

Lichfield District

2012 Community Safety Strategic Assessment

DOCUMENT DETAILS

This document has been produced on behalf of the Lichfield District Community Safety Partnership by Staffordshire Observatory.



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I. INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The aim of this Strategic Assessment is to provide Lichfield Community Safety Partnership (CSP) with a review of their current community safety priorities. This will enable them to determine whether they should continue as priorities, should be modified or replaced during the next financial year.

The report will also consider any new or emerging trends, and form part (year two) of a previously agreed three-year Strategic Assessment process.

The Strategic Assessment is produced annually, and forms part of the partnership problem solving process. The contents of this document should be considered alongside the findings of the 2011 Strategic Assessment. [[Link](#)]

STRUCTURE

In order to provide a holistic representation of problems across the District, the Strategic Assessment draws on a wide range of data that is shared across the partnership. The Lichfield Strategic Assessment is set out in three main chapters:

- Overview of Lichfield District Community Safety Priorities
- Emerging Trends and Current Exceptions
- Recommendations for Strategic Priorities

The strategic approach which has been adopted by Lichfield District is structured around the three aspects of problem solving: neighbourhood management (location), reducing offending (offenders) and protecting the vulnerable (victims).

The Lichfield District strategic priorities are as follows:

NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT: Provide a locality focus on priority neighbourhoods particularly in relation to reducing violent crime, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour, including those that are alcohol related.

REDUCE CRIME: Reduce re-offending in particular linked to serious acquisitive crime, and reduce alcohol related violent crime, antisocial behaviour and criminal damage and the associated environmental impacts, particularly our young offenders.

PROTECT THE VULNERABLE: Those within our community who are most vulnerable, including victims of domestic abuse and sexual offences (specifically women and their children, and girls below the age of 19 years) and road safety will receive effective support.

This Strategic Assessment is the starting point of the wider partnership business planning process, ultimately informing local partnership action plans, which are reviewed and updated on an on-going basis.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KEY FINDINGS

- Lichfield District is getting safer. There have been considerable reductions in the volume of crimes recorded and reports of anti-social behaviour over recent years. However, a significant portion of the population are still fearful of crime. Approximately one in ten residents feel that crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) are *increasing*.
- Partnership activity has resulted in notable improvements in rates of crime and disorder across priority locations, however they remain as the principal hotspots for crime and disorder issues in the District, accounting for 49% of all crime, and 50% of all reported ASB.
- Alcohol is clearly a significant risk factor in crime and disorder issues, violent crime (particularly domestic violence) and ASB, increasing the likelihood of offending behaviour and increasing vulnerability.
- In 2011 males were 40% more likely to be injured as a driver or rider of a vehicle, and females 50% more likely to be injured whilst a passenger which may suggest opportunities for targeted road safety campaigns in the future.
- Overall violent crime levels in the District are also falling, however domestic violence remains a primary concern. The subject of much proactive activity aimed at increasing reporting, the volume of offences reported to the police have remained stable.
- Reoffending rates are highest for those committing serious acquisitive crimes (burglary of dwellings, theft of/from motor vehicles and robbery) and shoplifting, and whilst re-offending rates are falling, shoplifting offences and burglary of other buildings have increased across the district.

