

Lichfield District
**Community Safety
Partnership**

Community Safety Delivery plan 2022- 2025

Refresh April 2023

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Introduction

Lichfield Community Safety Partnership is the statutory partnership that coordinates the response to crime and disorder across the District. Hosted within the District Council the partnership consists of a wide range of different agencies and voluntary sector services.

S17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the partnership to do:

“all that it reasonably can to prevent,

(a) crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and

(b) the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and

(c) re-offending in its area”¹

This delivery plan sets out the partnership response to meet these challenges. In addition, the plan takes account of the local priorities and those of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire.

Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty, which is encompassed in the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 is part of the Government’s broad approach to prevent and reduce serious violence. The Serious Violence Duty requires organisations such as local authorities, police and the fire service to share information, analyse the situation locally and come up with solutions, including the publication of an annual strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence on a local basis. This delivery plan encompasses the community safety partnership’s serious violence strategy.

In addition to the Serious Violence Duty, Section 17 of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act has been amended to make preventing and reducing Serious Violence a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships.

For the purposes of the Duty, serious violence includes domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence but does not include terrorism.

Prevent

The Prevent strategy, published by the Government in 2011, is part of the overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In the Act this has simply been expressed as the need to “prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies, including local authorities, police and the fire service to have ‘due regard’ to preventing people from being drawn into terrorism.

Local context

Lichfield District remains a very safe place to live and work. Levels of recorded crime and ASB are lower than rates for England and Wales and there are no types of offence where rates are statistically higher than national or force-wide levels.

Comparison to previous years is difficult because of the significant impact on crime figures of the lockdown as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst crime figures increased in 2021/2022 as restrictions were removed in many areas these rates are still lower than pre-pandemic levels.

¹ [Crime and Disorder Act 1998 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

As at October 2022, levels of crime in Lichfield had risen to near pre-pandemic levels but the increase is still the second smallest in CSP's across Staffordshire.

Vulnerable people

As with last year's plan, we have developed our plan with vulnerable people at the heart. The key priority areas are those which place vulnerable people at significant risk both as perpetrators and victims. The strategic assessment identifies the following groups as particularly vulnerable to crime, safeguarding and being criminally exploited:

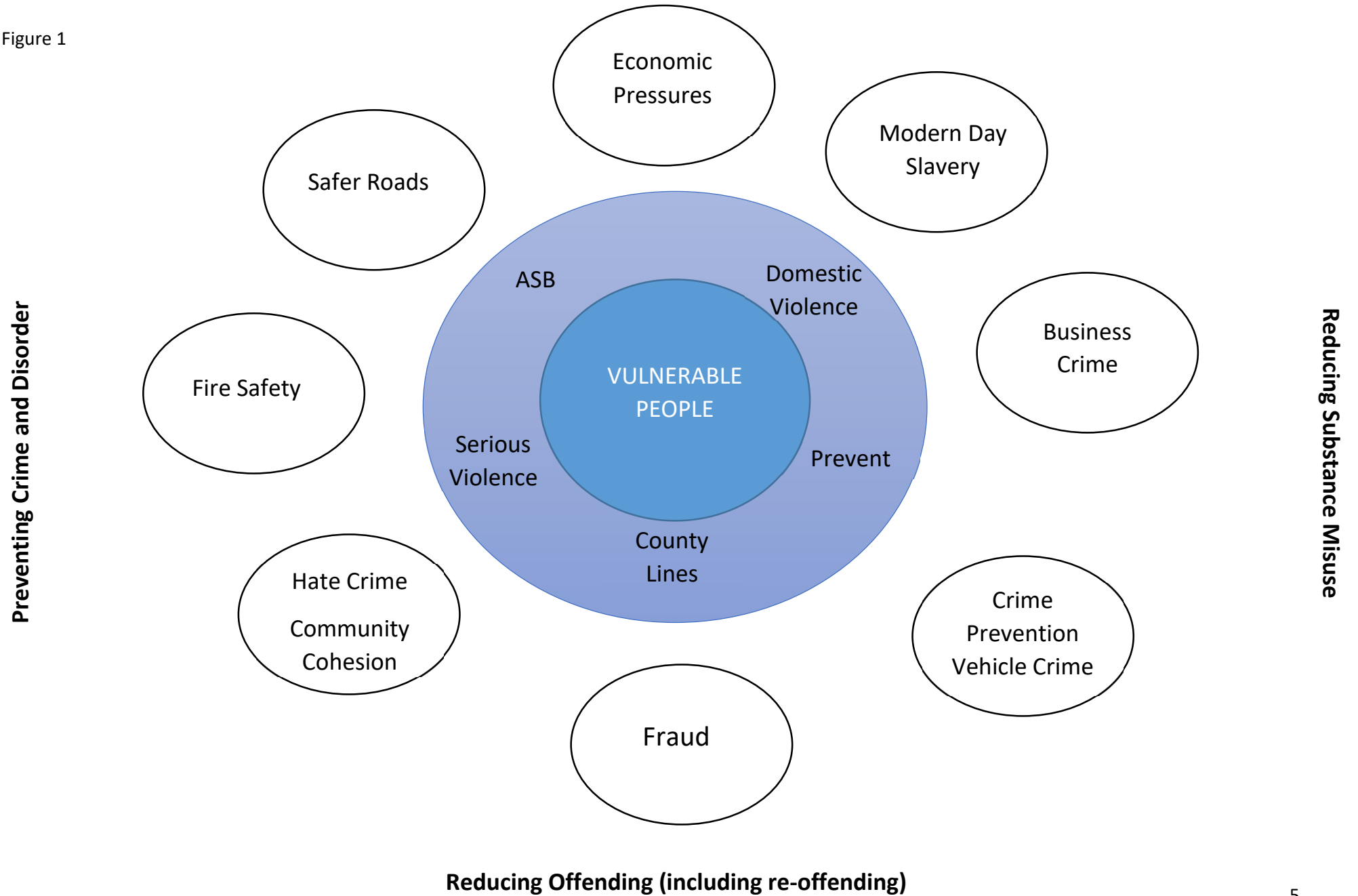
- Socially isolated individuals with mental health needs and learning difficulties
- Socially isolated adults with alcohol and/or drug dependencies
- Offenders with known drug dependencies or previous drug-related offending
- Children (under 10s) in areas with high levels of Domestic Abuse and/or drug-related offending
- Children and young people (aged 10-19) in areas of high deprivation
- Children and young people (aged 10-19) at risk of criminal exploitation

