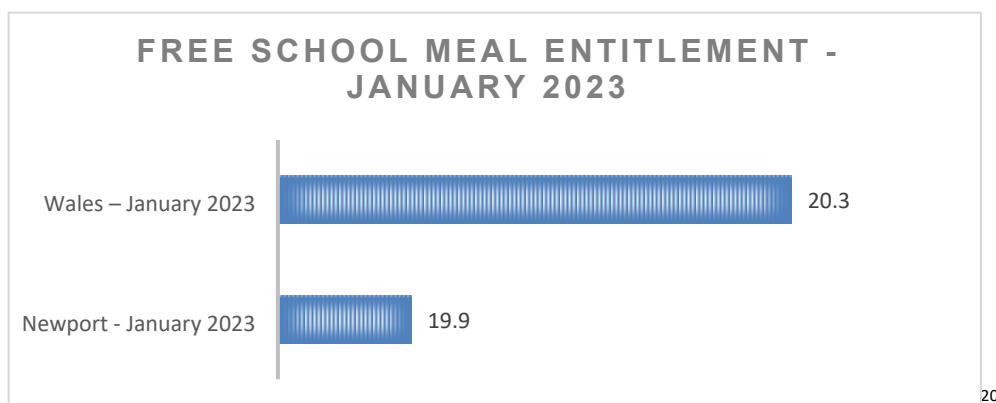
*Nursery count includes AM & PM sessions and 'rising 3' pupils

**Includes pupils in Learning Resource Bases

Below are some education-based statistics to better enable us to consider and reflect on the needs of Children and Young People in Newport and ensure their safety and protection.

It is noted that a need of robust data sets for education related to community safety to be established in line with additional data work already identified. This will enable future iterations of Safer Newport Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessments to be more rounded and considered. This will include the need for Welsh Government National data sets to be obtained for comparison and considerations.

Free School Meals



Newport is currently ranked in 11th position for the % of pupils entitled to free school meals.

Newport is in line with all Wales average % of pupils entitled to free school meals. This data can be used as an indicator for poverty but can also be underestimated due to families that do not claim this benefit.

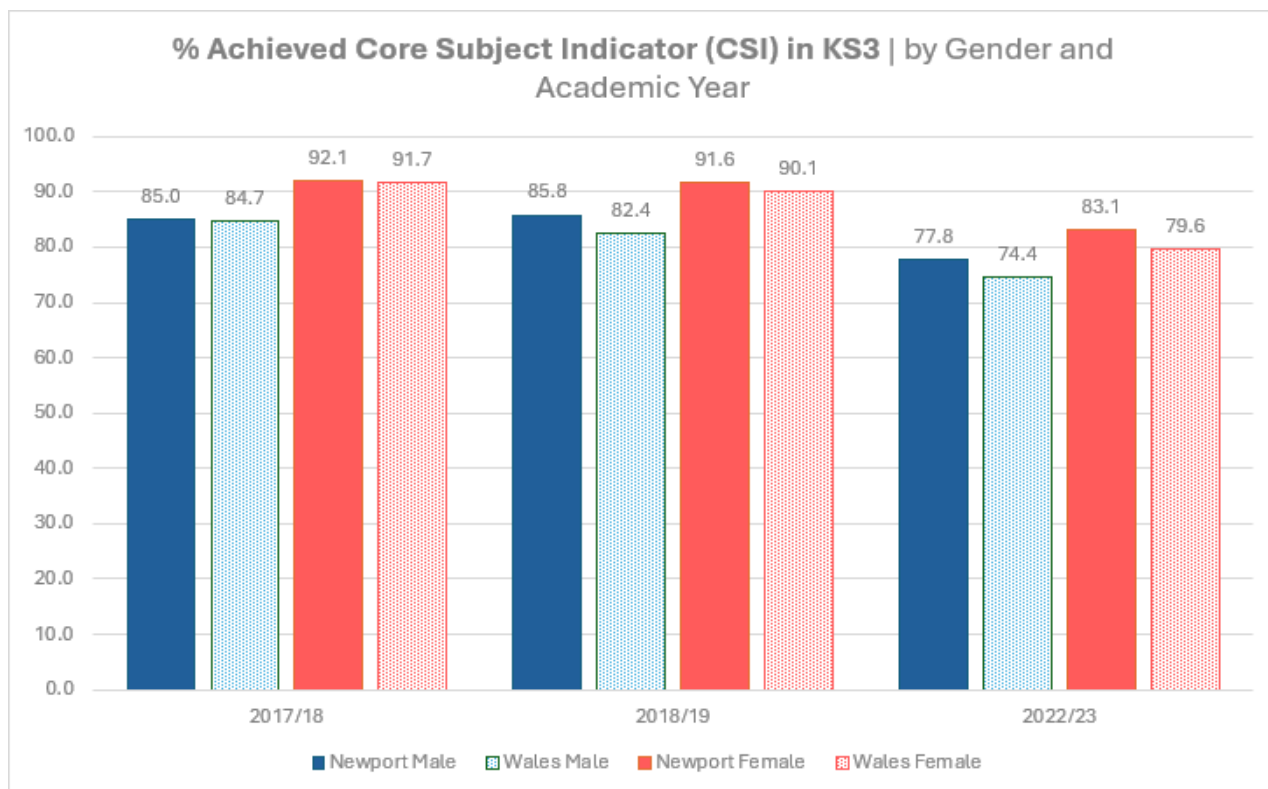
Attainment data

¹⁹ [Pupil numbers | Newport City Council](#) – October 2023

²⁰ <https://www.gov.wales/schools-census-results-january-2023-html#130502>

The below data set show Newport attainment data in comparison to Welsh average achievement data.

Key Stage 3 Attainment Data



21

The data above shows Newport’s attainment of Core Subject qualifications at Key Stage 3 remain above the Welsh average.

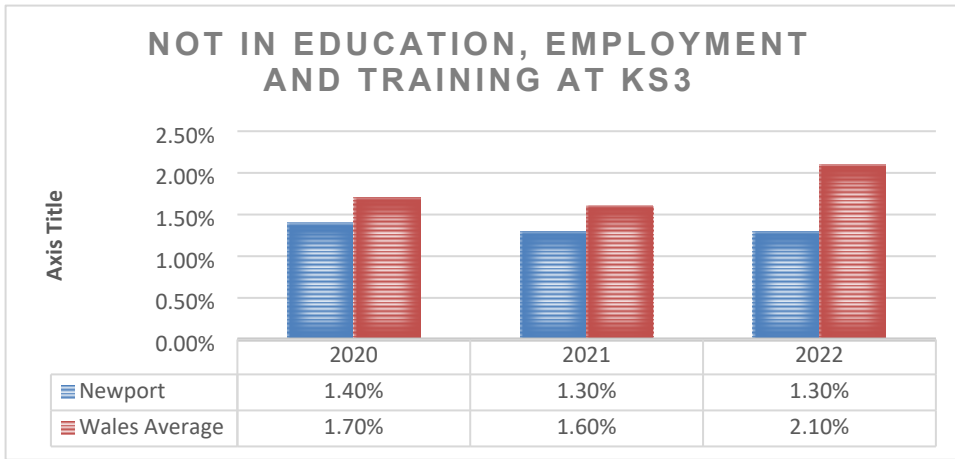
Key Stage 4 Attainment Data

Attainment data for Key Stage 4 is due to be released shortly and will be added to this section once available.

Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET)

The graph below shows the total percentage of pupils at the end of year 11 classed at Not in Education, Employment and Training.

²¹ [Academic achievement of pupils at Key Stage 3: September 2022 to August 2023 | GOV.WALES](#)



For 2022, the published Welsh Government Year 11 NEET figure in Newport was 1.3%, equating to 22 young people identified as NEET out of the total number of Yr11 cohort of 1717. This placed the local authority in joint 2nd position in Wales. The 2022 figure remains below the Wales average for the seventh consecutive year.

Young People who are recognised as NEET can have a higher probability of becoming social excluded or vulnerable to involvement in crime.

Exclusion data

Fixed term exclusions (up to 5 days) per 1000 pupils: 2015-2022

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Newport	40.9	38.3	37.5	36.1	24.6	27.9
Wales	30.9	34.4	36.6	41	28.7	27.6
Newport ranking	19 th	15 th	11 th	11 th	8 th	11 th (joint with Merthyr Tydfil)

Fixed term exclusions (over 5 days) per 1000 pupils: 2015-2022

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Newport	1.8	1.5	0.9	0.9	0.08	0.4
Wales	1.4	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.2	1.1
Newport ranking	16 th /15 th (joint with Powys)	11 th /12 th (joint with Swansea)	5 th	4 th	Data suppressed	1 st (joint with Cardiff)

Permanent exclusions per 1000 pupils 2015-2022

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Newport	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.6
Wales	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3
Newport ranking	14 th	14 th	10 th	22 nd (joint with Blaenau Gwent)

Within Newport LA, fixed term exclusion over five days is low. There has been a specific focus to re-engaging pupils back into school as quickly as possible. Permanent exclusions remain too high. The reduction of these remains a priority for the local authority. A newly developed 'Harmful Behaviours' protocol has also introduced to support the prevention of permanent exclusions. Newport LA has always sought to work collaboratively with all schools to seek an alternative to

permanent exclusion and the weekly secondary Managed Move Panel is integral to this. However, despite the strength of this panel and the multi-agency work that is continuing to develop, rates of permanent exclusion were above the Wales average both in the academic years 2020-21 and in 2021-22.

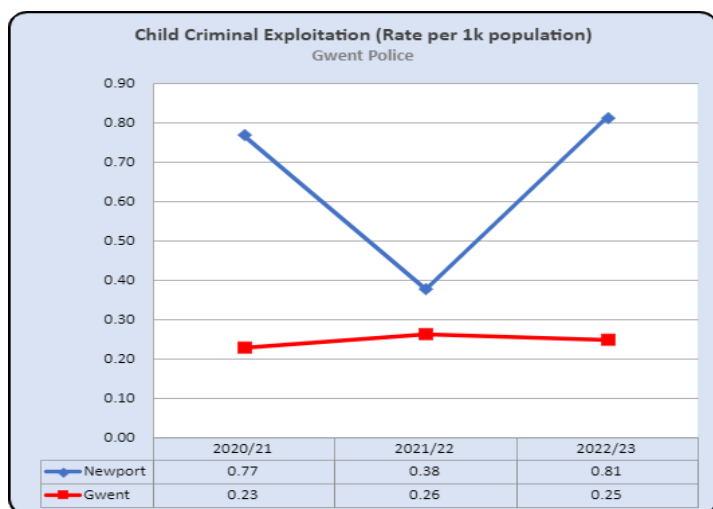
The ongoing collaboration of Education Service representatives along with NCC Youth Justice Service and Gwent Police is proving to have impact, particularly around supporting young people at risk of or who are being criminally exploited.

Children and Community Safety

Children and young people can be more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, and as such need to be considered in more detail.

Criminal Exploitation.

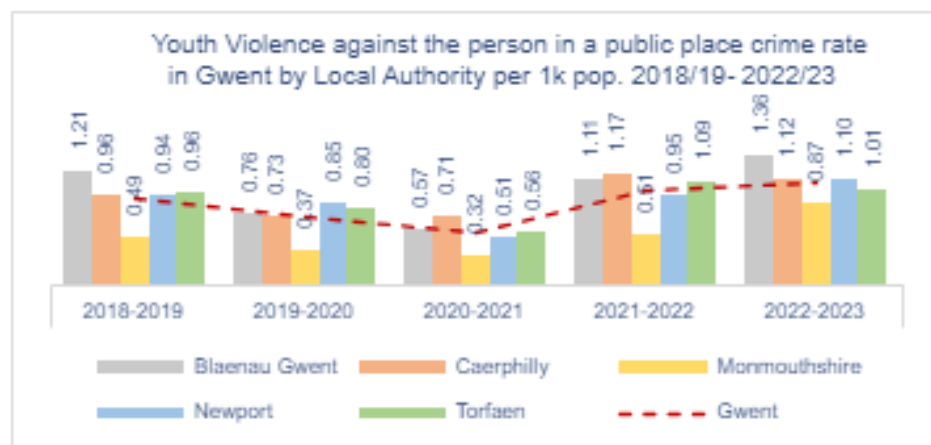
Criminal exploitation is child abuse where children and young people are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes.



This data set shows a significant increase in children within criminal exploitation. Links to this data set need to be considered within a wider context of, deprivation and need and further links into serious violence and organised crime groups.

Public Space Youth Violence

Youth violence against the person crime rate in Gwent has risen by 19% between 2018-19 and 2022-23. When comparing the 5-year average crime rate by local authority Blaenau Gwent has the highest with 1.00 crime per 1k pop., followed by Caerphilly with 0.94, Torfaen with 0.88, Newport with 0.87 and finally Monmouthshire with 0.51.



When comparing the 5-year average volume of crime in each local authority Caerphilly has the highest number with 169, followed by Newport with 135, Torfaen with 82, Blaenau Gwent with 69 and Monmouthshire with 48.²²

Youth Justice Service

The Youth Justice Service (YJS) is central to the Youth Justice System. There is a YJS in every local authority in Wales and England set up with the intention of reducing the risk of young people offending and re-offending, and to provide counsel and rehabilitation to those who do offend. Youth offending teams engage in a wide variety of work with young offenders aged 10 to 17 years to try and achieve their aims. Locally, the service brings together staff from a wide range of organisations including the local authority, police, probation service, health, and specialist project workers. By working together, sharing knowledge, skills, and experience, they aim to help young people make the right life choices and reduce youth offending.

Youth Justice Service Interventions	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Preventative Workstreams	131	194	220
Out of Disposal Workstreams	116	73	76
Statutory Court Workstreams	49	30	30
Year Totals	296	297	326

Health – Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board is the operational name of Aneurin Bevan University Local Health Board. The Health Board was established on the 1st of October 2009 and covers the areas of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, and Torfaen.

The below details hospital admissions based on assault type and age below.

Whilst numbers below have shown some areas where Newport is above the Welsh average, these have seen a decline in recent years. This needs to be considered more moving forward to monitor noted increases, particularly around Young People and Violent Assaults.

		Assault by sharp object (ICD10 code - X99)		
Local Authority Name	Authority	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Newport		5.17 □	7.03 □	1.92 □
Wales		3.17 □	2.87 □	2.37 □
<i>Summary of Wales Hospital Admissions for violence (Assault by sharp object - ICD10 code - X99) by Local Authority area, rates per 100,000 and covering 2016/17 to 2021/22</i>				
		All Violence & Assaults (ICD10 codes - X91-X99; Y00-Y09)		
Local Authority Name	Authority	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Newport		52.37 □	37.07 □	28.76 □
Wales		31.40 □	20.70 □	21.96 □

		Young People (Under 25) - Assault by sharp object (ICD10 code - X99)		
Local Authority Name	Authority	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Newport		4.24 □	6.25 □	0.00 □
Wales		3.20 □	3.19 □	2.86 □
<i>Summary of Wales Hospital Admissions for violence (Assault by sharp object - ICD10 code - X99) by Local Authority area, rates per 100,000 and covering 2016/17 to 2021/22</i>				
		Young People (Under 25) - All Violence & Assaults (ICD10 codes - X91-X99; Y00-Y09)		
Local Authority Name	Authority	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Newport		65.74 □	31.25 □	33.33 □
Wales		37.68 □	23.23 □	27.41 □

Public Protection

Illegal Tobacco

The sale of illegal tobacco is a threat to communities and businesses. Recorded intelligence within the National Trading Standards Intelligence Database for the Newport area, shows significant threats from organised crime groups running illegal tobacco pop-up shops in previously empty properties.

Officers in the last three years have:

- Submitted 444 reports to the intelligence database. (19% of all reports)
- Seized 1.5 million cigarettes and 225 kilos of tobacco with a retail value of £1,088,250.
- Seized cash, vaping products, and cannabis.
- Frozen 2 bank accounts with a value of £122,000.
- Closed 32 shops using ASB legislation, delivering a £1.5 million impact on the profits of the crime groups.
- Undertaken 11 investigations leading to 7 prosecutions.

Officers have raised concerns that other criminality may be operating within the crime groups including supply of illicit drugs, offensive weapons, money laundering, human trafficking, grant fraud, and other regulatory issues.

Illegal Disposable Vapes

In a similar vein to illegal tobacco, illegal disposable vapes represent an increasing threat to local communities and businesses. Organised crime groups have realised the potentially lucrative market and have either diversified their illegal tobacco activities to include illegal vapes or set up vape only shops which have a set dressing of legal vapes but are established to sell illegal vapes. In the past three years officers have:

- Submitted 61 reports to the intelligence database.
- Seized or removed from sale 2,344 illegal disposable vapes.
- Taken one successful prosecution.

In contrast to the results of underage test purchase sales of illegal tobacco which are rare, the sale of vapes (legal or illegal) to underage volunteers are high. In the last three years, out of 39 attempted underage test purchases of vapes 13 sales were made representing a failure rate of 30%. This propensity to sell vapes to underage persons is reflected in the increasing use of vapes among young people including when at school.

Environmental Protection

The Environmental Protection team continues to deliver Pollution Control, nuisance investigation and fixed penalty notice enforcement, working in partnership with numerous partner agencies. Notable updates.

32 Community Protection Warnings issued since January 2022

- 66 Fixed Penalty Notices issued by the Community Protection team since January 2022
- Continues to contribute to multi-agency Waste Crime project work & Operations to detect Waste carrying offences and provide advice & enforcement where necessary.
- Contributes to partnerships: Event Safety Advisory Group, Wentloog Stakeholder Group, Marshfield working group, Living Levels working group, Pollution Expert Panel. Fly Tipping Action Wales

The Environmental Protection team has identified potential immigration, Modern Day Slavery, money laundering, harassment & intimidation offences associated with cases of nuisance, and Anti-social Behaviour they are investigating, and multi-agency partnership working & intelligence sharing is ongoing.

Nighttime economy

Night-time economies are an important part of our towns and cities including Newport city centre. Most people enjoy a night out safely and sensibly and can create a rich vibrant and cultural environment. However, the night-time economy can be associated with issues, predominantly around alcohol fuelled violence and crime and antisocial behaviour.

To ensure Newport has a Safe Nighttime Economy Officers have worked closely with both the Licensing Trade and Responsible Authorities.

Officers in the last three years have:

- Obtained Purple Flag status highlighting that Newport City Centre has met or surpassed the standards of excellence in managing the evening and nighttime economy.
- Inspected approximately 2780 taxi drivers and vehicles during Nighttime Work.
- Undertaken 47 Nighttime enforcement operations ensuring compliance.
- Undertaken 12 Licensing reviews / interventions have on Licenced premises.
- Provided approximately 2500 Safeguarding training courses (CSE) to the taxi trade.

Officers have raised concerns that other criminality may be operating within the crime groups including supply of illicit drugs, money laundering, human trafficking, CSE and other regulatory issues.

Empty Properties on the City Centre.

As previously highlighted, there have been a significant number of premises utilised in the City Centre for 'Cannabis Grows'. Colleagues from Gwent Police executed warrants at various premises, seizing large numbers of Cannabis Plants/associated equipment and many arrests have been made. This issue clearly highlighted how vulnerable some business premises and unused flats above the ground floor are to criminality. The key objective is to work together as a partnership to understand who owns the respective properties and protect them from further illegal use.

Gwent Police have been working with Newport City Council's Environment and Public Protection Teams, City Centre Manager, and other key partners in response to these threats.

A database has now been compiled containing all the premises in the City Centre, utilising the knowledge across the partnerships and other systems, each property is being RAG rated based on the information known. The critical element is to establish those premises at 'High Risk' of illegal or criminal use. In February 2024 partners conducted a scoping exercise in the city to assist with the risk grading process.

Gwent Police will be working with NCC officers to encourage business owners to report concerns in the future to ensure early identification and action.

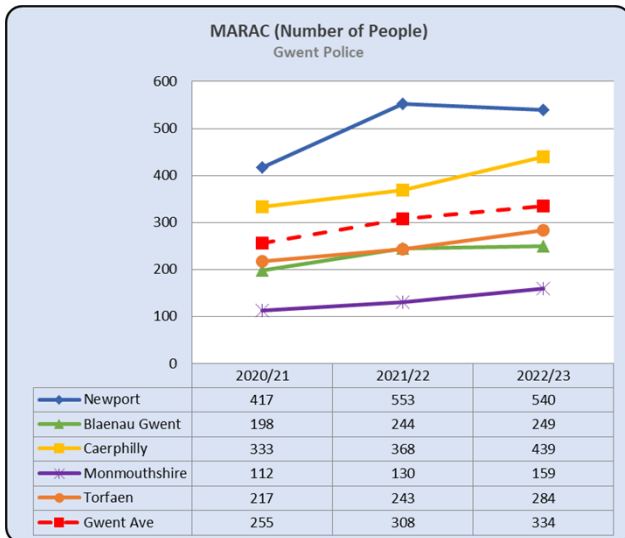
The database will allow a constant up to date record of all the premises in the City Centre which can be amended to reflect a change of use.

Colleagues in CCTV will be briefed on any premises identified as at risk or vulnerable to ensure any concerns are identified and addressed in a timely manner.

Additional VAWDASV Information

The below data is intervention data related to perpetrators of VAWDASV and, in particular Domestic abuse.

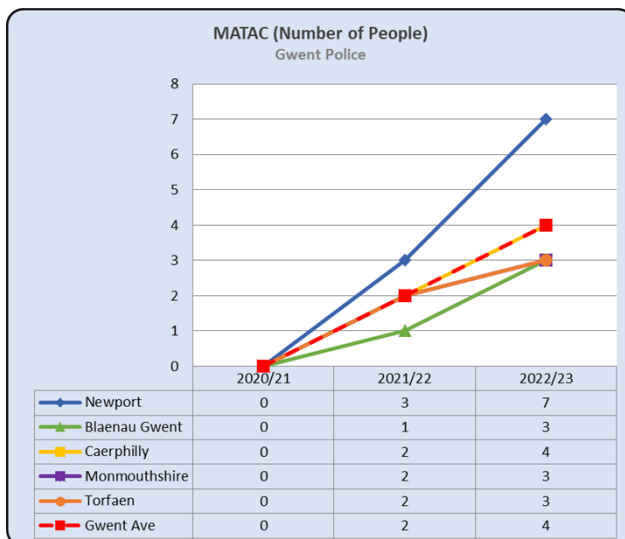
VAWDASV (MARAC and MATAAC)



A MARAC is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

After sharing all relevant information they have about a victim, the representatives discuss options for increasing the safety of the victim and turn these into a co-ordinated action plan. The primary focus of the MARAC is to safeguard the adult victim. The MARAC will also make links with other fora to

safeguard children and manage the behaviour of the perpetrator. At the heart of a MARAC is the working assumption that no single agency or individual can see the complete picture of the life of a victim, but all may have insights that are crucial to their safety. The victim does not attend the meeting but is represented by an IDVA who speaks on their behalf. Newport Data sits clearly above the Gwent average with notable spikes related to lockdowns and their impacts on victims of DA.



MATAAC refers to the Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination process of identifying and tackling serial perpetrators of domestic abuse perpetrators. The overarching objectives of the MATAAC are to safeguard adults and children at risk of domestic abuse and to reduce the offending of domestic abuse perpetrators.

** Caveat is the figures are estimates on the basis that Police and Probation have not really rolled out a "referral process" for MATAAC yet. Because it is a pilot that has been running for the last 2 years, nominations were based on professional judgement initially until the RFG tool we use was introduced. So initially, capacity was set at 5 for the east and 5 for the west then for the last financial year when the RFG

tool kicked in, capacity was increased to 10 for the west and 10 for the east.

Adults at Risk of Sexual Exploitation

Horizon Exploitation Support Service based within Cyfannol Women's aid provides information, advice, support and advocacy services to adults and young people in Gwent who are currently, or are at risk of, experiencing sexual or financial exploitation.

The service is open to all adults and young people regardless of the environment in which they are being exploited, for example: Street-based, Parlours/brothels, Online, Home, People who have been trafficked, People providing telephone service.²³

Below are the numbers of women who have been supported by Horizon service.

- 2020- SEASS supported 15 people.
- 2021- Horizon supported 96 people.

²³ [Horizon Exploitation Support Service - Cyfannol Women's Aid](#)

- 2022- Horizon supported 47 people
- 2023- Horizon supported 81 people.

Probation Service

Gwent MAPPA

Gwent MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) are a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by individuals who have committed the most serious sexual, violent, and terrorist offences (MAPPA-eligible individuals) under the provisions of sections 325 to 327B of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. They bring together the Police, Probation and Prison Services in each of the 42 Areas in England and Wales into what is known as the MAPPA Responsible Authority.

There are 4 categories of MAPPA-eligible individual:

- Category 1 –subject to sex offender notification requirements.
- Category 2 – mainly violent offenders sentenced to 12 months or more imprisonment or a hospital order.
- Category 3 – individuals who do not qualify under Categories 1, 2 or 4 but whose offences pose a risk of serious harm.
- Category 4 – terrorism convicted and terrorism risk individuals.

There are three levels of management to ensure that resources are focused where they are most needed: generally, those presenting the higher risks of serious harm.

- Level 1 is where the individual is managed by the lead agency with information exchange and multi-agency support as required but without formal MAPPA meetings.
- Level 2 is where formal MAPPA meetings are required to manage the individual.
- Level 3 is where risk management plans require the attendance and commitment of resources at a senior level at MAPPA meetings.

The following data is Gwent Wide. ²⁴

MAPPA-eligible individuals on 31 March 2023

	Category 1: Subject to sex offender notification requirements	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 1	810	138	-	948
Level 2	13	11	13	37
Level 3	1	0	1	2
Total	824	149	14	987

²⁴ [Multi-agency public protection arrangements \(MAPPA\) annual reports 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114122/mappa-annual-reports-2022-to-2023.pdf)

MAPPA-eligible offenders in Levels 2 and 3 by category (yearly total)

	Category 1: Subject to sex offender notification requirements	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 2	13	17	24	54
Level 3	3	0	1	4
Total	16	17	25	58

Category 1 cautioned or convicted for breach of notification requirements	36
---	----

Category 1 who have had their life time notification revoked on application	1
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Restrictive orders for Category 1 offenders

Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO)	53
SHPO with foreign travel restriction	0
Notification Order	1

Number of individuals who became subject to sex offender notification requirements following a breach(es) of a Sexual Risk Order (SRO)	0
--	---

Level 2 and 3 individuals returned to custody

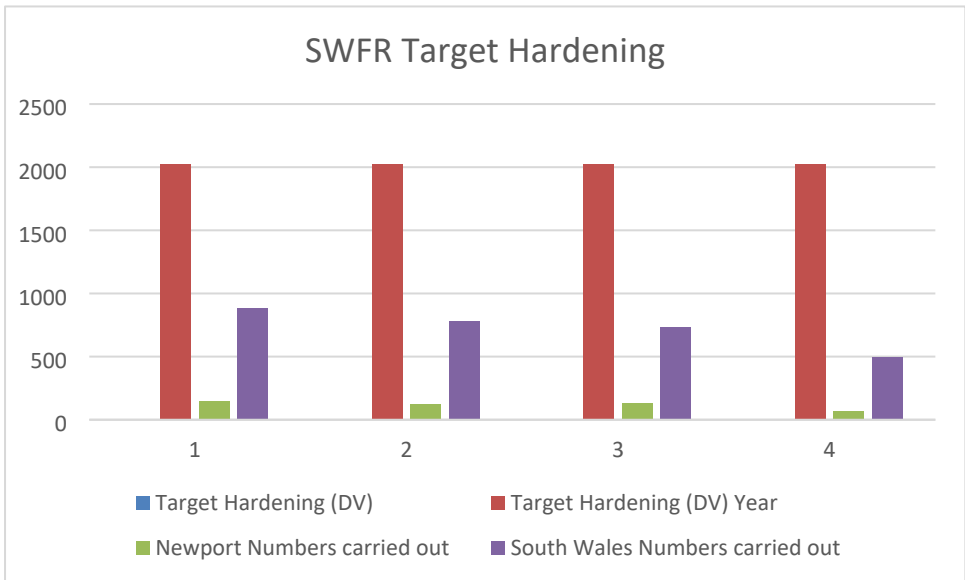
Returned to custody for breach of licence	Category 1: Subject to notification requirements	Category 2: Violent offenders	Category 3: Other dangerous offenders	Total
Level 2	8	6	9	23
Level 3	2	0	0	2
Total	10	6	9	25

Breach of SHPO	Total
Level 2	0
Level 3	1
Total	1

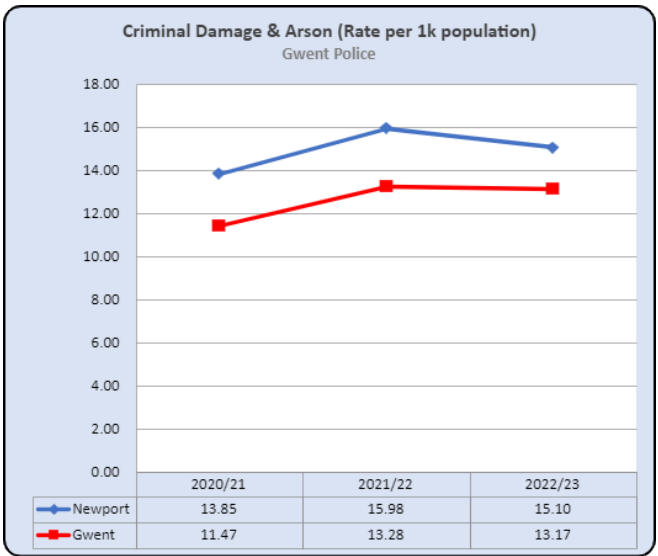
Total number of individuals subject to sex offender notification requirements per 100,000 population	158
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South Wales Fire and Rescue

South Wales Fire and Rescue data has specific links into VAWDASV and ASB crime types specifically.



Target hardening is a service provided by SWFRS to support victims of domestic abuse by securing their home and by providing them with personal protective equipment.



Gwent Police data shows that Criminal Damage and Arson have risen over the last few years but have not spiked significantly above the Gwent average, or within Gwent as a whole. There is a plateauing of this within Gwent with a slight decline in Newport. Criminal Damage and Arson have significant impacts on Community Safety and Community feelings of safety within a given area.

The specific areas of fire related activity relate more to ASB are.

- All Deliberate fires. 3 types.
- Malicious false Alarms.
- Attack on crews.

The below data is broken down to the 3 fire stations in Newport.



Breakdown by financial year and current financial year to date

	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	Mar 2021	Mar 2022	Mar 2023
Total Fires Attended	306	321	273	211	233	361
Primary Fire	85	89	85	64	80	100
Accidental Dwelling Fires Attended	7	20	24	20	23	25
Secondary Fire	221	232	188	147	153	261
Deliberate Fire	264	239	213	168	171	274
Deliberate refuse fires attended	182	145	136	122	124	164
Deliberate grass fires attended	26	61	29	16	8	60
Deliberate Vehicle fires attended	37	13	28	17	17	12
Special Service Call	141	132	119	117	120	138
Total RTCs Attended	35	39	31	20	26	27
Automatic False Alarms	321	287	305	315	302	372
Malicious False Alarms	22	16	33	18	24	23
Attack on Crews	0	0	1	0	1	1
Total Deaths and Injuries In Fires	0	3	2	1	1	2



Breakdown by financial year and current financial year to date

	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	Mar 2021	Mar 2022	Mar 2023
Total Fires Attended	337	346	297	297	261	356
Primary Fire	102	109	102	94	80	100
Accidental Dwelling Fires Attended	30	19	25	16	20	23
Secondary Fire	235	237	195	203	181	256
Deliberate Fire	270	285	227	245	198	298
Deliberate refuse fires attended	170	159	138	162	127	181
Deliberate grass fires attended	43	55	34	21	26	48
Deliberate Vehicle fires attended	29	52	42	39	23	31
Special Service Call	144	96	138	125	123	144
Total RTCs Attended	52	39	39	27	24	29
Automatic False Alarms	203	178	170	128	180	184
Malicious False Alarms	11	16	19	14	25	19
Attack on Crews	0	1	0	3	1	1
Total Deaths and Injuries In Fires	0	4	6	2	4	0



Breakdown by financial year and current financial year to date

	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	Mar 2021	Mar 2022	Mar 2023
Total Fires Attended	226	211	229	172	266	249
Primary Fire	66	72	83	57	83	89
Accidental Dwelling Fires Attended	24	21	29	26	26	22
Secondary Fire	160	139	146	115	183	160
Deliberate Fire	175	153	175	125	207	204
Deliberate refuse fires attended	122	96	95	88	133	89
Deliberate grass fires attended	12	27	32	16	36	55
Deliberate Vehicle fires attended	20	16	29	15	26	40
Special Service Call	133	102	129	106	129	137
Total RTCs Attended	48	43	30	18	25	25
Automatic False Alarms	195	149	192	186	185	185
Malicious False Alarms	8	8	10	2	15	14
Attack on Crews	0	1	3	0	1	0
Total Deaths and Injuries In Fires	3	5	0	0	4	1

CONTEST

The aim of CONTEST, the UK's counter-terrorism strategy, is to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK, its citizens, and interests overseas, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. It is an ideologically agnostic approach designed to tackle current and emerging threats.

CONTEST consists of four elements: Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare.

Partnership arrangements

Within Newport there are specific partnership arrangements for counter terrorism. These are subject to Home Office monitoring and Council scrutiny and are discharged through our Prevent and Protect Partnership Board. Whilst these statutory responsibilities sit outside of the Community Safety Partnership, there are very clear linkages between each partnership, specifically when looking at communities at risk, vulnerability, susceptibility, and organised crime.

Assessing risk

Counter terrorism risk is assessed at the local, regional, and national level. Data and intelligence are assessed, and a range of mitigations are agreed and put in place to reduce risk in the area. The nature of this data and intelligence is such that it is not included within the Strategic Needs Assessment.

Channel

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being susceptible to being drawn into extremism.

The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people susceptible to extremism by:

- identifying individuals at risk
- assessing the nature and extent of that risk
- developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned

Sections 36 to 41 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 set out the duty on local authorities and partners of local panels to provide support for people vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism.

The Voices of Citizens and Partners

A key part of the development of this Strategic Needs Assessment is the voices and perceptions of the public, key partners, and business of Newport. Without these views it is not possible to establish a true reflection of the impact of community safety issues and to establish clear ways of prevention moving forward.

To do this there have been a variety of engagement opportunities. They are outlined below.

Engagement	Method	Period	Responses
City Centre Safety Survey	Bus Wi-Fi	19 th April – 31 st July 2023	1450
Citizens Panel Survey	Online* and Paper	1 st August – 28 August 2023	185
Community Safety Perception Survey	Online* and Paper	31 st July – 10 September 2023	105
Community Safety Perception Survey	Bus Wi-Fi*	14 th September - 19 October 2023	1836
Youth Forum /Council Community Safety Focus Group	In person	17 th November 2023	10
Safer Newport - Community Safety Partnership Survey	Online*	15 January -16 th February 2024	4
Community Safety Business Survey	Online* and in person	15 January -16 th February 2024	24
Community Safety Perception Survey – Community Languages**	Online*	15 January -16 th February 2024	17
Community Safety Survey – Councillors	Online*	15 January -16 th February 2024	0
Focus Group – The Sanctuary, Newport	In Person	30 th January 2024	15
Total			3646

* All online and paper engagement has been open in both English and Welsh

** Community Language list - Cymraeg (Wales), Čeština (Czechia), English (United Kingdom), Magyar (Hungarian), Polski (Polish), Русский (Russia), Româna (Romania), Slovenčina (Slovakia), Türkçe (Turkish), Українська (Ukraine), বাংলা (Bengali), ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi Indian, 中文 – 汉语 (Chinese), Arabic, Urdu

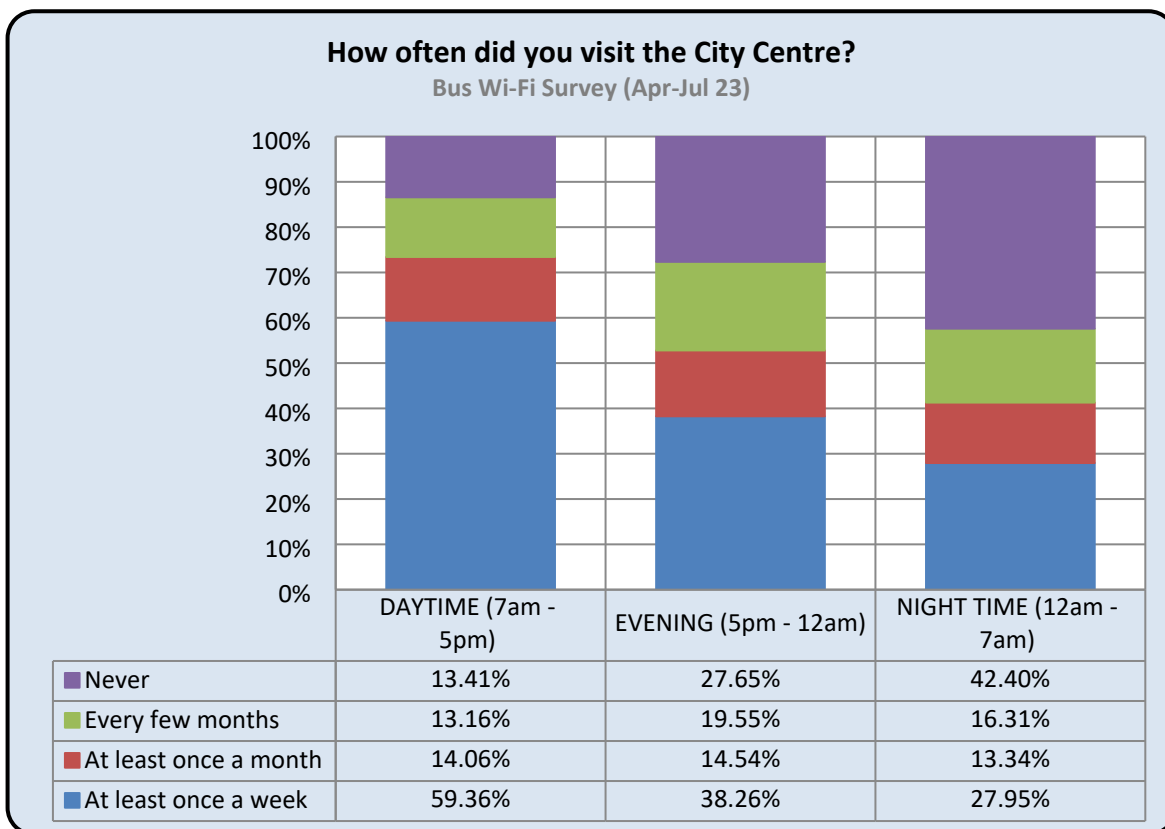
Consultation Surveys

There has been a great number of public responses to our surveys with 3,642 members of the public and 4 partner organisations responding. Full responses can be requested via our full data pack request as stated on page 5.