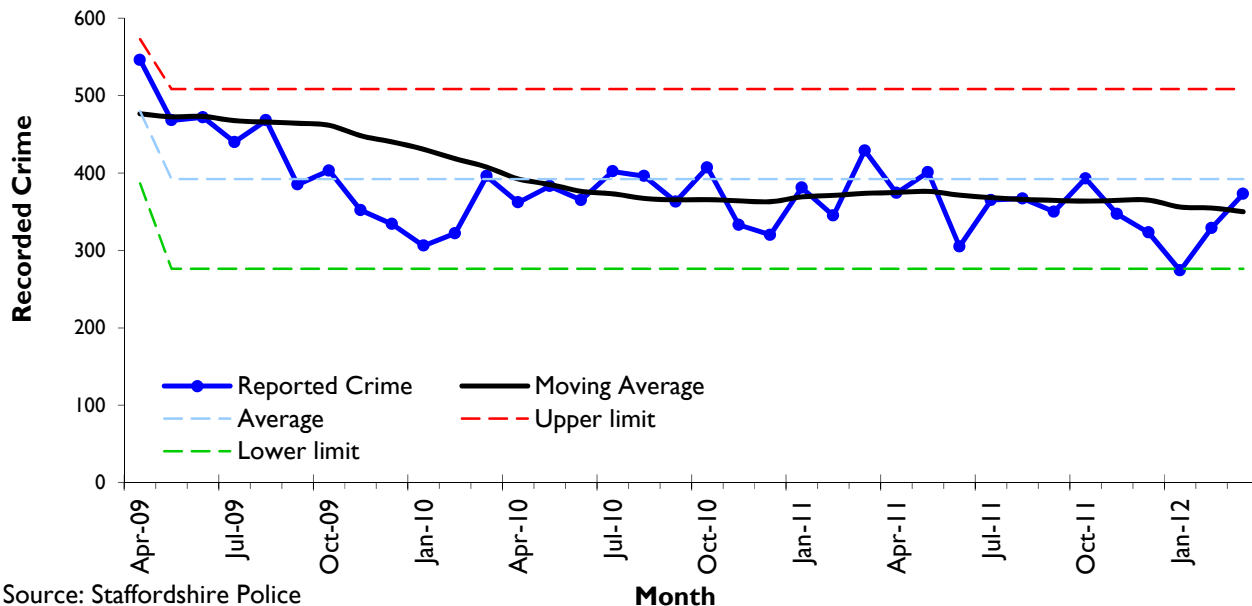
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that the areas identified in the 2011 Strategic Assessment continue to be prioritised. There are no other areas of Lichfield that currently require a strategic focus.
- It is recommended that crime reduction, particularly serious acquisitive crime continue to be prioritised, and tackled through a partnership approach to Integrated Offender Management at a county level.
- It is recommended targeting the misuse of alcohol in young people and adults is likely to have a positive impact on levels of violent crime, anti-social behaviour and the environmental implications associated with alcohol misuse.
- It is recommended that Lichfield District continue to work to reduce repeat victims of domestic violence, to increase reporting through raising awareness of services available to victims and their families, and work to protect those people who are most vulnerable.
- It is recommended that Lichfield District continue to prioritise road safety as part of the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership, and that future road safety campaigns target young drivers, both male and female.
- It is recommended that relevant information about crime, safety and partnership activity be published in a manner that meets the needs of the community, in order to reassure residents that the partnership understand what is important to them, and that action is being taken.

3. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES IN LICHFIELD DISTRICT

Lichfield District is getting safer: during 2011/12, there were 4,316 crimes recorded across the District, equal to a rate of 44 crimes per 1,000 population. This is a reduction of 6%, (289 crimes) compared with the previous year, and 25% lower than the number recorded during 2007/08. The direction of travel, as demonstrated in figure 1 below, shows a downward trend from April 2009, with a current average of approximately 350 crimes per month.

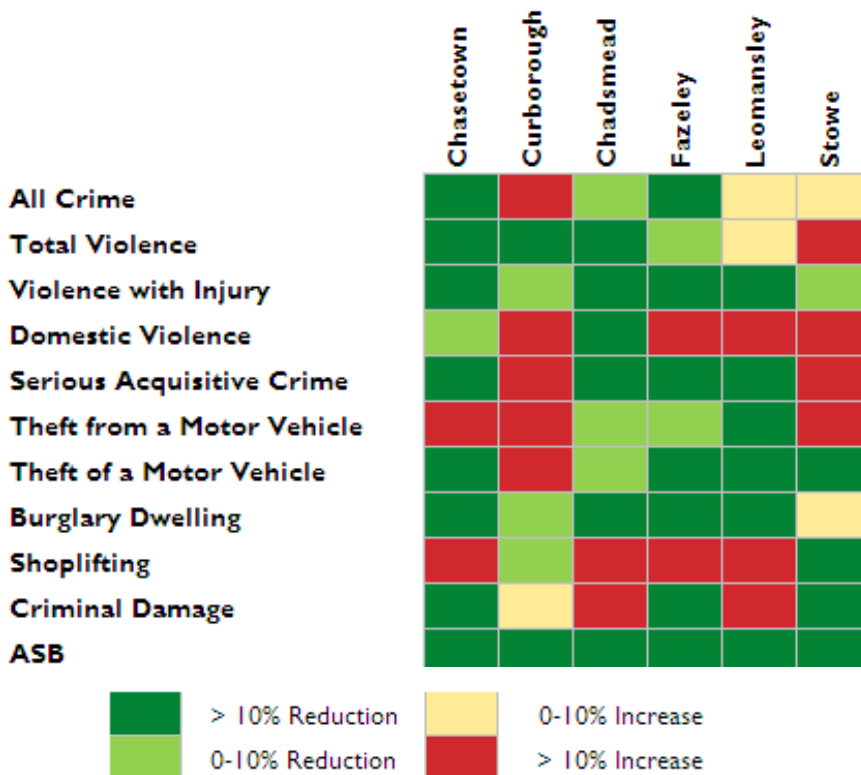
Figure 1: Long Term Trends in Crime in Lichfield District, with Upper and Lower Bounds [DATA]



Source: Staffordshire Police

PRIORITY LOCATIONS [DATA] [INFO]

Figure 2: Change in Issues in Priority Locations



Source: Staffordshire Police

¹ See Appendix B

Figure 2 illustrates the change in crime and disorder in the identified priority locations¹.