These groups will remain a key focus for our plan.

Our partnership hubs bring together a range of partners to address the needs of vulnerable individuals who are impacted by many of the priorities in our delivery plan. We have two partnerships hubs – one focussed on families and other vulnerable people and one for children and young people.

The strategic assessment also highlights some geographical communities within the District which remain at greater risk from crime and other community safety issues. These are North Lichfield, Burntwood and Chasetown and these areas will feature in targeted action where appropriate.

Figure 1



Domestic Abuse

What is domestic abuse?

The UK government's definition of domestic abuse is "any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional."

Domestic abuse in Lichfield District

In 2021/2022, there were 1,232 domestic abuse related crimes in Lichfield. Whilst this is the second lowest rate in the district it is worthy of note that this still equates to 24 domestic abuse related incidents per week. In addition, domestic abuse is a largely hidden crime with an estimated 65% of incidents remaining unreported.

Lichfield Response

As a priority, partners need to continue to work together to both support the victims of domestic abuse and to reduce the risk and harm caused by perpetrators of domestic abuse. Our priority as a partnership will be to reduce repeat offenders and victims by raising awareness and encouraging reporting at the earliest opportunity.

Action	Outcome	Data
Further develop the local MARAC	Reduced risk for victims	Number of high risk cases
Develop a MATAC (Multi agency tactical assessment meeting) to target repeat offenders	Reduced incidents perpetrated by repeat offenders	Reduced incidents perpetrated by known offenders
Continue to support victims and their families including children and young people	Reduced incidents of domestic abuse Increased resilience in survivors and potential victims	% reduction in incidents % reduction in repeat incidents
Support Operation Encompass at a local level	Earliest intervention and support for children and young people who have been impacted by domestic abuse	Number of contacts with designated safeguarding leads in schools
Raise awareness of how support can be accessed and awareness to perpetrators of what behaviour is unacceptable	Earlier self referral to support agencies Reduced number of repeat perpetrators	Increased referrals to partner agencies Repeat perpetrators Reach of social media campaigns

Action	Outcome	Data
<p>Targeted awareness raising at schools and youth provision with aim to gain stronger engagement with police and other agencies</p> <p>Gain understanding of what awareness raising taking place in schools and identify any gaps</p>	<p>Better awareness and resilience amongst young people and more engagement from schools with partnership activity around domestic abuse</p>	<p>Number of sessions held in schools or other youth settings</p> <p>Number of new opportunities identified</p>
<p>Support local and national campaigns to highlight the impact of domestic abuse</p>	<p>Better awareness of impact and earlier self referral</p>	<p>Increased requests for service</p> <p>Reach of social media campaigns</p> <p>Evidence of impact of campaigns (eg Christmas, World Cup campaigns)</p>

Anti-Social Behaviour

What is ASB?