The surveys sought to gain an understating of the public’s feelings, experiences, and perceptions of safety within Newport. The questions were focused on the City Centre, the area in which they live prioritisation of council spending and organisational concerns.

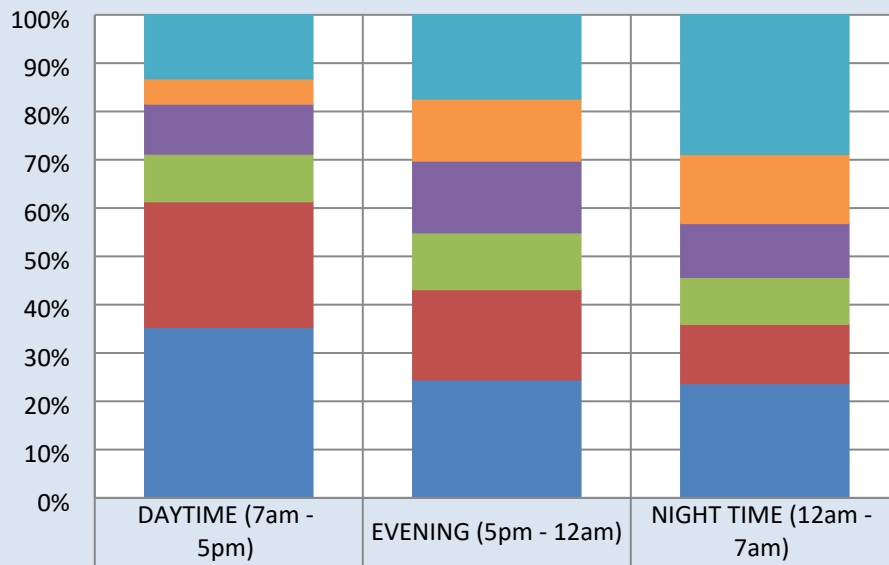
City Centre Safety Survey

This Survey was publicly available via Bus Wi-Fi and was focused on safety within the City Centre, with questions based on day and night differences of perception or experience of safety.



How safe do you feel in Newport City Centre?

Bus Wi-Fi Survey (Apr-Jul 23)



Don't know or unsure	13.17%	17.35%	28.83%
Very unsafe	5.22%	12.84%	14.29%
Fairly unsafe	10.36%	14.85%	11.16%
Neither safe or unsafe	9.86%	11.76%	9.72%
Fairly safe	26.01%	18.68%	12.26%
Very safe	35.38%	24.52%	23.75%

How safe do you feel in Newport City Centre?

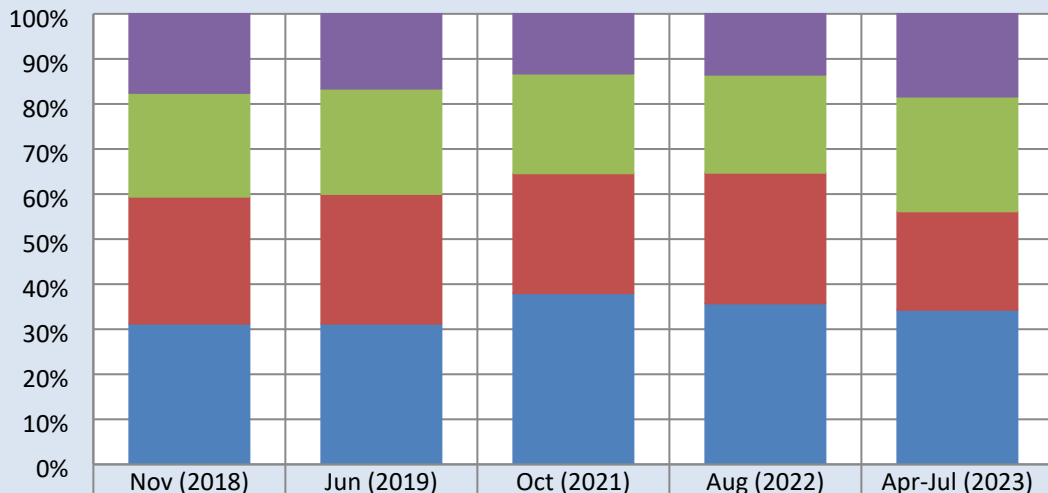
Bus Wi-Fi Survey (Apr-Jul 23)

100%

This final

Were you worried that you would be a victim of violent crime in Newport City Centre between the hours of midnight and 7am?

Bus Wi-Fi Survey



Very worried	17.54%	16.59%	13.24%	13.49%	18.35%
Fairly worried	23.03%	23.38%	22.14%	21.77%	25.47%
Not very worried	28.19%	28.80%	26.63%	29.00%	21.87%
Not at all worried	31.24%	31.23%	38.00%	35.74%	34.31%

graph shows the changes in safety perception in the city centre over the last 5 years.

Community Safety Perception Survey

This section combines the responses from the following surveys.

Citizens Panel Survey	Online* and Paper	1 st August – 28 August 2023	185
Community Safety Perception Survey	Online* and Paper	31 st July – 10 September 2023	105
Community Safety Perception Survey	Bus Wi-Fi*	14 th September - 19 October 2023	1836

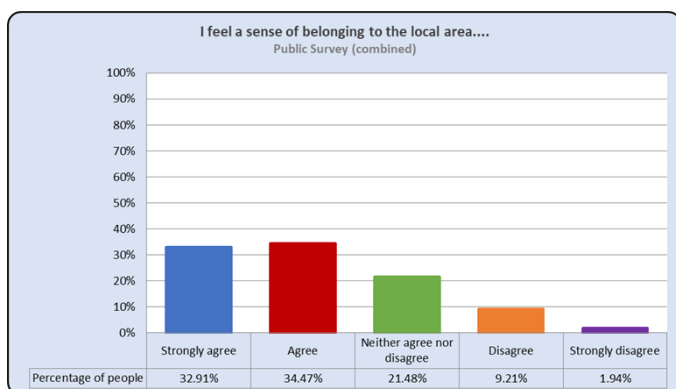
This survey was made available to the public key findings of these surveys combined are below and broken down into the following 3 sections.

- 1 - Community Cohesion
- 2 – Community Safety
- 3 – Prioritisation

1. Community Cohesion

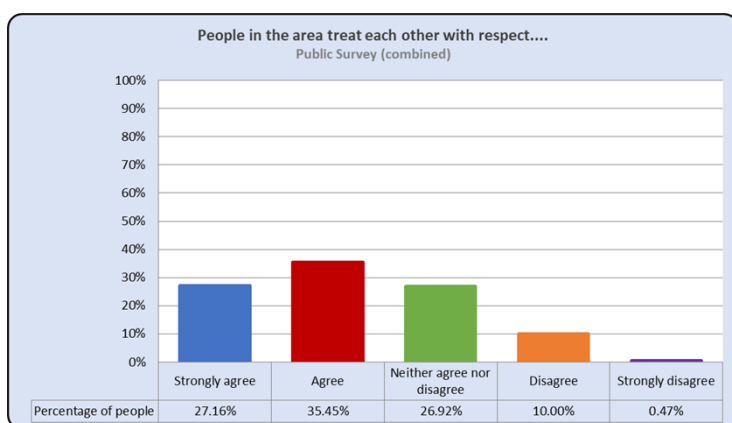
The following questions were asked to establish public perceptions and experience of Community Cohesion and belonging.

I feel a sense of belonging to the local area....



The combined results show that 67.37% of respondents agreed that they felt a sense of belonging to the local area, which compared to 55.77% from the public wide survey, 67.93% from the Citizens Panel, and 67.98% from the Bus Wi-Fi Survey.

People in the area treat each other with respect....

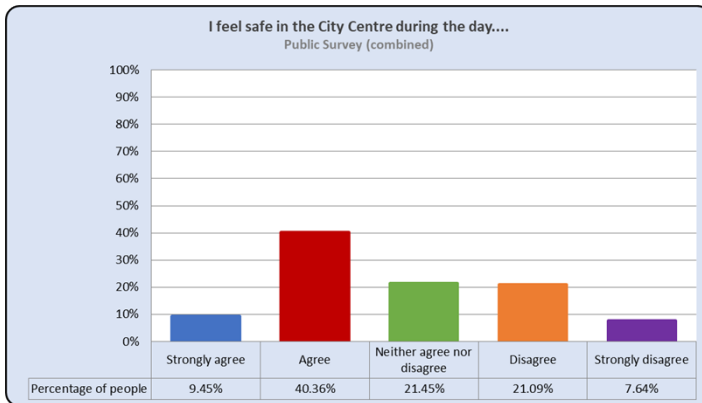


The combined results show that 62.61% of respondents agreed that people in the area treat each other with respect, which compared to 44.44% from the public wide survey, 63.04% from the Citizens Panel, and 63.45% from the Bus Wi-Fi Survey.

2. Community Safety

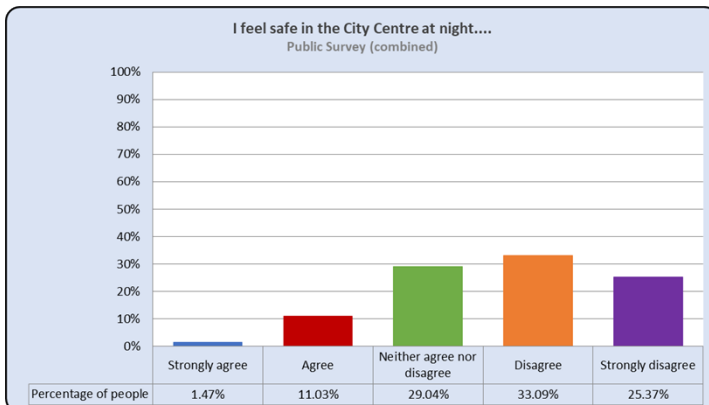
The following questions were asked to establish public perceptions and experience of safety and were asked separate questions relating to night and day and areas around the city.

I feel safe in the City Centre during the day....



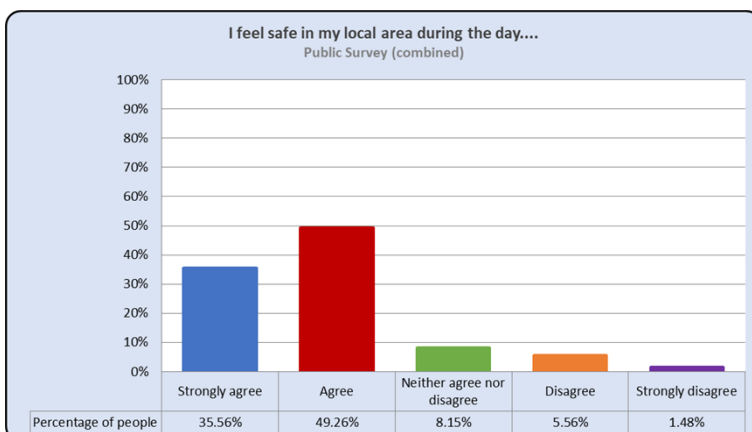
The combined results show that 49.82% of respondents agreed they felt safe in the City Centre during the day, which compared to 35.56% from the public wide survey, and 56.76% from the Citizens Panel.

I feel safe in the City Centre at night....



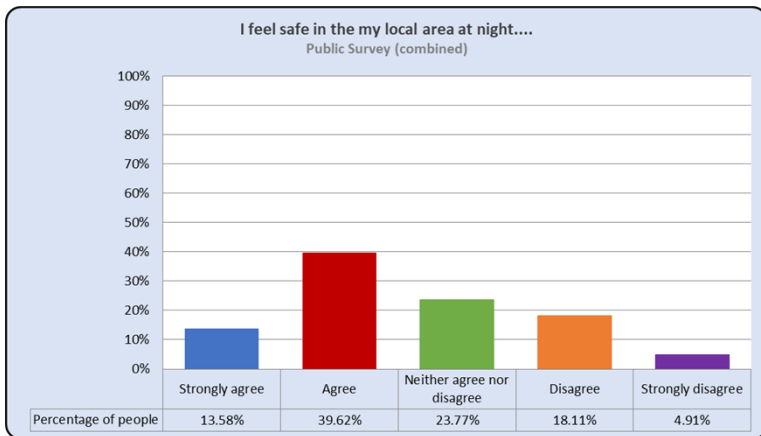
The combined results show that 12.50% of respondents agreed they felt safe in the City Centre at night, which compared to 8.99% from the public wide survey, and 14.21% from the Citizens Panel.

I feel safe in my local area during the day....



The combined results show that 84.81% of respondents agreed they felt safe in their local area during the day, which compared to 75.86% from the public wide survey, and 89.07% from the Citizens Panel.

I feel safe in my local area at night....



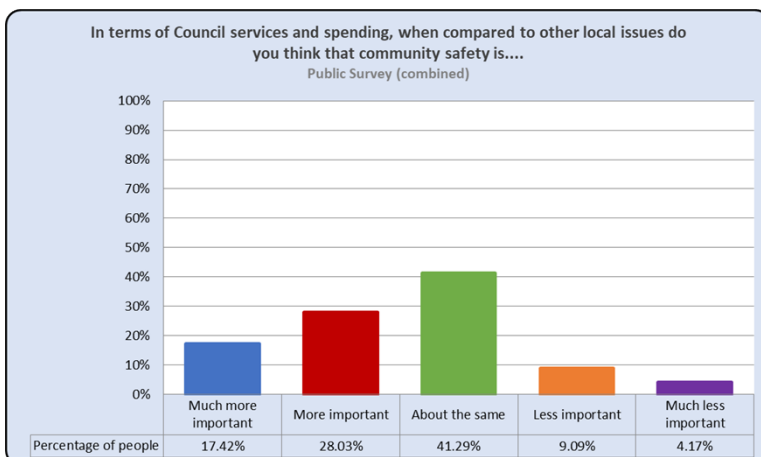
The combined results show that 53.21% of respondents agreed they felt safe in the City Centre at night, which compared to 48.84% from the public wide survey, and 55.31% from the Citizens Panel.

Through Bus Wi-Fi we only asked if they felt safe in their local area (regardless of day or night), with 62.53% agreeing they felt safe.

3. Prioritisation

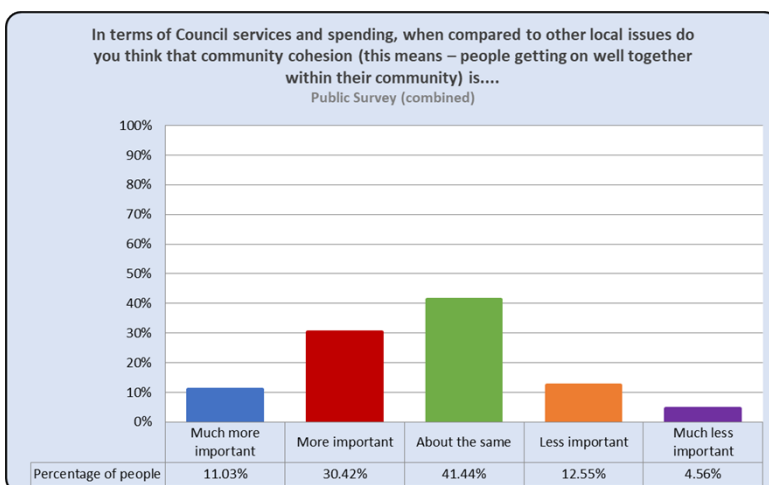
The following questions were asked to establish public opinion on the role community safety has regarding public spend and emphasis they feel the council ought to place on this issue.

In terms of Council services and spending, when compared to other local issues do you think that community safety is....



The combined results show that 45.45% of respondents agreed that community safety is much more or more important in terms of Council services and spending, when compared to other local issues, which compared to 48.19% from the public wide survey, and 44.20% from the Citizens Panel.

In terms of Council services and spending, when compared to other local issues do you think that community cohesion (this means – people getting on well together within their community) is....



The combined results show that 41.44% of respondents agreed that community cohesion is much more or more important in terms of Council services and spending, when compared to other local issues, which compared to 45.68% from the public wide survey, and 39.56% from the Citizens Panel.

Community Safety Perception – Newport Youth Forum.

Newport Youth Forum’s November meeting involved a focus group session on Community Safety. A summary of the discussion is below.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Summary of responses</u>
Q1: In General, how safe do you feel in Newport?	Familiarity – Family/ Roots – Used it.
Q2: What makes you feel more or less safe?	Less Safe – Increase of electric vehicles (Scooters/Bikes)
Q3: Do you feel safe in school?	No – Harassment / Sexism – Racism
Q4: As a female do you feel safe? Or do you feel particularly unsafe as a female?	Unsafe – Sexism/harassment
Q5: As a male do you feel safe? Or do you feel particularly unsafe as a male?	No answer here
Q6: Do you feel safe as a member of the LGBTQ+ community?	No – Lack of awareness. – Discrimination
Q7: What are your top 3 community safety concerns?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women’s Safety 2. Dangerous Vehicles 3. Unknown groups approaching / targeting young people in City Centre

Community Safety Perception Survey – Community Languages

This survey was made available to the public in 15 languages. There were 17 responses to this survey in the following languages.

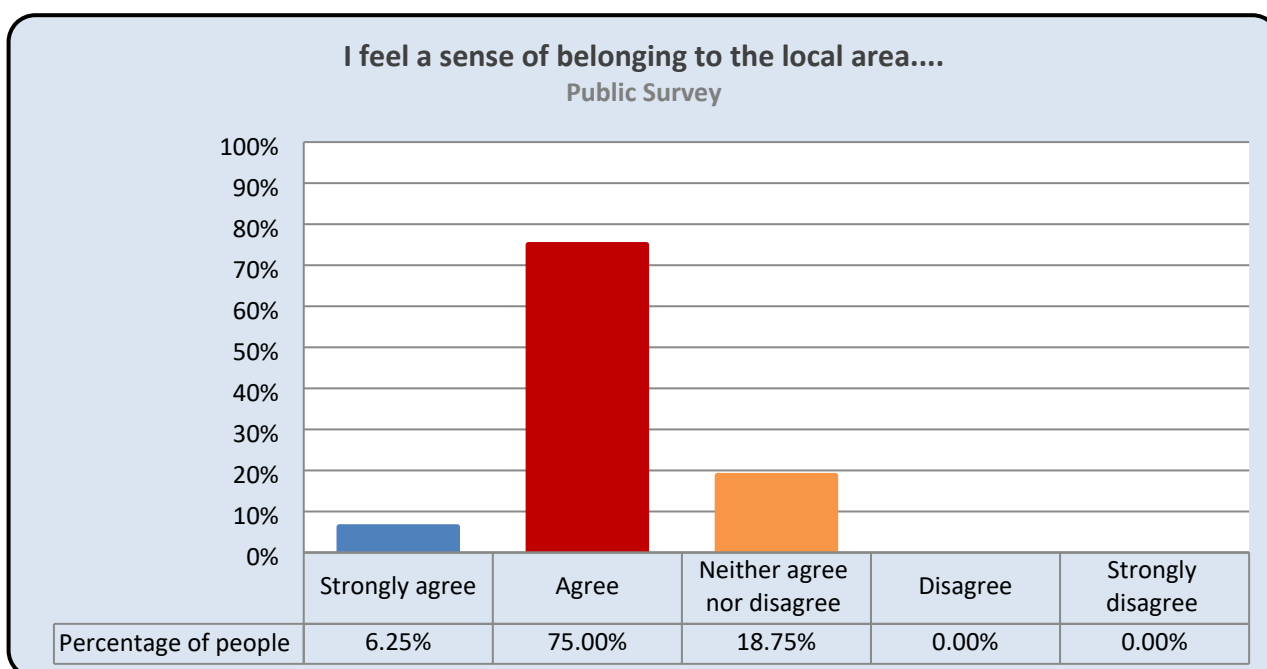
<u>Language</u>	<u>Number of respondents.</u>
Čeština (Czechia)	1
Русский (Russia)	6
Українська (Ukraine)	9
English	1

The responses to this survey are broken down into the following 3 sections.

- 1 - Community Cohesion
- 2 – Community Safety
- 3 – Prioritisation

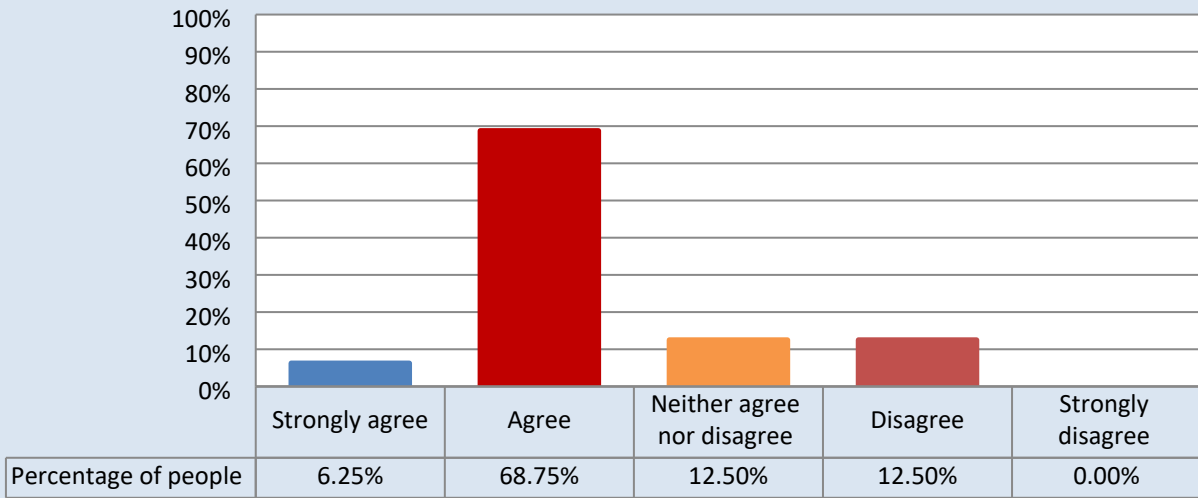
1. Community Cohesion

The following questions were asked to establish public perceptions and experience of Community Cohesion and belonging.



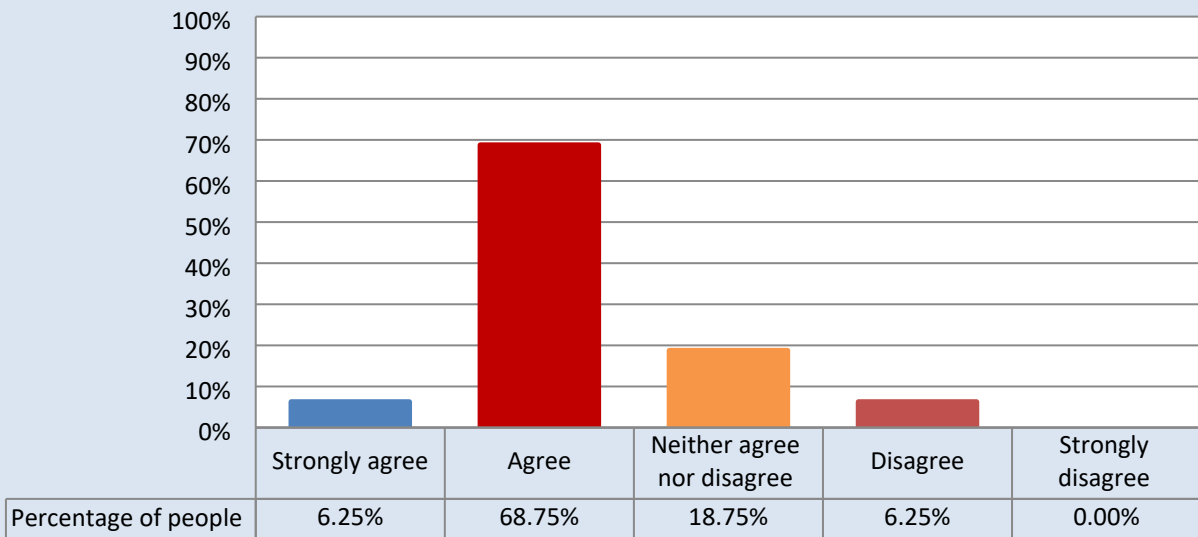
I think that people in the area from different backgrounds get on well together....

Public Survey



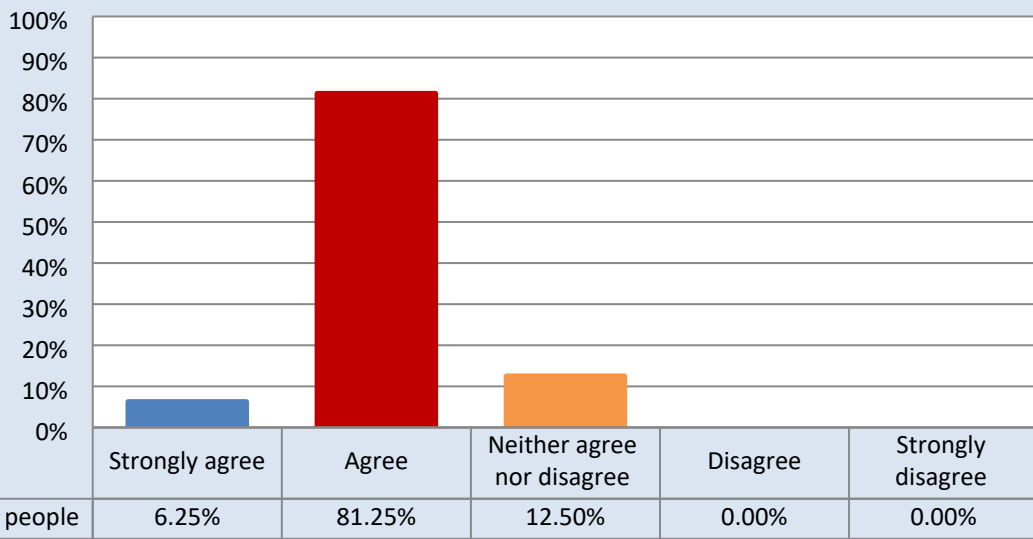
People in the area treat each other with respect....

Public Survey



Discrimination and harassment is not a problem in my local area....

Public Survey

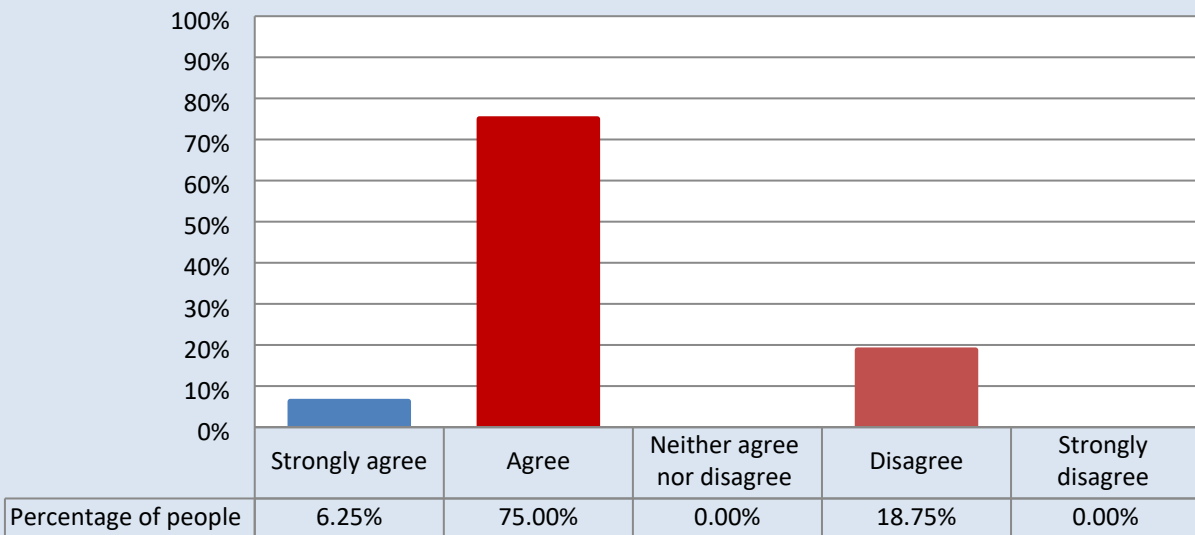


2. Community Safety

The following questions were asked to establish public perceptions and experience of safety and were asked separate questions relating to night and day and areas around the city.

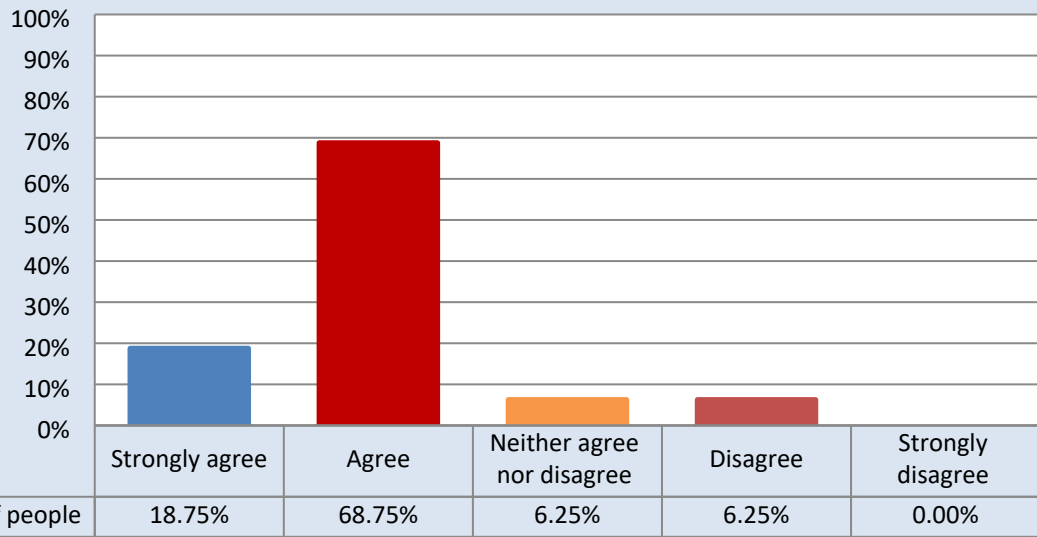
I feel safe in the City Centre during the day....

Public Survey



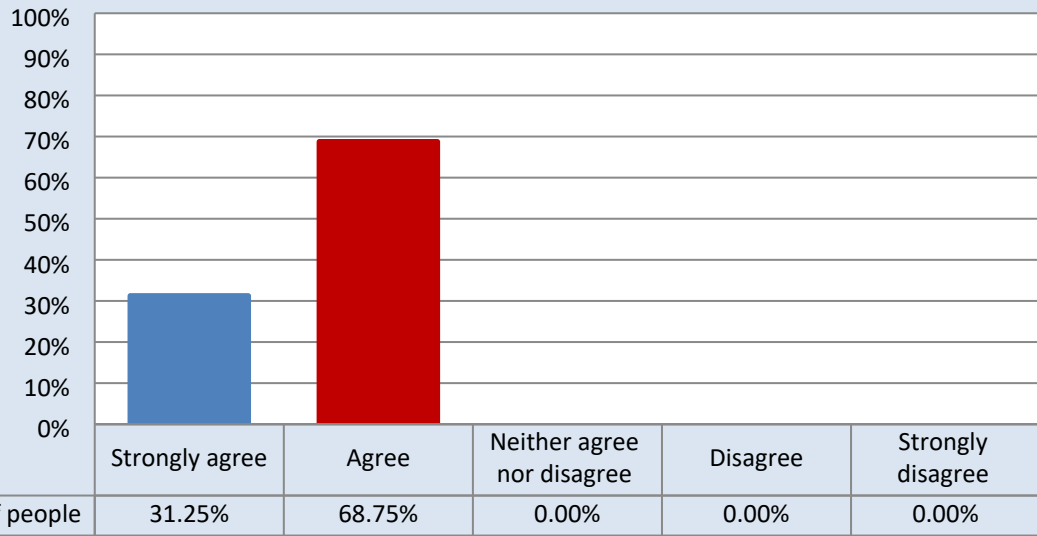
I feel safe in my local area during the day....

Public Survey



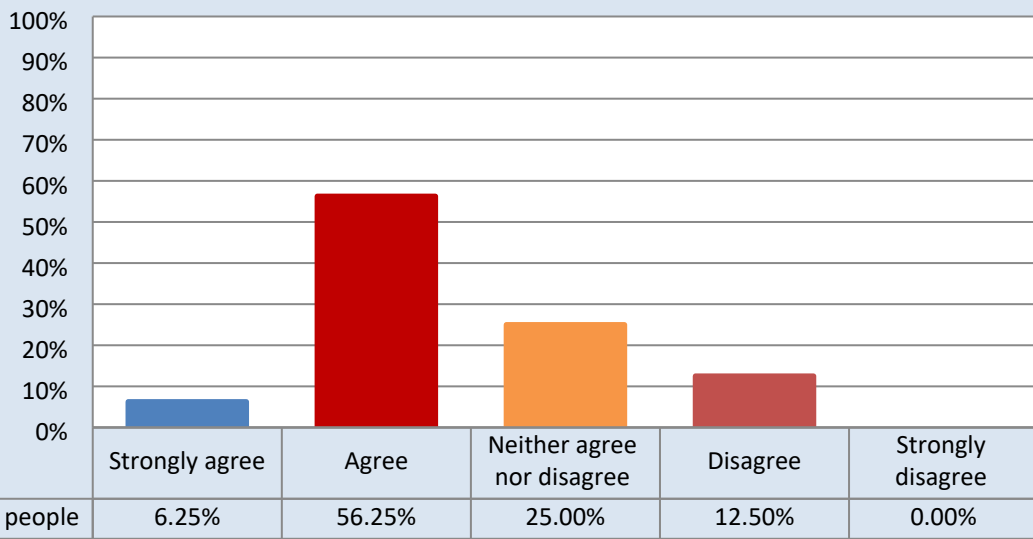
I feel safe at home during the day....

Public Survey



I feel safe on public transport during the day....

Public Survey

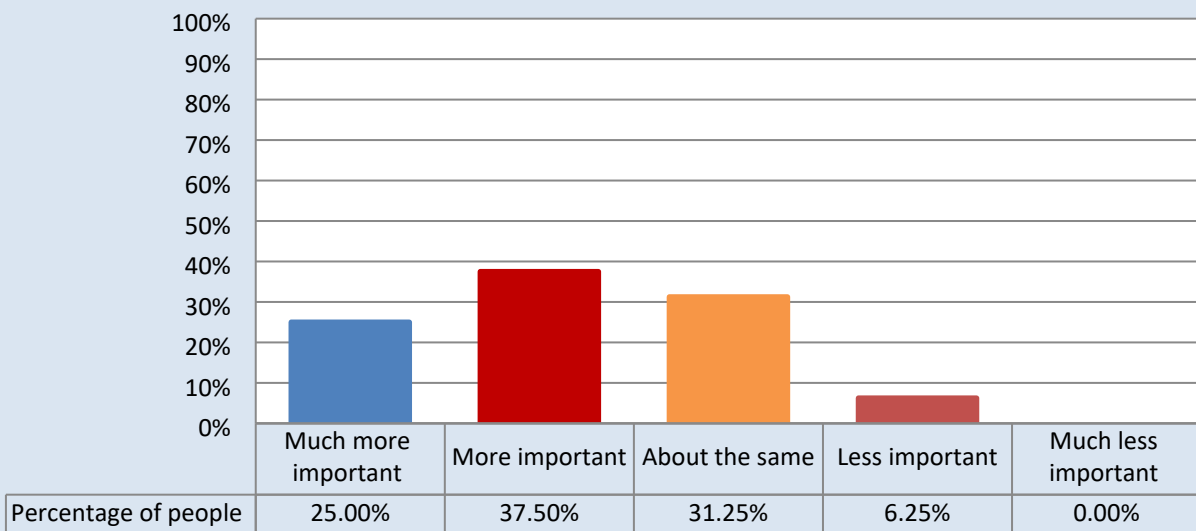


3. Prioritisation

The following questions were asked to establish public opinion on the role community safety has regarding public spend and emphasis they feel the council ought to place on this issue.

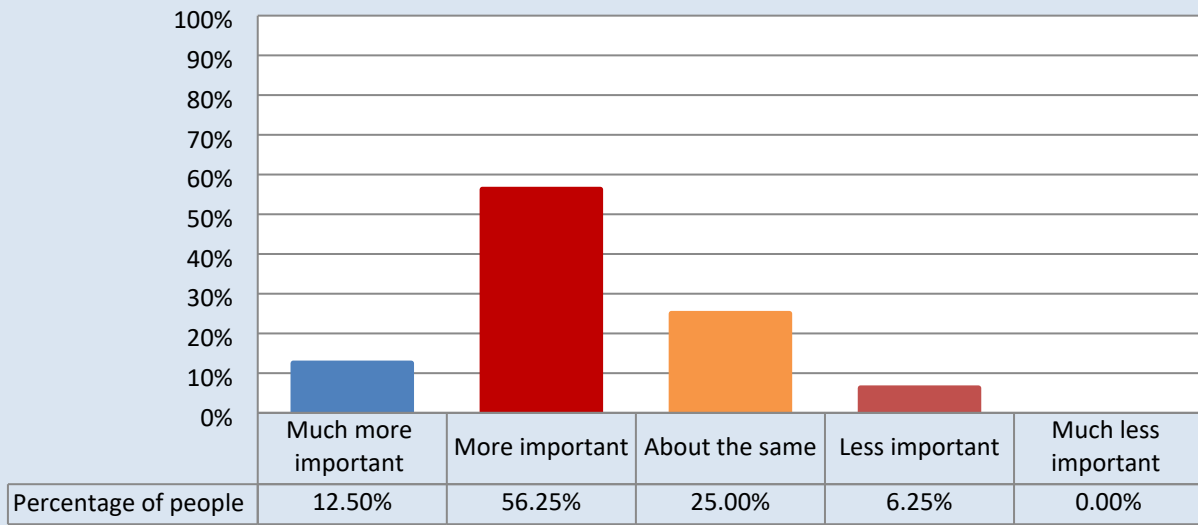
In terms of Council services and spending, when compared to other local issues do you think that community safety is....

Public Survey



In terms of Council services and spending, when compared to other local issues do you think that community cohesion (this means – people getting on well together within their community) is....