The Leomansley and Stowe areas which constitute the City Centre, have experienced slight increases in all crime. Stowe experienced increases in theft from motor vehicles, whilst in Leomansley there were increases in criminal damage and shoplifting offences. The Curborough area of North Lichfield also experienced an increase in crime, largely attributable to increases in vehicle crime. domestic violence has also increased across several of the priority locations.

Partnership activity has resulted in considerable improvements in rates of crime and disorder across the previously identified priority locations. Whilst there are other areas of the district where crime has increased, these priority areas account for 49% of all crime and 50% of all reported incidents of ASB, and are consequently still the hotspot locations for crime and disorder.

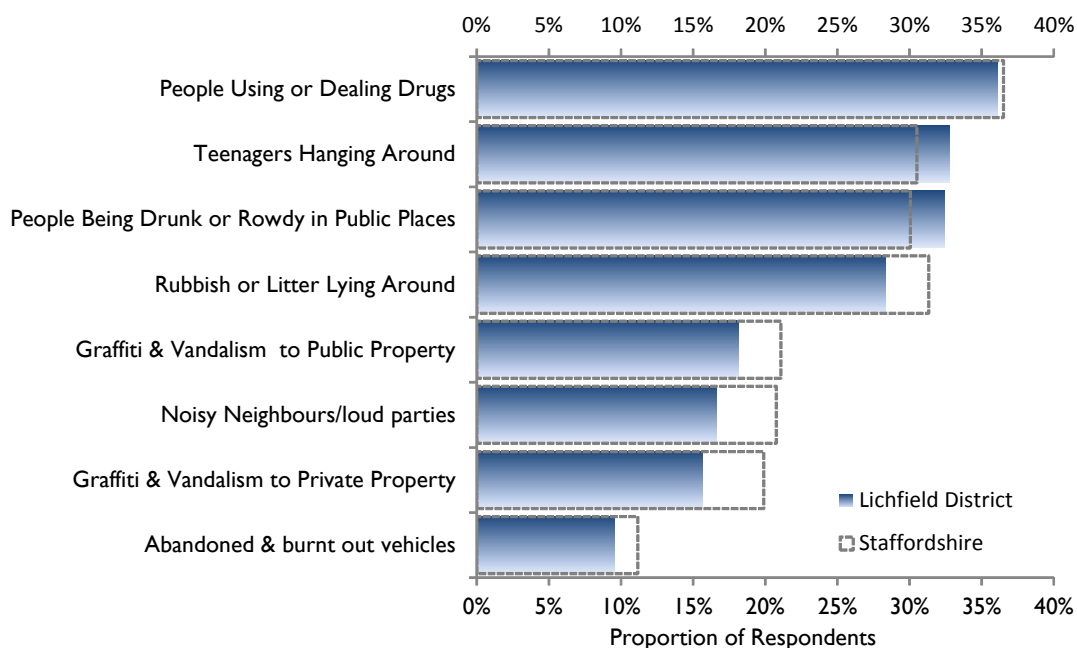
Recommendation: It is therefore recommended that the areas identified in the 2011 Strategic assessment continue to be prioritised. There are no other areas of Lichfield District that currently require a strategic focus.

RESIDENTS' OPINIONS OF THEIR LOCAL AREA [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Feeling the Difference (FtD) [\[READ MORE\]](#) is a public confidence survey undertaken across Staffordshire every six months, and measures perceptions of residents across Staffordshire, and what matters to them in their local area. The latest wave (Wave 13) of the survey was completed in January and February 2012. To achieve the most robust results at district level, waves 10-13 are combined and analysed together.

Figure 3 illustrates the proportion of residents of Lichfield District who feel each of the following community safety issues are a big problem in their local area:

Figure 3: Proportion of residents who feel these are big problems in their local area



Source: Staffordshire Police, Feeling The Difference Waves 10-13

The largest proportion of residents (36%) feel that 'people using or dealing drugs' is a big problem in their local area, followed by 'teenagers hanging about' (33%) and 'people being drunk or rowdy in public places' (32%). Citizen Contact Records (CCRs) conducted by Staffordshire Police, ask residents to name the top priority issue for their local area. During 2011/12, the top five issues for residents in Lichfield District were parking, speeding, nuisance neighbours, street gangs and drugs issues.