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is a broad term used to describe the day-to-day incidents of crime, nuisance and disorder that can make people's lives a misery – from litter and vandalism, to public drunkenness and abusive neighbours.

ASB in Lichfield District

As a district, Lichfield experiences ASB rates lower than the force wide rate (15.1 per 1,000 population compared to 21 per 1,000 population) and rates have reduced by around 20% from the rates seen in 2020/2021. However, there are some hotspot areas which see rates much higher than the district average. Rates in Chasetown (45.3 per 1,000 population) make it the 11th highest area out of 97 policing neighbourhoods in the district. Neighbour disputes are a particular issue across the district with Chasetown having the 3rd highest rate of the 97 policing districts. ASB can have a significant impact on victims and disproportionately affects those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Lichfield Response

The Community Safety Partnership aim to work together to manage the impact anti-social behaviour is having, or is likely to have, on victims and communities. We can do this by working together in partnership, sharing knowledge, and using the legislation available to services. We will target actions to those areas most impacted and in particular, Chasetown.

The actions set out below will drive closer cooperation between agencies that respond to anti-social behaviour and seek to provide better and more enduring solutions to those who are suffering from anti-social behaviour.

Action	Outcome	Data
Agree an initial single agency response to complaints across partner agencies	Better understanding of issues across the partnership	Number of complaints with multi agency response
Develop a triage process	Reduced duplication of work by partner agencies More holistic response to complaints Increased satisfaction of service users	Number of cases discussed and triaged
Develop a process to deal with repeat and perpetuating cases	Reduced number of repeat and perpetuating cases	Number of repeat cases Number of cases held more than 90 days

Action	Outcome	Data
Utilise support services such as Harmony	Support provided to people who have experienced ASB	Number of people referred to the services
Fund diversionary activities	More potential victims and perpetrators supported to divert away from ASB	Number of participants engaged in diversionary activities Number of people referred to diversionary services
Deliver training for partners around ASB complaint management and dealing with community triggers	Shared understanding of good practice Reduced number of repeat complaints Increased satisfaction of service users	Number of attendees Attendees reporting improved understanding of good practice

County Lines

What is County Lines?

The National Crime Agency define County Lines as being “where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The ‘County Line’ is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs.

County Lines in Lichfield District

The use of county lines by organised crime groups is connected primarily to the trafficking of drugs but county lines are also linked to modern day slavery, people trafficking and child exploitation as well as serious and violent crime. Young males from disadvantaged areas are particularly vulnerable to recruitment into county lines activity by these organised crime groups and account for 2 out of every 10 individuals suspected or charged with drug supply offences. Groups target vulnerable young people with promises of money and protection. Another aspect of county lines is the potential for ‘cuckooing’ of the homes of vulnerable people. Criminals gain access to the homes and use them as a base for criminal activity. Victims are often those with addiction issues as well as other vulnerabilities such as mental health issues or learning difficulties.

Lichfield Response

In Lichfield the risk of exploitation by people involved in County Lines is clear and present. Drugs are being brought into Lichfield and there are existing networks that enable their distribution. The partnership needs to increase resilience of children and young people (in particular) and families to the risks of exploitation and to develop better cooperation between agencies to enable earlier identification of those who are becoming at risk of exploitation.

Action	Outcome	Data
Further develop the early identification and intervention work through partnership HUB meeting including a process for escalation and de-escalation to and from Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) panel	Children and young people identified at the earliest opportunity for preventative support More vulnerable people provided ongoing support after intervention by MACE to ensure gains are secured	Number of children and young people considered at partnership hub meetings held Number of cases through escalation and de-escalation processes Number of vulnerable people receiving ongoing support
Refine and review the understanding of the numbers involved or at risk of being involved	A clearer picture of the risks and associated harms to vulnerable people in the district and an increased ability to design and target support	Numbers identified as involved or at risk of county lines from a range of agencies Examples of design and targeted supports

Action	Outcome	Data
Identify suitable educative programmes for schools and the PRU to build resilience and raise awareness in targeted cohorts where risk has been identified	Vulnerable young people more resilient to involvement in exploitation	Young people in the targeted cohorts engaging in educative programmes
Deliver awareness raising information for taxi drivers and local venues such as hotels	Increased awareness and reporting of suspicious activity resulting in better protection for young and other vulnerable people	Number of people attending training Numbers attending reporting an increased understanding of issues and awareness of how to report

Violence against women and girls

What is VAWG?

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is an umbrella term used to cover a wide range of abuses against women and girls such as domestic homicide, domestic abuse, sexual assault, abuse experienced as a child, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and harassment in work and public life. While men and boys also suffer from many of these forms of abuse, they disproportionately affect women.