Public Survey



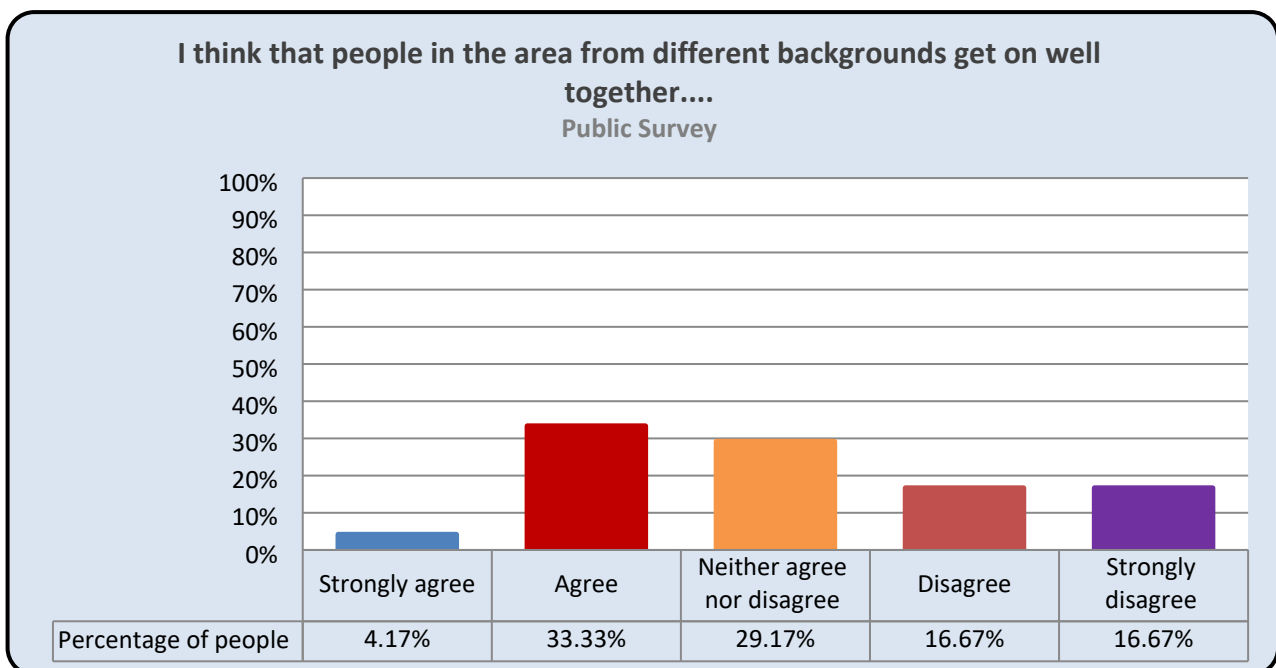
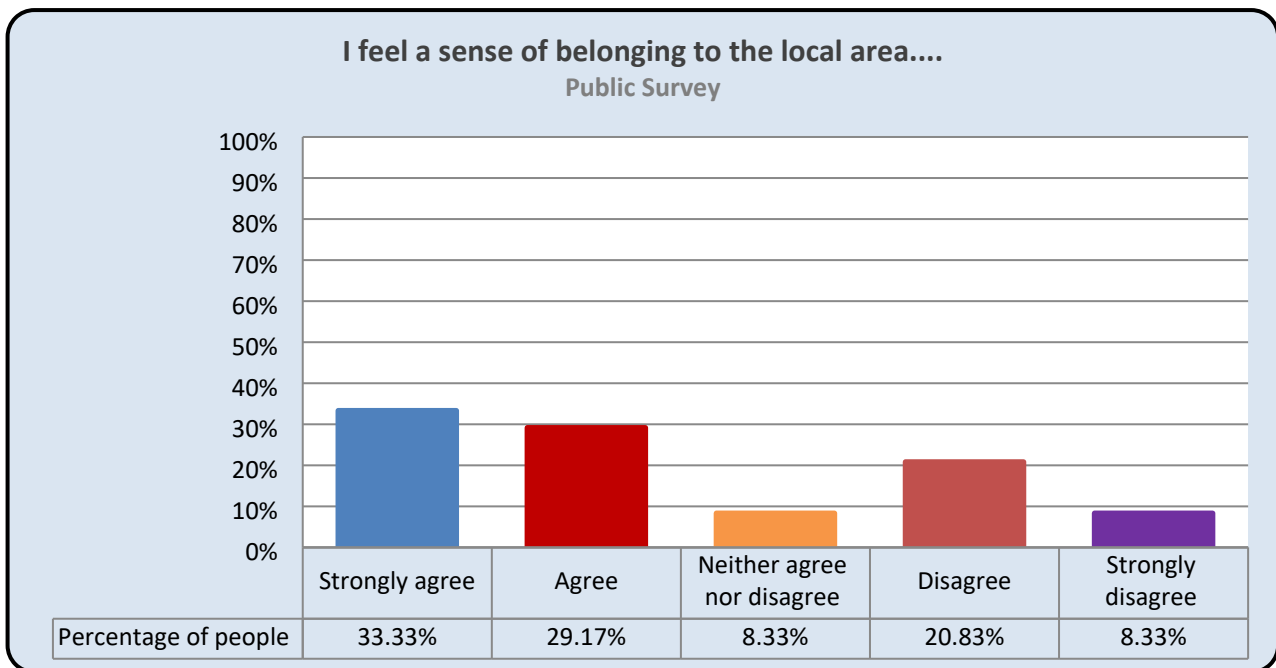
Community Safety Perception Survey – Businesses

The responses to this survey are broken down into the following 3 sections.

- 1 - Community Cohesion
- 2 – Community Safety
- 3 – Prioritisation

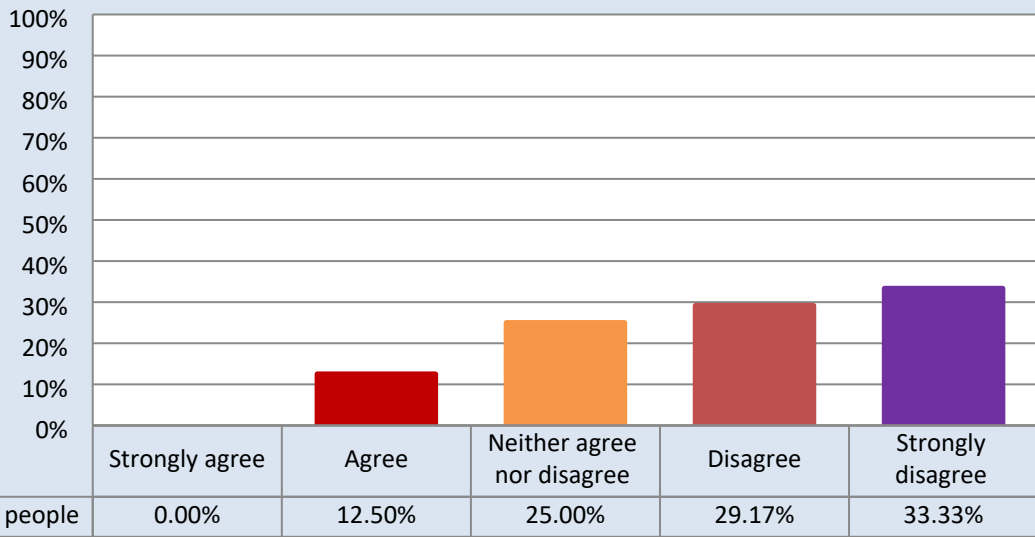
1. Community Cohesion

The following questions were asked to establish public perceptions and experience of Community Cohesion and belonging.



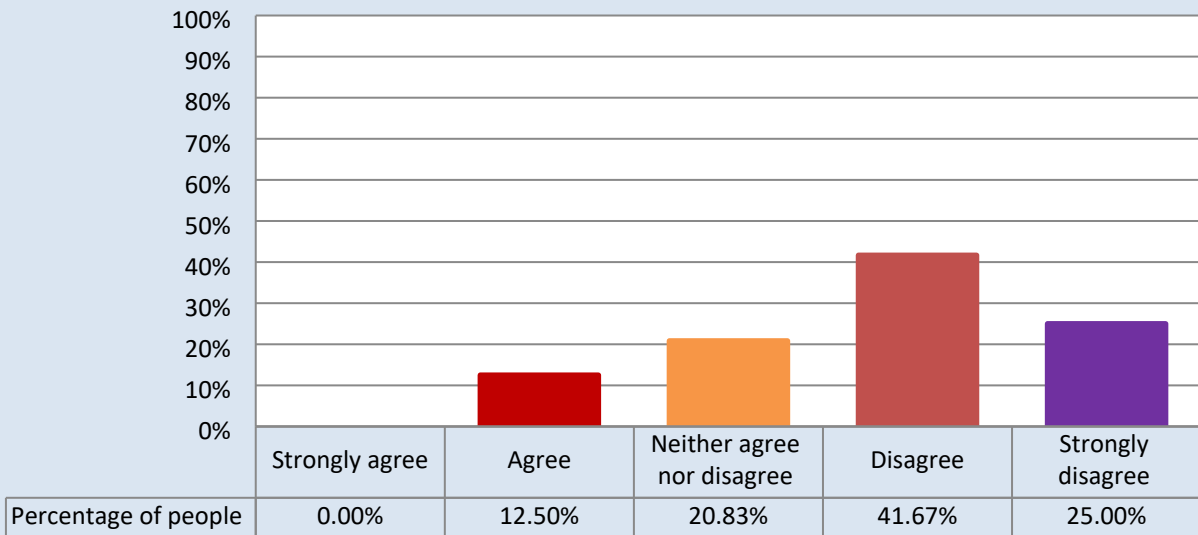
People in the area treat each other with respect....

Public Survey



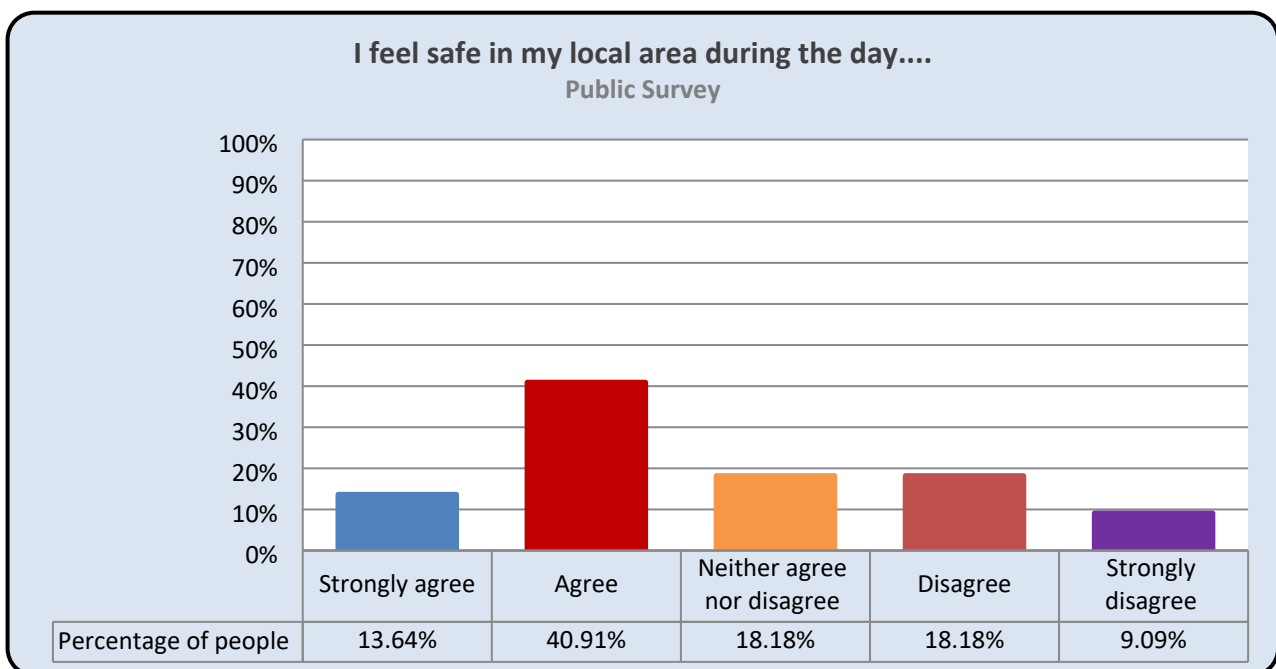
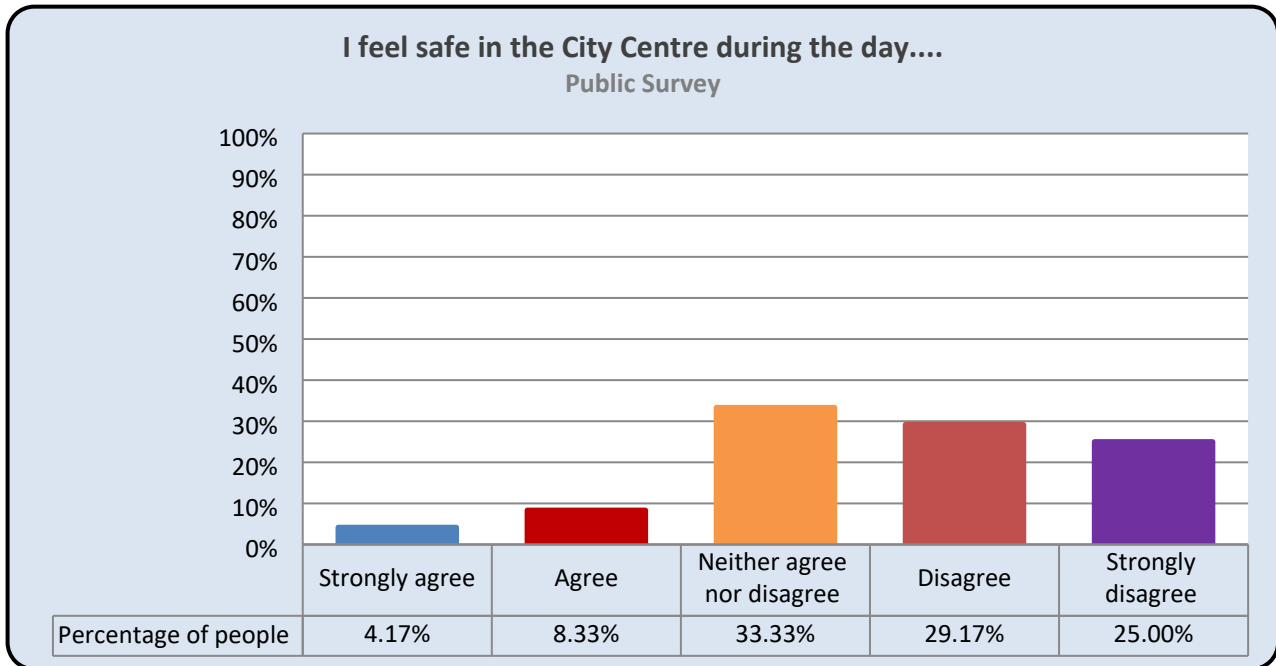
Discrimination and harassment is not a problem in my local area....

Public Survey



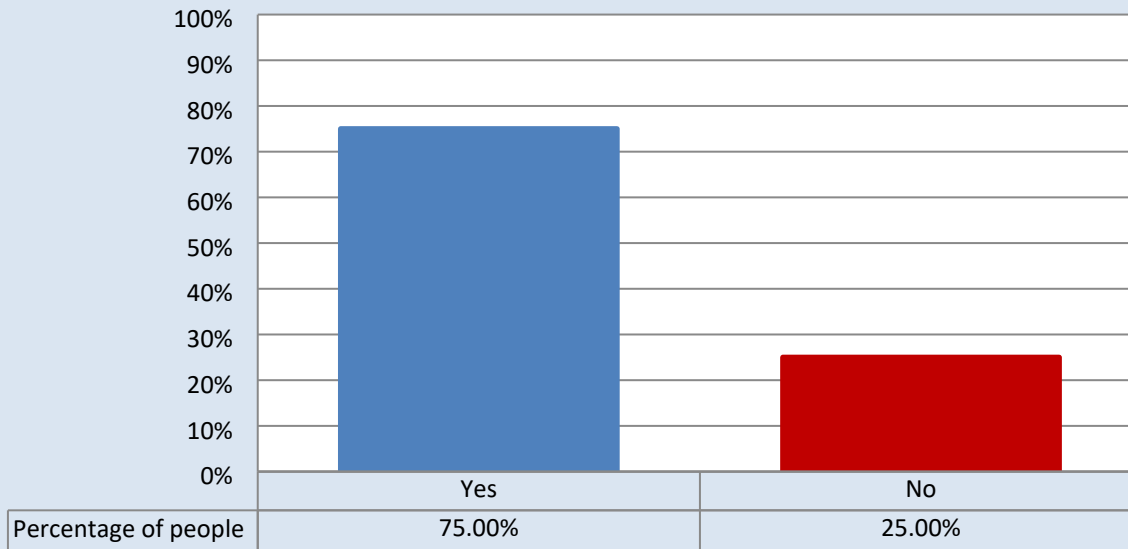
2. Community Safety

The following questions were asked to establish public perceptions and experience of safety and were asked separate questions relating to night and day and areas around the city and impacts on their business.



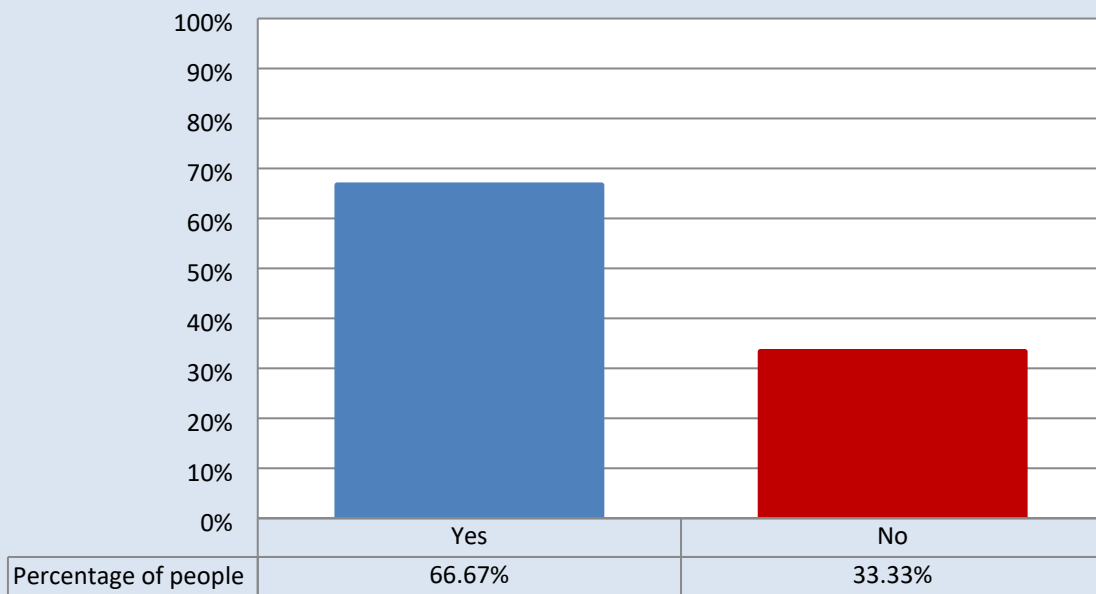
Has your business experienced any property damage? Are you aware of any community safety issues in the local area?

Public Survey



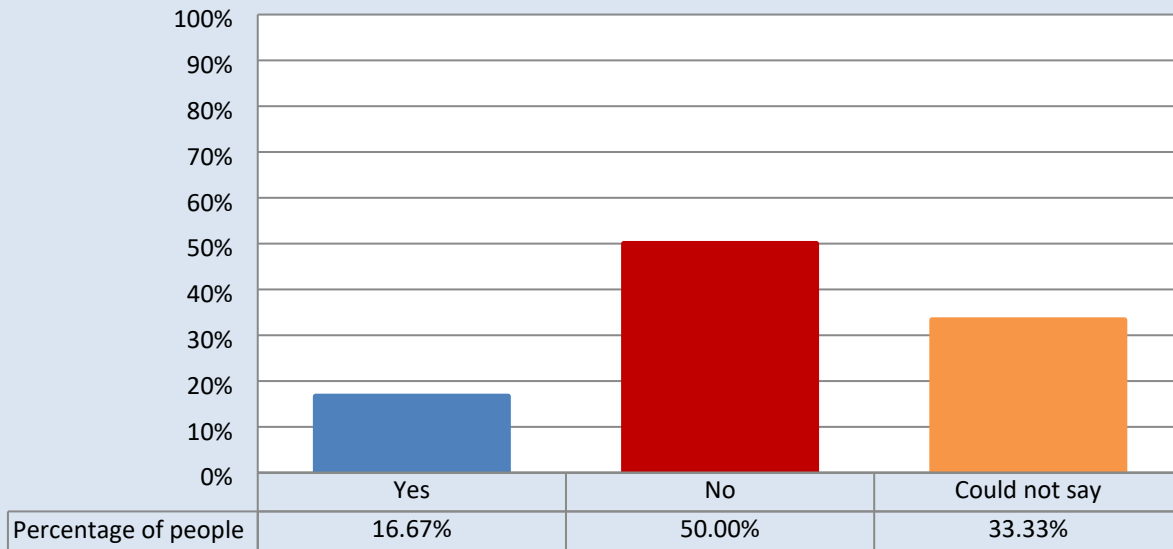
Have community safety issues had an impact on your business?

Public Survey



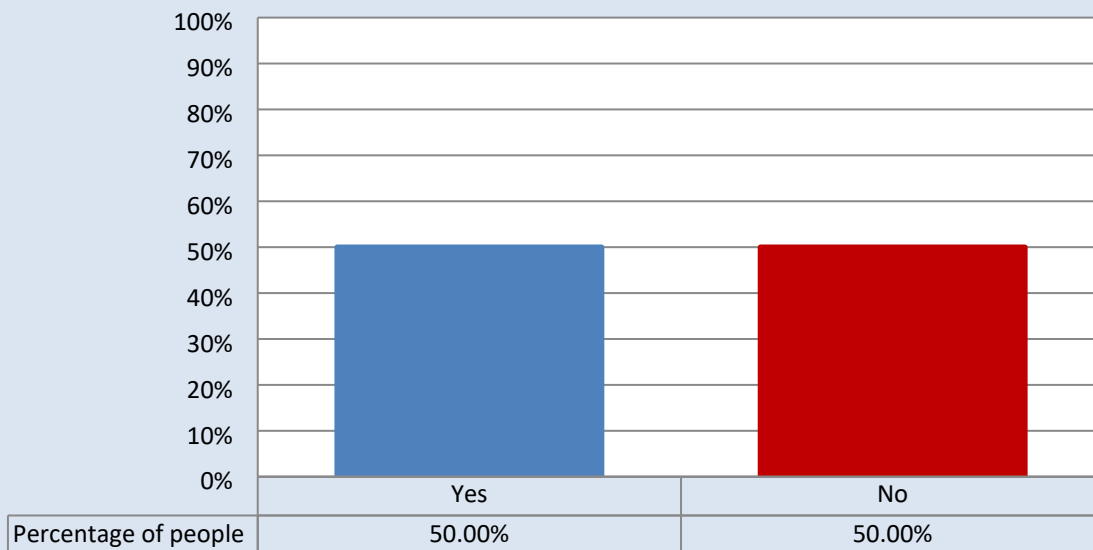
Do your customers/clients feel safe in the local area around your business?

Public Survey



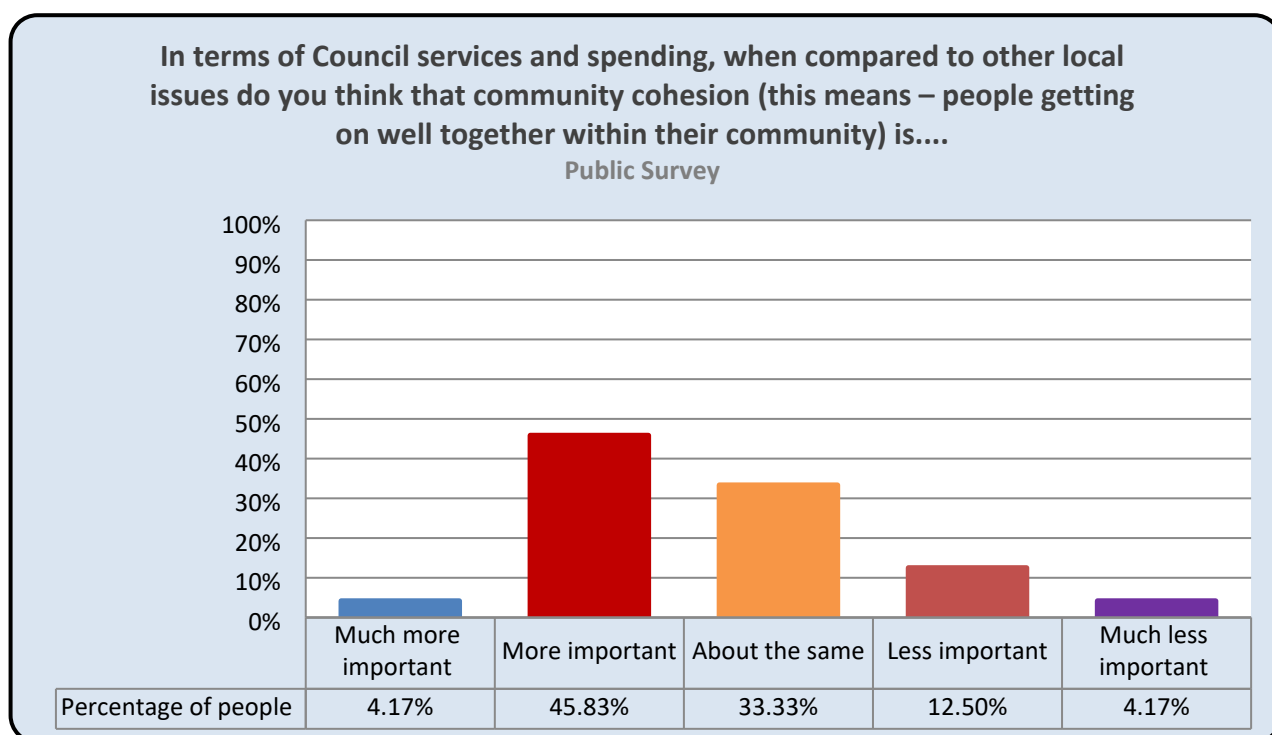
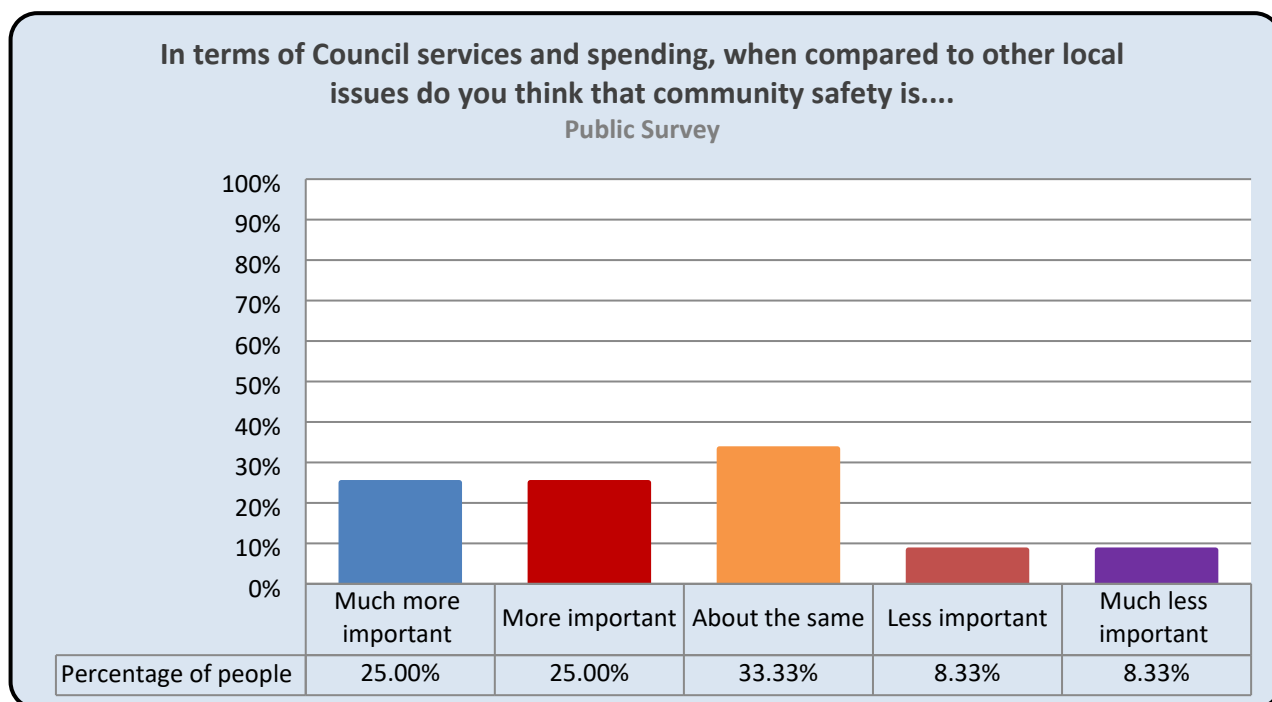
Does your business provide additional safety measures for your customers/clients?

Public Survey



3. Prioritisation

The following questions were asked to establish public opinion on the role community safety has regarding public spend and emphasis they feel the council ought to place on this issue.

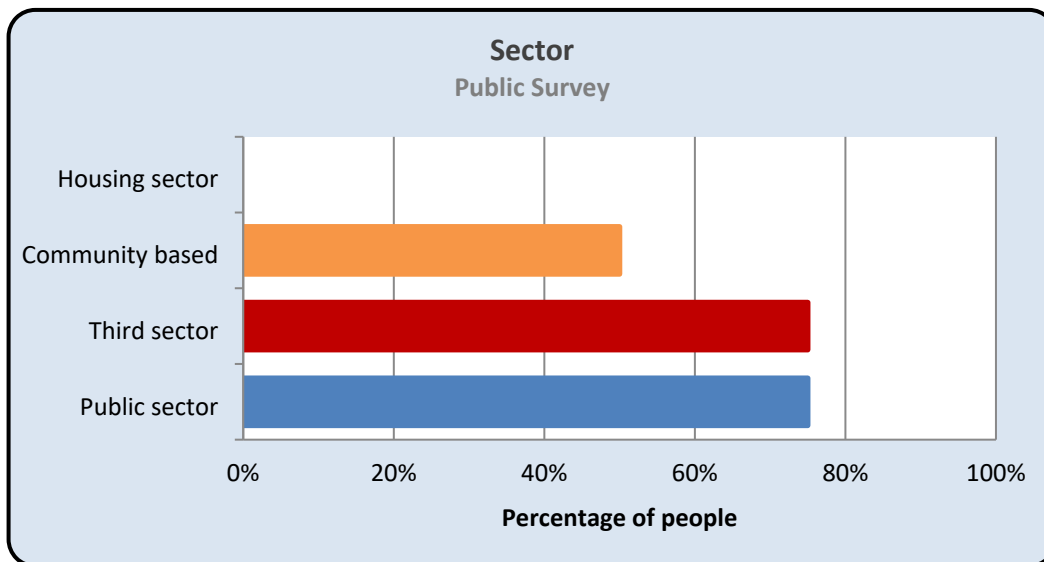


Safer Newport - Community Safety Partnership Survey

Safer Newport Partners conducted this survey to ensure the views of the various sectors and organisational experiences were captured.

Key findings of these surveys combined are below and broken down into the following 3 sections.

- 1 – Concerns
- 2 – Interventions
- 3 – Prioritisation



1. Concerns

The following questions were asked to establish partnership and experience of their organisational community safety concerns and their impacts. Firstly, they were asked what their organisational top 3 Community Safety concerns were.

Concern 1

Organisation

ASB	1
Vulnerable young people at risk of criminal exploitation, associated risks of this, criminal activity and ASB and lack of hope, education, employment.	2
Vulnerable young people at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation including anti-social behaviour	3
Lack of understanding of British culture and law	4

Concern 2

Organisation

Serious Organised Crime	1
-------------------------	---

Lack of young people engagement services to support, deter, and educate on mental and physical health, being active, positive, to address vaping, drug and alcohol misuse, electric bikes, risks of exploitation.	2
Lack of available positive adults to engage with young people out of hours, in the community to help address issues earlier. Priority concerns include drugs, vaping - that causes damage to their physical and mental health.	3
Anti-social behaviour	4

Concern 3

Organisation

Violence and Disorder	1
Traveller encampments on site at Newport Live, safety of staff and customers	2
Traveller encampments at Newport Live sites - violence towards staff	3
Hate crime	4

The above lists show constantly how ASB, Vulnerable groups and Violence are key concerns. Following this question each organisation also provided reasons for these concerns.

Reasons

Organisation

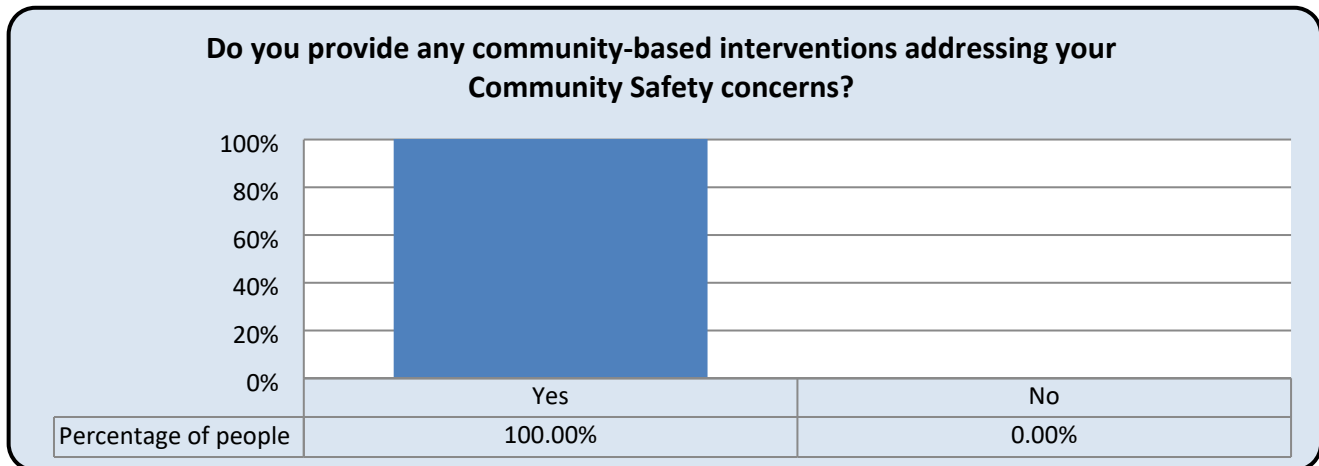
Responsibility for teams that can support improvements.	1
As a charity with Positive Futures as a key programme working multi agency with Council and PSB partners, we see regularly increasing lack of hope, fears over safety of children and young people in their community, a lack of engagement services and more trusted adults on their doorstep to engage, support, and educate them on other positives and future direction / opportunities. Points one and two would be covered in this statement. The traveller aspect is more operational at Newport Live, and causes thousands of costs, damage, safety concerns, abuse and danger to staff and customers. It can affect some of the City's major events and plans at the NISV site and takes too long to move and address.	2
Newport Live is a registered charity that serves Newport community. Positive Futures specifically supports young people who are vulnerable and at risk of exploitation. Our priority is to build relationships and provide interventions as early as possible. We support young people and engage them well, but we need to be part of a multi-agency to addressing such societal issues. Many young people do not feel safe and are vulnerable so need safe spaces to go with trusted adults. Over the past 12 months the Irish travelling community have caused significant damage and have been extremely abusive to operational staff. It has had a huge financial impact and has caused significant stress to staff manning sites.	3

Some of our participants have been criminalized due to lack of understanding of cultural expectations and British law. I am also concerned that our client group struggle to navigate anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhood and are often victims of Asb and hate crime but do not feel that they can report it due to fear of repercussions and fear of police

4

2. Interventions

For this this section, partnership organisations were asked if they provide any community-based interventions addressing the Community Safety concerns listed above.



All organisations responding to this survey show they have interventions that respond to the concerns they have noted above.

All organisations were then asked to list what interventions they provide.