Environmental issues are also an issue for Residents in Lichfield District. During 2011/12, there were 171 incidents of fly tipping reported in Lichfield District, compared to 278 the previous year. This represents a reduction of over 38%. Fly tipping is a high profile signal crime, that can adversely affect residents perceptions of their local area, however the vast majority of incidents were cleared within 24 hours of being reported. Just three abandoned vehicles were recovered in 2011/12.

One of Staffordshire County Council's nine priority outcomes is to ensure that Staffordshire is a place where people can live safely - increasingly free from crime, the causes of crime and the fear of crime [\[READ MORE\]](#). Staffordshire is getting safer, however fear of crime is not decreasing. 'Fear of Crime' refers to when a person experiences the fear that they will be a victim of crime, often without any specific threat, and can have a devastating impact on quality of life.

Across Staffordshire, 10.8% of respondents answered that they felt fearful of the possibility of becoming a victim of crime, which compares favourably to the British Crime Survey, where between 10% and 13% of people were fearful of crime (dependant on the type of crime). In Lichfield District, the proportion of people who felt fearful of being a victim of crime was 8.5%, the lowest rate in the county.

Responses to FtD in Lichfield District suggest that 99% of residents feel safe outside in their local area during the day which is in line with the County average. The percentage of residents who feel safe after dark is 81%, which is four percentage points higher than the County average and the joint second highest across the County.

Whether or not residents feel that the issues that matter to them are being dealt with may also impact on feelings of safety and fear of crime. More than three quarters of residents agree that the police deal with the things that matter to their community. This represents an increase of five percentage points from the previous wave and is one percentage point above the Staffordshire average.

Residents' perceptions of crime have improved during 2011/12; 11% of residents feel that the level of crime has increased over the last 12 months (a reduction of one percentage point from the previous year).

The delivery of community safety within neighbourhoods of Lichfield District needs to be sensitive to the issue of reassurance. In areas where fear of crime is high, whether or not residents feel that the issues that matter to them in their local area are being dealt with, may be more important than the absolute level of crime and disorder.

Recommendation: It is recommended that relevant information about crime, safety and partnership activity be published in a manner that meets the needs of the community, in order to reassure residents that the partnership understand what is important to them, *and* that action is being taken.

It is therefore critical to understand the issues that matter most to the communities of Lichfield District. This can be achieved through analysis of the FtD survey and completed CCRs² and should be informed by high quality customer insight.

² Is it important to ensure that CCRs are conducted in a manner that is representative of the general population

VIOLENT CRIME

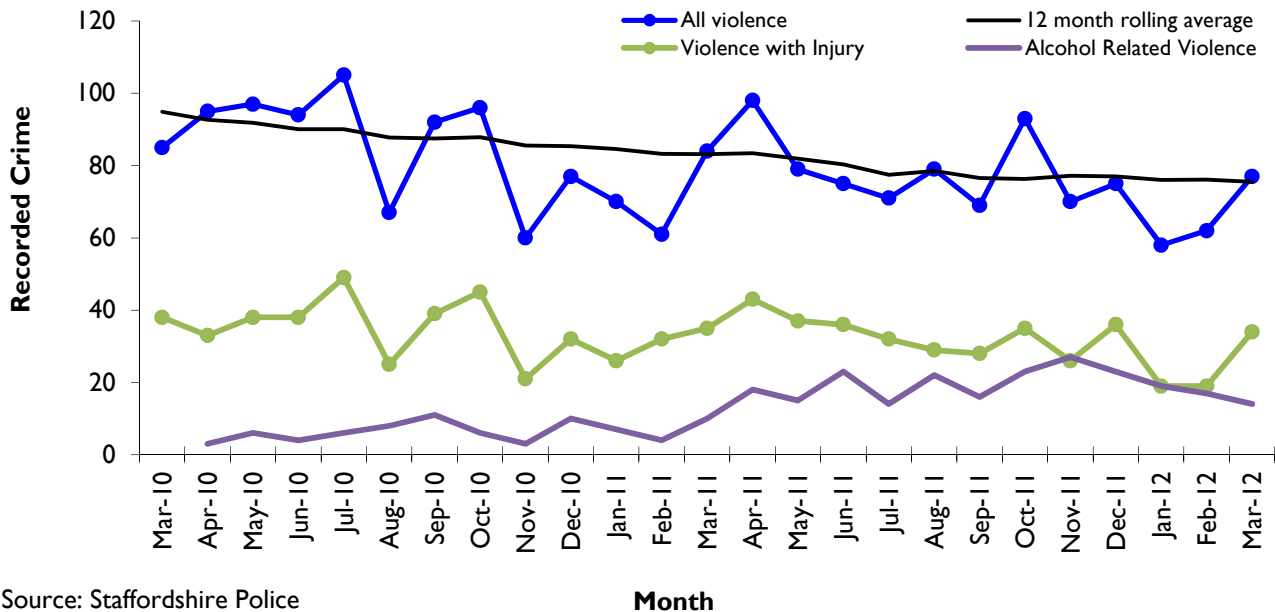
Overall violent crime rates have reduced by almost a quarter in Lichfield District over the past five years. During 2011/12 there was a moderate increase of 19 crimes compared to the previous year, 11 of which were classified as 'serious violent crime'. This was equal to a rate of 9 crimes per 1,000 population, which is still considerably lower than the county rate of 16 per 1,000.

