

Southampton Safe City Strategic Assessment 2018/19

2. Background to the Strategic Assessment



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2. Background to the Strategic Assessment

2.1 Aims

The Southampton Safe City Partnership co-ordinates multi-agency action to improve lives and foster stronger communities by reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, alcohol misuse and supply, and the use and harm caused by drugs throughout the city. Partners include the five statutory authorities; Hampshire Constabulary, Southampton City Council, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, Probation Services and Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). In addition, there are representatives from the Youth Offending Service (YOS), Southampton Voluntary Services (SVS) and the Integrated Commissioning Unit (ICU).

In 2017, the Southampton Safe City Partnership agreed a three year strategy to be delivered by April 2020; the strategy is reviewed annually and was last reviewed in March 2019. A core element of this strategy is the continuous assessment of progress against the objectives set and, in line with legislative requirements,¹ to undertake a strategic assessment each year. The Southampton Safe City Strategic Assessment is a public document, which seeks to provide direction for the Southampton Safe City Partnership. It provides an overview of the current and future crime, disorder and community safety issues affecting Southampton and, as such, it will inform the partnership of any requirements to increase focus or to add developing issues that may lead to a change of focus for the Safe City Strategy and local delivery plans.

The purpose of the Strategic Assessment is to assist the Safe City Partnership to revise the Safe City Strategy and as such, it includes the following:

- An analysis of the levels of crime and disorder and substance misuse in the city
- Changes in those levels and why these changes have occurred
- Views of local people living and working in the area in relation to crime and disorder and substance misuse
- Identification of gaps in knowledge which need to be addressed
- Recommendations for matters which should be prioritised.

The 2018/19 Strategic Assessment will provide the evidence base to inform the new Safe City Strategy which will run from March 2020.

¹ HMSO (2007) *Section 7 of the Crime & Disorder Regulations 2007*; Statutory Instrument (SII) Number 1830. [Online] Available from: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2007/1830/pdfs/uksi_20071830_en.pdf

2.2 Methodology and Structure of the Assessment

In order to bring a coordinated evidence based approach to Strategic Assessment in Southampton, it was agreed that a *single needs assessment* will be developed for the city, building on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) model. This provides a single view of ‘needs’ in the city, where appropriate analytical methods and statistics are used to turn data into intelligence to provide the platform to ensure decisions and strategic intent are based on the best available evidence. This is an online resource and is intended to be a ‘one-stop shop’ for city intelligence. The Safe City Partnership agreed that the Safe City Strategic Assessment would form part of this approach from 2014/15 onwards. The final assessment can be accessed online alongside a data compendium, which contains a raft of data in the form of tables, and charts upon which the conclusions in this report are based. The online version of the assessment can be accessed at: <https://data.southampton.gov.uk/community-safety/>.

Responsibility for producing the Strategic Assessment continues to sit with the Intelligence and Strategic Analysis team at Southampton City Council, formed to bring a co-ordinated evidence based approach across the Council. The final assessment will be used to inform the new Safe City Strategy, which will be agreed by the Partnership and presented to full Council for approval in March 2020. Although the Strategic Assessment was managed and edited by the Intelligence and Strategic Analysis team, data has been obtained from a wide variety of sources in order to complete a robust assessment.

In line with the *single assessment* model, clear standards for data collection and analysis have been set for the Safe City Strategic Assessment. Wherever possible the following data has been collected, analysed and presented in this report and the [data compendium](#):

- Benchmarking of the most current data to ascertain how Southampton compares with England and the city’s statistical neighbours.
- Time trend data to ascertain if the situation is improving or deteriorating.
- Deep dive analysis to more fully understand the issues within the city; analysis by sub-local authority geography, area based deprivation, profiling of victims/offenders etc.

The assessment has been structured to provide an overview of crime and disorder across Southampton. Recorded crime is covered as well as an assessment of the crime distribution across the city by electoral ward and deprivation quintile. It considers victim and offender profiles (including youth offending and reoffending) and explores some of the wider issues that impact upon both groups. The assessment then covers some of the more significant community safety issues identified for Southampton in more detail. The views of people living and working in Southampton and their perceptions of crime were captured in the 2019 Southampton Community Safety Survey, the results of which are summarised in this report. Key messages for the Partnership to note are summarised at the end of each chapter.

For the first time the strategic assessment includes estimates of the harm associated with each crime type. A scoring matrix has also been constructed which is used to identify the crime priorities for the city.

2.3 Information Sources and Caveats

This strategic assessment has taken information from a range of data sources. These include Hampshire Constabulary; Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Isle of Wight; Southampton City Council; Southampton Youth Offending Service; Ministry of Justice; Department for Education; Office for National Statistics; Public Health England; the Home Office; and Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). Data used to inform the assessment has been drawn from published data sources and derived from live datasets. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, due to the ongoing nature of Police investigations, figures may be subject to change and inconsistencies may exist between published and live data.

Reference to '2018/19', or 'this year' refers to the financial year – 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019, and 'last year' or 'previous year' refers to the financial year 2017/18, unless stated otherwise. Where data is available, comparisons have been made with England and the iQuanta comparator group of:

- Eastbourne
- Plymouth
- Derby
- Portsmouth
- Gloucester
- Slough
- Hounslow
- Bristol
- Reading
- Luton
- Northampton
- Cardiff
- Leeds
- Newcastle upon Tyne

In some instances, a different comparator group may have been used if this was deemed more appropriate to the indicator/issue. Where rates have been calculated, the ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates have been used unless otherwise stated. 95% confidence intervals have been calculated for rates wherever possible in an attempt to account for natural variation and to robustly evaluate if any differences and changes found are statistically significant. A full list of data sources and caveats are provided for each indicator in the metadata section of the online data compendium.

A crime severity score has been calculated to provide an estimate of the relative level of harm caused by each crime type. This score gives more severe offence categories a higher weight than less severe ones using crime sentencing weights calculated by ONS using data from the Ministry of Justice.² For each crime type the crime severity score is calculated as:

Sum [(Severity weight * Number of offences) / (Area) mid-year population estimate]

Crime outcomes have also been presented, both in detail and as an overall percentage of crimes with formal action taken. Crimes with formal action taken are those for which: an offender was either charged or summonsed, or received a caution or warning or penalty notice; there was a community resolution; or the offence was taken into consideration. The length of time it takes police forces to assign an outcome varies by both offence type and the type of outcome. In England and Wales for the year ending March 2019 an overall median of 9 days was taken from the date the crime was recorded to assign the outcome. Sexual offences take the longest time to assign an outcome with a median of 77 days. Over two thirds of outcomes in England and Wales in 2019 (70%) were assigned within 30 days.³

The level of formal action taken will consequently depend on how soon data are extracted from police systems after the end of a particular reporting period and this should be borne in mind when making comparisons between different data sources. Southampton City Council received crime data from Hampshire Constabulary for the period April 2018 to March 2019 which was extracted from the recording system in the first week of June 2019, around two months after the end of the reporting period. Consequently the majority of final outcomes will have been assigned in the data. In contrast Home Office police recorded crime data are received by the Home Office on a monthly basis from forces and for this reason will not have such a high level of final outcomes.

²<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeseverityscoreexperimentalstatistics>

³ Home Office. 2019. Crime outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2019.