Interventions

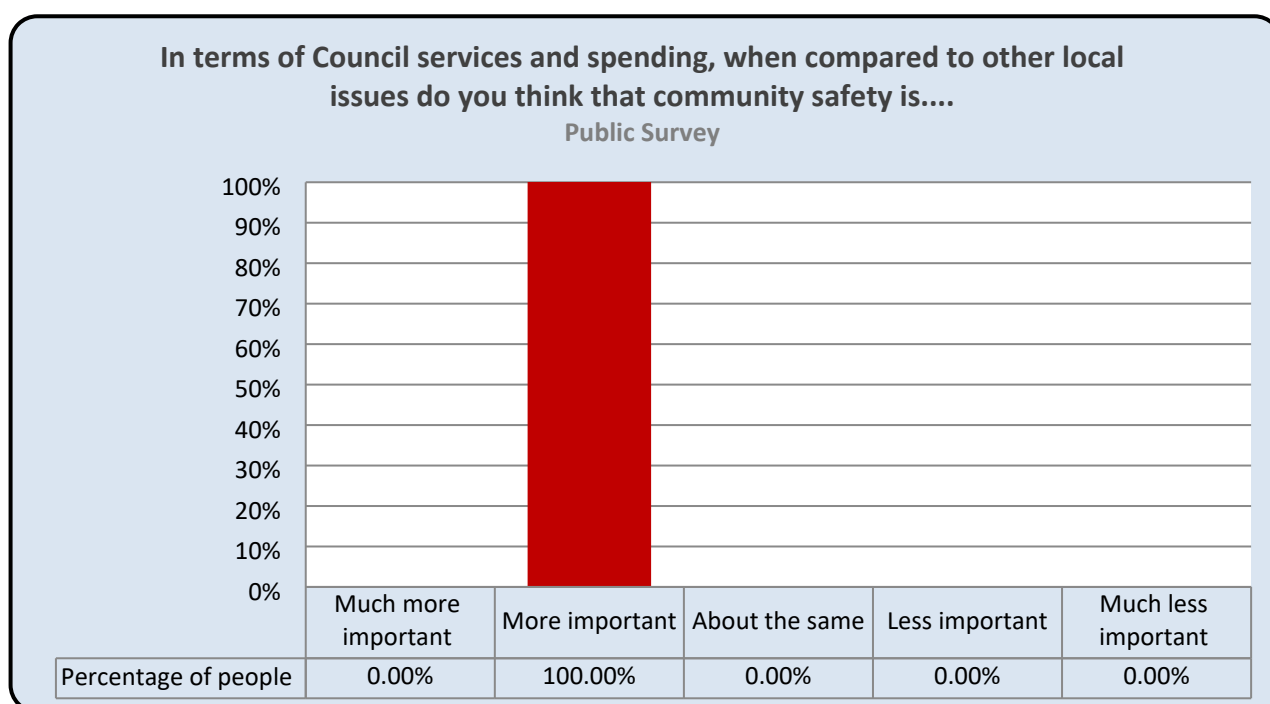
Organisation

Delivery of Public Protection services. There are many interventions.	1
We provide 1:1 referral support to young people via Education, YJS, and Social Services but there are too many to support, and numbers and need is growing each year. Positive Futures also provides open access community youth engagement and sport projects and sessions for free to young people in Ringland, Pill, Bettws, St Julians, Maindee and Duffryn with engagement, trusted adults, contextual safeguarding, workshops, wellbeing, opportunities to be supported and mentored. We also offer Aspire alternative education to 36 x pupils Lliswerry, Llanwern, and John Frost. We also offer qualifications, and volunteering pathway to employment for many young people.	2

We provide open access community-based provisions each night of the week for young people to access free of charge. Currently Bettws, Ringland, Pill, Maindee, St Julians, Duffryn. These sessions offer a safe place for young people with the same staff who regularly turn up. Significant contextual safeguarding concerns are noted and shared. We also provide 121 interventions for young people referred via Social Services, Preventions, Barnardo’s due to their significant levels of need, trauma experienced and concerning behaviours they may be displaying.	3
We attempt to raise awareness through discussion and sharing information within our drop-in session	4

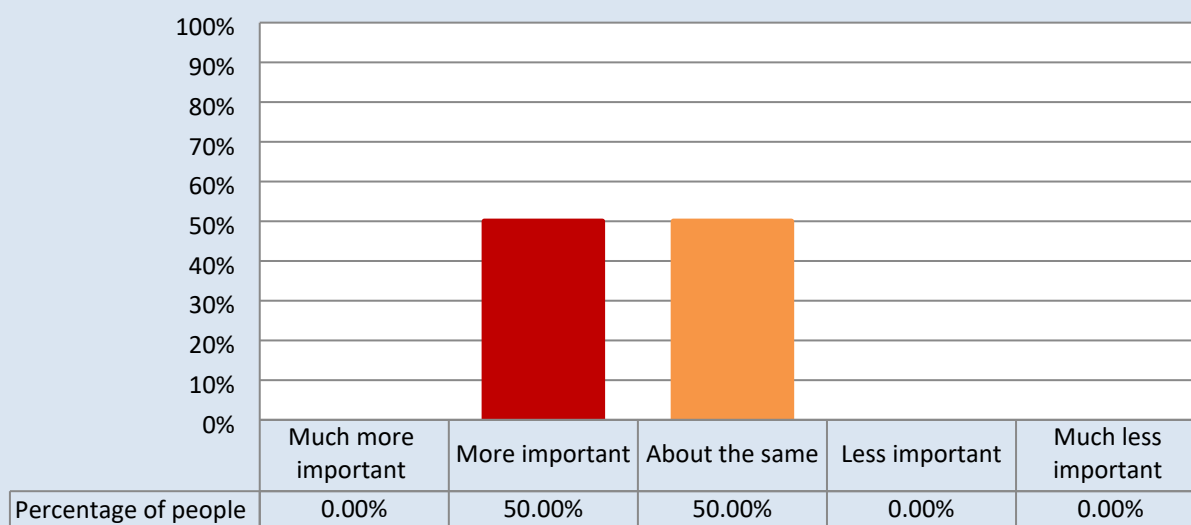
3. Prioritisation

Next, all partners were asked to identify how significant they feel Community safety and Community Cohesion is to the council’s spending priorities. They were also asked to identify any other areas they believe the council could focus on.



In terms of Council services and spending, when compared to other local issues do you think that community cohesion (this means – people getting on well together within their community) is....

Public Survey



Additional Services for council spend.

Organisation

Sustainable and community embedded prevention work.	1
Basic functions for residents (bins, roads, leisure/parks/nice place to live (some aspiration in the city), education, vulnerable) Health and Wellbeing - access to healthy food, less takeaways (planning), more walk/cycle/places to be active outdoors, leisure and wellbeing facilities, childhood obesity, life expectancy.	2
I feel all council areas links back to Community Safety - if bins left out there are more fires etc. People should feel safe in their home wherever they are. The way people act and behave relates to so many other issues (mental health, poverty, ACES). Poor community safety is the product of a number of poorly addressed social needs earlier down the line.	3
I would like to see more investment into bilingual information on community safety issues	4

Focus Group – The Sanctuary

This session was held at The Gap Centre Stow Hill in January 2024. The Sanctuary is a project that provides a welcome and support for refugees and asylum seekers in Newport.²⁵ Over the course of the day Newport City Council Officers sat with individuals and groups of people to discuss their perceptions of safety in Newport.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Summary of responses</u>
Q1: Do you feel safe in Newport?	Respondents said yes overall however noted the following. - Problematic Areas – Pill - Homelessness
Q2: Do you feel safe where you live?	Again, in general yes sighting - Quiet area - Security Systems
Q3: What makes you feel safe/unsafe?	For safety. o Family o Community o Police patrols o Multicultural City For unsafe o Police Raids o Gangs of Young People o Homelessness
Q4: Do you use public transport? Do you feel safe?	Whilst many felt safe on public transport several respondents stated that they faced discrimination from bus drivers.
Q5: Apart from feeling safe – what is important to you that the council focus on?	Overwhelmingly housing was the biggest concern for this group of people, with families living in hotels and unstable accommodation. Second to this was street cleanliness.
Q6: Are there any problems you face accessing Newport City Council?	Lack of Access to Alternative Languages and easy face to face support.

²⁵ [The Sanctuary | The Gap Wales](#)

Interventions and Activities

There are a variety of ongoing intervention and activities seeking to meet the needs of the Newport Population. Some of these are supportive, diversionary, or mandated.

Newport Live – Positive Futures programme

Positive Futures is a youth engagement programme, which uses sport and physical activity to engage children and young people who live in areas of high deprivation, and who need additional support in their lives.

Established in Newport with Home Office funding in 2002, the programme has developed considerably in recent years, with strong strategic leadership from Newport Live (charitable trust) and the Office of the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner. Positive Futures covers the whole of Newport (as well as some areas of Gwent), working collaboratively with multiple like-minded partners, organisations, and Council services.

The team consists of youth work trained, sport for development professionals, working with and alongside a Youth Justice Worker (embedded into the team). Weekly training, advice, and support by an ABUHB Clinical Psychologist, leads to trauma and psychologically informed practice and support to children and young people. The team are all local people, relatable role models, with their own lived experiences, and they have developed excellent trusted relationships with children, young people, families, and communities.

Positive Futures offers:

- 1:1 mentoring for young people referred in via services and partnerships.
- Targeted group work and closed diversionary support for young people.
- Open access diversionary provision delivered in communities every week.

More information can be found on our website [Newport Live | Positive Futures](#) and through our socials on:

- Facebook: [Newport Live Positive Futures](#)
- Twitter: [@positivefutures](#)
- Instagram: [@pos_futures](#)

VAWDASV Services

Across Gwent and Newport there is a variety of service and provision provided by the Specialist Sector to support Men, Women, Children, Young People and Families. A full list of these provisions can be found [Gwent VAWDASV Services Directory \(gwentsafeguarding.org.uk\)](http://gwentsafeguarding.org.uk) here.

South Wales Fire and Rescue

The South Wales Fire and Rescue Services, REFLECT Project is building partnerships throughout South Wales to successfully educate and build awareness around the Fire Services key messages with young people aged between 11-25. The project aims to raise awareness of the consequences of actions by engaging with children and young people in a targeted Introduction approach. The target audience is.

- Those who are known to offend,
- Those at risk of offending
- Those involved in Anti-Social behaviour.

- Those displaying risky or challenging behaviour.

Probation Service

As part of the Wales Reducing Reoffending plan 2022-2025 the following interventions are available.

- **Training, skills, and work** – working closely with partners to create new opportunities for prisoners and prison leavers to earn and learn.
- **Drugs and alcohol addiction** – working in partnership to develop and deliver an integrated substance misuse treatment pathway across Wales providing continuity in care for prison leavers and those on community sentences.
- **Family, accommodation, and readjustment to society** – supporting people in our care to rebuild and maintain family ties, secure, and keep accommodation, and reintegrate into society.
- **Public security through engagement and compliance** – monitoring people on probation rigorously and ensuring they understand the consequences of not complying with an order of the court.
- **Education Training & Employment:** Working to join up ETE through the gate, increasing provision and enhancing ETE opportunities for those in the community.
- **Families and Significant Others:** Working with our partners to promote family ties and contact through embedding refreshed standards and strengthening our approach.
- **Finance, Benefit and Debt, including Gambling harms:** Working closely with our commissioned St Giles Wise service, DWP, Welsh Government and the Money and Pension Service to improve the financial circumstances of People on Probation and address crime related harms resulting from gambling.
- **Substance Use:** Working with our partners to ensure that the services we commission deliver the best outcomes for those who need access, and for our wider communities. A further key priority of this workstream is improving the use of Drug Rehabilitation Requirements and Alcohol Treatment Requirements.
- **Health and Mental Health:** Working closely with Public Health Wales and Local Health Boards to ensure we improve outcomes for people on Probation, including continuity of care from custody to the community and encouraging the effective use of the Mental Health Treatment Requirement when appropriate.

[Regional Reducing Reoffending Plans - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wales-reducing-reoffending-plans-2022-2025) Wales RRP annual summary sets out some key achievements over the last year.

Newport City Council

Newport City Council are recipients of Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) Funding to directly provide support and interventions in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and preventions of Anti-Social Behaviour. 2023/2024 provision has seen direct funding of sport diversionary activities for refugees and asylum seekers and also ASB Schools workshops to discuss ASB issues and ensure the voice of the learner is gained to support ongoing work in this area.

- Pill Master Plan

The Master Plan presents the ambitions of the community of Pill and identifies a series of projects that will support the realisation of the community vision for the area. As a strategic document the intention is that it guides agencies in the allocation of resources, influence and expertise and provides a basis for collaborative working within Pill. Whilst focusing on Commercial Road, the Master Plan also identifies other key areas of importance to the community, including green spaces and community facilities.²⁶

- YJS

The Youth Justice Service works with young people aged 10-17 to support young people and with the aim of reducing the risk of young people offending and re-offending, and to provide counsel and rehabilitation to those who do offend. This is done in a variety of ways but based within.

- Preventative workstream
- Out of dispersal work
- Statutory Court work

- Rough Sleeping outreach.

The Rough Sleeper team in the Council works with third sector agencies, the Councils Housing department, and the Housing Support Grant team to support people who are rough sleeping into accommodation and to access support services and intervention to help reduce rough sleeping in the city. The teamwork with agencies who support people who rough sleep, people who rough sleep with substance use issues and people who rough sleep and who are exploited in one form or another. We collect data on the number currently out to report to Welsh Government and we work closely with other departments in the Council producing reports on numbers and issues and to look at gaps in service to try and meet the individual's needs.

The team operates in a multi-agency way working and liaising with many other departments in the Council and third sector partners, these include: working with the Cleansing department to remove discarded bedding, tents, and drug paraphernalia; working with the Police if people are reported missing; working with partners in a Hub run every Thursday between 4pm-6pm for people at risk of homelessness to be able to get advice and support; working with partners to operate a breakfast run checking on the welfare of people out first thing in the morning; running the cold weather provision when the temperatures drop to freezing and below for 3 consecutive nights where we support people rough sleeping into a venue overnight so they aren't at risk on the streets. Referrals for anyone at risk of rough sleeping or who are spotted out rough sleeping can be made via the Streetlink app or to the NCC-Rough Sleeper in box.

Safer Newport is committed to working with partners on an ongoing basis to maintain mapping and identify areas of good practice and identify any gaps and opportunities for further provisions that may be noted.

Emerging Themes

In the process of exploring data and information that has been submitted, some key issues that have been emerging over the last year have been identified.

²⁶

<https://democracy.newport.gov.uk/documents/s25666/06%20Master%20Plan%20Cabinet%20report%20May%202023.pdf?LLL=0>

These areas do not yet have a completed data set to consider and so will be highlighted below as areas to consider moving forward and to reflect on their impact on community safety. They have been linked to the key priorities of this SNA and as such will be considered by the associated Subgroups under Safer Newport CSP.

1. E Bikes and Scooters²⁷

Links to Anti-Social Behaviour, Serious Organised Crime and Vulnerable Groups

2. Operation Forester – Cannabis Grows

Links to Serious Organised Crime and Vulnerable Groups

3. Vaping in CYP

Links to Serious Organised Crime and Vulnerable Groups

4. Dogs behaving in a dangerous manner.

Links to Anti-Social Behaviour

5. Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Links to Vulnerable Groups

²⁷ E bike/Scooter data

The global electric scooters market size was estimated at USD 37.07 billion in 2023 and is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.9% from 2023 to 2030. With their benefits ranging from environmental to financial. It is easy to see why their growth has increased. However most uses of eScooters remain illegal under current regulations, with impacts on safety both physically on streets and roads and within connection to crime such as drug running and supplying. EScooters and bikes despite their benefits, hazardous serious injury and deaths occurring as a result of use.

Key Findings

As the third largest city in Wales, Newport experiences significant challenges regarding Community Safety. Whilst crime data shows us that Newport is higher in all crime types in comparison to the rest of Gwent. Newport is the only city in the region and as such a direct comparison the Gwent does not present a realistic picture. Additional Comparisons need to be considered across simpler UK police forces moving forward.

Community Perception of Community Safety in Newport is positive, with people generally feeling safe in the city in the daytime but have increased concerns at night. Community cohesion is positive also based on the responses with most respondents feeling a sense of belonging. Overall, most respondents also believe that Community Safety is a key priority and should be considered as such by the council and its spending and policy decisions.

Based on this SNA 3 priority areas identified are.

1. Serious Organised Crime
2. Anti-Social behaviour
3. Vulnerable Groups.

These areas have been chosen based on the following,

1. Serious Organised Crime

Analysis of data, public and partner information related to serious violence, some areas of ASB indicates in Newport there are significant links wither directly or indirectly to serious organised crime.

2. Anti-Social Behaviour

Analysis of data, public and partner information shows that Anti-Social behaviour is consistently a concern across the city. Data associate with this area of community safety requires further consideration and as such will be a priority moving forward.

3. Vulnerable Groups.

As an increasingly diverse city there are many groups of people which are, for various reasons, at a higher risk of are at increased risk of crime abuse or harm directed towards them, such as, Children and Young People, People Sleeping Rough, Gypsy Traveller Communities, Adults at Risk of Sexual Exploitation and those experiencing any form of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

Next Steps

Recommendations

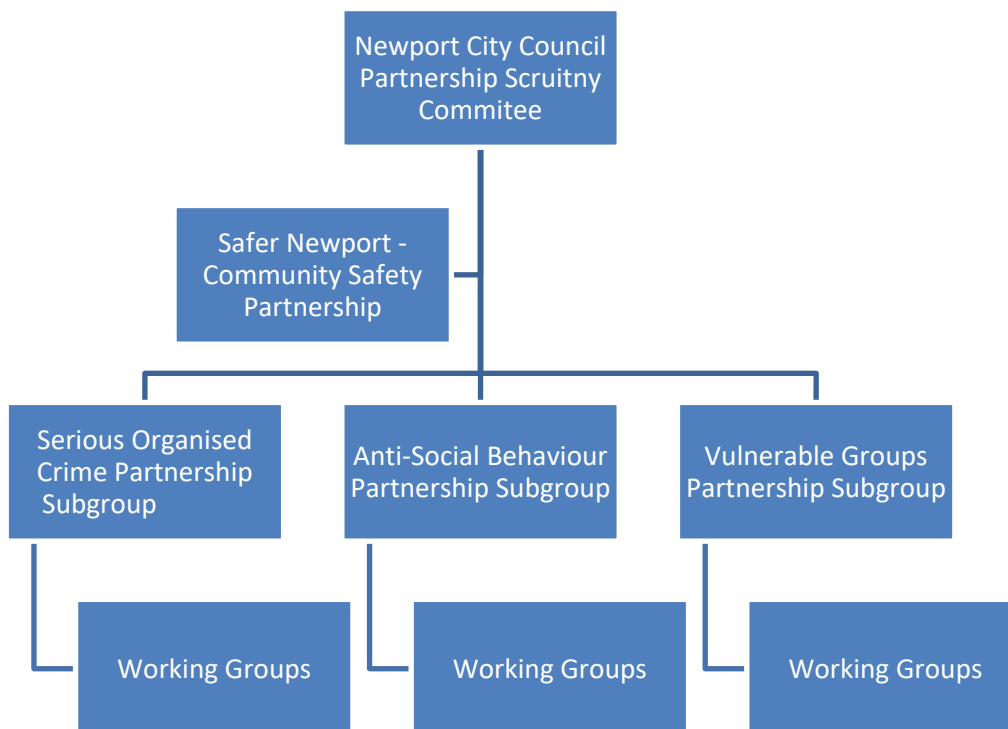
Based on the data and consultation response above, Safer Newport CSP should ensure that data mapping based on data gaps identified in this document. It is noted that we have identified data gaps and acknowledge that there is a bigger underlying picture we do not yet understand. As such a priority for Safer Newport and its subgroups will be to provide a continuation of analysis to all data and information contained within this document. There too will be an overarching priority to conduct a data gap analysis and development workstream.

Governance

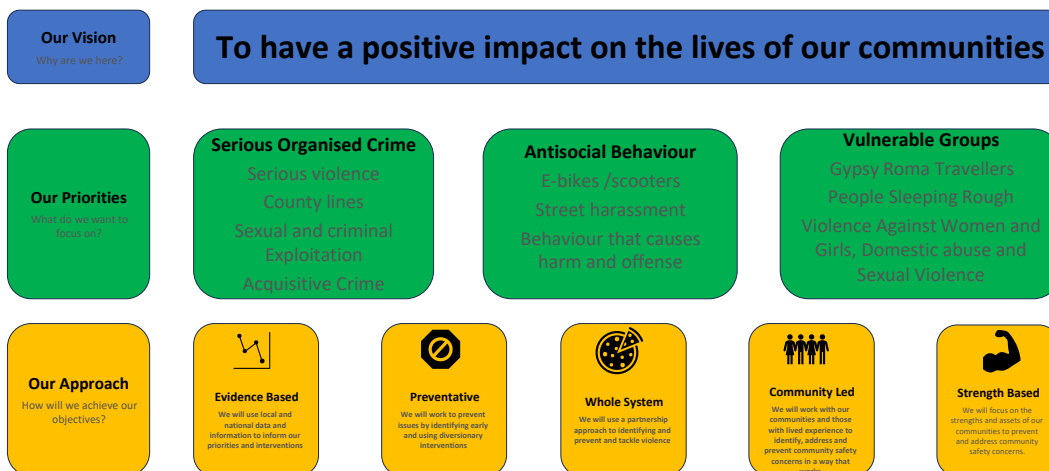
Safer Newport Community Safety Partnership is a required function of Newport City Council Crime and Disorder Act (1998) as a community safety partnership board providing strategic oversight and governance of identifying, preventing, and protecting community safety issues across the city.

Internally the work of Safer Newport CSP is overseen and scrutinised by Newport City Council Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.

Safer Newport has Subgroups attached to Safer Newport Community Safety Partnership, to oversee and ensure effective responses to the identified key priority areas. More information is found below.



Safer Newport Community Safety Plan 2024-2029



Serious Violence Duty Strategy

UK Home Office requirements have called for regional partnership responses to the Serious Violence Duty and have required that there be a Regional Strategic Need Assessment and Strategy to be completed. Please review the attached in conjunction with this SNA.



Gwent Serious
Violence Duty SNA 20



Gwent Serious
Violence Duty Strateg

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Safer Newport Community Safety Plan 2024-2029

Our Vision
Why are we here?

To have a positive impact on the lives of our communities


Our Priorities
What do we want to focus on?


Serious Organised Crime
Serious violence
County lines
Sexual and criminal
Exploitation
Acquisitive Crime


Antisocial Behaviour
E-bikes /scooters
Street harassment
Behaviour that causes
harm and offense

Vulnerable Groups
Gypsy Roma Travellers
People Sleeping Rough
Violence Against Women and
Girls, Domestic abuse and
Sexual Violence

Our Approach
How will we achieve our
objectives?


Evidence Based
We will use local and
national data and
information to inform our
priorities and interventions


Preventative
We will work to prevent
issues by identifying early
and using diversionary
interventions


Whole System
We will use a partnership
approach to identifying and
prevent and tackle violence


Community Led
We will work with our
communities and those
with lived experience to
identify, address and
prevent community safety
concerns in a way that
works.


Strength Based
We will focus on the
strengths and assets of our
communities to prevent
and address community
safety concerns.



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Scrutiny Report

Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 20th March 2024

Subject Serious Violence Duty: Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Designation
Rhys Cornwall	Strategic Director – Transformation and Corporate
Janice Dent	Policy and Partnership Manager
Helen Gordon	Senior Policy and Partnership Officer
Dr Carl Williams	Local Policing Area Commander, Chief Superintendent – Gwent Police (Co-Chair)
Sam Slater	Head of Strategy, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

<p>1</p> <p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider the reports on the Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment and Strategy 2. Decide if the Committee wishes to make any comments or recommendations in relation to the reports. 	<p>Recommendations to the Committee</p>
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2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The Serious Violence Duty went live across England and Wales on 31st January 2023. More detailed information about the Duty can be found here. The Duty places a mandatory requirement on certain 'Specified Authorities' (chief officers of police, fire and rescue authorities, health boards, local authorities, youth offending teams and probation services) to work together and plan to reduce and prevent serious violence. This includes identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in their area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.
- 2.2 The Duty also requires specified authorities to consult other 'Relevant Authorities' (prison authorities, youth custody authorities and educational authorities) in the preparation of their strategy. The relevant authorities and other key partners such as wider criminal justice partners or those in the 3rd sector are identified as being key to co-operating with specified authorities with the Duty, albeit not legally bound by it.
- 2.3 In Gwent, the following partners are the *specified authorities* for the purposes of the Duty:
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
 - Blaenau-Gwent County Borough Council
 - Caerphilly County Borough Council
 - Caerphilly & Blaenau-Gwent Youth Offending Service
 - Gwent Police
 - Gwent Probation Service (Delivery Unit)
 - Monmouthshire County Council
 - Monmouthshire & Torfaen Youth Offending Service
 - Newport City Council
 - Newport Youth Offending Service
 - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
 - Torfaen County Borough Council
- 2.4 All Specified Authorities across Gwent are committed to complying with the requirements laid out in the guidance. This includes, but is not limited to:
- Collaborating with relevant partners by attending meetings and sharing relevant data, agency strategies, plans and other information.
 - Contributing to the development of the need's assessment/s and strategy
 - Committing to implement the results of the strategy – e.g., commissioning services, delivering prevention/early intervention activities.
- 2.5 The Duty stipulates that a local Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) should provide the intelligence to inform the development of strategic priorities, with the detail of how these priorities are addressed being articulated in a local strategy. The local SNA should provide intelligence on:
- What kind of violence is taking place
 - Who is affected by violence
 - Where violence is happening
 - When violence is happening
 - And where possible, what interventions are needed
- This is the first time a region-wide Serious Violence SNA and Strategy have been drafted in Gwent. The Duty required that both be completed by the 31st of January 2024, and as such the development of this strategy was based on an evolving version of the SNA.
- 2.6 In Gwent, the agreed definition, or 'areas of focus', for serious violence have been identified as:
- Homicide
 - Knife and gun crime
 - Public space youth violence

- Youth violence in schools
- Grievous bodily harm (GBH) and actual bodily harm (ABH)
- Robbery
- Sexual violence and domestic abuse including stalking and harassment.
- Arson with threats to life
- Assaults against professionals.

This definition was agreed by the Gwent Serious Violence Duty Working Group, with representation from all Specified Authorities.

Partnership Committee Terms of Reference

- 2.9 At the AGM meeting of Council held on 16th May 2017 a new Scrutiny Committee Structure was agreed including the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships, the remit of which includes:

Scrutiny of community safety issues and associated partnerships: Designated Committee for Crime and Disorder

- To consider Councillor Calls for Action (CCfA) that arise through the council’s agreed CCfA process;
- To consider actions undertaken by the responsible authorities on the CSP.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The following information is attached for the Committees consideration:

Appendix A - Serious Violence Duty: Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment
 Appendix B - Serious Violence Duty: Gwent Strategy

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Consider the information that is included fully.
- Identify any gaps in data or learning that may be present.
- Consider feeding in knowledge that the committee members hold and any case study or emerging themes the members are aware of.
- Conclusions:
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the reports?
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the performance of the Serious Violence Duty: Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy?
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
 - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet?

Suggested Lines of Enquiry

- 4.1 In considering / evaluating the Serious Violence Duty: Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy the Committee may wish to consider focusing questions on:
- How do the responsible authorities propose to engage with and involve local communities in the design and implementation of serious violence prevention initiatives to ensure their active participation and support?
 - What specific strategies are in place to ensure effective collaboration and information sharing between Specified Authorities and Relevant Authorities in Gwent?
 - What mechanisms are being proposed to ensure the sustainability of data collection, analysis, and sharing across partners and partnerships in Gwent?
 - How will the effectiveness of the implemented strategies be evaluated, and what metrics will be used to measure the impact of serious violence prevention initiatives in Gwent?
 - Are there any examples of successful interventions based on local data and community insights that have been implemented to prevent serious violence in Gwent?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- 5.1 The report links with the Wellbeing-being Objectives and Aims of the Council's Corporate Plan 2022 – 2027;

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
Aims:	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

Step 7 links to the Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment and Strategy;

7	Promote positive community inclusion and culture by engaging with key stakeholders and communities to address issues of anti-social behaviour and crime.
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6 Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality. A copy of the relevant EAS Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA) has been produced.

Impact Assessment:

6.1 Summary of impact – Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

The Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment and Strategy demonstrates a strong alignment with the principles and goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act by promoting collaboration, data-driven decision-making, community engagement, and long-term planning to improve the well-being and safety of current and future generations in Gwent.

6.2 Summary of impact – Socio-economic Duty

The Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment and Strategy demonstrates a commitment to addressing socio-economic factors that contribute to serious violence and promoting more equitable outcomes for individuals in Gwent. By integrating the principles of the Socio-economic Duty into their strategies and actions, the initiatives aim to create a safer and more inclusive community for all residents, regardless of socio-economic background.

7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Report to Annual Council 16 May 2017 upon New Scrutiny Committee Structures](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-27](#)
- [Wales Violence Prevention Unit – Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment Guidance for Wales](#)

Report Completed: 20th March 2024

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Serious Violence Duty

Strategic Needs Assessment for Gwent 2024



Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service



Newport Youth Offending Service



Supported by...



Contents

1. [Introduction](#)
2. [The Serious Violence Duty](#)
3. [Local 'definition' of serious violence](#)
4. [Problem profile across Gwent](#)
 - a. [Homicide](#)
 - b. [Knife and gun crime](#)
 - c. [Grievous bodily harm \(GBH\) and actual bodily harm \(ABH\)](#)
 - d. [Robbery](#)
 - e. [Public space youth violence](#)
 - f. [Youth violence in schools](#)
 - g. [Sexual violence and domestic abuse \(including stalking and harassment\)](#)
 - h. [Arson with threats to life](#)
 - i. [Assaults against professionals](#)
 - j. [Key issues and findings](#)
5. [Blaenau-Gwent Summary](#)
 - a. [Local problem profile summary](#)
 - b. [Key population risk factors affecting violence](#)
 - c. [Key local issues and findings](#)
6. [Caerphilly Summary](#)
 - a. [Local problem profile summary](#)
 - b. [Key population risk factors affecting violence](#)
 - c. [Key local issues and findings](#)
7. [Monmouthshire Summary](#)
 - a. [Local problem profile summary](#)
 - b. [Key population risk factors affecting violence](#)
 - c. [Key local issues and findings](#)
8. [Newport Summary](#)
 - a. [Local problem profile summary](#)
 - b. [Key population risk factors affecting violence](#)
 - c. [Key local issues and findings](#)
9. [Torfaen Summary](#)
 - a. [Local problem profile summary](#)
 - b. [Key population risk factors affecting violence](#)
 - c. [Key local issues and findings](#)
10. [Summary of key findings](#)

Introduction

All forms of violence are unacceptable. Violence significantly harms both individuals and communities alike, and those impacts cannot be underestimated.

As a partnership of specified authorities under the Serious Violence Duty, we are committed to ensuring acts of violence are eradicated from our homes and streets. We want people across all communities of Gwent to live safe, happy, healthy lives, free from violence.

This Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) is the first step in improving our collective response to violence across Gwent and the local areas that make up the former county. The SNA provides a baseline assessment of the crime trends and problems themselves, but also the underlying factors that increase the risk of these crimes happening in the first place.

The issues and needs that are identified through this SNA will be taken forward through a strategy that will aim to tackle these head on through a range of interventions, by taking a public health approach to violence prevention and reduction.

However, we have all witnessed the unexpected shocks and pressures placed on society in the past 4 years, which have impacted on all crime and people's lives in general. Therefore, although this SNA is being published in early 2024, it is intended to be a 'live' document, reviewed frequently to ensure that the information remains relevant and is directing the activity and interventions accordingly.

Through this SNA and the resultant Strategy, our aim is to address the root causes of violence and abuse, and to stop the cycles we see of repeat offenders and victims. We want our communities to feel safe and be safe from violence.

Background: The Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty went live across England and Wales on 31st January 2023. More detailed information about the Duty can be found [here](#).

The Duty places a mandatory requirement on certain 'Specified Authorities' (chief officers of police, fire and rescue authorities, health boards, local authorities, youth offending teams and probation services) to work together and plan to reduce and prevent serious violence. This includes identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in their area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.

The Duty also requires specified authorities to consult other 'Relevant Authorities' (prison authorities, youth custody authorities and educational authorities) in the preparation of their strategy. The relevant authorities and other key partners such as wider criminal justice partners or those in the 3rd sector are identified as being key to co-operating with specified authorities with the Duty, albeit not legally bound by it.

Local policing bodies, being Police and Crime Commissioners or equivalent, have taken on the role of 'Lead Convener' for the local partnership arrangements, to support the development and implementation of the local SNA and strategy.

In Gwent, the following partners are the *specified authorities* for the purposes of the Duty:

- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- Blaenau-Gwent County Borough Council
- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Caerphilly & Blaenau-Gwent Youth Offending Service
- Gwent Police
- Gwent Probation Service (Delivery Unit)
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Monmouthshire & Torfaen Youth Offending Service
- Newport City Council
- Newport Youth Offending Service
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Torfaen County Borough Council

All Specified Authorities across Gwent are committed to complying with the requirements laid out in the guidance. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Collaborating with relevant partners by attending meetings and sharing relevant data, agency strategies, plans and other information.
- Contributing to the development of the need's assessment/s and strategy
- Committing to implement the results of the strategy - e.g., commissioning services, delivering prevention/early intervention activities.

In Gwent, the Police and Crime Commissioner has taken on the lead convener role and has supported the specified authorities in developing this SNA and the resultant strategy.

Local 'Definition' of Serious Violence

The World Health Organization's Violence Prevention Alliance, through its *World report on violence and health*, defined violence as:

"The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation."

This is a useful starting point to understand some of the key criminal acts and behaviours that we are seeking to have an impact upon.

As part of the requirements of the serious violence duty, local areas are responsible for developing a 'definition' of violence based on local issues and key information available that describes the picture locally. This is in addition to those key national issues that the Home Office want to see reductions in.

Using the information above, in the development of this SNA, specified authority partners agreed to adopt a broad definition of violence, or areas of focus, to try to understand better and have an impact upon. This is as follows:

- Homicide
- Knife and gun crime
- Public space youth violence
- Youth violence in schools,
- Grievous bodily harm (GBH) and actual bodily harm (ABH)
- Robbery
- Sexual violence and domestic abuse including stalking and harassment.
- Arson with threats to life
- Assaults against professionals.

It is with this definition that the SNA has focused the research and data analysis, starting with a profile of each of these violence types.

However, it has been acknowledged by all partners that this definition may change and adapt over time.

Problem profile across Gwent

All crime data have been extracted from Gwent Police systems on the 7th of June 2023 and uses the offence committed date. The data have been specifically extracted in this way to be able to capture as much detail relating to the offence as possible. Victim and Offender data have also been extracted using the same method on the 8th and 9th June 2023.

The date range used for the purpose of this profile is by financial year from April 2018 to March 2023.

Population data used in this profile has been taken from StatsWales and uses to mid-year estimates that are as close as possible to the relating year. E.g., 2021-22 uses mid-year 2020, 2022-23 uses Mid-year 2021 etc. for each local authority and for Gwent as a whole.

The age of victims and offenders is the age they were when the offence took place and will be broken down by 18-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56-65 and Over 65.

Every effort has been taken to cleanse the data and remove duplication of records where appropriate to provide data that are as accurate as possible.

Other data provided by partner agencies includes;

In 2021, the Gwent Public Services Board concluded a comprehensive Well-being Assessment mandated by the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The well-being profile utilised population data spanning from 2011-2021. Local Authorities have also carried out local wellbeing assessments. Data from these assessments comes from the Census, Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (Welsh Government), and similar sources.

All data presented in the Key Issues and Findings section is stored and available on each of the 5 local authorities' websites, as a publicly accessible document. This validates the choice of using this data as it has undergone council review, received approval, and involved public consultation.

Other data sources are stated throughout (e.g. hospital attendances).

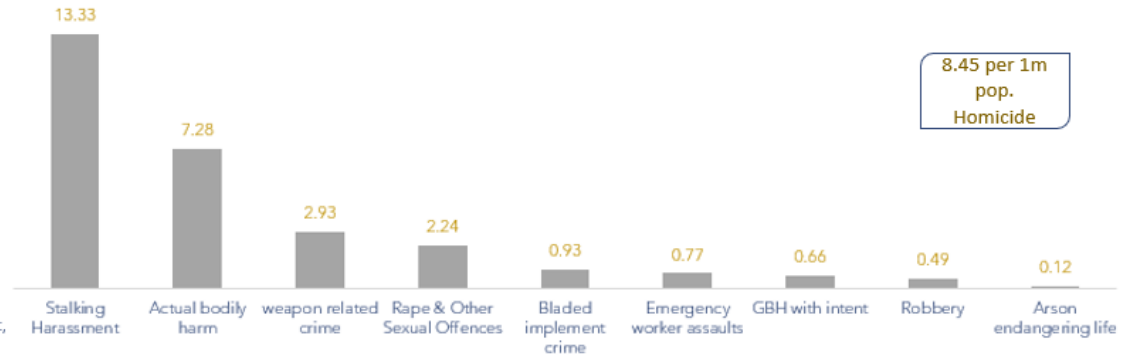
Serious Violence in Gwent

Gwent's Serious Violence Duty has focused on 11 categories of serious violence, these are;

- o Homicide
- o Weapon Crime (with focus on bladed implements)
- o Youth violence in public places
- o Grievous bodily harm with intent
- o Actual bodily harm
- o Robbery
- o Sexual violence
- o Stalking harassment
- o Arson with threat to life
- o Assault on emergency workers

Over a 5 year average the three areas with the most recorded crimes are Stalking Harassment, Homicide and Actual bodily harm (ABH). Followed closely by weapon related crime.

5 year average crime rates per 1k pop. of Serious Violence Duty Crime Categories for Gwent



Page 13

Stalking & Harassment



Gwent's Stalking & harassment crime rate and volume has increased by 32% in the last 5-year period.

All local authority area recorded an increase in stalking & harassment. The highest rate increase was in Blaenau Gwent which increased by 57% in the last 5 years, followed by Monmouthshire with 48% and Caerphilly which increased by 35%

Homicide



The homicide crime rate (per 1m pop.) in Gwent has increased by 350% and volume has increased by 7. 2022/23 saw an unusually high crime rate, and so far in 2023/24 its already shows numbers more in line with previous years.

The highest increase was in Torfaen and Newport which recorded a rise of 3 homicides each compared to none in 2018-19, followed by Monmouthshire with an increase of 2 homicides. Caerphilly has had a decrease and Blaenau Gwent hasn't recorded any homicides over the last 5 years.

Actual bodily harm



ABH crime rate and volume in Gwent has shown a fairly stable trend over the last 5 years and has decreased of less than 1%.

Gwent as a whole hasn't a lot of fluctuation in the last 5-year period, this is likely due to the decreasing trend in Newport, counteracted by the increasing trend in the other 4 local authority areas. Monmouthshire in particular has seen an increasing trend with a rise of an 11% crime rate since 2018/19.

Weapon related crime



Gwent Weapon related crime rate and volume has an increase of 30% over the last 5-year period, although the crime rate dropped dramatically in 2020/21, it now started to show a steady increase to crime rates seen in 2019/20.

Although the crime rate has increased in every local authority area, Monmouthshire had the biggest crime rate increase of 56%, followed by Blaenau Gwent 44% and Caerphilly by 34% in the last 5-year period.

Rape & Sexual offences



Gwent Rape & Sexual offence crime rate and volume has shown a steady increase over the last 5 years of 49%.

Every local authority area has seen an increase; however, Blaenau Gwent has had the biggest rate increase of 95%, followed by Caerphilly 61% and Monmouthshire by 49%.

The rape crime rate in Blaenau Gwent has doubled and shows a year-on-year increase over the last 5-year period.

OFFENDERS

Male ~ White ~ 26-35

VICTIMS

Male ~ White ~ 26-35

Between 15:00 – 00:00



N.B. Crime rates used are all per 1 thousand population of either the whole of Gwent, or by the population of the local authority being referenced. This is to ensure that a fair comparison is be made. Homicide crime rate is calculated per 1 million population because the numbers are so low.

Hospital Attendance

Hospital attendance for violence and assaults by Local Authority area, rates per 100,000 for 2021/22 and a trend comparison to 2020/21 figures. These Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data were prepared by Digital Health and Care Wales.