Although 'violence with injury' is decreasing, the proportion of 'serious violence' is increasing. In 2008/09, 6% of violence with injury was serious and in 2011/12, 11% was serious. Sexual violence reduced by 13 offences during 2011/12 and long term trends are down.

ALCOHOL RELATED VIOLENT CRIME

There were 231 alcohol related violent offences (where the offender is deemed to be under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offence) during 2011/12, which accounts for 25% of all violence in Lichfield District. This represents an increase on the previous year, although the rate is still considerably lower than may be expected, and is thought that this is just a snapshot due to the influence of alcohol being under-recorded. Where alcohol is recorded, it is mainly a factor in violence offences in the town centre. The Stowe area records 24% of all alcohol-related violence offences in Lichfield District (55 crimes).

Figure 4: Long Term Trends in Violent Crime in Lichfield District [DATA]



Source: Staffordshire Police

Vulnerability: In Lichfield District, females are 50% more likely to be the victim of alcohol related violence. Typically, it is females between the ages of 15 and 39 who are most at risk, experiencing 71% of all alcohol related violence whilst accounting for 26% of the population. The 20 to 29 age group are particularly vulnerable. Males are also at risk, particularly those between the ages of 20 and 24 years.

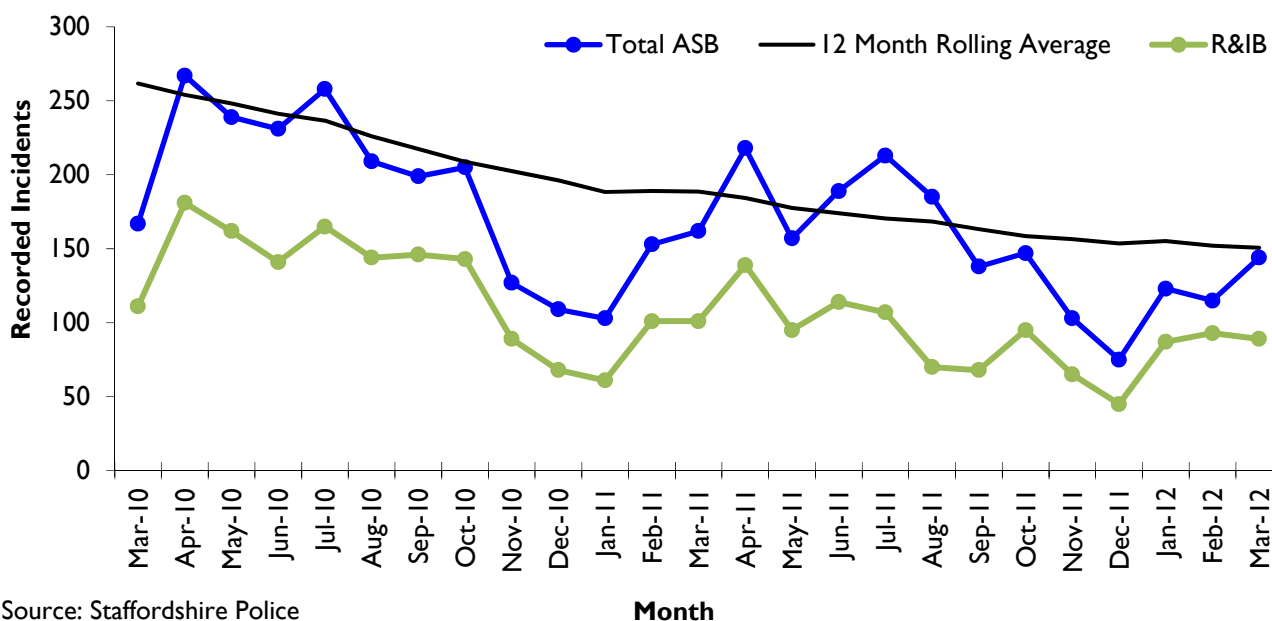
Offenders: During 2011/12, males were almost five times more likely to commit alcohol related violent offences, with those most likely to offend being aged between 15 and 34 years. Of those offences committed by females, the most likely to offend are aged between 15 and 24 years of age.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There have been considerable reductions in reported incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) across Lichfield District. During 2011/12 there were 1,807 reported incidents, the largest proportion of which is classified as Rowdy & Inconsiderate Behaviour (R&IB), and equal to a rate of 18 per 1,000 population, 28% lower than the county rate. This represents a 20% reduction (or 455 fewer incidents) when compared with the previous year, and a 50% reduction over five years. 59% of all ASB was classified as Rowdy and Inconsiderate behaviour, and a further 14% as neighbour disputes.