VAWG in Lichfield District

Recent government research showed that girls in the UK do not feel safe at schools and other educational establishments and the majority of women and girls report feeling unsafe in public spaces. The government's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy highlights that 1 in 5 women are a victim of sexual assault in their lifetime and 20% of women have experienced stalking since the age of 16. In 2021/2022 crimes in Lichfield which were flagged by the police as VAWG accounted for 12% of non-domestic related crimes and 24% of violent non-domestic offences. VAWG results in severe personal harm to the victims as well as substantial community harm and public expectation around action is justifiably high.

Lichfield Response

The Community Safety Partnership will support Staffordshire Police's Action plan around VAWG by focusing on the two areas of prevention and engagement/safety in public. This will include tackling all forms of discrimination, including that against women and girls and challenging language and behaviours to enact cultural change. We will consider the safety of women and girls when designing public spaces and activities. For the purposes of this plan, this priority will exclude domestic abuse as this is included as a separate priority. These actions will, therefore, relate to instances of male violence against women and girls which are not committed by current or former intimate partners or family members.

Action	Outcome	Data
Challenge attitudes and behaviours in relation to VAWG linked to the government's ' enough ' campaign.	Greater community awareness of problematic behaviours and how to address them	Evidence of media campaigns and reach
Develop safer public spaces with the intention to reduce risk and reduce threatening male behaviour. Use and promote the Streetsafe tool to identify problem areas.	Reduced risk to women and girls in public spaces	Evidence of consideration of safety of women and girls in public space design Increased number of reports via Streetsafe tool
Work with public transport providers to understand awareness of VAWG and measures that can be put in place	Improved safety for women and girls on public transport	Measures put in place
Provide information and support for licensed premises around the potential for violence against women and girls and preventative measures	Reduced risk to women in the night time economy	Evidence of initiatives carried out

Action	Outcome	Data
Work alongside Safer Streets and the Safer Nights initiatives	Reduced VAWG in public spaces and night time economy	Number of safer nights initiatives
Assist in the development of targeted activities for girls at risk	Increased activity, improved mental health and reduced isolated of targeted girls	Number of girls actively engaged in activities Number of referrals to the activities Self-evaluation of attendees
Consider specific opportunities to engage with men and boys to be part of the solution to end violence against women and girls linked to the government's 'enough' initiative.	Increased awareness of the impact of behaviours and changes in behaviours	Number of boys and men engaged with activities and campaigns

Serious Violence

What is Serious Violence?

For the purposes of the Duty, violence includes domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence but does not include terrorism. Our response to the Serious Violence Duty will also be enacted through our action plans for anti-social behaviour, county lines, domestic violence and violence against women and girls included in this delivery plan.

Serious Violence in Lichfield District

Serious violence is not identified as a priority area for the District in our strategic assessment. However, as a response to the Serious Violence Duty and a rising trend nationally and locally in instances of serious violence we are including an action plan relating to it in our delivery plan. Lichfield still has low levels of serious violence when compared to other areas, but it has seen an increase. Of particular concern are instances of serious violence involving young people and our plan will focus primarily on this demographic.

Lichfield Response

In Lichfield, our community safety partnership response will mostly focus on prevention. Whilst serious violence is on the increase across Staffordshire, Lichfield District does not have the same levels as some other areas. This provides us with a powerful opportunity to utilise prevention and early intervention to improve our position and reduce instances of serious violence. We will also work together to refine our understanding of serious violence across the District and the inter-connection with vulnerability – both in terms of victims and perpetrators.

Action	Outcome	Data
Review and refine understanding of numbers of most serious violence offences	Clear picture of hotspot areas, repeat victims, offenders and locations resulting in effectively targeted interventions	Number of crimes recorded and repeat victim/offender/location Data from partners such as housing associations about areas of concern
Review and refine organised criminality in Lichfield	Clear picture of hotspot areas, repeat victims, offenders and locations Reduction in risk posed by OCG members.	Numbers of crimes recorded and repeat victim/offender/location Data from partners such as housing associations about areas of concern
Early identification of youth violence offenders and potential offenders by youth offending and young people's partnership HUB group.	Reduce risk posed to young people of serious violence as a result of early prevention and intervention	Numbers of crimes recorded and targeted support given Number of young people engaged through school based anti-violence inputs

Action	Outcome	Data
	Clear picture of risks and associated harm to young people	
Support the police to undertake enforcement activities and utilise alternative disposals for those involved in serious violence such as CPNW/CBO/Possession orders	Co-ordinated partnership approach to enforcement resulting in swift and visible intervention	Number of disposals considered Number of disposals completed
Install knife bins in the District and promote their use	Reduced number of unwanted knives in circulation Raised awareness of serious violence and measures being taken to combat it	Number of knives surrendered during the period Engagement levels with social media campaign Number of people engagement with anti-violence events

Prevent

What is PREVENT?