	All Violence & Assaults (ICD10 codes - X91-X99; Y00-Y09)					
Local Authority Name	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Blaenau Gwent	47.39	20.11 ê	57.38 é	60.12 é	22.85 ê	32.85 é
Caerphilly	37.13	26.55 ê	39.22 é	32.03 ê	20.91 ê	22.01 é
Monmouthshire	15.08	9.62 ê	22.31 é	14.80 ê	15.76 é	11.56 ê
Newport	61.01	43.57 ê	60.66 é	52.37 ê	37.07 ê	28.76 ê
Torfaen	29.33	42.27 é	45.14 é	32.99 ê	16.87 ê	28.47 é
Wales	36.91	32.57 ê	34.47 é	31.40 ê	20.70 ê	21.96 é

	Young People (Under 25) - All Violence & Assaults (ICD10 codes - X91-X99; Y00-Y09)					
Local Authority Name	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Blaenau Gwent	45.97	20.72 ê	26.12 é	73.81 é	31.58 ê	31.58 è
Caerphilly	35.83	43.74 é	40.23 ê	38.73 ê	19.32 ê	28.98 é
Monmouthshire	16.68	8.39 ê	29.55 é	17.12 ê	30.03 é	21.45 ê
Newport	70.84	27.73 ê	68.14 é	65.74 ê	31.25 ê	33.33 é
Torfaen	44.94	41.42 ê	56.27 é	37.55 ê	33.63 ê	33.63 è
Wales	45.92	37.27 ê	39.37 é	37.68 ê	23.23 ê	27.41 é

Summary of Wales Hospital Admissions for violence (All Violence & Assaults - ICD10 codes - X91-X99; Y00-Y09) by Local Authority area, rates per 100,000 and covering 2016/17 to 2021/22

Further breakdown of hospital attendance information:



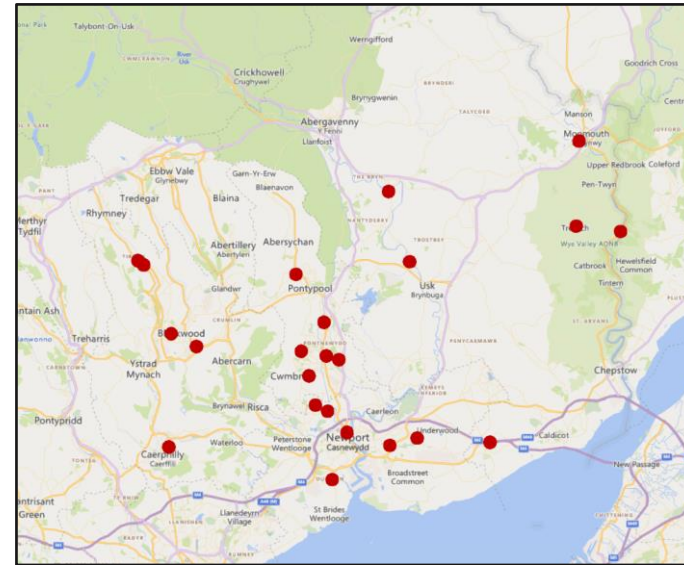
Page 145

Homicide

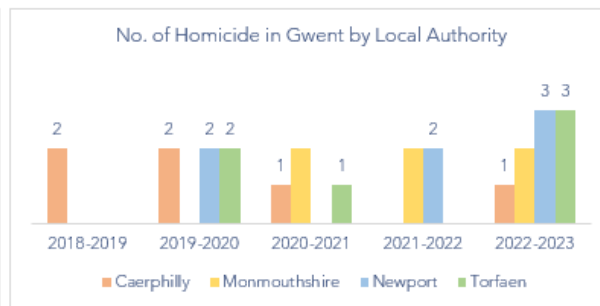
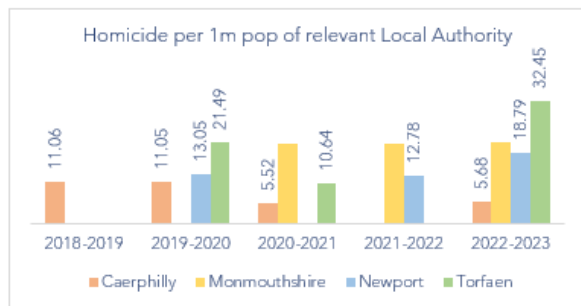
In 2022-23 Gwent’s Homicide rate was the highest it’s been in the last 5 years and has increased by 51% since 2021-22 which gives Gwent a homicide rate of 15 per 1 million population.

This is 51% more than the England and Wales rate of homicide for 2022-23 which has been reported as being 10.1 homicides for every million people (Statista research dept. 2023). This is a stark contrast to 2021-22 when Gwent were 47% below the figure of 12.6 homicides per million population for England & Wales with a rate of 6.69.

5 out of 25 (20%) homicides since 2018-19 were committed using a bladed object. 2 in Torfaen and 2 in Newport. There is no suggestion from the data that this is becoming an increasing problem within Gwent.



Page 146

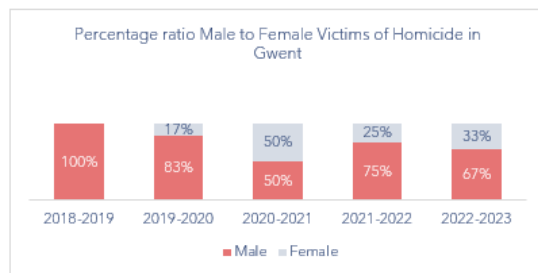


Offenders

- **Mostly male**
- **Mostly aged 18-45**

Victims

- **Mostly male**
- **Mostly aged 46-65**



Domestic Homicide

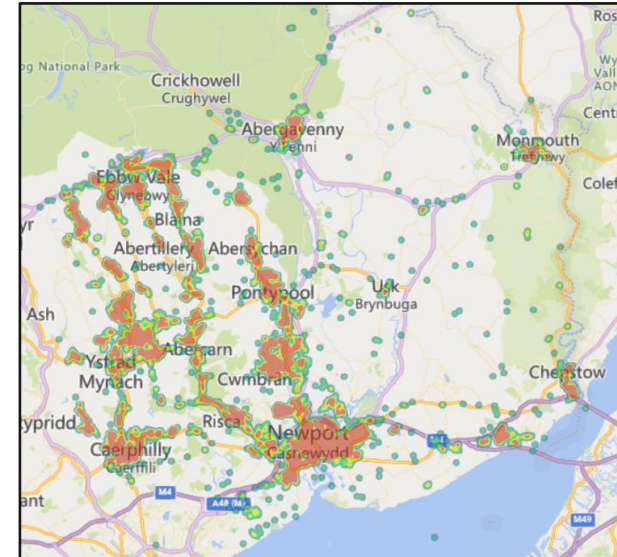
7 out of the 25 (28%) homicides recorded since 2018-19 were because of a domestic situation. The data shows a consistent pattern of approx. 2 domestic homicides per year. 71% (n=5) of domestic homicide victims were female, with the most common age being between 56-65. 86% (n=6) of domestic homicide offenders were male with the majority being over 65.

Knife and gun crime

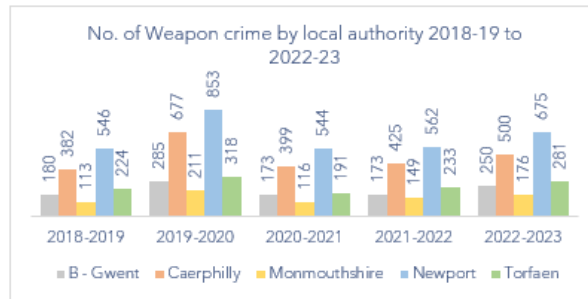
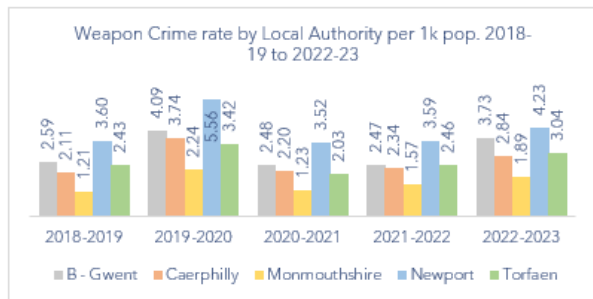
Weapon related crime in Gwent in the last 5-year period peaked at its highest in 2019-20 with a crime rate of 3.98 offences per 1000 population. The primary weapon used is a bladed article.

The lowest crime rate was in 2020-21 with 2.40 in the last 5-year period which is highly likely due to the long periods of Covid -19 lockdown. The crime rate rose by 25% between 2022 and 2023, with Newport remaining as the Local Authority with the highest crime rate for Weapon related offences. However, Blaenau Gwent had a significant increase in crime rate of 51% between 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Weapon related crime in Gwent mostly happens in the months of October and November, typically reported on a Sunday and usually around the hours of 5pm and midnight. Both victim and offenders are between the ages of 26-35, white and male.



Page 147



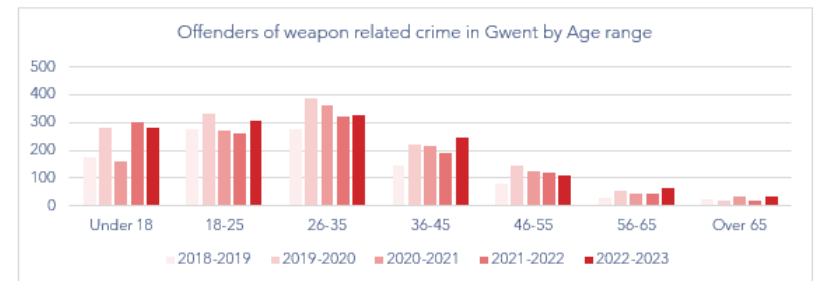
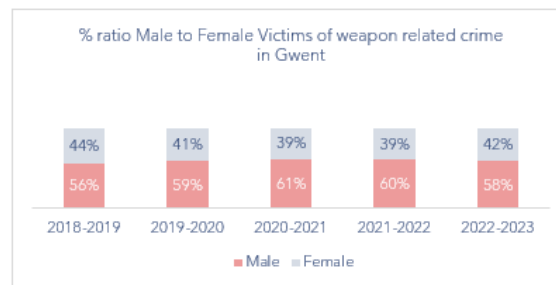
Offenders

- Mostly male
- Mostly aged 18-45

Victims

- Mostly male
- Mostly aged 26-45

Since 2018-19 most victims of **domestic weapon crime** where weapons were used were between 26-35 and were female. Offenders were mostly white, males between the ages of 26 to 35.



Hospital attendance for assault by sharp objects

	Assault by sharp object (ICD10 code - X99)					
Local Authority Name	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Blaenau Gwent	5.74	0.00 ê	8.61 é	0.00 ê	1.43 é	1.43 ê
Caerphilly	3.88	1.66 ê	3.31 é	1.66 ê	2.20 é	2.20 ê
Monmouthshire	1.08	2.14 é	0.00 ê	0.00 ê	0.00 ê	1.05 é
Newport	3.35	5.94 é	3.91 ê	5.17 é	7.03 é	1.92 ê
Torfaen	0.00	1.08 é	0.00 ê	0.00 ê	3.16 é	3.16 ê
Wales	3.73	3.78 é	3.92 é	3.17 ê	2.87 ê	2.37 ê

	Young People (Under 25) - Assault by sharp object (ICD10 code - X99)					
Local Authority Name	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Blaenau Gwent	0.00	0.00 ê	0.00 ê	0.00 ê	5.26 é	0.00 ê
Caerphilly	3.77	3.80 é	0.00 ê	3.87 é	1.93 ê	3.86 é
Monmouthshire	0.00	0.00 ê	0.00 ê	0.00 ê	0.00 ê	0.00 ê
Newport	8.59	2.13 ê	8.52 é	4.24 ê	6.25 é	0.00 ê
Torfaen	0.00	3.77 é	0.00 ê	0.00 ê	3.74 é	0.00 ê
Wales	3.49	3.51 é	3.41 ê	3.20 ê	3.19 ê	2.86 ê

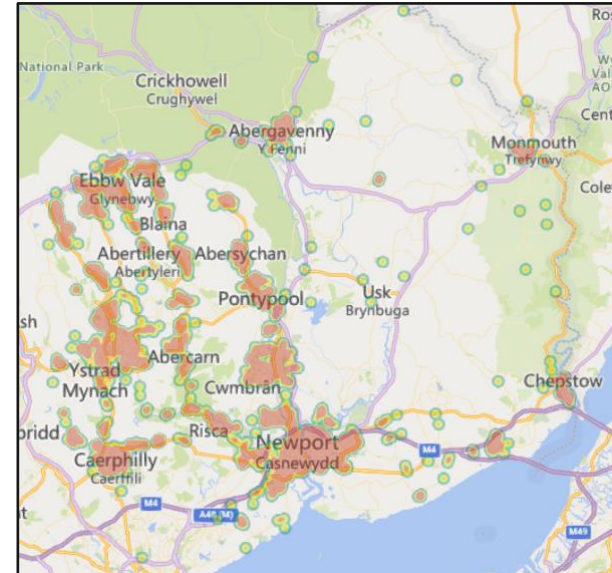
Summary of Wales Hospital Admissions for violence (Assault by sharp object - ICD10 code - X99) by Local Authority area, rates per 100,000 and covering 2016/17 to 2021/22.

Grievous bodily harm (GBH)

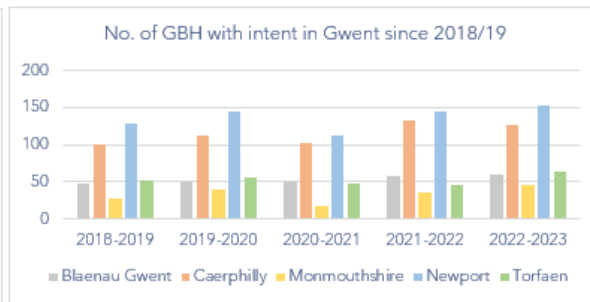
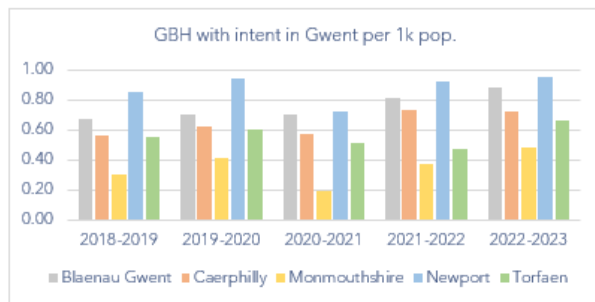
GBH (Grievous bodily harm) with intent crime in Gwent in the last 5-year period peaked at its highest in 2022-23 with 0.79 crimes per 1k population (n=446). GBH with intent has been increasing year on year except for 2020-21 where it was its lowest recorded in the last 5 years with 0.56 crimes per 1k population (n=33) which is due to the long periods of Covid-19 lockdowns.

In 34% of recorded crimes no weapon has been used, this means injury has been likely caused by physical contact alone rather than the use of an object. The use of a bladed implement has increased year on year and has increased by a total of 52% since 2018-19.

GBH with intent in Gwent mostly happens in the months of August and September, typically reported on a Saturday and usually around the hours of 5pm and midnight. Both victim and offenders are predominantly between the ages of 26-35, white and male.



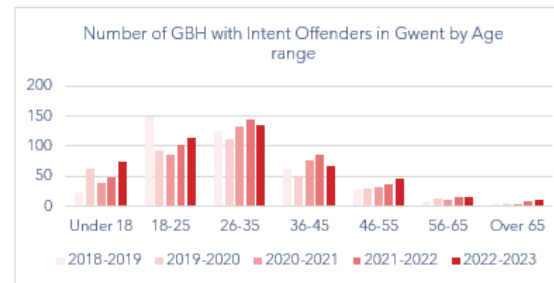
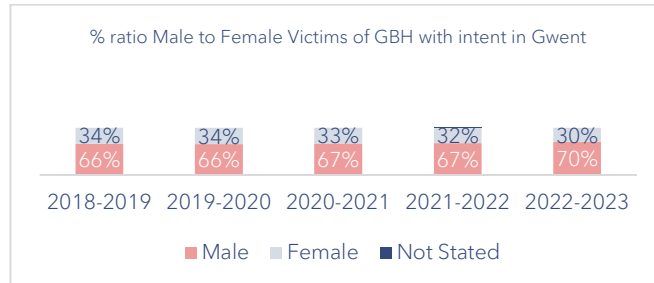
Page 149



Offenders
 Mostly male - 75-80%
 Mostly aged 26-35

Victims
 Mostly male - 66-70%
 Mostly aged 26-35

Since 2018-19 the majority of **victims of domestic GBH with intent** were White, females, between 26-35. Offenders were mostly white, males between the ages of 26 to 35.

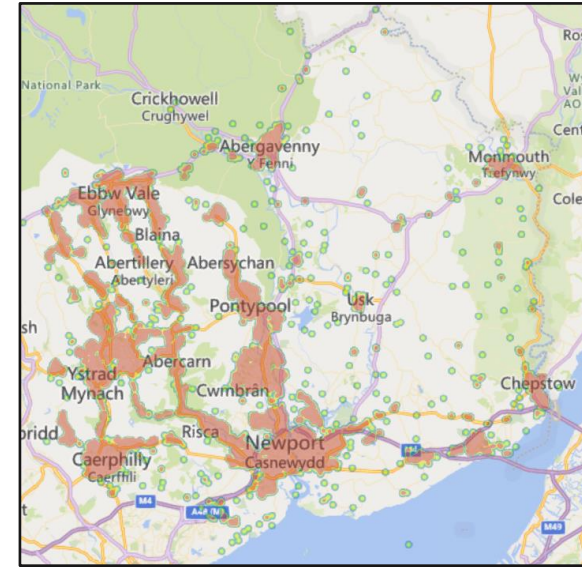


Actual bodily harm (ABH)

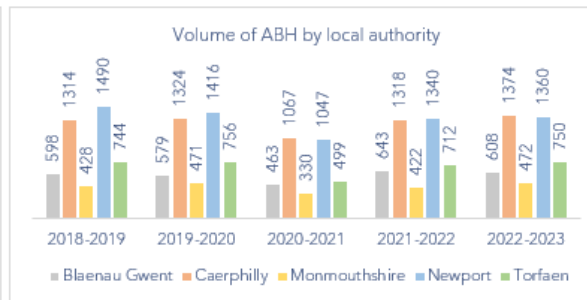
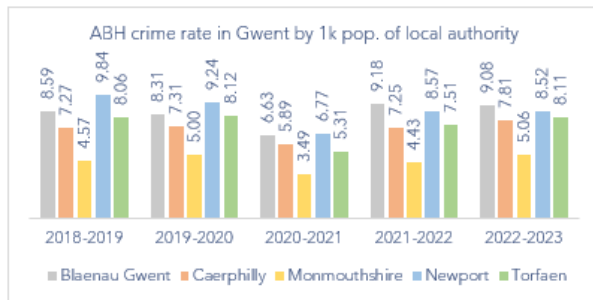
ABH (Actual bodily harm) crime in Gwent in the last 5-year period peaked at its highest in 2018-19 with 7.78 crimes per 1k pop. of Gwent (4,574). Since that time, it has remained stable except for 2020-21 when it reached its lowest with a rate of 5.73 (n=3,406) which was as a result of the covid-19 pandemic.

ABH in Gwent mostly happens in the months of July and August, typically reported on a Saturday and usually around the hours of between 3pm and midnight. Victims of ABH were mostly white, female and either under 18 or between 26 to 35 years of age. Offenders were mostly white, male and between the ages of 26-35.

Each Local Authority area has shown higher crime rates in 2022-23 compared with pre pandemic crimes rates in 2019-20 apart from Newport which has shown a downward trend in ABH since 2018-19.



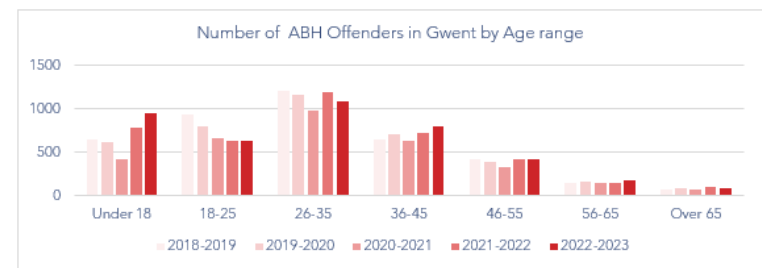
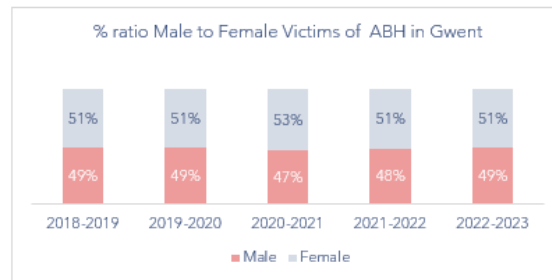
Page 150



Offenders
 Mostly male - 66-69%
 Mostly aged 26-35

Victims
 Mostly female - 51-53%
 Mostly aged under 18 and 26-35

In 2022-23 **Domestic related ABH** accounted for 28% (1299 out of 4564) of all recorded ABH in Gwent. This is less than the previous year which was 35% (1533 out of 4435).

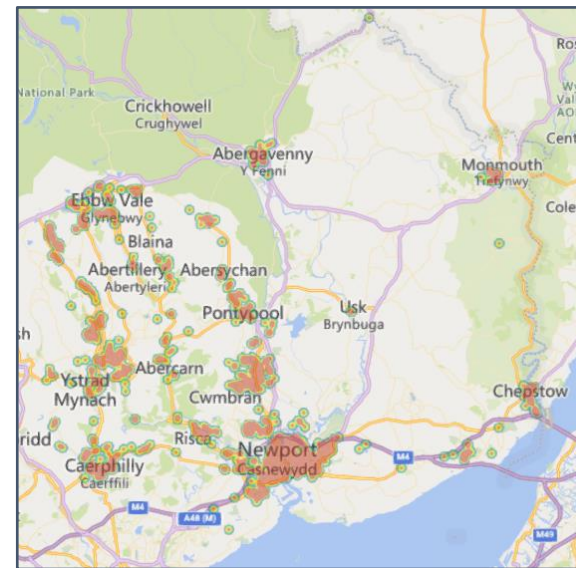


Robbery

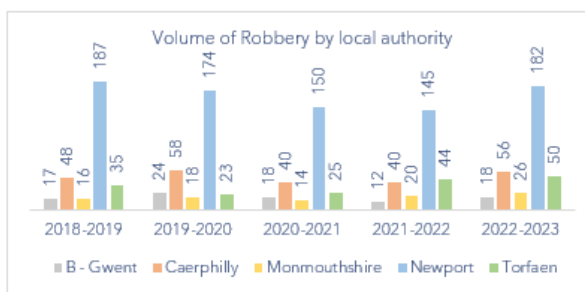
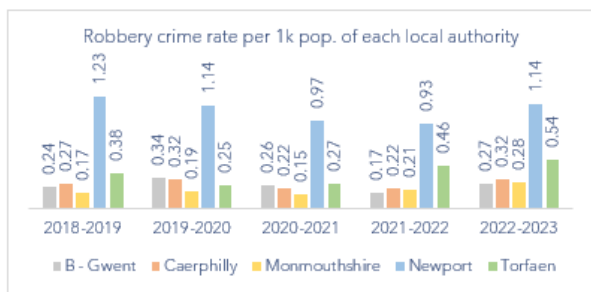
Robbery in Gwent in the last 5-year period peaked at its highest in 2022-23 with 0.56 crimes per 1k pop. (n=332). This is the highest it's been in the last 5-year period except for 2020-21 where it dropped to 0.42 per 1k pop. (n=247).

Robbery in Gwent mostly happens in the months of June and October, typically reported on a Wednesday and Saturday in the hours of 5pm and 6pm. Both victim and offenders are between the ages of 26-35, white and male.

The most common type of weapon used is a bladed object. The category of 'no weapon used' has decreased by 64% (n=25) over the last 5 years, but the category of 'bladed implement' has increased by 216% (n=52). In 67% of all robbery crimes a weapon hasn't been recorded. Robbery where a weapon has been used increased by 16% (n=11) between 2021-22 and 2022-23.

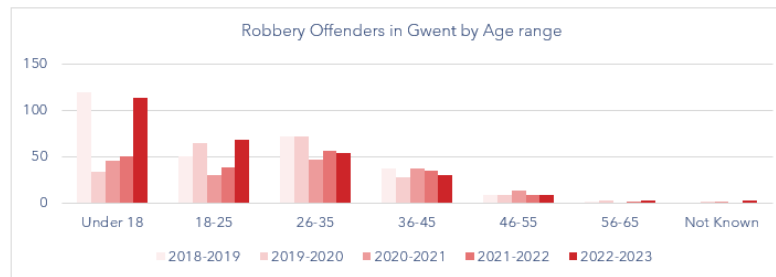
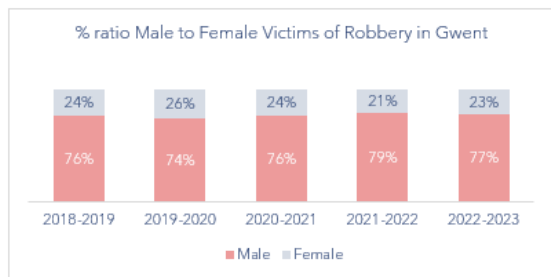


Page 151



Offenders
 Mostly male - 74-79%
 Mostly aged under 18 to 25

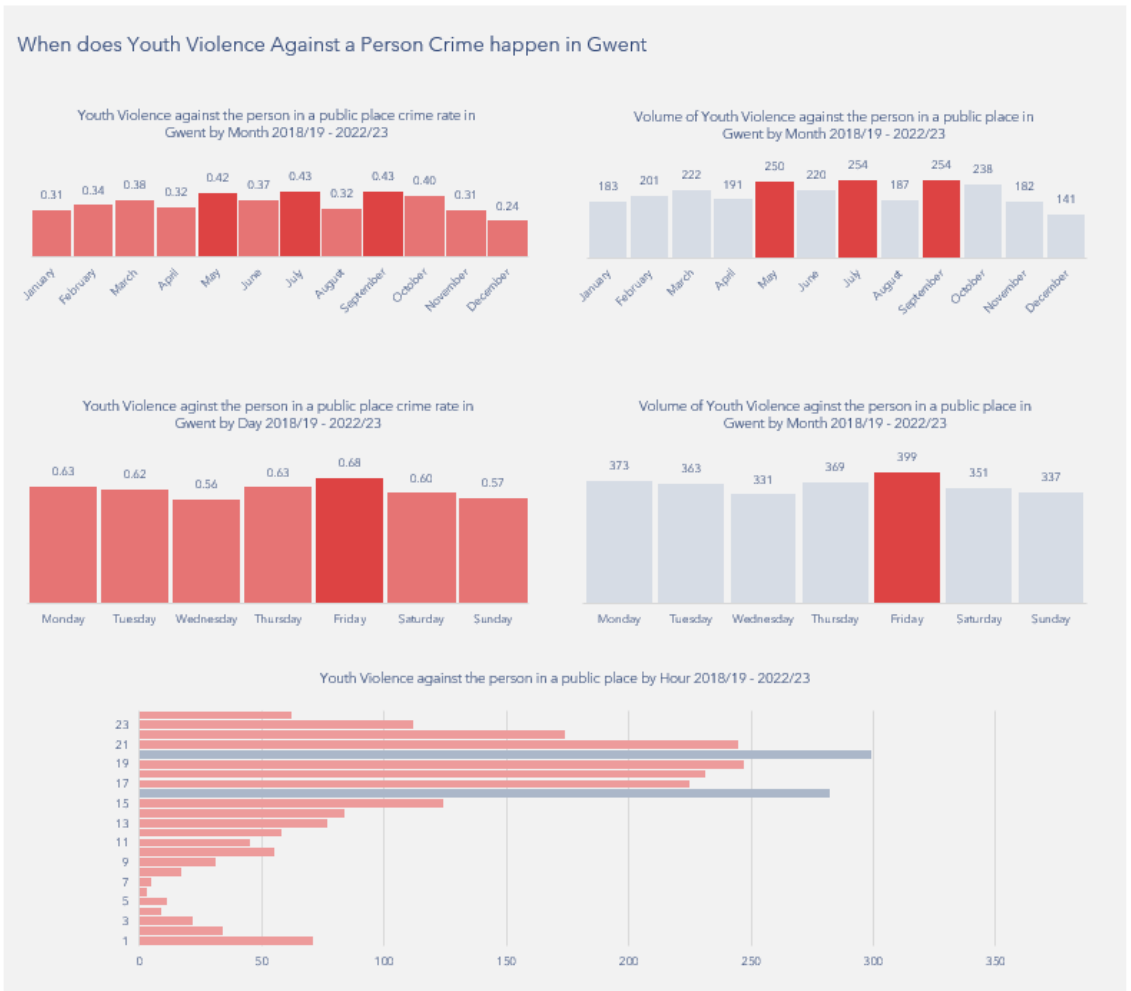
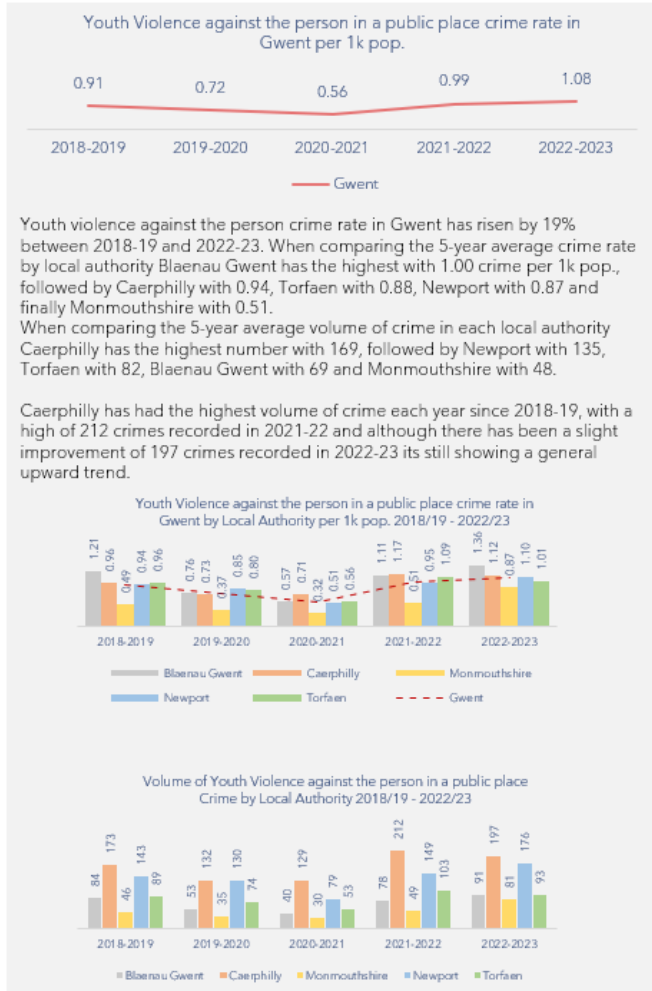
Victims
 Mostly male - 74-79%
 Mostly aged 26-35



Public space youth violence

Please note: some of these data will also be included in the above information (and vice-versa) and are therefore not added to any 'totals' figures to avoid duplication

Page 152



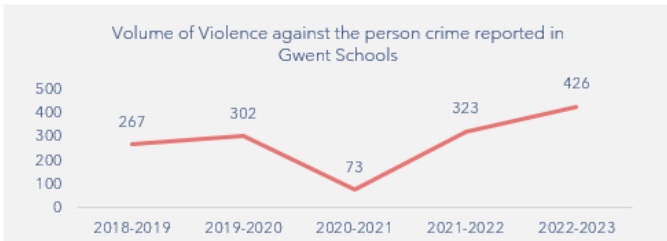
VICTIMS Ethnicity: White ♦ Female 52% / Male 47% ♦ Age: 14

OFFENDERS Ethnicity: White ♦ Female 40% / Male 60% ♦ Age: 14 - 17

Youth violence in schools (u18)

Please note: some of these data will also be included in the above information (and vice-versa) and are not added to any 'totals' figures to avoid duplication

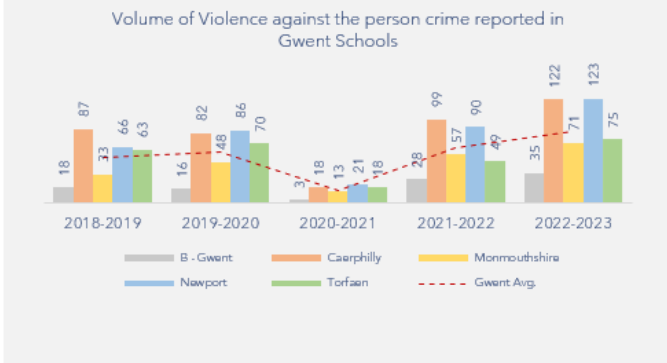
Page 153



Violence in schools can be difficult to capture due to lack of reliable data, however the following data has been captured by using Violence against the person crime data that has been recorded using a school address where age of victim or offender was between 10 to 17.

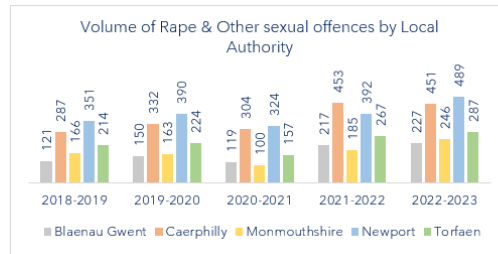
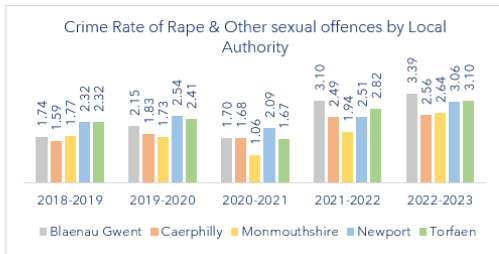
Volume of violence against a person in schools has increase from 2018/19 to 2022/23 by 60%. When comparing the 5-year average crime across local authorities, Caerphilly has the most reported crime with 408, followed by Newport with 386, Torfaen 275, Monmouthshire 222 and Blaenau Gwent with 100.

Between 2018/19 and 2022/23 Monmouthshire has had the largest percentage increase with 115%, Blaenau Gwent by 94%, Newport by 86%, Caerphilly by 40% and Torfaen by 19%



Sexual violence and domestic abuse (including stalking and harassment)

In developing this SNA, the specified authority partners agreed to collaborate with the Gwent Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Commissioning Board, to co-commission a consultant to complete a detailed analysis of the current sexual violence and domestic abuse picture across Gwent. This report is expected in Spring 2024 and relevant information will be added to this SNA at that time. In the interim, the high level information relating to sexual violence and domestic abuse is as follows.

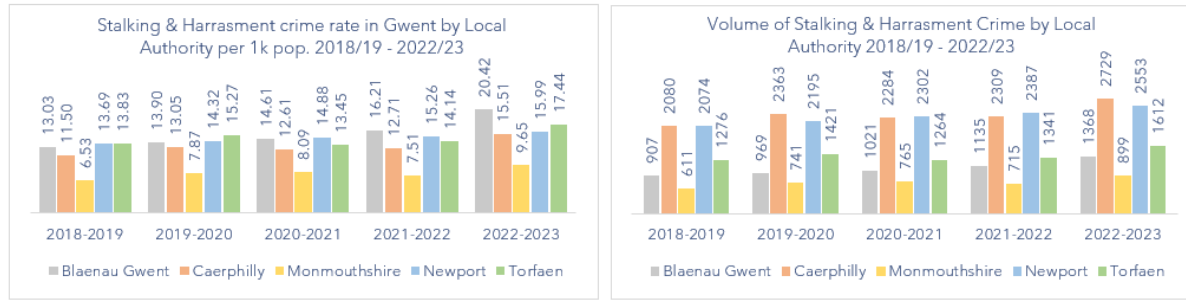


In 2022-23 Gwent’s total crime rate for Rape & Other sexual offences reached a 5 year high of 2.89 per 1k pop. of Gwent. This is an increase of 14% (n=0.36) compared with 2021-23. The recorded crime rate for Rape was 11.26, and for Other sexual offences it was 2.03, These were increases of 16% (n=0.28) and 104% (n=5.75) respectively compared with the previous year.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Other sexual offences	1.29	1.48	1.16	2.21	2.46
Rape	0.45	0.67	0.54	0.89	0.93
Blaenau Gwent	1.74	2.15	1.70	3.10	3.39
Other sexual offences	1.02	1.30	1.19	1.72	1.77
Rape	0.56	0.54	0.49	0.77	0.79
Caerphilly	1.59	1.83	1.68	2.49	2.56
Other sexual offences	1.16	1.29	0.71	1.38	2.02
Rape	0.61	0.45	0.35	0.57	0.62
Monmouthshire	1.77	1.73	1.06	1.94	2.64
Other sexual offences	1.58	1.86	1.37	1.69	2.08
Rape	0.74	0.68	0.72	0.82	0.98
Newport	2.32	2.54	2.09	2.51	3.06
Other sexual offences	1.67	1.85	1.15	1.94	2.12
Rape	0.65	0.56	0.52	0.88	0.98
Torfaen	2.32	2.41	1.67	2.82	3.10
Total Other sexual offences	1.32	1.55	1.15	1.75	2.03
Total Rape	0.70	1.35	2.65	5.51	11.26
Grand Total	1.94	2.13	1.69	2.53	2.89

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Other sexual offences	90	103	81	155	165
Rape	31	47	38	62	62
Blaenau Gwent	121	150	119	217	227
Other sexual offences	185	235	215	313	312
Rape	102	97	89	140	139
Caerphilly	287	332	304	453	451
Other sexual offences	109	121	67	131	188
Rape	57	42	33	54	58
Monmouthshire	166	163	100	185	246
Other sexual offences	239	285	212	264	332
Rape	112	105	112	128	157
Newport	351	390	324	392	489
Other sexual offences	154	172	108	184	196
Rape	60	52	49	83	91
Torfaen	214	224	157	267	287
Total Other sexual offences	777	916	683	1,047	1,193
Total Rape	383	748	1,473	3,091	6,219
Grand Total	1,139	1,259	1,004	1,514	1,700

Between 2021-22 and 2022-23 increased crime rates for both Rape and Other sexual offences can be seen in each Local Authority. The largest increase in crime rate for Rape was in Newport with 20% (n=0.16), and the largest increase in Other sexual offences was in Monmouthshire with 47% (n=0.64). Chart 7.1b shows the volume of Rape & Other sexual offences by local authority for the last 5 year period.

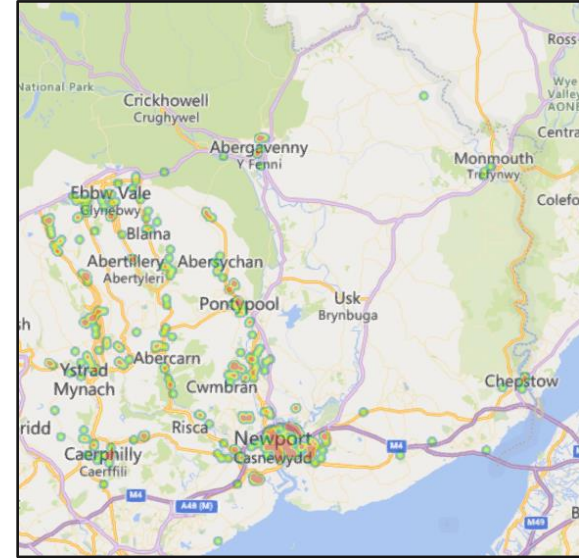


The crime rate for stalking & harassment in Gwent by local authority for the last 5 year period. In 2022-23 the crime rate was at its highest recorded in the last 5 years with 15.63 per 1k pop of Gwent, which is an increase of 18% 2.42 compared with the previous year. Blaenau Gwent had the highest crime rate in 2022-23 with a crime rate of 20.42 (n=1368), however it was Monmouthshire that has the biggest increase between 2021-22 and 2022-23 with 28% (n=2.4). Chart 7.2b shows the increase in volume of stalking & harassment crime by local authority over the last 5 year period.