Despite the successes of recent years in reducing levels of ASB in Lichfield District, one in ten residents feel that the level of anti-social behaviour has increased in their local area, although this represents a reduction of two percentage points from the previous year.

Figure 5: Long Term Trends in ASB in Lichfield District [\[DATA\]](#)



Source: Staffordshire Police

There has also been a modest reduction in Criminal Damage offences of 4% (28 offences), and the long term trends are fairly static. Whilst the link between criminal damage and ASB is said to be casual, it has been shown that targeted initiatives aimed at reducing levels of one is likely to have an impact on levels of the other.

THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL IN LICHFIELD DISTRICT

[\[DATA\]](#) [\[READ MORE\]](#)

There is also a close relationship between alcohol misuse, low educational achievement and adult criminal behaviour. Children and young people who misuse alcohol are also more likely to take drugs, trigger or exacerbate mental conditions and increase their risk of liver damage³.

The misuse of alcohol is clearly an issue for residents in the district with 32% of residents thinking that people being drunk or rowdy in public places is a big problem in their local area⁴. Alcohol is thought to be a significant contributory factor in levels of ASB, however the number of incidents recorded that relate specifically to 'street drinking' have reduced by almost a half in the past five years.

³ Health and wellbeing profile for Lichfield District Council , May 2012, Population Health Intelligence Staffordshire Public Health

⁴ Staffordshire Police, Feeling the Difference Survey wavers 10-13

In a recent survey of 11 to 15 year olds in schools across Staffordshire, young people were asked about their drinking habits in an attempt to understand how young people obtain and use alcohol, as well as their perceptions of drunkenness and associated behaviours.

Across the county 79% of respondents stated that they generally found it very or fairly easy to obtain alcohol, and that 61% had it provided by their parents. Other common sources of alcohol included from friends and other people buying it for them. Just 6% stated that they bought it themselves from an off licence, and 2% from a supermarket. Staffordshire Trading Standards carried out fourteen test purchase exercises in Lichfield District in 2011/12, with two illegal sales detected. This suggests schemes such as 'Challenge 25' are effective, but that illegal sales can still occur.

83% of respondents stated that they consumed alcohol at home or someone else's house, with just 9% consuming alcohol on the street, in a park or somewhere else outside. Up to one in ten respondents stated that they had become involved in an argument or fight as a consequence of consuming alcohol, with a small proportion (3%) stating that they had got into trouble with the police.

These findings suggest that alcohol used among young people is prevalent, and whilst licensing is effective in preventing sales of alcohol to young people, the majority still find it relatively easy to get hold of.

Up to one in ten respondents stated that they had become involved in an argument or fight as a consequence of consuming alcohol, with 3% stating that they had got into trouble with the police. These findings suggest that alcohol used among young people is prevalent, and whilst licensing is effective in preventing sales of alcohol to young people, the majority still find it easy to get hold of.

Additionally, over a three year period (2007/08-2009/10), there were around 55 alcohol-related admissions in children and young people under 18 in Lichfield, with the rate being higher than the England average⁵. The rate of alcohol-specific hospital admissions for males and females of all ages in Lichfield District is below the national average. It is estimated that 19% of adults in Lichfield District regularly binge drink⁶, and that the district has a rate of high risk drinkers (7%) which is similar to the regional rate⁷.

Alcohol is clearly a significant risk factor in crime and disorder issues, particularly violent crime, increasing the likelihood of offending and risk-taking behaviour, as well as increasing vulnerability.