The aim of Prevent is to safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation, to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The strategy also includes supporting the rehabilitation and disengagement of those already involved in terrorism.

PREVENT in Lichfield District

In 2021-22 there were 111 incidents of Hate Crime which took place in Lichfield, equivalent to a rate of 1.1 per 1,000 population – which is below the force-wide rate of 1.6 per 1,000 population. Hate crime offences in Lichfield relate predominately to race which is similar to the national average. Whilst community cohesion and Prevent are not key issues in Lichfield in the way they are in some other partnerships in the county, the covid-19 pandemic reduced the opportunities for community events and the and current cost of living crisis could be exploited by extremist groups to reduce social and political trust.

Lichfield Response

Our response will focus on awareness raising with key partners and staff and ensuring our policies and practice effectively reflect our duties around the Prevent agenda.

Action	Outcome	Data
Share national and county wide awareness raising materials	Reduced risk of radicalisation by building resilience in the community	Number of social media posts Number of awareness raising events
Hold community cohesion events and/ or activities	Increased community cohesion and understanding	Details of events held Evaluation of number of people attending
Training sessions offered to local community groups, and businesses	Better understanding of the Prevent Duty and local threats by local groups, statutory agencies and communities	Number of training sessions held Number of attendees Evaluation shows increased understanding amongst participants
Utilise government online training resource to train key staff in LDC and other partners.	Increased awareness of prevent duty	Number of people accessing the training
Single point of contact to attend Prevent meetings and channel panel where necessary	The 'Prevent' agenda is developed and promoted across the District.	Number of meetings attended Actions taken as a result of attendance
Relevant policies and procedures reference the Prevent Duty	Prevent duty embedded across the partnership	Details of strategies amended to reflect prevent duty

Crime prevention

What is crime prevention?

Crime prevention aims to reduce the opportunity for crime to occur in people's homes and places of work.

Crime prevention

The strategic assessments highlights fraud and vehicle crime as priority areas for Lichfield District. Fraud is a particular issue given the demographic of the District with high numbers of older people. Older adults and those less skills with technology are particularly vulnerable to online fraud as well as door step fraud. However, younger people are also being targeted through social media sites and investment scams. Nationally instances of fraud are reducing but the value of losses is increasing. In Lichfield in 2021-22 there were 499 Vehicle Offences recorded – equivalent to a rate of 4.7 per 1,000 population. This is slightly above the force-wide rate (3.8). Well over two fifths (44%) of all Vehicle Crime in Lichfield related to Thefts of Vehicles and just over a third (35%) to Thefts from Vehicles. Thefts of vehicles in Lichfield average out to a rate of four vehicle thefts per week in the District. The areas most affected are Shenstone, Stannal and Little Aston and Chasetown, with Chasetown having the highest rate in the force area in 2021/2022.

Lichfield Response

Our response will focus on target removal and hardening, as well as information sharing so that local people are aware of crime trends and increased awareness of support available to them. The partnership will consider the target demographic for publicity materials and present these in a variety of formats where necessary to ensure the messages reach the widest possible audience.

The partnership is also keen to develop a joint communications plan to avoid duplication of campaigns, share resources, standardise messaging and increase the impact of campaigns.

Action	Outcome	Data
Signposting for specific assistance and promoting campaigns	Local residents better able to access county wide and national services and have increased awareness of the support services available	Number of shares of county wide and national media posts and Lichfield reach Number of campaigns shared in a variety of media
Support county wide awareness raising activity and distribute in a range of media taking into account the demographic of the District and vulnerable groups not always served by online content	Increase local reach of county wide and national campaigns	Number of shares of county wide and national media posts and Lichfield reach Number of campaigns shared in a variety of media

Action	Outcome	Data
Develop a partnership communication plan and agreed social media tags	Single, shared messaging across the partnership with the widest possible reach	Number of uses of community partnership tags on social media Increased reach of social media campaigns
Hold a partnership safer homes campaign to look at home safety as well target hardening techniques and security	Better informed residents resulting in a reduction in home accidents and reduction in some types of burglary.	Dates of events Number of people accessing events or related publicity Number of incidents in an area before and after the targeted campaign.
Safer nights campaign	Decrease in issues in the nighttime economy	Dates and details of campaigns Number of incidents in an area before and after the targeted campaigns.