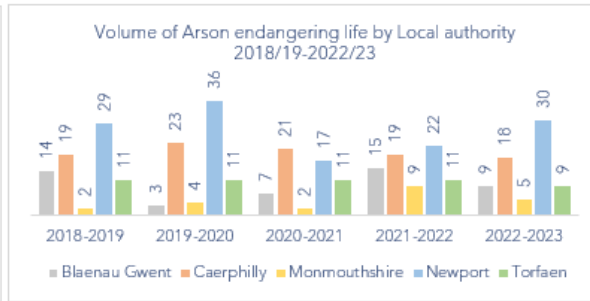
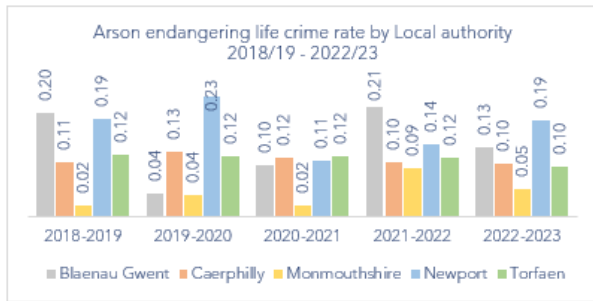
Arson with threats to life

Arson endangering life in Gwent in the last 5-year period has remained stable, showing little change or increased trend, in fact showing declines in general.

Arson endangering life in Gwent mostly happens in the month of November, typically reported on a Saturday and usually around the hours of 8pm and 11pm to midnight. Victims are mostly between the ages of 35 to 45 years of age, white and equally male and female. Offenders are between the ages of 26-35, white and male.

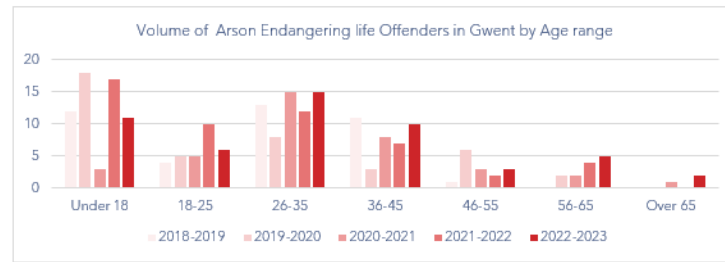
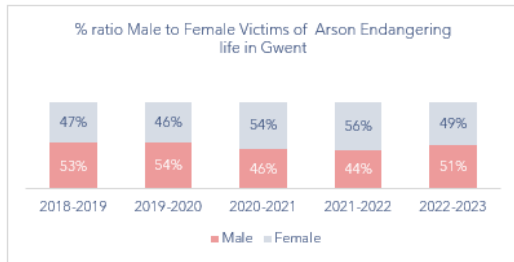


Page 156



Offenders
 Mostly male - 68-80%
 Mostly aged 26-35

Victims
 Roughly 50/50
 Mostly aged 26-45

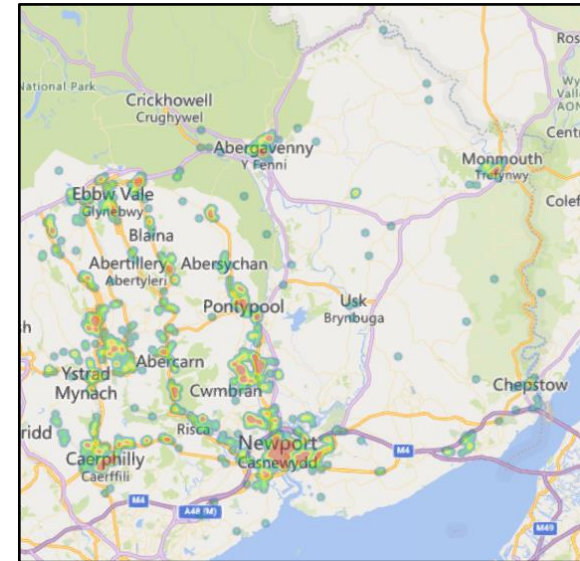


Assaults against professionals (Assault on Emergency Worker)

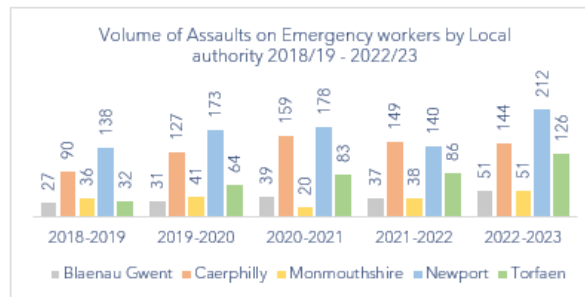
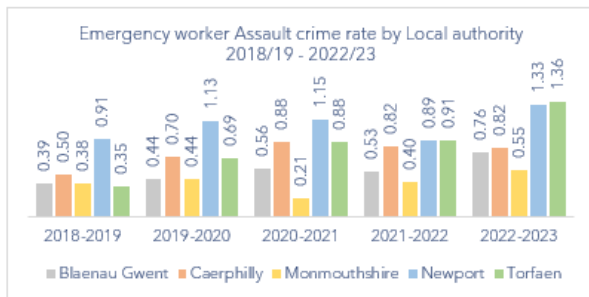
This information on this page relates to the specific crime type of assault on an emergency services worker, reported to Gwent Police. See next page in relation to assaults against other specified authority professionals.

Assaults on emergency workers in Gwent in the last 5-year period peaked at its highest in 2022-23 with 0.99 crimes per 1k pop. (n=584). This is the highest it's been in the last 5-year period.

Assaults on emergency workers in Gwent mostly happens in the month of August, typically reported on a Saturday around the midnight hour. Both victim and offenders are between the ages of 26-35, white and male.

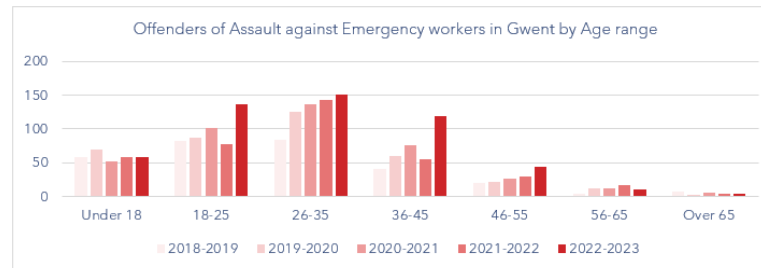
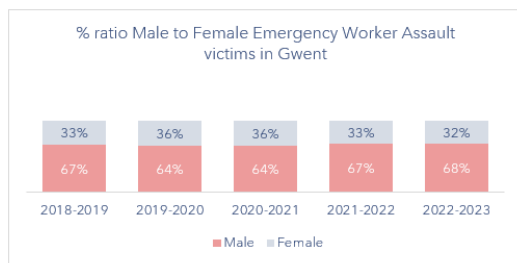


Page 157



Offenders
 Mostly male - 61-65%
 Mostly aged 26-35

Victims
 Mostly female - 64-68%
 Mostly aged 26-35



All specified authority agencies reported anecdotally that assaults against staff have been steadily increasing in recent years. All specified authorities have been attempting to understand this position in each of their organisations for recording purposes, with the current position, where known, reported below.

Agency	Current Position
ABUHB	In 2022-2023, data shows 231 reported threats of violence to staff, and 113 reported physical violence against staff. This shows an improvement in reporting on the RL Datix system from previous years, but violence and aggression remain significantly underreported in ABUHB. Due to Datix reporting limitations, incidents may not reflect actual police reports. Consideration of incident context is crucial, with many stemming from individuals undergoing mental health treatment.
Blaenau-Gwent	Over the 5-year period (2018-23), reported incidents decreased from 26 to 24 annually, totaling 98 incidents. Predominantly occurring in an elderly residential home (79%), the victims, mainly care workers (74%), reported injuries such as scrapes and bumps. Social Services reported 93% of incidents indicating RIDDOR compliance.
Torfaen	Over the 5 years from 2018 to 2023, the total number of reported physical or verbal assaults in Torfaen was 72. The distribution varied each year, with the majority in education services/schools (86%), particularly notable in 2018 to 2019. Social care and housing settings accounted for 14% of cases, peaking in 2022. No cases were reported in neighbourhood service settings.

Page 158

This information available here has been identified by partners as a data gap, which needs to be focused on as part of the serious violence strategy and plans.

Key issues and findings

Overview

Violent crime in Gwent has shown an upward trend over the last 5 years. Homicide in 2022-23 was at its highest, doubling figures seen in the previous years - although starting from a low baseline. Assaults on professionals, robbery, and weapon offences (specifically bladed implements) have all seen significant increased changes in the past year. Arson with threat to life has decreased between 2021-22 and 2022-23 and has shown little change or trend over the past 5-year period.

Although Newport typically has the highest volume of crime, followed by Caerphilly, due to population size, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, and Torfaen are seeing increasing trends in most violent crime categories.

The cohort of victims and offenders seem to be similar mostly being between the ages of 26-35, white and male. However, this shows slight differences in Homicide, where we typically see victims over 46 and offenders between 18-25. In ABH and Stalking and Harassment victims are more likely to be 26 to 35-year-old females. What is interesting to note is that in all categories of violent crime in this problem profile the offenders are most commonly between the ages of 26-35, male and white.

- Stalking & Harassment has the highest crime rate out of each specified violent crime categories with 15.63 per 1k pop. of Gwent.
- Homicide has seen the biggest increase in crime rate between 2021-22 and 2022-23 with 129%.
- Assaults on professionals' crime rate has increased by 32% between 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- Robbery crime rate has increased by 29% between 2021-22 and 2022-23
- The local authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Torfaen have been the largest increasing crime rates in violence between 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- Violent crime in Gwent is at its highest from April to December, often on the weekend and mostly around the hours of midnight.
- The cohort of both victims and offenders are typically between the ages of 26-35, male and white.
- In 2022-23 Gwent recorded the greatest number of homicide victims aged over 65 than previous years
- Arson with intent to endanger life remains stable, showing a decrease in 2022-23 compared with the previous year.
- Most violent crime is committed by White Males between the ages of 26-35
- Violent crime committed by young people in schools and public places, also appears to be increasing.

Blaenau-Gwent Summary

Area	Blaenau Gwent comprises of approximately 108.8km ² of the total area of Wales.
Population	The estimated population size is 66,900 - approximately a 4.2% decrease since 2011. This is recorded as the second largest percentage reduction in population of 22 local authorities in Wales and is one of only seven local authorities with a reduction in population.
Population Density	<p>The estimated population density was 615 people per km² compared with 149 per km² for Wales.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent's population density is similar to neighboring areas, all of which are significantly above the Wales average.</p>



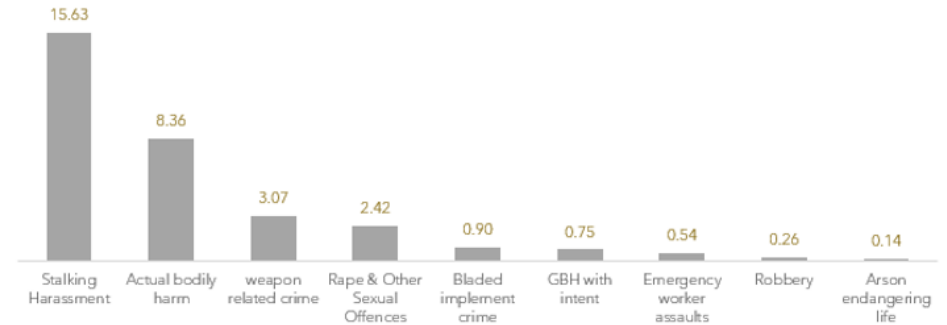
Serious Violence in Blaenau Gwent

Gwent's Serious Violence Duty has focused on 11 categories of serious violence, these are;

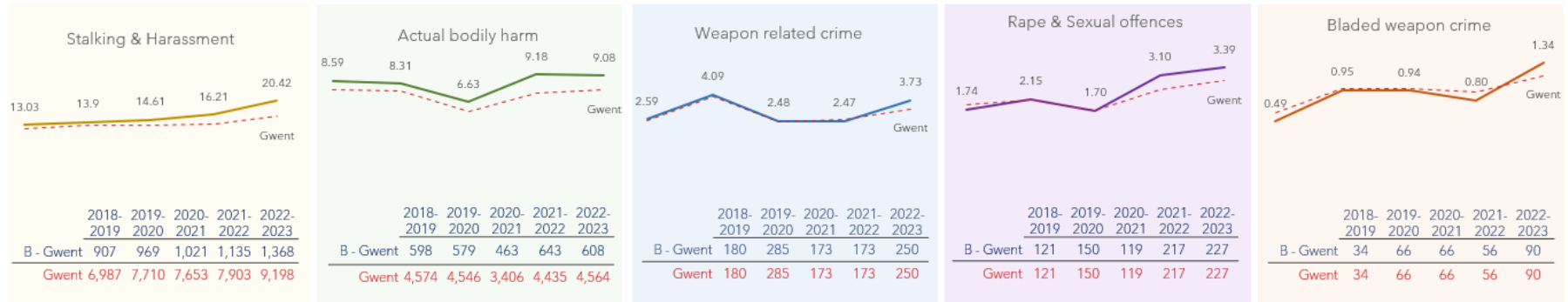
- o Homicide
- o Weapon Crime (with focus on bladed implements)
- o Youth violence in public places
- o Grievous bodily harm with intent
- o Actual bodily harm
- o Robbery
- o Sexual violence
- o Stalking harassment
- o Arson with threat to life
- o Assault on emergency workers

Over a 5 year average the three areas with the most recorded crimes are Stalking Harassment, Actual bodily harm (ABH) and weapon related crime. Followed closely by Rape & Other sexual offences.

5 year average crime rates per 1k pop. of Serious Violence Duty Crime Categories for Blaenau Gwent



Page 161



N.B. Crime rates used are all per 1 thousand population of either the whole of Gwent, or by the population of the local authority being referenced. This is to ensure that a fair comparison is made. Homicide crime rate is calculated per 1 million population because the numbers are so low.

B-Gwent Stalking & harassment crime rate has increased by 57% and volume has increased by 51% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Tredegar central & west had the highest 5-year average of 155.8 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Ebbw vale North 89.6 and Llanhilleth 87.2. All wards have been slowly increasing since 2020/21 which was when pandemic lockdowns were in place.

B-Gwent ABH crime rate has shown an increase of 6% and a volume increase of 2% over the last 5 years.

In terms of volume, Tredegar central & west has the highest 5-year average of 78.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Ebbw vale south 63.8 and Brynmawr 47.4. All three of these wards saw a spike in 2021/22, and all decreased in 2022/23. Other wards have sporadic increases/decreased in the last 5 years, although showing a general increase except for Cwm, which decreased 52% below 5-year avg. in 2022/23.

B-Gwent Weapon related crime rate had an increase of 44% and volume by 39% over the last 5-year period and shows a steady increase in crime rates since 2019/20.

In terms of volume, Tredegar central & west has the highest 5-year average of 26 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Ebbw vale south 20 and Brynmawr 19.4

All wards show an increasing trend since 2020/21, however in 2022/23 Sirhowy was 46% above the 5-year avg. and Six Bells was 108% above the 5-year average, which is unusual for this ward.

B-Gwent Rape & Sexual offence crime rate has shown a significant increase over the last 5 years of 95% and a volume increase by 88%.

In terms of volume, Ebbw vale South has the highest 5-year avg. of 22 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Tredegar Central & west 18.4 and Ebbw vale North 15.4.

All wards show various fluctuations in the last 5-year period, with most wards seeing increases since 2020/21.

Bladed weapon crime rate in B-Gwent has increased by 175% and volume increased by 165% in the last 5 years.

In terms of volume, Tredegar central & west had the highest number of crimes, with an 8.4 avg. over the last 5 years, followed by Nantyglo with a 6.6 avg. & Ebbw vale North with a 6.2 avg. The area of most concern is Blaina where there was a total of 10 crime in 2022/23 which was 2 ½ times more than the average in that area in the last 5 years. As are Sirhowy & Georgetown which have also seen a 2.5 x increase in 2022/23 compared with the 5-year average.

Blaenau-Gwent: Key population risk factors affecting violence.

Page 162

<p>Levels of Poverty, Deprivation and Unemployment</p>	<p>2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) data identified Blaenau Gwent as the 6th most deprived local authority in Wales, as indicated by the percentage of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) compared to other local authorities, in the most 10% deprived in Wales.</p> <p>According to the 2021 census definition of deprivation, Blaenau Gwent has the highest proportion in Wales, at 61.7%.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent comprises 5 LSOAs, representing 13% of its 47 LSOAs within this category. Notably, Blaenau Gwent exhibits the highest percentage of its LSOAs, falling within the 20%, 30% and 50% most deprived areas in Wales.</p>
<p>Gender, Social and Economic Inequalities</p>	<p>Blaenau Gwent exhibits a predominantly UK-born population (96.8%), with 95.6% identifying as 'White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British.' Other 'White' ethnicities, including 'White Polish,' constitute 2.2%.</p> <p>Females make up 51% of the population.</p> <p>In Blaenau Gwent, the economically active population constitutes 74.8%, slightly lower than Wales (76.2%). Employment rates are also lower, at 70.8% compared to the Welsh average of 73.6%. Economically inactive individuals (25.2%) in Blaenau Gwent surpass the Welsh rate of 23.8%.</p> <p>Only 6% of postcode areas have a prevalence of the more affluent categories ('luxury lifestyle, 'established affluence' or 'thriving neighborhoods') in Blaenau Gwent. For Wales this is 22% which is more than three times the rate in Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>Notably, 46.6% of the economically inactive are long-term sick, higher than the Welsh rate of 33.8%. Workless households in Blaenau Gwent are markedly higher at 21.0%, exceeding the Welsh average of 16.6%. These figures highlight economic disparities and health-related challenges, emphasising the need for targeted interventions to improve employment opportunities and address health issues in the region.</p>
<p>Homelessness and Housing</p>	<p>During 2020/21, the Housing Support Gateway in Blaenau Gwent received 1,421 referrals for support. These were broken down into specific categories with demand for service has remained high, particularly in mental health at 298, domestic abuse at 293, single parents in aid of support at 117 and over 55s (including financial inclusion, homelessness and rough sleeping) at 74.</p>

	<p>In March 2022, it was reported that the rate of looked after children per 10,000 population under 18 years in Blaenau Gwent was 145 with the Wales average at 112.</p>
<p>Substance Misuse</p>	<p>Between 2019 and 2022, Blaenau Gwent saw nearly 255 individuals assessed for alcohol use and ranked the 4th highest substance service assessments in Gwent, with all areas in Gwent surpassing the Wales average of 222.</p> <p>Children placed outside their homes, particularly in Blaenau Gwent, show increased risks of substance use. This connection links to children looked after by local authorities due to substance use concerns or trauma-related experiences. While the number of children looked after has risen since 2016, Blaenau Gwent has seen a slight decline since 2018.</p> <p>Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, the percentage of adults in Blaenau Gwent drinking above the low-risk guidelines of 14 units per week was 13.9% with females drinking 12.3% above the guidelines and males surpassing by 12%.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent has the highest rate of alcohol-specific admissions in Gwent between 2017 and 2018 with a rate of 734 per 100,000 people. This is 54% above the rate for Wales and 41% above the average rate across Gwent.</p> <p>Data from the National Survey for Wales 2021/22 reported that the percentage of adults aged 16+ drinking above guidelines in Blaenau Gwent exceeded 11.5%, below the Wales average of 15.7% and reported the 2nd lowest in Gwent.</p>
<p>Educational Attainment</p>	<p>Census 2021 reveals education insights in England and Wales, emphasising residents aged 16 and over. Notably, 28% in Blaenau Gwent lack formal qualifications, the highest among Welsh local authorities.</p> <p>Conversely, only 22% hold level 4 or above qualifications, the lowest in Wales. An index score, ranking Blaenau Gwent as the lowest in Wales and 326th out of 331 local authorities, measures the highest qualification level.</p> <p>The Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) category includes 9 young people in year 11 and 1 in year 13 in 2021, suggesting room for enhancing purposeful engagement among the youth.</p> <p>School exclusions in Blaenau Gwent surged from 230 in Summer 2022 to 461 in Autumn 2023, but later decreased to 415 in Summer 2023. The total over this period was 1,549, primarily from secondary schools, including 4 permanent exclusions.</p>

Mental Health Issues	<p>For the past few years, the European age-standardised suicide rate in Gwent has been stable at around 10 per 100,000, slightly lower than the rate for Wales of just over 12 per 100,000.</p> <p>For 2017-2021, Blaenau Gwent had the highest European age-standardised suicide rate within Gwent with 12.5% per 100,000 population.</p>

Blaenau-Gwent: Key issues and findings

- The top 5 categories of violence crime in Blaenau Gwent are Stalking & Harassment, ABH with intent, Weapon related crime, Rape & Sexual offences, and Bladed weapon crime.
- Blaenau Gwent has not recorded any homicide in the last 5-year period.
- Tredegar Central & west is the most common place for violent crime to take place.
- Stalking and Harassment has increased by over 50% in both rate and volume in the last 5-year period.
- The rate and volume of ABH with intent has remained consistent since 2018-19 except for 2020-21.
- Weapon related crime in Blaenau Gwent has shown a steady increase over the last 5-year period and crime involving a bladed weapon has increased in rate by 173% (n=0.85) and volume by 165% (n= 56).
- 44% (n= 312) of all known weapons used to commit crime in Blaenau Gwent were bladed implements in the last 5 years.
- Six Bells was 108% above the 5 year average volume of weapon crime in Blaenau Gwent in 2022/23 which is unusually high for that ward.
- The area of most concern in regard to weapon crime is Blaina where there was a total of 10 crimes in 2022/23 which was 2 ½ times more than the average in that area in the last 5 years. As are Sirhowy & Georgetown which have also seen a 2.5 x increase in 2022/23 compared with the 5-year average.
- Rape and Sexual offences have seen a significant increase since 2018-19 with a crime rate increase of 95% (n= 1.65) and a volume increase of 88% (n= 106)
- Victims of serious violence in Blaenau Gwent are White, Female and between 26 - 35 years old except for Weapon crime where a victim is most commonly Male and ABH with intent where the victim is most commonly under the age of 18.
- Offenders of violent crime in Blaenau Gwent are mostly White, Male and between 26 - 35 years of age.

Overview of Blaenau Gwent's Risk Factors:

- Blaenau Gwent has the smallest population size against all other areas in Gwent with an estimated size of 66,900 residents.
- Brynmawr, Tredegar and Georgetown are in the overall most 50% deprived in Blaenau Gwent.
- Rassau and Beaufort are in the overall most 50% least deprived in Blaenau Gwent.
- Blaenau Gwent has the highest proportion of deprivation across the whole of Wales at 61.7%.
- The highest percentage of its LSOAs in the most 20%, 30% and 50% deprived in Wales is across Blaenau Gwent.
- Over half of its population consists of females.
- Between 2017 and 2018, Blaenau Gwent rate of 734 per 100,000 people for alcohol-specific admissions, 41% above the average rate across Gwent.
- The percentage of residents aged 16 and over who lack formal qualifications is the highest in Blaenau Gwent when compared to all Welsh local authorities.
- Blaenau Gwent had the highest suicide rate in Gwent between 2017-2021 with 12.5% per 100,000 population.

Caerphilly Summary

Area	Caerphilly comprises of approximately 278km ² of the total area of Wales.
Population	The estimated population size is 181,731 – approximately 5.8% of the Wales population.
Population Density	The population density for Caerphilly is 6.53 people per hectare.



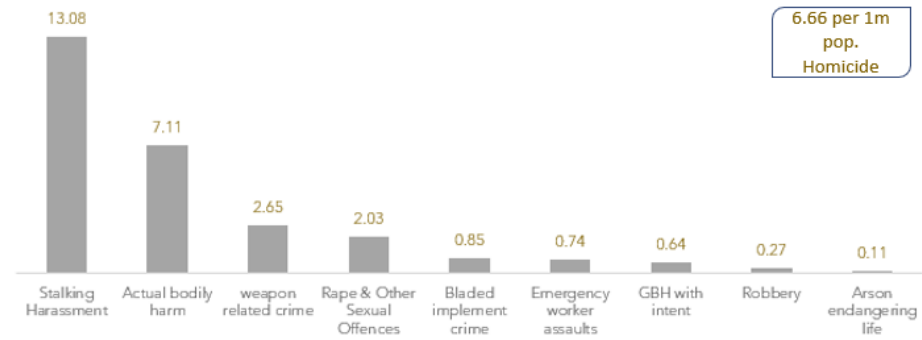
Serious Violence in Caerphilly

Gwent's Serious Violence Duty has focused on 11 categories of serious violence, these are;

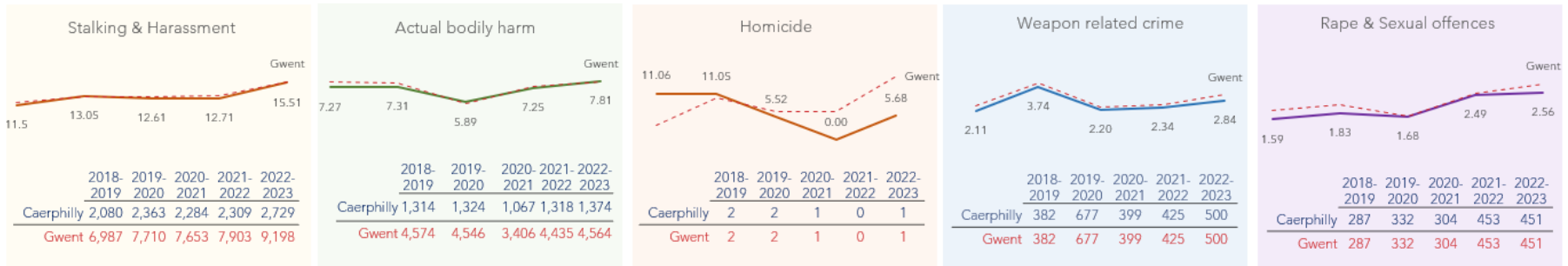
- o Homicide
- o Weapon Crime (with focus on bladed implements)
- o Youth violence in public places
- o Grievous bodily harm with intent
- o Actual bodily harm
- o Robbery
- o Sexual violence
- o Stalking harassment
- o Arson with threat to life
- o Assault on emergency workers

Over a 5 year average the three areas with the most recorded crimes are Stalking Harassment, Actual bodily harm (ABH) and Homicide. Followed closely by Weapon related crime.

5 year average crime rates per 1k pop. of Serious Violence Duty Crime Categories for Caerphilly



Page 167



N.B. Crime rates used are all per 1 thousand population of either the whole of Gwent, or by the population of the local authority being referenced. This is to ensure that a fair comparison is made. Homicide crime rate is calculated per 1 million population because the numbers are so low.

Caerphilly Stalking & harassment crime rate has increased by 35% and volume has increased by 31% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Penyrheol had the highest 5-year average of 137 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen 121 and Bargoed 121.

The majority of wards have been increasing since 2020/21 which was when pandemic lockdowns were in place. St Martins & Maesycwmmmer have increased by more than 100% (n= 57 & 83) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and is at the highest volumes seen in the last 5-year period.

Caerphilly ABH crime rate has increased by 7% and volume increased by 5% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume Blackwood had the highest 5-year average of 78.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Bargoed 73.6 and St Martins 72.2. Approx. half of the wards have been increasing since 2020/21 which was when pandemic lockdowns were in place. Crosskeys increased by 106% (n=17) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the highest seen in the ward in the last 5-year period.

Caerphilly Homicide crime rate has decreased by 49% and volume has decreased by 50% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Tredegar had the highest 5-year average of 1.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by St. James 0.6 and Blackwood and Pontllanfraith 0.4.

Caerphilly Weapon related crime rate has increased by 34% and volume by 31% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, St. James had the highest 5-year average of 31 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Blackwood 28 and Morgan Jones 26. Most ward decreased in 2020/21, however since then numbers have increased to the levels seen pre pandemic in all wards. Gylfach has an increase of 233% (n=7) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is unusually high volumes compared to the previous 4 years.

Caerphilly Rape & Offences crime rate has increased by 61% and volume increased by 57% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Bedwas Trethomas & Machen had the highest 5-year average of 22 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Penyrheol 21.4 and St. Martins 20.6.

Whilst the volumes are sporadic in wards over the last 5 years, Pontllanfraith showed an unusually high figures of 36 and increase of 140% between 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Caerphilly: Key population risk factors affecting violence.

Page 168

<p>Levels of Poverty, Deprivation and Unemployment</p>	<p>Six Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) across the Caerphilly area are ranked 8th in Wales as the 10% most deprived for Overall Deprivation.</p> <p>There are four LSOAs in the 11-20% most deprived category, these areas include Argoed 1, Newbridge 2, Crumlin 3 and Cefn Fforest 1.</p> <p>Lower Islywn has no LSOAs in the top 20% most deprived, with only Risca East 2 and 4 in the 21-30% bracket.</p> <p>The 2011 Census indicates unemployment rates in Caerphilly's regions for ages 16-74. In Caerphilly Basin, out of 40,646 residents, 26,961 were economically active, with a 4.9% unemployment rate.</p> <p>In Lower Islywn, there were 17,967 residents, 12,128 economically active, and a 4.9% unemployment rate. Mid Valleys East had 33,020 residents, 21,459 economically active, and a 4.6% unemployment rate.</p> <p>In Mid Valleys West, 18,556 residents, 12,045 economically active, with a 4.7% unemployment rate.</p> <p>The Upper Rhymney Valley had 20,761 residents, 12,339 economically active, and a 6.9% unemployment rate.</p> <p>All areas in Caerphilly surpass the 4.3% Wales average for unemployment.</p>
<p>Gender, Social and Economic Inequalities</p>	<p>In the Caerphilly Basin area, 85.7% of residents were born in Wales, slightly below the county borough average of 88.6% but significantly higher than the Wales average of 72.7%).</p> <p>Additionally, in Lower Islywn, Mid Valleys East, Mid Valleys West, and Upper Rhymney Valley, over 98% residents identified as White, surpassing both the county borough and Wales average.</p>
<p>Homelessness and Housing</p>	<p>The average annual income in Caerphilly County Borough is £29,289. In relation to the average house prices across the county, a single person would have to spend approximately 6 times their salary to be able to purchase a property, which is likely to mean that many single people are prevented from buying a property without assistance, such as help from family or shared ownership.</p> <p>In March 2022, it was reported that the rate of looked after children per 10,000 population under 18 years in Caerphilly was 123 with the Wales average at 112.</p>

<p>Substance Misuse</p>	<p>Between 2019 and 2022, Caerphilly saw nearly 340 individuals assessed for alcohol use and ranked the highest for substance service assessments in Gwent, surpassing the Wales average of 222.</p> <p>Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, the percentage of adults in Caerphilly drinking above the low-risk guidelines of 14 units per week was 17.2%, with females drinking 9.1 % above the guidelines and males surpassing by 21%.</p> <p>Data from the National Survey for 2021/22 reported that the percentage of adults aged 16+ drinking above guidelines in Caerphilly exceeded 19.5%, surpassing the Wales average of 15.7% and reported the 2nd highest in Gwent.</p>
<p>Educational Attainment</p>	<p>However, the average percentage of adults aged 25-64 with no qualifications across all Caerphilly areas are 25.3%.</p> <p>The overall percentage of Key Stage 4 leavers entering Higher Education in Caerphilly ranges from 5.8% to 57.7%, reflecting varying rates across different areas. Young people in Caerphilly may encounter challenges pursuing Higher Education due to financial constraints and transport availability.</p> <p>In Caerphilly Basin, repeat absenteeism fluctuates from 1.4% in Penyrheol 7 to 14.3% in Penyrheol 8 with rates ranging from 2.3% in Risca East 3 to 9.5% in Risca East 4. Mid Valleys West sees rates from 1.9% in Blackwood 3 and Blackwood 5 to 11.8% in Cefn Fforest 1. This indicator gauges the percentage of primary and secondary pupils missing more than 15% of school sessions over a three-year average.</p>
<p>Mental Health Issues</p>	<p>For the past few years, the European age-standardised suicide rate in Gwent has been stable at around 10 per 100,000, slightly lower than the rate for Wales of just over 12 per 100,000.</p> <p>For 2017-2021, Caerphilly's European age-standardised suicide rate was 10.8% per 100,000 population, the 2nd highest suicide rate reported in Gwent.</p>

Caerphilly: Key issues and findings

- The top 4 categories of violence crime in Caerphilly are Stalking & Harassment, ABH with intent, Weapon related crime and Rape & Sexual offences.
- Stalking and Harassment has increased by over 30% in both rate and volume in the last 5-year period. Although Penyrheol has the highest 5 year average of 137, volume of crime in St Martins & Maesycwmmmer has increased by more than 100% (n= 57 & 83) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and is at the highest volumes seen in the last 5-year period.
- The rate and volume of ABH with intent has risen slightly by 7 and 5% respectively since 2018-19 except for 2020-21 where lower rates and volumes were recorded because of the covid-19 pandemic. Blackwood had the highest 5-year average of 78.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Crosskeys increased by 106% (n=17) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the highest seen in the ward in the last 5-year period.
- Homicide in Caerphilly has decreased by 50% over the last 5-year period, with no homicides recorded in 2022-23.
- Weapon related crime rate in Caerphilly has shown a steady increase since 2020-21 but has not yet reached the high of 3.74 seen in 2019-20. In 2022-23 the crime rate has been recorded as 2.84. St. James had the highest 5-year average of 31 crimes between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Glifach has an increase of 233% (n=7) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is unusually high volumes compared to the previous 4 years.
- 47% (n= 767) of all known weapons used to commit crime in Caerphilly were bladed implements in the last 5 years.
- Rape and Sexual offences have seen a significant increase since 2020-21 with a crime rate increase of 61% (n= 0.97) and a volume increase of 57% (n= 164) in the last 5-year period. Pontllanfraith showed an unusually high figures of 36 crime and an increase of 140% between 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- Victims of serious violence in Caerphilly are White, Female and between 26 - 35 years old which the exception of Weapon crime where a victim is most commonly Male.
- Offenders of violent crime in Caerphilly are mostly White, Male and between 26 - 35 years of age.

Overview of Caerphilly's Risk Factors:

- Caerphilly has the largest population size against all other areas in Gwent with an estimated size of 181,731 residents.
- Argoed 1, Newbridge 2, Crumlin 3 and Cefn Fforest 1 are in the 11-20% most deprived areas in Caerphilly.
- Upper Rhymney Valley has the highest unemployment rate across Caerphilly with 12,339 residents out of 20,761 unemployed (6.9%).
- All areas in Caerphilly surpass the 4.3% Wales average for unemployment.
- Overall, Penyrheol has the highest rate of repeat absenteeism in the Caerphilly area.
- 2021/22 data reported that the percentage of adults aged 16+ drinking above guidelines in Caerphilly was the 2nd highest in Gwent at 19.5%.

- Caerphilly is ranked the highest for substance misuse assessment in Gwent between 2019 and 2022.
- Young people in Caerphilly are more likely to encounter challenges pursuing Higher Education in comparison to other areas in Gwent due to financial constraints and transport availability.
- Caerphilly was reported the 2nd highest for suicide rates across Gwent with a rate of 10.8% per 100,000 population.

Monmouthshire Summary

Area	The estimated area for Monmouthshire is 880km ² of the total area of Wales.
Population	The estimated population size is 95,164 - approximately 3% of the Wales population.
Population Density	Monmouthshire has a low population density of 1.1 persons per hectare, significantly lower than the Southeast Wales average of 5.3 persons per hectare.



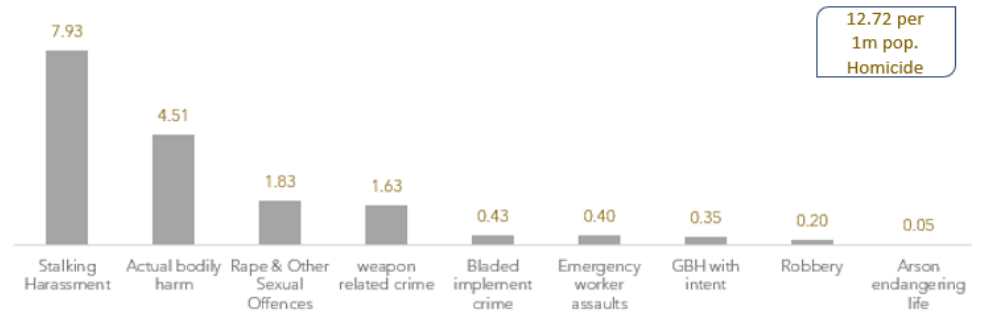
Serious Violence in Monmouthshire

Gwent's Serious Violence Duty has focused on 11 categories of serious violence, these are;

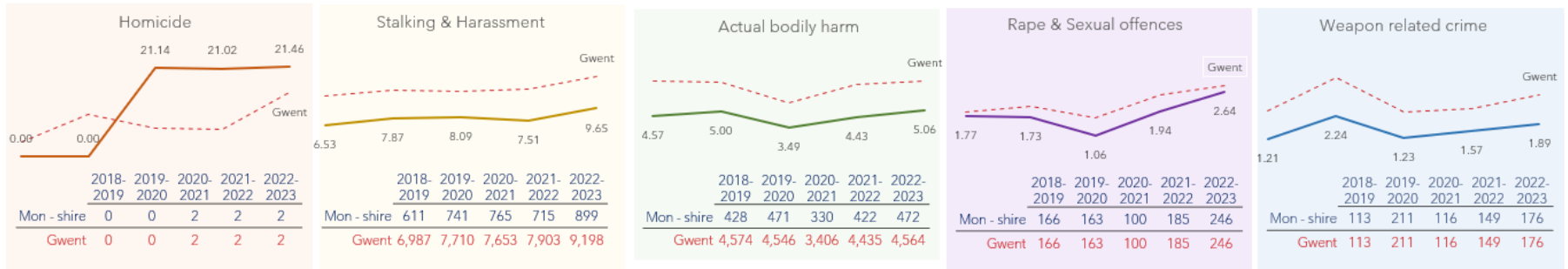
- o Homicide
- o Weapon Crime (with focus on bladed implements)
- o Youth violence in public places
- o Grievous bodily harm with intent
- o Actual bodily harm
- o Robbery
- o Sexual violence
- o Stalking harassment
- o Arson with threat to life
- o Assault on emergency workers

Over a 5 year average the three areas with the most recorded crimes are Homicide, Stalking Harassment and Actual bodily harm (ABH). Followed closely by Rape & Other sexual offences.