Recommendation: It is recommended targeting the misuse of alcohol in young people and adults is likely to have a positive impact on levels violent crime, anti-social behaviour and the environmental implications associated with alcohol misuse, such as ASB and Criminal Damage.

It is also recommended that activities aimed at reducing alcohol are targeted in the priority areas identified in the 2011 Strategic Assessment.

⁵ Health and wellbeing profile for Lichfield District Council , May 2012, Population Health Intelligence Staffordshire Public Health

⁶ North West Public Health Observatory, Synthetic estimate of the proportion (%) of adults who consume at least twice the daily recommended amount of alcohol in a single drinking session (that is, 8 or more units for men and 6 or more units for women) (2007-2008).

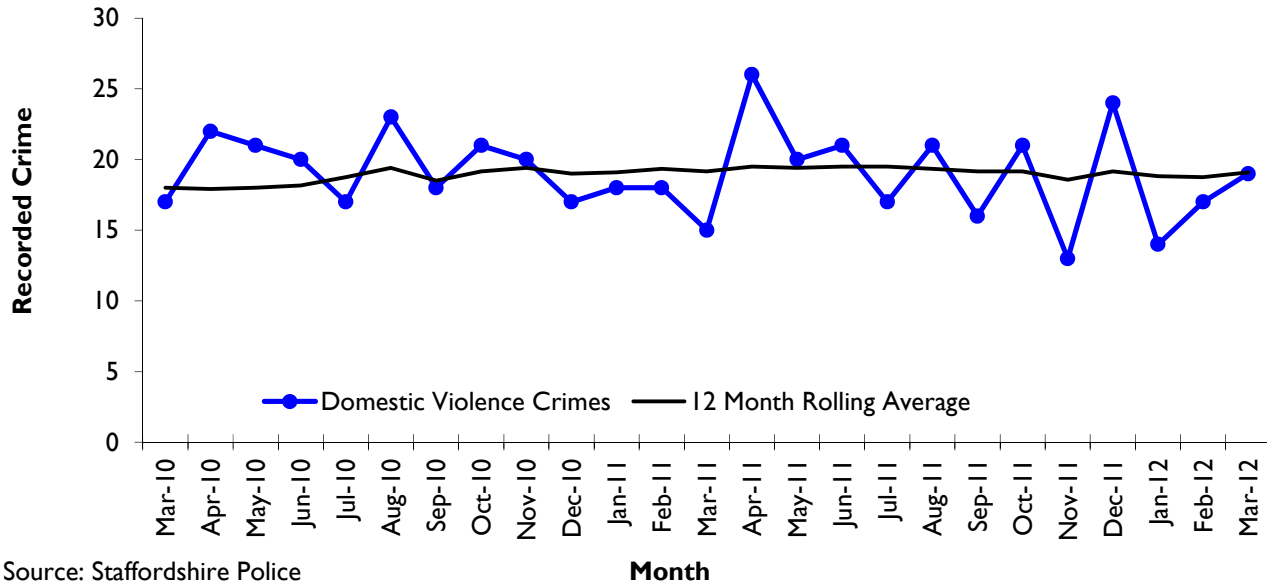
⁷ North West Public Health Observatory, Mid 2009 Synthetic estimate of the percentage within the drinking population (not including abstainers) aged 16 years and over.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE [\[READ MORE\]](#)

In 2011/12, 26% of violent crime in Lichfield District was profiled as being domestic in nature, a reduction from 30% the previous year. However the overall trend for reported Domestic Violence offences has remained relatively stable over the past 2 years. This is not in line with the general reductions in overall violence, and could be viewed as positive in terms of people reporting offences due to increased awareness.

Figure 6: Domestic Violence recorded in Lichfield District (with trend), March 2010-March 2012

[\[DATA\]](#)