5 year average crime rates per 1k pop. of Serious Violence Duty Crime Categories for Monmouthshire



Page 173



N.B. Crime rates used are all per 1 thousand population of either the whole of Gwent, or by the population of the local authority being referenced. This is to ensure that a fair comparison is made. Homicide crime rate is calculated per 1 million population because the numbers are so low.

Homicide crime rate in Monmouthshire has increased by 21.64 (n=2) in the last 5-year period.

Trellech United has the most homicide recorded in the last 5 years with 3 (average of 0.6). Followed by Llanover, Mill and Overmonnow which each had 2 homicides (average 0.4)

Stalking & harassment crime rate in Monmouthshire has increased by 48% and volume increase of 47% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Drybridge had the highest 5-year average of 36.8 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Thornwell 35.2 and Overmonnow 32.8. Although there is a general upward trend, the wards that have had the largest increase between 2021/22 and 2022/23 are Llanwenarth Ultra 350% (n=54), Goytre Fawr 256% (n=48), Severn 179% (n=50) and Priory 153% (n=23)

Monmouthshire ABH crime rate has shown an increase of 11% and volume an increase of 10% in the last 5 years.

In terms of volume, St. Marys has the highest 5-year average of 34 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Llanover 31 and Priory 24.2. Almost half the wards have an upward trend in the last 5 years, with The Elms showing an unusual increase of 300% (n=12) between 2021/22 & 2022/23

Monmouthshire Rape & Sexual offence crime rate has increased by 49% and volume has increased by 48% in the last 5 years.

In terms of volume, Llanover has the highest 5-year avg. of 15.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Drybridge 12.2 and Lansdown 8.6

Most wards show an increasing trend over the last 5-year period.

Monmouthshire Weapon related crime rate and volume increased by 56% over the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Drybridge has the highest 5-year average of 9.8 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Overmonnow 9 and Priory 8.8

Most wards show an increasing trend since 2020/21, with Mill showing an unusually high figure of 6 which is an increase of 500% and a high figure compared the last previous 4 years.

Monmouthshire: Key population risk factors affecting violence.

Page 174

<p>Levels of Poverty, Deprivation and Unemployment</p>	<p>The 2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation highlighted that none of the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Monmouthshire is in the most deprived 10% in Wales.</p> <p>Monmouthshire is relatively affluent in comparison to the rest of Gwent and Wales however, recent data shows that approximately 9,500 households are in poverty.</p> <p>Monmouthshire remains the area with the lowest unemployment rate in Gwent, with an unemployment rate of 2.1% in April 2022 to March 2023.</p> <p>8% of people living in Monmouthshire are living in households in material deprivation while 16% of children live in relatively low-income families.</p> <p>Overmonnow 2, Llanover 1, Cantref 2, Lansdown and Croesononen are in the 30% most deprived in Wales.</p>
<p>Gender, Social and Economic Inequalities</p>	<p>Census 2021 data saw Monmouthshire having the 6th highest percentage of people aged 16 years and over who were employed out of all 22 Welsh local authority areas.</p> <p>There are significant income inequalities within communities in Monmouthshire with wealth sitting alongside relative poverty on a scale not seen in other parts of Wales; research indicates that disparities between affluent and disadvantaged communities have adverse effects on various aspects including educational attainment and physical health.</p>
<p>Homeless and Housing</p>	<p>In October 2023, it was recorded that 3,892 households were awaiting social housing on the housing register with 265 of these having a homeless duty.</p> <p>Monmouthshire has seen an increase in homeless households to which remains a challenge across the county that needs to be addressed including the lack of temporary, supported and permanent accommodation.</p> <p>Recent modelling predicts that around 50% of new households will be priced out of the housing market, contributing to higher number of homeless households in the county. More homeless households are having to be housed in temporary accommodation with numbers increasing from 18 households at the end of 2018 to 189 as of October 2023.</p>

	<p>October 2023, it was reported that the number of households unintentionally homeless and in priority need per 10,000 households was 65. Out of the 65, 17% were due to mental health, learning difficulties or learning disability and 13% were issues related to fleeing domestic abuse or threats of violence.</p> <p>In March 2022, it was reported that the rate of looked after children per 10,000 population under 18 years in Monmouthshire was 120 with the Wales average at 112.</p>
<p>Substance Misuse</p>	<p>Between 2019 and 2022, Monmouthshire saw nearly 260 individuals assessed for alcohol use and ranked the 3rd lowest for substance service assessments in Gwent, surpassing the Wales average of 222.</p> <p>Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, according to World Health Organisation (WHO) definitions, it is reported that the percentage of adults in Monmouthshire drinking above the low-risk guidelines of 14 units per week was 23.5% with females drinking 5.6% % above the guidelines and males surpassing by 15%.</p> <p>Monmouthshire has higher levels of excess alcohol consumption compared to the other Gwent local authorities.</p> <p>Data from the National Survey for Wales 2021/22 reported that the percentage of adults aged 16+ drinking above guidelines in Monmouthshire exceeded 22.9%, surpassing the Wales average of 15.7% and reported the highest in Gwent.</p> <p>Census data revealed that in 2022, 28% of children had a parent with a substance or alcohol misuse issues which increased from 22% in 2019.</p>
<p>Educational Attainment</p>	<p>In the 2021/22 academic year, there were 52.2 fixed term exclusions, comprising 51.0 for five days or less and 1.0 for over five days. Additionally, pupils requiring support from the Pupil Referral Service in Monmouthshire rose from approximately 50 pupils in 2020/21 to around 150 in 2022/23.</p> <p>Careers Wales data identified that the percentage of Year 11 school leavers who were NEET in 2022 was 1.8% in comparison to 1.2% for Year 13 school leavers. This compares favorably with the Wales figures of 7.4% of 16-18 year olds.</p> <p>Since the pandemic, levels of attendance have fallen in schools across Monmouthshire and Wales.</p> <p>Primary Schools in Monmouthshire has saw attendance increasing and returning to pre-pandemic levels for pupils. 2018/19 saw attendance levels at 95.4% and in 2022/23 decreased to 92.9%.</p> <p>In 2018/19 attendance in Secondary Schools were at 95.1% and in 2022/23 decreased by 7% to 88.1%.</p>

Mental Health Issues	<p>For the past few years, the European age-standardised suicide rate in Gwent has been stable at around 10 per 100,000, slightly lower than the rate for Wales of just over 12 per 100,000.</p> <p>For 2017-2021, Monmouthshire’s European age-standardised suicide rate was 10% per 100,000 population, the 2nd lowest suicide rate reported in Gwent.</p>
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Monmouthshire: Key issues and findings

- The top 4 categories of violence crime in Monmouthshire are Stalking & Harassment, ABH with intent, Rape and Sexual offences and Weapon related crime.
- Homicide in Monmouthshire has increased by 200% over the last 5-year period, between 2020-21 to 2022-23 there have been 2 homicides recorded in each year.
- Stalking and Harassment has increased by almost 50% in both rate and volume in the last 5-year period. Drybridge had the highest 5-year average of 36.8 crimes between 2018/19 - 2022/23.
- The rate and volume of ABH with intent has risen by 11 and 10% respectively since 2018-19 except for 2020-21 where lower rates and volumes were recorded because of the covid-19 pandemic. St. Marys has the highest 5-year average of 34 crimes between 2018/19 - 2022/23, with The Elms showing an unusual increase of 300% (n=12) between 2021/22 & 2022/23.
- Rape and Sexual offences have seen a significant increase since 2020-21 with a crime rate increase of 49% (n= 0.87) and a volume increase of 48% (n= 80) in the last 5-year period. Llanover has the highest 5-year avg. of 15.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23.
- Weapon related crime rate in Monmouthshire has shown a steady increase since 2020-21 but has not yet reached the high of 2.24 (n=211) seen in 2019-20. In 2022-23 the crime rate has been recorded as 1.89 (n=176). Drybridge has the highest 5-year average of 9.8 crimes between 2018/19 - 2022/23, with Mill showing an unusually high figure of 6 crimes which is an increase of 500% and a high figure compared the last previous 4 years.
- 45% (n= 201) of all known weapons used to commit crime in Monmouthshire were bladed implements in the last 5 years.
- Victims of serious violence in Monmouthshire are White, Male and between 26 - 35 years old which the exception of Stalking & Harassment where a victim is most commonly Female and in ABH with intent where the victim is most commonly under the age of 18.
- Offenders of violent crime in Monmouthshire are mostly White, Male and between 26 - 35 years of age.

Overview of Monmouthshire's Risk Factors:

- Monmouthshire has the lowest unemployment rate in Gwent, with an unemployment rate of 2.1% between 2022 and 2023.
- No LSOAs in Monmouthshire are in the 10% most deprived in Wales.
- Overmonnow 2, Llanover 1, Cantref 2, Lansdown and Croesononen are in the 30% most deprived in Wales.
- There are significant income inequalities within communities in Monmouthshire, with wealth sitting alongside relative poverty on a scale not seen in other parts of Wales.
- Against all Gwent local authorities, Monmouthshire has the highest level of excess alcohol consumptions. There are concerns about the level of substance misuse amongst young people.
- Between 2017 and 2019, Monmouthshire had the 2nd lowest suicide rate reported in Gwent at 10% per 100,000 population.
- There has been an increase in exclusions in Monmouthshire schools since the pandemic with exclusions relating to violence also increasing.
- Monmouthshire has seen an increase in pupils requiring support from the Pupil Referral Service.

Newport Summary

Area

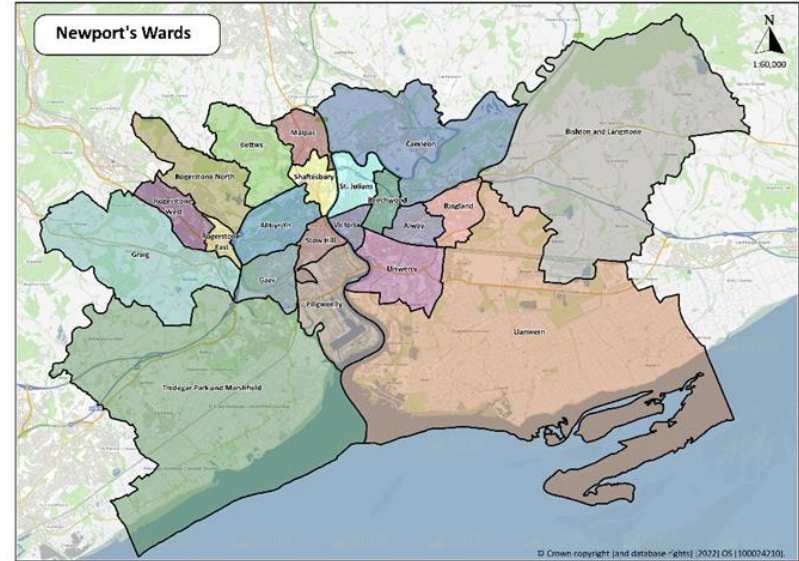
Newport comprises of approximately 217 km² of the total area of Wales.

Population

The estimated population size is 156,447 - approximately 4.9% of the Wales population.

Population Density

The estimated population density for Newport is 721 of the Wales population per km².



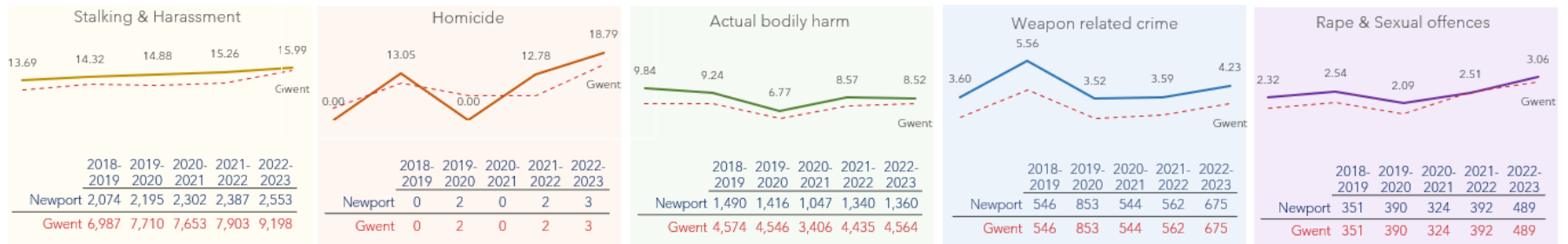
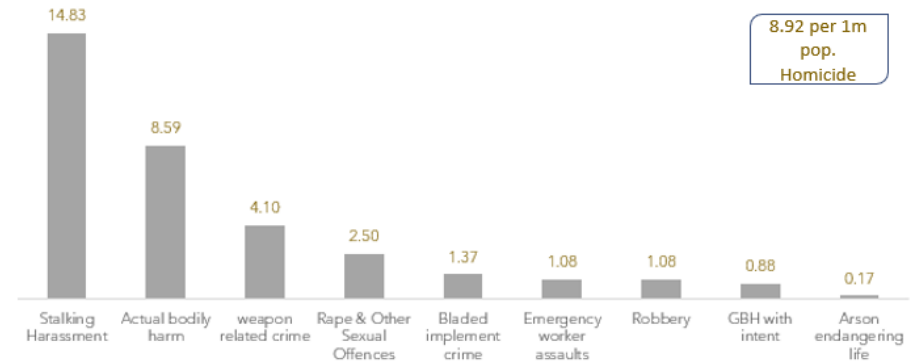
Serious Violence in Newport

5 year average crime rates per 1k pop. of Serious Violence Duty Crime Categories for Newport

Gwent's Serious Violence Duty has focused on 11 categories of serious violence, these are;

- o Homicide
- o Weapon Crime (with focus on bladed implements)
- o Youth violence in public places
- o Grievous bodily harm with intent
- o Actual bodily harm
- o Robbery
- o Sexual violence
- o Stalking harassment
- o Arson with threat to life
- o Assault on emergency workers

Over a 5 year average the three areas with the most recorded crimes are Stalking Harassment Homicide, and Actual bodily harm (ABH). Followed closely by Weapon related crime.



N.B. Crime rates used are all per 1 thousand population of either the whole of Gwent, or by the population of the local authority being referenced. This is to ensure that a fair comparison is made. Homicide crime rate is calculated per 1 million population because the numbers are so low.

Page 179

Stalking & harassment crime rate in Newport has increased by 17% and volume by 23% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Lliswerry had the highest 5-year average of 230.2 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Bettws 212.8 and Victoria 163. Most wards have been slowly increasing since 2020/21 which was when pandemic lockdowns were in place. Llanwern in particular, had an increase of 90% (n=43) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the biggest increase seen in the last 5 years.

Homicide crime rate in Newport has increased to 18.79 (n=3) in the last 5-year period.

Bettws has the most homicide recorded in the last 5 years with 5 (avg. of 1). Followed by Shaftsbury with 4 (avg. 0.8). Alway and Tredegar Park with 2 (avg. 0.4)

Newport ABH crime rate has had a decrease of -13% and a volume decrease of -9% in the last 5 years.

In terms of volume Stow Hill (Incl. city centre) has the highest 5-year average of 244.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Lliswerry 128 and Pillgwenlly 122.8.

Langstone has been slowly increasing since 2019/20 but between 2021/22 and 2022/23 saw an unusual increase of 71%

Newport Weapon related crime rate has increased by 17% and volume has increased by 24% over the last 5 years.

In terms of volume, Stow Hill (Incl. city centre) has the highest 5-year average of 101 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Pillgwenlly 75.6 and Lliswerry 61.

Most wards show an increasing trend since 2020/21 and seem to be returning to volumes seen pre-pandemic.

Newport Rape & Sexual offence crime rate has shown a significant increase over the last 5 years of 32% and volume increase of 39%.

In terms of volume, Stow Hill (Incl. city centre) has the highest 5-year avg. of 58.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Pillgwenlly 39.2 and Bettws 29.6.

Most wards show an increasing trend since 2020/21, with the ward Victoria showing a 105% increase between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the highest figure seen during the last 5 years.

Newport: Key population risk factors affecting violence.

Page 180

<p>Levels of Poverty, Deprivation and Unemployment</p>	<p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) revealed that nearly half of the most deprived Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Newport fall within the community safety domain. Universal credit claimants constitute 7.3% of Newport’s adult population, contrasting with 5.9% for Gwent overall. Additionally, work households account for 13% in Newport, as opposed to 16.5% in Wales.</p> <p>The WIMD highlighted that Newport encompasses a total of 23 LSOAs that rank among the top 10% most deprived areas in Wales.</p> <p>The Office for National Statistics Annual Population Survey identified 13% of Newport as being part of a workless household in 2020 compared to 16.5% of Wales. In 2015, it was reported that 16.7% of Newport was part of a workless household in comparison to 18.4% of Wales.</p> <p>Newport is the only area within Gwent that has seen a rise in the unemployment rate over the last 5 years, rising from 4.6% in April 2018 to March 2019 to 4.8% in April 2022 to March 2023.</p>
<p>Gender, Social and Economic Inequalities</p>	<p>Over the past few years, Newport has experienced changes to the make-up of its population, with 8.2% of people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic background at year ending in December 2011, rising to 10.8% in 2015 and 13.2% in 2020.</p>
<p>Homelessness and Housing</p>	<p>NCC Housing Prospectus identified the number of people seeking accommodation in Newport was 413 in June 2021.</p> <p>The rate of households accepted to be eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need per 10,000 households was reported as 59.09 in 2019, a 26.25 increase since 2015 and surpassing the Wales average of 22.52. In 2019, 46.81 of those 10,000 households were successfully prevented for at least 6 months.</p> <p>In March 2022, it was reported that the rate of looked after children per 10,000 population under 18 years in Newport was 105 with the Wales average at 112.</p>
<p>Substance Misuse</p>	<p>Between 2019 and 2022, Newport saw nearly 186 individuals assessed for alcohol use and ranked the lowest substance service assessments in Gwent, below the Wales average of 222.</p> <p>Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that the percentage of adults in Newport drinking above the low-risk guidelines of 14 units per week was 11.8%, with females drinking 9.2% above the guidelines and males surpassing by 15%.</p>

	<p>Data from the National Survey for Wales 2021/22 reported that the percentage of adults aged 16+ drinking above guidelines in Newport exceeded 9.9%, below the Wales average of 15.7% and reported lowest in Gwent.</p>
<p>Educational Attainment</p>	<p>Census 2021 reveals 6.8% of Newport lack formal qualifications as opposed to 11.5% in 2016.</p> <p>Conversely, 39.8% hold level 4 or above qualifications, an 8.1% increase since 2016.</p> <p>The Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) Career Wales figures show that the percentage of Year 11 school leavers that are NEET are 1.3% in 2021 in comparison to 1.7% in 2016.</p> <p>Moreover, the percentage of Year 13 school leavers that are NEET in Newport is 1.09% in 2021.</p>
<p>Mental Health Issues</p>	<p>For the past few years, the European age-standardised suicide rate in Gwent has been stable at around 10 per 100,000, slightly lower than the rate for Wales of just over 12 per 100,000.</p> <p>For 2017-2021, Newport’s European age-standardised suicide rate was 10.6% per 100,000 population.</p>

Newport: Key issues and findings

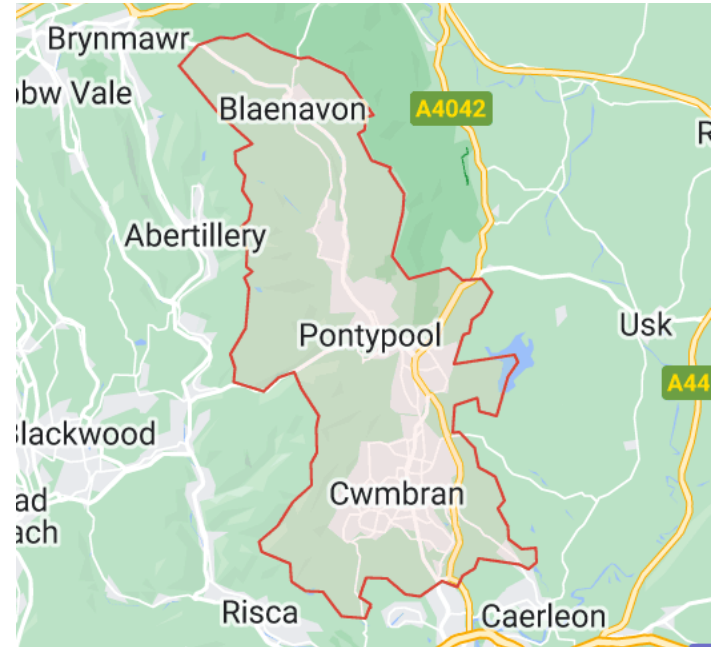
- The top 4 categories of violence crime in Newport are Stalking & Harassment, ABH with intent, Weapon related crime and Rape & Sexual offences.
- Stalking and harassment crime rate in Newport has shown a steady year on year increase of 17% over the last 5-year period. Lliswerry had the highest 5-year average of 230.2 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Llanwern in particular, had an increase of 90% (n=43) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the biggest increase seen in the last 5 years.
- Homicide in Newport has increased by 300% over the last 5-year period. Although sporadic over the last 5 years, in 2022-23 it reached a 5 year high of 18.79 homicides per million population (n=3).
- The rate and volume of ABH with intent has shown a steady decline by 13 and 9% respectively since 2018-19. As expected, it's mostly in the Stow Hill ward which incorporates the city center however, Langstone has been slowly increasing since 2019/20 but between 2021/22 and 2022/23 saw an unusual increase of 71%
- Weapon related crime rate in Newport has shown a small increase since 2020-21 but has not yet reached the high of 5.56 (n=853) seen in 2019-20. In 2022-23 the crime rate has been recorded as 4.23 (n=675).
- 48% (n= 1062) of all known weapons used to commit crime in Newport were bladed implements in the last 5 years.
- Rape and Sexual offences have seen an increased crime rate of 32% (n= 0.74) and a volume increase of 39% (n= 138) in the last 5-year period. Victoria ward is showing a 105% increase between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the highest figure seen during the last 5 years.
- ABH, Weapon crime and Rape & Sexual offences are particularly high in the Stow Hill ward which is to be expected as it covers the city center.
- Victims of serious violence in Newport are White, Female and between 26 - 35 years old which the exception of Weapon Crime where a victim is most commonly Male.
- Offenders of violent crime in Newport are mostly White, Male and between 26 - 35 years of age.

Overview of Newport's Risk Factors:

- Newport is the only area in Gwent that has seen a rise in the unemployment rate over the last 5 years.
- Newport has the 2nd largest population size in Gwent with approximately 156,447 residents.
- 2020 data identified that 13.2% of Newport are in the Black or Asian ethnic minority, a 5% increase since 2011.
- Between 2019 and 2022, Newport was ranked the lowest in terms of substance service assessments in Gwent.
- National Survey data revealed that the percentage of adults drinking above guidelines in Newport was the lowest in Gwent.
- In 2021, it was reported that 6.8% of Newport lack formal qualifications as opposed to 11.5% in 2016.

Torfaen Summary

Area	The estimated area size of Torfaen is 126km ² of the total area of Wales.
Population	The estimated population size for Torfaen is 94,000 - approximately 3% of the Wales population.
Population Density	The population density for Torfaen is 20.97 people per hectare.



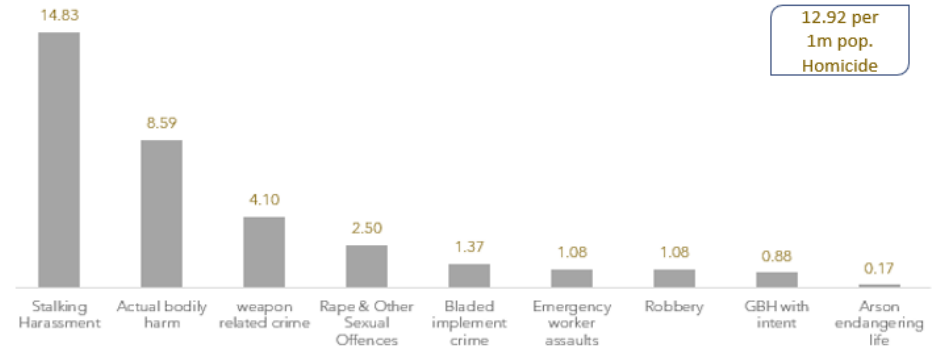
Serious Violence in Torfaen

Gwent's Serious Violence Duty has focused on 11 categories of serious violence, these are:

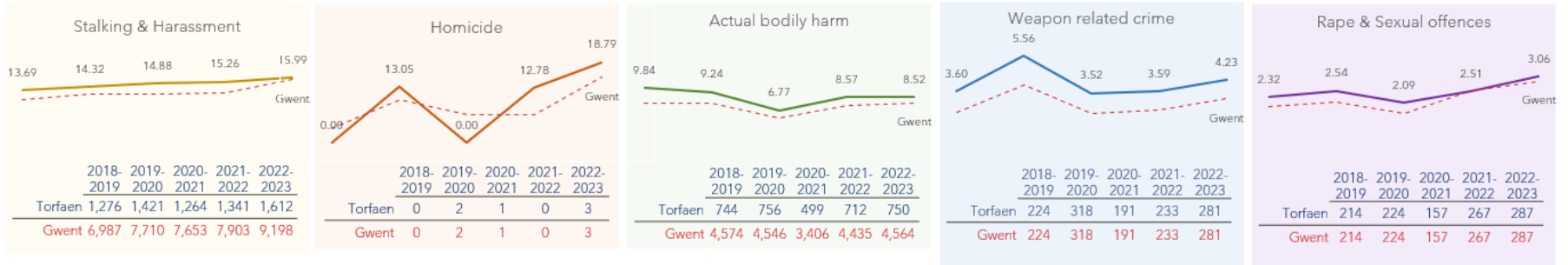
- o Homicide
- o Weapon Crime (with focus on bladed implements)
- o Youth violence in public places
- o Grievous bodily harm with intent
- o Actual bodily harm
- o Robbery
- o Sexual violence
- o Stalking harassment
- o Arson with threat to life
- o Assault on emergency workers

Over a 5 year average the three areas with the most recorded crimes are Stalking Harassment Homicide, and Actual bodily harm (ABH). Followed closely by Weapon related crime.

5 year average crime rates per 1k pop. of Serious Violence Duty Crime Categories for Torfaen



Page 184



N.B. Crime rates used are all per 1 thousand population of either the whole of Gwent, or by the population of the local authority being referenced. This is to ensure that a fair comparison is made. Homicide crime rate is calculated per 1 million population because the numbers are so low.

<p>Stalking & harassment crime rate in Torfaen has increased by 26% in the last 5-year period.</p> <p>In terms of volume, Abersychan had the highest 5-year average of 120 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Blaenavon 116.4 and Llantarnam 106.8.</p> <p>Most wards have been slowly increasing since 2020/21 which was when pandemic lockdowns were in place.</p>	<p>Homicide crime rate in Torfaen has decreased to 32.45 (n=4) in the last 5-year period.</p> <p>Greenmeadow, Llanyravon North, Panteg, and Two locks have all had 3 homicides in the last 5 years (avg. 0.6) and Llantarnam and Pontnewydd have each had 2 (avg. 0.4)</p>	<p>Torfaen ABH crime rate and volume has shown a slight increase over the last 5 years of less than 1%</p> <p>In terms of volume Llantarnam has the highest 5-year average of 81.8 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Abersychan 60 and Pontnewydd 48. Approx. half of the wards have an increasing trend since the pandemic lockdowns in 20/21. Llanyravon North has seen an unusual increase of 200% (n=24) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the highest volume for the last 5 years.</p>	<p>Weapon related crime rate and volume in Torfaen had an increase of 25% in the last 5 years and shows a steady increase in crime rates since 2019/20.</p> <p>In terms of volume, Llantarnam has the highest 5-year average of 31.2 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Abersychan 20.6 and Pontnewydd 18.8</p> <p>Most wards show an increasing trend since 2020/21, with Llanyravon North showing an unusual increase of 300% (n=9) between 2021/22 and 2022/23, which is the highest seen in the last 4 years.</p>	<p>Torfaen Rape & Sexual offence crime rate and volume has shown an increase over the last 5 years of 34%</p> <p>In terms of volume, Llantarnam has the highest 5-year avg. of 21 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Abersychan 19.8 and Fairwater 17.</p> <p>Most wards show an increasing trend since 2020/21 and have now exceeded pre-pandemic volume. Fairwater ward has increased by 107% in 2022/23 and is almost double the numbers seen in the previous 5 years.</p>
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Torfaen: Key population risk factors affecting violence.

<p>Levels of Poverty, Deprivation and Unemployment</p>	<p>Based on data derived from the Welsh Index of National Deprivation (WIMD), Blaenavon is in the top 20% of most deprived areas in Wales, Trevechin, Pontnewydd and Upper Cwmbran are in the 10% most deprived whilst Greenmeadow, Llantarnam, St Dials, Two Locks and Fairwater are in the 10-20% most deprived LSOA in the whole of Wales.</p> <p>3,613 of the 94,000 residents residing in Torfaen are unemployed. Broken down into local areas, this constitutes 249 in Blaenavon, 1,654 in Cwmbran and 1,260 in Pontypool.</p>
<p>Gender, Social and Economic Inequalities</p>	<p>In Cwmbran, 97.3% of residents identify as White, with approximately 1,300 belonging to non-White ethnicities. Pontypool reports 98.7% White residents, and fewer than 500 are non-White, including gypsy/traveler community in Cymynyscoy. Blaenavon records 63% White residents, with fewer than 100 identifying as non-White.</p>
<p>Homelessness and Housing</p>	<p>Just under half of the housing in Pontypool (48.5%) is rated at council tax band A or B, the two lowest valued housing category with a third of housing being owned outright (33.5%).</p> <p>37.9% of the housing in Cwmbran is rated as council tax band A or B with just under 30% owned out right, and about 36% is owned with a mortgage or loan.</p> <p>The majority of housing in Blaenavon (83.7) is rated as council tax band A or B with a third of housing owned outright (34.4%) and approximately 30% owned with a mortgage or loan.</p> <p>In March 2022, it was reported that the rate of looked after children per 10,000 population under 18 years in Torfaen was 209 with the Wales average at 112.</p>
<p>Substance Misuse</p>	<p>Between 2019 and 2022, Torfaen saw nearly 299 individuals assessed for alcohol use and ranked 2nd highest for substance service assessments in Gwent, surpassing the Wales average of 222.</p> <p>Alongside Blaenau Gwent, the Torfaen area often see children who are placed outside their homes as an increased risk of substance misuse.</p> <p>Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, the percentage of adults in Torfaen drinking above the low-risk guidelines of 14 units per week was 19.6%, with females drinking 5.7% above the guidelines and males surpassing by 15%.</p>

	<p>Data from the National Survey for Wales 2021/22 reported that the percentage of adults aged 16+ drinking above guidelines in Torfaen exceeded 18.1%, surpassing the Wales average of 15.7%.</p>
<p>Educational Attainment</p>	<p>In Cwmbran, residents aged 25 to 64 with no qualifications vary from 14.1% to 29.7%, exceeding the Welsh average of 19.4%. Pontnewydd 1 has the highest rate of 34.9%. Pontypool shows similar variations, ranging from 13.3% to 32.3%, with Trevethin 1 recording the highest rate of 42%. Blaenavon reports 78% of pupils not entering higher education at 18 to 19, surpassing Torfaen (73%) and Wales (70%), with Blaenavon 2 LSOA having the highest rate at 85%.</p> <p>Additionally, in Cwmbran repeat absenteeism varies from 3.3% in Cwmbran South-East to 9.1% in Cwmbran North-West, exceeding the Wales average. Greenmeadow 1 LSOA records the highest at 11.1%, while Two Locks 2 has the lowest at 1.5%. Blaenavon absenteeism is 7.1%, surpassing Torfaen and Wales averages. Pontypool shows rates from 3.7% to 9.3%, with Cwmynyscoy having the highest LSOA rate in Wales at 21.5%.</p>
<p>Mental Health Issues</p>	<p>For the past few years, the European age-standardised suicide rate in Gwent has been stable at around 10 per 100,000, slightly lower than the rate for Wales of just over 12 per 100,000.</p> <p>For 2017-2021, Torfaen’s European age-standardised suicide rate was 6% per 100,000 population, the lowest suicide rate reported in Gwent.</p>

Torfaen: Key issues and findings

- The top 4 categories of violence crime in Torfaen are Stalking & Harassment, ABH with intent, Weapon related crime and Rape & Sexual offences.
- Stalking and harassment crime rate in Torfaen has shown a steady increase of 26% over the last 5-year period, Abersychan had the highest 5-year average of 120 between 2018/19 - 2022/23.
- Homicide in Torfaen has increased by 300% over the last 5-year period. Most significantly in 2022-23 where the crime rate was recorded as 32.45 (n=3) which is the highest rate seen in the last 5 years.
- The rate and volume of ABH with intent has shown stability only increasing by less than 1% over the last 5-year period except for 2020-21 where there was a drop in rate & volume. Llanyravon North has seen an unusual increase of 200% (n=24) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the highest volume for the last 5 years.
- Weapon related crime rate in Torfaen has shown a small increase since 2020-21 but has not yet reached the high of 3.42 (n=318) seen in 2019-20. In 2022-23 the crime rate has been recorded as 3.04 (n=281). Llanyravon North showing an unusual increase of 300% (n=9) between 2021/22 and 2022/23, which is the highest seen in the last 4 years.
- 46% (n= 401) of all known weapons used to commit crime in Torfaen were bladed implements in the last 5 years.
- Rape and Sexual offences have seen an increased crime rate and volume of 34% (n= 0.78 & n=73) in the last 5-year period. Fairwater ward has increased by 107% in 2022/23 and is almost double the numbers seen in the previous 5 years.
- The highest volume of serious violence is in the Llantarnam ward, this is because its where Torfaen's main town center is.
- Victims of serious violence in Torfaen are White, Female and between 26 - 35 years old which the exception of Weapon Crime where a victim is most commonly Male.
- Offenders of violent crime in Torfaen are mostly White, Male and between 26 - 35 years of age.

Overview of Torfaen's Risk Factors:

- Torfaen is the 2nd smallest in population size against all other areas in Gwent with an estimated size of 94,000 residents.
- Blaenavon is one of the highest deprived areas in Torfaen and in the top 20% of Wales.
- Between 2019 and 2022, Torfaen was ranked the 2nd highest for substance service assessments in Gwent.
- Blaenavon 2 LSOA and Trevethin 1 has the highest rate of residents aged 25 to 64 with no qualifications in Torfaen.
- Blaenavon has the highest repeat absenteeism across Torfaen and surpassing Wales averages.
- Torfaen has the lowest suicide rate reported in Gwent at 6% per 100,000 population.

Summary of key findings

In summary, violent crime in Gwent has shown an upward trend over the last 5 years. Even accounting for the reductions seen during the pandemic years, many of the violent crime rates of focus for this SNA have increased beyond the previous highs in 2019/20.

Significant increases in stalking and harassment, weapon related crime, rape and sexual violence have been seen, and youth violence in particular is showing increases. Arson with threats to life seems to be the only area of focus to be reducing amongst the areas of focus chosen by partners.

Due to the reliance on police recorded data in this SNA, some of this may be related to improved quality in police recording practices. These trends may also be influenced by the current cost of living crisis and a reaction to the pandemic. More research and analysis over time will need to be done to better understand this picture.

Gwent is made up of a variety of local authority areas with an even wider variety of communities. These range from the large city of Newport, through to the extensive rural county of Monmouthshire, with various towns and villages in between. Each area has its unique challenges in terms of population, crime rates and hotspots, but also in relation to those factors that increase the risk of violence occurring (such as levels of deprivation and substance misuse). This has implications for the types of response needed in each local area, despite some of the commonalities amongst the information available.

Given all of the available information a strategy will now be developed looking at the best possible response.

This strategic need assessment will be further refined and developed annually.

Serious Violence Duty

Interim Strategy for Serious Violence Prevention for Gwent 2024-25

'A Gwent Without Violence'

Developing our Strategic Framework for Action: 2024-2025



Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service

Newport Youth Offending Service



Table of Contents

Page Number	Content
1	Title Page
2	Contents Page
3	Executive Summary
7	Introduction
9	Current Situation
13	Our Approach
15	Strategic Priority One
17	Strategic Priority Two
19	Strategic Priority Three
21	Strategic Priority Four
22	Concluding remarks
Appendix A	Theory of Change
Appendix B	Joining the Dots – Partner and Partnerships

Executive Summary

Serious violence has a devastating impact on the lives of victims and families, instils fear in communities and results in wide-ranging social and economic costs to society, communities, families, and individuals. Incidents of serious violence have increased in England and Wales in recent years. In Gwent, unfortunately, we are witnessing the same pattern. To reverse this trend a whole-system multi-agency approach is needed with everyone working towards a shared strategic vision of 'A Gwent without violence'.

Our collective approach should be based on a comprehensive understanding of the current serious violence landscape in Gwent, the evidence-based prevention and early interventions required to reverse this trend, what interventions and services are currently available and then detail where further action is needed. This is supported by a clear understanding of mutually beneficial partnership and inter-partnership priorities all informed and developed through meaningful community insight.

In 2019 the UK Government announced impending new legislation introducing a Serious Violence Duty¹ ('the Duty') to ensure that all relevant services work together to share information to target local interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities. The Duty encouraged local areas to adopt a public health approach to addressing violence when developing the strategy. This is an approach that seeks to improve the health and safety of all individuals by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence.

In response to the Duty, a Serious Violence Prevention Working Group ('Working Group') was established by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) as lead convener in Gwent early 2023. Membership of the Working Group includes relevant partners, as outlined in the Duty and known as 'Specified Authorities'. The first task for the Working Group was to develop a regional Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) to fully understand the serious violence landscape in Gwent. This was the first regional SNA for Gwent and as such has been a huge task for partners, led by the OPCC.

The first Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) covers the five-year period 2018-19 to 2022-23 and was published on the same date as this interim strategy, as stipulated by the Duty, 31st January 2024. The current iteration of the SNA highlighted that the level of serious violent crime has been steadily increasing in Gwent over the last five years. All five of our local authorities have

¹ [Serious Violence Duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/serious-violence-duty) (accessed 22/12/23)

experienced increasing trends in serious violent crimes since 2019-20 when all crime was reduced due to the covid-19 pandemic.

In Gwent, there is currently no system in place to systematically collect regional and local partner serious violence data, which is compounded by a lack of dedicated data analytic resource to analyse and interpret the data shared. The current picture of serious violence in Gwent is therefore not complete, particularly regarding understanding and interpreting what the existing data tells us about where action is required. This imposes limitations on the effectiveness of setting longer-term priorities within the regional Strategy and local CSP delivery plans. To achieve our vision of 'A Gwent Without Violence' we need a much better understanding of the serious violence landscape to inform our strategic direction that incorporates appropriate partner and partnership data.

This first Gwent Serious Violence Prevention Strategy therefore intentionally sets out the priorities to be achieved in 2024-25 which will enable time to address the data and intelligence gaps, which can then be used to refresh this Strategy from 2025 onwards. For 2024/25, four strategic priorities have been identified that will have enabling functions to establish the essential pillars upon which an effective Serious Violence Prevention strategy will be based:

Strategic Priority One: Better use of data to inform action

In Gwent we will strive to achieve a data driven approach to preventing serious violence.

- A data driven approach requires dedicated data analytical capacity, a robust regional data collection and analysis function, with appropriate governance. Opportunities to share current partner and partnership data, analytical capacity and expertise will be explored and if required new and dedicated data analytic resource funded. Once identified, minimum data sets will be agreed, and data flow systems established. Future SNAs will be strengthened by additional partner data, from sources such as individual agencies/specified authorities, Third Sector partners and local community insights. Wider partnership data would also strengthen future SNAs. This could include data from regional governance structures such as Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV), Local Criminal Justice Board and Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board.
- This priority does not just meet the SV Duty in isolation, as there are clear links to wider CSP priorities, and the work of other partnerships (such as those above) impacting on serious violence across Gwent. This will require greater partner and partnership working, trust, and sharing of resources. This approach will provide the necessary intelligence to put in

place the most appropriate and targeted interventions to achieve reductions in serious violence.

Strategic Priority Two: Prioritise addressing the risk factors for violence with evidence-based interventions

In Gwent we will strive to understand the causes of serious violence to enable us to consistently take an evidence-informed approach to preventing serious violence.

- A consistent Gwent-wide approach is required to understand, prioritise, and apply evidence-base knowledge on the causes and the risk factors of serious violence. Whilst there is clear evidence of risk factors for perpetrators and victims of violence, which include age, gender, sexuality, education, social and cultural norms, mental health, substance use, and childhood trauma (ACEs) and that there are recognised repositories providing guidance on evidence-based interventions, this information is not systematically available, accessible, and applicable in the local context. Nor is this consistently referenced in partner and partnership plans.
- Future regional and local strategies and action plans will explicitly detail prevention and early intervention outcomes and the application of evidence-based interventions, supported by outcome measures which will be monitored and evaluated. Consideration of evidence-informed practice and robust monitoring and evaluation processes will be integral to future regional and local planning and commissioning.

Strategic Priority Three: Join the dots to better understand and maximise impact.

In Gwent we will strive to understand the local landscape, as well as seeking to learn from activity and good practice in other areas within and outside Gwent.

- To maximise the impact of greater partnership working, partnership collaboration and integration of services/resources to prevent serious violence, we need to join the dots. The statutory responsibility for community safety in each of our five local authority areas lies with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and each CSP has an action plan based on local SNA's. However, due to the scale of vulnerability and susceptibility factors that influence violence there are a wide range of regional and local partnerships and networks whose priorities also impact on preventing serious violence.

- These forums have been highlighted in the Appendices but include the Public Safety Board (PSB), VAWDASV Board, Local Criminal Justice Board, Strategic Housing Coordination Group, Gwent Safeguarding Board, and the Gwent Regional Area Planning Board for Substance Misuse (APB) – all of which have statutory responsibilities. There are several well-established local forums which address similar priorities, such as 'Youth Justice Management Boards' and emerging ones such as 'Gwent Serious Organised Crime Partnership Meeting'. The priorities and activities of all these forums must be considered to avoid duplication of effort, and instead amplify the efforts to achieve mutual goals.

Strategic Priority Four: Adopt a place-based approach that utilises local experience, listens to community voices and is strengthened through regional governance

We will build on local experience and understanding of violence through a place-based approach which is supported by regional partnerships.

- An effective response to serious violence needs to utilise local experience, as well as listening and responding to community voices. Across the region of Gwent, the Working Group agree that although there is a shared vision to prevent serious violence, the patterns of serious violence are not the same across our localities.
- Although specified authority partners have agreed to collaborate on a Gwent-wide strategy and support, serious violence prevention interventions and activities will also still be driven by local need and guided by local intelligence including community voices. Regional to local governance will need strengthening after considering the findings of the PSB's CSP review.

In Gwent we are committed to securing the foundations required to establish a strategy which achieves our vision of 'A Gwent Without Violence'. This interim strategy establishes what we need to put in place prior to setting out a longer-term strategy to prevent serious violence.

Introduction

The Duty

In 2019 the UK Government announced legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty² ('the Duty') on a range of Specified Authorities³. The Duty ensures that all relevant services work together to share information to target local interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities.

The Duty set out the specific requirements for:

- 'Specified Authorities' to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence "*including identifying the kind of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence, and to **prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area***"⁴.
- Local areas to set out their medium and long-term priorities, and subsequent actions/interventions required based on a **theory of change model** AND encouraged the adoption of the World Health Organisations' (WHO) definition of a **public health approach** to reducing violence⁵ by using the WHO's four step framework⁶.

The Duty was introduced to address the devastating impact of serious violence on the lives of victims and families, fear in communities and the cost to society and communities. Incidents of serious violence have increased in England and Wales in recent years, which is mirrored in Gwent.

The Local Response

In 2023, the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner initiated a Serious Violence Working Group, as lead convener, made up of representatives from Specified Authorities in Gwent. The Working Group was tasked with coproducing a regional Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) and Serious Violence Prevention Strategy.

This is the first time that a regional SNA and Strategy have been produced in Gwent. Prior to 2024, broader community safety SNA's and strategies have been required to be produced on a Local Authority level by Community Safety

² [Serious Violence Duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) {accessed 22/12/23}

³ Police, Justice (Probation and YOS), Fire and Rescue, Local Health Board, Local Councils in Wales

⁴ WHO Definition of Serious Violence [Violence Prevention Alliance Approach \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int) {accessed on 22/01/24}: "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group of community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation"

⁵ Page 8 - [Serious Violence Duty - Statutory Guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

⁶ [Violence Prevention Alliance Approach \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int)

Partnerships, often through Wellbeing Plans under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. In Gwent there are five Local Authorities: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, and Newport, each now have Community Safety Partnership structures. Most CSPs in Gwent have only recently been reformed independent of the PSB's previous local Wellbeing Partnership structures.

The Public Health team within Gwent's local Health Board: Aneurin Bevan's University Health Board (ABUHB), led the development of this strategy in collaboration with Specified Authorities. Two partner workshops and a succession of Working Group and partner meetings, added to the available intelligence gathered in the SNA and guided the development of this interim strategy.

Our local vision has been agreed as: "**A Gwent without violence**". To achieve this vision requires a strategic approach based on a comprehensive understanding of the data, intelligence, evidence-base, partner and partnership priorities and community insight. This strategy identifies the initial key strategic priorities that are required to develop our understanding of existing data and intelligence, engagement with communities to seek their views and align and strengthen the maturing community partnership structures at both local and regional level in Gwent.

The strategy highlights actions for 24/25 which will provide the insight and impetus for what is needed to effectively reduce and prevent serious violence in Gwent.

Current Situation

Background

The Duty stipulates that a local Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) should provide the intelligence to inform the development of strategic priorities, with the detail of how these priorities are addressed being articulated in a local strategy. The local SNA should provide intelligence on:

- What kind of violence is taking place
- Who is affected by violence
- Where violence is happening
- When violence is happening
- And where possible, what interventions are needed

This is the first time a region-wide Serious Violence SNA and Strategy have been drafted in Gwent. The Duty required that both be completed by the 31st of January 2024, and as such the development of this strategy was based on an evolving version of the SNA.

Gwent's 'definition' of Serious Violence

In Gwent, the agreed definition, or 'areas of focus', for serious violence have been identified as:

- Homicide
- Knife and gun crime
- Public space youth violence
- Youth violence in schools
- Grievous bodily harm (GBH) and actual bodily harm (ABH)
- Robbery
- Sexual violence and domestic abuse including stalking and harassment
- Arson with threats to life
- Assaults against professionals.

This definition was agreed by the Gwent Serious Violence Duty Working Group, with representation from all Specified Authorities.

Current picture in Gwent

What?

The Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment (2018-19 to 2022-23) has highlighted that the level of serious violent crime has been steadily increasing in Gwent over the last five years.

Serious violent crimes with the highest crime rate per 1 thousand population of Gwent are: '*stalking and harassment*', '*actual bodily harm*' and '*weapon related crime*.' In 2022/23, homicide reached its highest recorded level, and a significant increase has been seen in reported '*assaults on professionals*',

'robbery' and 'weapon offences (specifically bladed implements)'. NB: This is based on the current data set and does not include domestic violence data or crimes that are precursors to violence-related crime. This demonstrates the urgent and vital need for concerted and coordinated action within Gwent to achieve our vision of 'A Gwent Without Violence'.

In developing this strategy, the specified authority partners agreed to collaborate with the Gwent Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Commissioning Board, to co-commission a consultant to complete a detailed analysis of the current sexual violence and domestic abuse picture across Gwent. This report is expected in Spring 2024 and relevant information will be added to this SNA at that time.

What and where?

All five of our Local Authority areas include 'stalking and harassment' and 'actual bodily harm' in their top three recorded serious violent crimes. Four out of five of our Local Authorities: Caerphilly, Newport, Torfaen, and Monmouthshire have also seen increases in homicides. The exception is Blaenau Gwent which did not have any homicides recorded. Blaenau Gwent's main recorded serious violent crimes were 'stalking & harassment', followed by 'ABH' and 'weapon related crime'.

Stalking and harassment accounts for the majority of recorded violent crime in Gwent, in terms of crime rates and volume. The recorded rate across Gwent for stalking and harassment has increased by 32% in the previous five years. Although all Local Authority areas recorded an increase in rates, the highest rate increases were recorded in Blaenau Gwent (57%), followed by Monmouthshire (48%) and Caerphilly (35%). More detailed analysis and narrative will be included in future iterations of data reports which will include consideration of VAWDASV data.

ABH is the second highest violent crime recorded in Gwent. Although the Gwent ABH recorded rates have been stable over the last five years, this picture masks the variation across the five Local Authority areas. There has been an increasing trend in four of our five local authority areas, which has been counteracted by the decreasing trend in Newport. Monmouthshire has seen the biggest increase in recorded ABH, with a rise of 11% over the last five years.

Weapon related crime is the third highest violent crime recorded in Gwent. It has shown a gradual increase in each of the 5 local authorities in Gwent. In 2022/23 Blaenau Gwent's weapon related crime rate has increased by 51%, Caerphilly 21%, Monmouthshire 20%, Newport 22%, and Torfaen 18%.

Who?

For most violent crimes, the SNA currently indicates that victims and offenders, are of similar age: between 26-35, are white and male. This is slightly different

for homicides where victims are typically over 46 and offenders between 18-25. With stalking and harassment, victims are on average between 26-35 and female with the majority of recorded ethnicity as 'white'. Further data and analysis are required to fully understand this picture. Also, it is important to note when considering this data that it is based on the numbers of 'reported crimes' and there should be consideration on the groups of the population who are more likely and less likely to report crimes.

When?

Violent crime is recorded as being most frequently committed between the months of April and December, during the weekend and from 3pm to midnight. Most of the violent crimes are recorded as occurring around midnight. Going forward more detailed analysis and narrative will be produced in Problem Profiles which will give the detail necessary to drive activity locally. Such as details on location of crime (i.e. in homes, parks, licensed premises) which will enable more targeted initiatives and preventative projects.

Why?

There remain some data gaps which need addressing prior to undertaking a more detailed analysis of the data to understand the local serious violence landscape. For example, domestic/sexual violence data has not yet been incorporated in detail due to a standalone needs assessment being commissioned in partnership with the Gwent VAWDASV Board. Future iterations of the SNA will provide a more comprehensive data set, but this will require dedicated and sustained data analytic capacity.

A data driven approach, which incorporates analysis and narrative, complemented by a good understanding of the evidence base is an essential precursor to understanding why serious violence is occurring in our localities. Future iterations of the SNA will also provide a more comprehensive description of the vulnerability and risk factors and drivers of serious violence, providing the intelligence required to better understand why the patterns of serious violence are occurring across Gwent, as well as to identify effective preventative interventions.

The Duty states that an effective strategy considers other strategies/partnerships which have a role in preventing serious violence to ensure greater cohesion, partnership working and no duplication in effort and resources. This is a priority for future iterations of the SNA and Strategy.

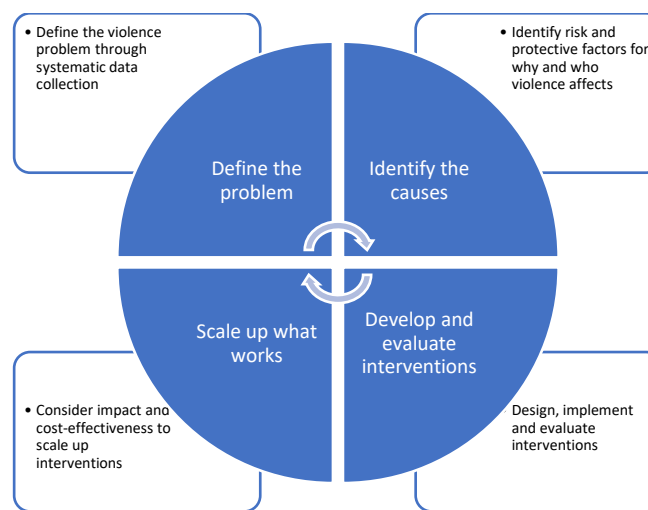
With this context, the Working Group agreed to the development of an interim strategy which outlines the key strategic priorities required to provide the intelligence, supported by appropriate governance, required to develop a long-term strategy to prevent serious violence in Gwent. There is a commitment to continuing to develop and improve the Gwent Serious Violence SNA and

Strategy, with partner agreement to review and update both documents within six months of publication, allowing time to consider the role of other local partnerships.

Our Approach - How we will reduce serious violence in Gwent

As advised by the Duty, the Working Group agreed to adopt a public health approach to violence. This is an approach that seeks to improve the health and safety of *all individuals* by addressing *underlying risk factors* that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence. This requires thinking about the *whole population* and *communities* rather than individuals with a move in focus from individual crimes to *impacts on families and communities*.

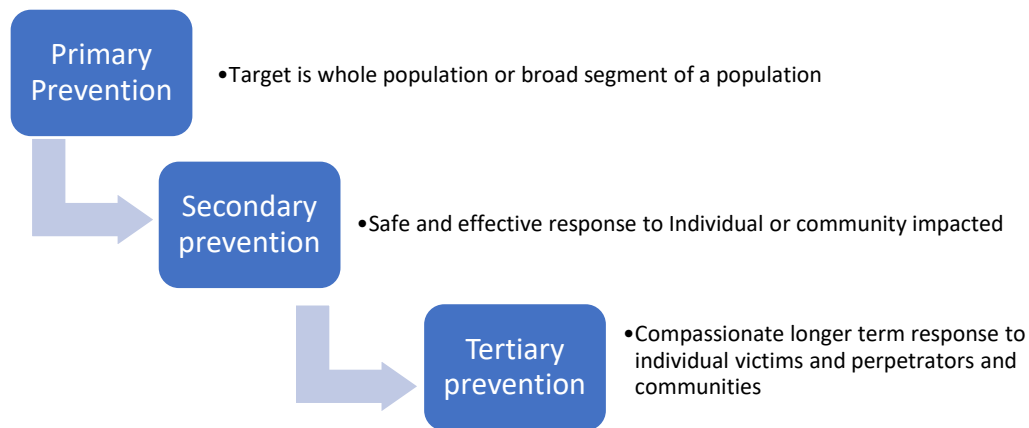
The Working Group agreed to use World Health Organisations framework: 'Four Steps approach'⁷ which is guided by the principles of public health:



Firstly, there is a need to know the facts, working in partnership to understand and define the problem. This will require assessing underlying causes, risk and protective factors and include data, local intelligence, and community insight. Solutions then need to be explored by assessing evidence of 'what works' to prevent violence, and interventions designed. These interventions should be evaluated with those deemed effective and cost effective scaled up as necessary.

Prevention can be considered across three level: primary prevention which aims to prevent violence before it occurs; secondary prevention which focuses on the immediate response to violence and tertiary prevention which reduces harm after violence has occurred. Our local response will need to consider all these levels of prevention.

⁷ [Violence Prevention Alliance Approach \(who.int\)](#) {accessed 05.01.24}



Essentially, our communities should be at the heart of all action to address violence. We will seek and consider the voices of our local communities in providing insights through our data and intelligence gathering. Their voices will provide the local context to risk and protective factors which we acknowledge will vary across Gwent as well as seek to ensure that any planned intervention is acceptable and appropriate.

Strategic Priority One - Better use of data to inform action

In Gwent we will strive to achieve a data driven approach to preventing serious violence.

Despite the OPCC dedicating substantial data analytical resource to collate and analyse partner data for the first Gwent SNA, the current iteration of the SNA does not fully reflect all relevant data that is held and available to partners. There remains a need to better understand the current serious violence landscape by gathering and interpreting additional partner and partnership data, on an ongoing basis.

Specified Authorities have welcomed the increased flow of data resulting from the development of the first Gwent SNA. However, there is a need for wider partner data and more comprehensive data set which include, at a minimum, domestic violence data, and data analysis with narrative to enable interpretation of the data. There is acknowledgment that there is no system in place to receive and include qualitative data from partners and community members, or to identify potentially emerging issues.

To achieve this strategic priority there is a need to identify and develop a robust mechanism to receive, collate, analyse, interpret, and share partner data in a systematic, timely and sustainable way. The data set to be shared needs to be agreed but should include data from Specified Authority partners, local CSPs, wider partnership/forum data such as data from Public Safety Board (PSB), VAWDASV Board, Local Criminal Justice Board, Strategic Housing Coordination Group, Gwent Safeguarding Board, and the Gwent Regional Area Planning Board for Substance Misuse (APB). The Gwent Joint Strategic Assessment, and local community insight data will also provide rich sources of data. There is a vast bank of data and intelligence which could support the serious violence prevention agenda, and this data and access to it needs to be explored.

This will require dedicated data analytic resource, greater partner, and partnership collaboration and inclusion of community insight data. A system with appropriate governance will need to be identified.

The Working Group recognise that there is a wealth of data analytical capacity and expertise within Gwent, but currently this resource is allocated to working in siloes within their partner/partnership. Given the range of partners and partnerships that have a role to play in responding to serious violence prevention, the Working Group will explore the possibility of pooling this resource, before seeking any additional data analytical resource/mechanism. This is consistent with taking a whole system multi-agency approach to preventing serious violence. It is also in compliance with the requirement specified within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015⁸ for

⁸⁸ [42329 WBFEG Essentials Guide \(gov.wales\)](#) {accessed 24/02/24}

public bodies to demonstrate in their decision making that they are implementing the Five Ways of Working principles. 'Integration' is one of these principles, and exploring the pooling of partnership analytical capacity would demonstrate the implementation of these principles.

The Working Group are committed to better using partner and partnership data, shared local intelligence, and community insight to inform practice. Therefore, routinely sharing of agreed data between partners and partnerships, which is then analysed and interpreted will enable interventions to be based on a well-analysed and accurate picture of serious violence.

Action: Over the next year we will work together to:

1. Agree data sets, and information to be shared systematically.
2. Identify opportunities across partners and partnerships (as detailed above and in Appendix B) to routinely and sustainability share data and information.
3. Agree a regional mechanism and/or role to receive, collate, analyse, interpret, and share data and information, from National to Regional to Local Level.
4. Identify dedicated and/or pooled data analytical capacity, and funding, if necessary, to analyse and present agreed data sets and information which inform planning and commissioning priorities.
5. Ensure appropriate Welsh Accord on the Sharing of Personal Information (WASPI) agreements in place.

Strategic Priority Two: Prioritise addressing the risk factors for violence with evidence-based interventions

In Gwent we will strive to understand the causes of serious violence to enable us to take an evidence-informed approach to preventing serious violence.

To enable the Working Group's agreed priority of more emphasis being placed on prevention and early intervention, there is a need for our understanding of the causes and the risk factors of serious violence and evidence-based responses to be demonstrated and applied to all local interventions.

In Gwent, we are committed to identifying drivers of serious violence and addressing these in an evidence-informed way, based on what cause people and communities to be more vulnerable and susceptible to the harms of violence.

There is clear evidence of risk factors for perpetrators and victims of violence, which include substance use, age, gender, sexuality, education, social and cultural norms, mental health, and childhood trauma (ACEs). Alongside significant academic literature, there is guidance for evidence-based approaches to prevent serious violence, available through several reputable repositories, such as the Wales Violence Prevention Unit, the ACE Hub Wales, the Wales Safer Communities Network, and the College of Policing. Understanding and applying this evidence is a core role of regional and local planning and commissioning, and the Working Group agree that this should be more transparent with partners being more accountable to apply this evidence.

Working Group partners are committed to applying evidence informed learning when planning and commissioning future intervention. The best available evidence of what works will be applied, along with testing new and innovative approaches. Routine monitoring and evaluating the impact of interventions will further contribute to the evidence base. In line with the public health approach to violence prevention using evidence to inform local solutions, monitoring and evaluation their impacts will be core practice.

Given that there is a complex interaction of factors that impact on serious violence, there will not be one solution, one agency or partnership that can prevent it. Understanding and addressing risk factors will require collaborative working. Although this will be time consuming and complex, it is essential to prevent serious violence. The benefits will be far reaching. For example, if the evidence base indicated investment in early years/parenting programmes to prevent serious violence, this could be beneficial for other programme priorities such as improving mental health and wellbeing, and reducing the susceptibility to addictions such as alcohol, drugs, and gambling.

The Working Group are committed to focusing greater effort on prevention and early intervention activities, guided by the evidence-base, which are monitored

and evaluated. Learning will be shared across partners and partnerships, and effective and cost-effective interventions will be rolled across our local authority areas proportionate to need.

Action: Over the next year we will work together to:

1. Continually consider quality assured, published research and best practice of 'what works' when planning and funding interventions, as well as reviewing the effectiveness of core business and universal services.
2. Ensure all actions/interventions within local CSP strategies and plans are systematically underpinned by the best available evidence and include clear outcome measures and explicit evaluation methods.
3. Map where Prevention and Early Intervention is currently delivered at both Regional and Local levels, across partners and partnerships.
4. Source appropriate funding to introduce effective interventions based on available evidence and local learning.

Strategic Priority Three: Join the dots to better understand and maximise impact.

In Gwent we will strive to understand the local landscape, as well as seeking to learn from activity and good practice in other areas within and outside Gwent.

The Working Group acknowledge the established Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) with statutory responsibility for community safety in each of our five local authority areas, each developing a local action plan based on local SNAs. We are also conscious that at the time of developing this interim strategy, a PSB review of the CSP landscape is currently in progress. However, the CSPs are not the only Boards which have a role to play in preventing serious violence.

Due to the scale of vulnerability and susceptibility factors that influence violence there are a wide range of regional and local partnerships, boards, and networks whose priorities and activities can play a role in the prevention of serious violence (Appendix B for a list).

Several well-established Forums/Boards, such as the PSB, VAWDASV, APB, have statutory responsibilities which impact on the prevention of serious violence, in addition to a wide number of established groups (see Appendix B for a list) and as well as the wider Specified Authority agencies. Established groups with similar priorities and actions which positively impact on the reduction and prevention of serious violence, such as VAWDASV, must be considered when developing future iterations of the of the Gwent Serious Violence SNA, Strategy, and action plans. This will avoid duplication and increase the impact of achieving mutual goals.

It is essential that we build on the collaborative working that already exists in Gwent, and clarify the structural governance arrangements, dependencies, and interdependencies between each partnership. To achieve our vision of preventing serious violence, we must focus efforts on inter-partnership as well as on increased partnership working to address the underlying risk factors for serious violence, which include poverty, homelessness, substance misuse. Some of these are outlined in the '*Building a Fairer Gwent: Improving Health equity and the Social Determinants*' report. Challenges and solutions are often interconnected which requires the alignment of delivery, policy, and strategy, and ultimately the commissioning of services and projects.

There already exists positive activity and interventions to address serious violence across Gwent. In addition to understanding the partnership landscape, there is also a need to better understand what is going on locally across the five local authority CSPs and Specified Authorities, to identify both good practice and gaps in existing service provision. This will provide an opportunity to scale up good practice interventions, proportionate to need.

Action: Over the next year we will work together to:

1. Map and gap partner and partnership plans where collaboration could help prevent serious violence.
2. Align the governance for implementation of the Serious Violence Duty within the context of the PSB Community Safety review in Gwent.
3. Strive towards rationalising the partnership landscape where more effective delivery can be achieved.

Strategic Priority Four: Adopt a place-based approach that utilises local experience, listens to community voices and is strengthened through regional governance

We will build on local experience and understanding of violence through a place-based approach which is supported by regional partnerships.

Across the region of Gwent, the agreed goal for all Specified Authorities is consistent: the 'prevention of serious violence'. However, the first iteration of the SNA, which is supported by local intelligence, indicates that the patterns of serious violence are not consistent across our localities.

Local intelligence is essential to develop a meaningful strategy which is effective at a regional and local authority level. Local intelligence must be supported by community insight to enable the development of appropriate responses informed by lived experience. The Working Group agree that interventions should be informed by ongoing and meaningful community engagement to provide local insight to guide appropriate responses. It is acknowledged that there is a need to seek to understand the voices of those affected or harmed, as well as those who perpetrate the harm, as well as the voices of people at most risk of being victims of serious violence.

Going forward the Working Group will seek to learn from organisations, such as Youth Offending Service, who routinely undertake engagement. We acknowledge the risk of engagement fatigue for communities, so will seek to align community engagement activities with other partners' community engagement calendars. We will also agree a set of common questions to include within community safety engagement activities to enable us to compare data and intelligence across localities.

Action: Over the next year we will work together to:

1. Identify learning from existing local mechanisms which seek, capture, and respond to community insight, whilst maintaining on-going engagement with local communities.
2. Ensure that community voices are a key element of future SNA's and formation and evaluation of updated strategies.
3. Clarify the regional and local structural governance arrangements to support the effective implementation, monitoring and review of the place-based Serious Violence Plans and Regional Serious Violence Strategy.

Conclusions

The introduction of the Serious Violence Duty has challenged partners to come together and consider their current agency and collective responses to violence and the causes of violence and consider what more can be done.

The Strategic Needs Assessment tells us that serious violence is happening in the homes and communities of Gwent, and the problem is growing. Some areas are more susceptible than others through their various societal risk factors. There are commonalities across Gwent in some types of violence, frequency, severity, and other factors, but there are also differences in each local area. This means careful consideration needs to be made about a response strategy.

This Strategy, therefore, is the first iteration of a long-term commitment by all Specified Authority duty holders to prevent and reduce serious violence across Gwent. It provides a broad framework alongside specific actions, within which partners and partnerships can act. Those action plans will now be developed in the next 12 months, by local CSPs, Gwent-wide, and potentially wider. Our collective aim is to introduce new and innovative interventions, supported by comprehensive performance monitoring to ensure as a collective group of partners we can tackle this problem, and strive to make a 'Gwent without Violence'.

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Kate Williams – Public Service Support Unit Group Manager, Torfaen County Borough Council

Note: Representatives from Gwent Police, local Youth Offending Services and Probation have contributed to this Strategy development via local Workshops and Working Group meetings.

APPENDIX A: Vision: A Gwent Without Violence

Inputs		Short Term Outputs	Outcomes		Strategic Priorities
Activities	Resources		Intermediate	Long Term	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree regional mechanism to receive, collate, analyse, interpret, and share data Review data set, information and governance required Identify data analysis capacity within current system and/or need for dedicated resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data analytical capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data sets and data report template agreed (i.e. data and narrative to be provided) Data sharing agreements in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established data flows between partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linked data sets providing timely, systematic and comprehensive reports to enable local and regional planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve a data driven approach to preventing serious violence, by understanding where violence occurs and who is affected
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map current prevention and early intervention activity Continually review quality assured, published research and best practice of 'what works' and apply to all interventions Funding allocation based on evidence of need, effectiveness All interventions to be evaluated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National repositories of evidence and toolkits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding of current intervention landscape Evaluation built into all local interventions Understanding of evidence base for interventions to tackle drivers and precursors of SV (e.g. ASB) established) Greater accountability within local plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing of learning/evaluation of local interventions Effectiveness and cost effectiveness of interventions systematically considered Evaluation integral to interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional and local preventative interventions commissioned based on effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and local learning Greater understanding of drivers of violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address the risk factors for violence with evidence-based interventions which are routinely evaluated.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map SVP activity/interventions across CSPs Map partner and partnership plans (with a link to SV) and associated funding Align governance of SVD in context of PSB CSP review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated resource (postholder/organisation) to complete mapping and joining the dots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of commonality, governance arrangements and funding across partnerships Aligned governance for SVD with other partnerships Sharing of local CSP SNAs and plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity of current funding streams and shared priorities across partnerships Sharing of learning from local SNAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed common priorities across partnerships and some shared funding of evidence informed interventions Rationalised partnership landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Join the dots to better understand and maximise impact by (i) recognising and building on what is being delivered and (ii) strengthening partnerships at a strategic level.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community insights gathered on a local level systematically and in meaningful way Learning from good practice Regional and local structural governance structures identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated resource at local level to complete activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local SNA informed by community insights. Regional SNA informed by qualitative data from local SNAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local action plans informed by data, evidence and local insights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interventions and support that reflects and responds to local needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt a place-based approach that utilises local experience, listens to community voices and is strengthened through regional governance

External Factors: Funding allocations to core and statutory services, partnerships.

Assumptions/Requirements: understanding of other partnership common priorities, dependencies, interdependencies, overlaps and funding. Local needs assessments through CSPs and community insights shared. Funding available to achieve strategic priorities

Appendix B: Partner and Partnerships Plans and Priorities to consider when developing future strategies (in no order)

- Marmot/Building a Fairer Gwent
- Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board
- Regional criminal/youth justice boards
- Gwent Licensing Forum (licensing of licensed premises)
- Public Service Boards (under WBFG Act 2015)
- RPB (Regional Partnership Board) (Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act 2014)
- Regional Safeguarding Boards – Adults and Children – Social Services and Wellbeing act 2014
- Regional and Local CSPs
- Gwent Regional VAWDASV Board and Strategy
- Wales Police Schools Programme
- ACE and the Adverse Hub for Wales
- Third sector partners
- Victims, survivors, and perpetrators of crime
- Regional Housing Collaboratives
- Gwent Mental Health & Learning Disabilities Strategic Partnership
- Integrated Service Partnership Board
- Local Wellbeing Partnership Boards

National Legislation

- ASB (Crime and Disorder Act/Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policy Act 2014)
- Counter Terrorism Act
- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- WBFG Act – places a duty on sustainable development, how maximise contribution to the 7 WB goals, embed sustainable development principles, Five Ways of Working
- Community Safety Partnerships – Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – statutory obligatory to produce evidence-based strategies – ‘Strategic Assessments’. Could be stand alone or incorporated into Wellbeing Plans. The PCSC Act amended the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to require CSPs to prepare strategies addressing 2 further matters – preventing people from becoming involved in SV and reducing instances of SV in the area.
- A Healthier Wales – treat and support individuals affected by SV. Pressures on urgent care services can be reduced if SV addressed in locality. Need to play active part in supporting and delivery against Duty.
- Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. Specified authorities – Safeguarding Boards

- Rights of CYP (Wales) measure
- Housing (Wales) Act – priority needs status including person subject to DA 18-21 at risk of sexual or financial exploitation
- Socio-economic duty – requires public authorities when making decisions of a strategic nature due regard to exercising them in a way designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage. Purpose of act encourage better decision making, ensuring more equal outcomes. Need to consider how plans reduce inequalities of outcomes resulting socio-economic disadvantage
- Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 – health and wellbeing area of learning and experience – focus on health and wellbeing of learners including relationships and sexuality education.

National Strategies:

- National VAWDASV Strategy 2023-2027
- WG Substance Misuse Delivery Plan
- Whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing
- Youth Work strategy for Wales
- Youth Engagement and progression Framework and Young Person's Guarantee
- Anti Racist Action Plan for Wales
- LGBTQIA+ Action Plan – SV plan seek to challenge discrimination and violence against people identifying as LGBTIA+
- Together for Mental Health
- Homicide prevention (College of Policing) – serious violence and vulnerability. Resources for tackling serious violence and vulnerability. Similar strategies e.g. College of Policing: Homicide Prevention Strategy

Regional Strategies and Plans must also be considered.



Scrutiny Report

Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 20th March 2024

Subject Scrutiny Adviser Report

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Role
Neil Barnett (Scrutiny Adviser)	Present the Committee with the Scrutiny Adviser Report for discussion and update the Committee on any changes.

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

1. Committee’s Work Programme:

Consider the Committee’s Forward Work Programme Update (**Appendix 1**):

- *Are there any amendments to the topics scheduled to be considered at the next Committee meeting?*
- *Are there any additional invitees that the Committee requires to fully consider the topics?*
- *Is there any additional information that the Committee would like to request?*

2. Action Plan

Consider the Actions from previous meetings (**Appendix 2**):

- *Note the responses for the actions;*
- *Determine if any further information / action is required;*
- *Agree to receive an update on outstanding issues at the next meeting.*

2 Context

Background

2.1 The purpose of a forward work programme is to help ensure Councillors achieve organisation and focus in the undertaking of enquiries through the Overview and Scrutiny function. Effective

work programming is essential to ensure that the work of Overview and Scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services.

- 2.2 Further information about the work programming process, including the procedures for referring new business to the programme, can be found in our Scrutiny Handbook on the Council's Scrutiny webpages (www.newport.gov.uk/scrutiny).
- 2.3 The Centre for Public Scrutiny's Good Scrutiny Guide recognises the importance of the forward work programme. In order to 'lead and own the process', it states that Councillors should have ownership of their Committee's work programme, and be involved in developing, monitoring and evaluating it. The Good Scrutiny Guide also states that, in order to make an impact, the scrutiny workload should be co-ordinated and integrated into corporate processes, to ensure that it contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.

Action Sheet from Previous Meetings

- 2.4 Attached at **Appendix 2** is the Action Sheet from the Committee meetings. The updated completed actions are included in the table.
- 2.5 Any actions that do not have a response will be included on the Action Sheet at the next meeting to ensure that the Committee can keep track of outstanding actions.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The following information is attached:

Appendix 1: The Committee's Forward Work Programme Update;
Appendix 2: Action Sheet from Previous Meetings.

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- **Forward Work Programme Update - Appendix 1**
Consider:
 - Are there any amendments to the topics scheduled to be considered at the next Committee meeting?
 - Are there any additional invitees that the Committee requires to fully consider the topics?
 - Is there any additional information that the Committee would like to request?
- **Action Sheet from Previous Meetings - Appendix 2**
 - Consider the responses to the actions from the meeting;
 - Are you satisfied that you have received the necessary information?
 - Are there any further issues arising from the responses that you would like to raise?

For the actions that do not have responses – these actions will be rolled over to the next meeting and reported back to the Committee.

Section B – Supporting Information

5. Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- 5.1 Having proper work programming procedures in place ensures that the work of Overview and Scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services, contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and ensures that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.
- 5.2 This report relates to the Committee's Work Programme, Actions from Committee's and Information Reports that support the achievement of the Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with the Law and Regulation Service Plan, Objectives, Actions and Measures and the Wellbeing objectives.

6 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

- 6.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 which came into force in April 2016 sets the context for the move towards long term planning of services.
- 6.2 **General questions**
- How is this area / policy affected by the new legislation?
 - How will this decision / policy / proposal impact upon future generations? What is the long term impact?
 - What evidence is provided to demonstrate WFGA has been / is being considered?
 - Evidence from Community Profiles / other data?
 - Evidence of links to Wellbeing Assessment / Objectives / Plan?
- 6.3 **Wellbeing Goals**
- How are the Wellbeing goals reflected in the policy / proposal / action?
 - *A prosperous Wales*
 - *A resilient Wales*
 - *A healthier Wales*
 - *A more equal Wales*
 - *A Wales of cohesive communities*
 - *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
 - *A globally responsible Wales*
- 6.4 **Sustainable Development Principles**
- Does the report / proposal demonstrate how as an authority we are working in accordance with the sustainable development principles from the act when planning services?
 - **Long Term**
The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs
 - **Prevention**
How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives
 - **Integration**
Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies
 - **Collaboration**

Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives

- **Involvement**

The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

7 Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-2027](#)

Report Completed: 20th March 2024

Scrutiny

Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Forward Work Programme: June 2023 to May 2024

Meeting	Agenda Items
19/07/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newport Live One Newport Draft Local Action Plan
04/10/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared Resource Services (SRS) Update One Newport Wellbeing Plan Final Report
10/10/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Partnerships Board Annual Report Regional Partnerships Board Area Plan
08/11/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norse Joint Venture – Strategy and Performance Review Community Safety Plan – Draft Strategic Needs Assessment
06/12/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)
28/02/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barnardos Partnership Contract <p>(Sent as information report to Committee)</p>
20/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety Plan – Strategic Needs Assessment Final Plan Serious Violence Duty: Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy Education Achievement Service (EAS) Value for Money Report
24/04/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wastesavers Partnership Adoption and Fostering Services

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Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships

ACTION SHEET – 7th December 2023

	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
1	Gwent VAWDASV Regional Strategy 2023-2027	The Committee considered the report of the Gwent VAWDASV Regional Strategy 2023-2027	Scrutiny / Lead Officer VAWDASV	ACTIONED – Comments from the Committee forwarded to the partnership on 7th December 2023.
1	Gwent VAWDASV Regional Strategy 2023-2027	The Committee requested to be sent the links regarding the 'Sound' campaign. Additionally, the Committee requested to see the final report, including the animations, once it is completed.	Scrutiny / Lead Officer VAWDASV	COMPLETED– Links for the Live Fear Free and Sound Campaigns sent on 7th December 2023. Lead Officer to send the final report when available.
1	Gwent VAWDASV Regional Strategy 2023-2027	The Committee requested the breakdown of the figures on page 27 of the report at regional, county and ward level for a comprehensive understanding of the data.	Scrutiny / Lead Officer VAWDASV	COMPLETED– Information from the Police sent to the Committee on 23rd February 2024.

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