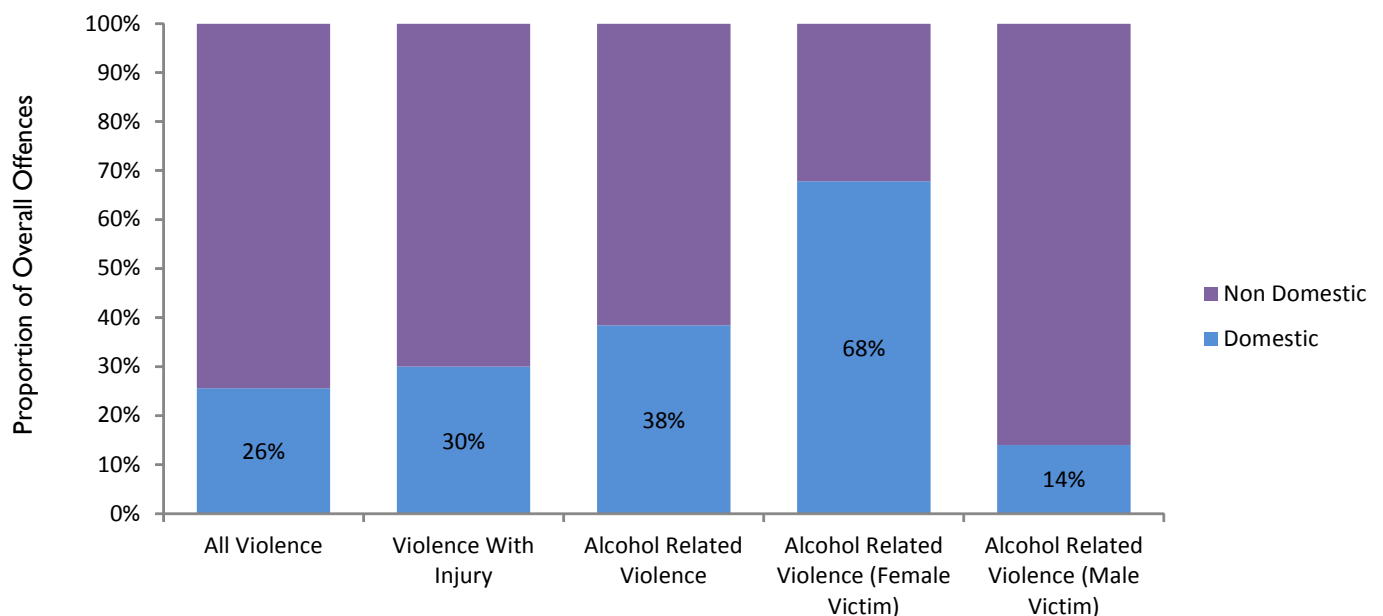


Source: Staffordshire Police

Vulnerability: Whilst Domestic Violence can affect anyone, females in Lichfield District are eight times as likely to be victims of this type of crime, with women between the ages of 15 and 39 years most at risk. This age range experiences 68% of all domestic violence, but accounts for just 26% of the population. Males between the age of 30 and 39 years are also disproportionately at risk.

Figure 7 illustrates the proportion of violent offences that were domestic in nature during 2011/12 by type of offence. 38% of alcohol related violence was domestic in nature. This is higher than the

Figure 7: Proportion of Offences that were Domestic in Nature, 2011/12 By Type of Offence



Source: Staffordshire Police

proportion of overall violent crime that is domestic in nature (26%), and demonstrates that alcohol is often a significant risk factor in this type of offending.

During 2011/12, 62% of alcohol related violence offences against females were domestic in nature, compared to 14% of offences against males.

There is a repeat rate of 8% of those cases that have been to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) more than once over the 12 months up to July 2012, which is a considerable reduction compared to the repeat rate of 20% in the 12 months up to April 2010. In the 12 months up to June 2012 there was an average of 1.4 children per case in Lichfield, suggesting that the vast majority of domestic violence cases referred involve the presence of children in the household.

Voluntary organisations offer an alternative insight into the true scale of domestic and sexual abuse. The Pathway Project is based in Lichfield, and provides essential support for women and children experiencing domestic abuse in the home. During 2011/12, the project received approximately 1,900 calls, an increase of 12% from 2010/11, contrary to the trend in offences reported to the police. Of those calls where location details were recorded, 28% (390) were from Lichfield District (although 40% of calls had no location details). The available data does not allow for further analysis by district, but of the calls received by the project, the peak age group was 21 to 30 years.

In recent years Domestic Violence in Lichfield District has been the subject of much proactive activity aimed at increasing reporting of this hidden crime.

Recommendation: Given the hidden nature of this type of offence it is recommended that Lichfield District continue to work to reduce repeat victimisation, to increase reporting through raising awareness of services available to victims and their families, and work to protect those people who are most vulnerable.

Given the influence of alcohol in domestic violence offences, it is further recommended that this priority take account of and be incorporated into wider alcohol harm reduction initiatives.

ROAD SAFETY [DATA]

RTCs in Lichfield District reduced by 10% during 2011. There was a reduction of 8% (36 casualties) in slightly injured casualties, and a 36% (9 casualties) reduction in people who were killed or seriously injured (KSI). This was the largest overall reduction in the county. Whilst males are slightly more vulnerable to injury in Lichfield District, the people who are most vulnerable are males *and* females aged between 15 and 29 years of age. This suggests that age remains the predominating risk factor, rather than gender.

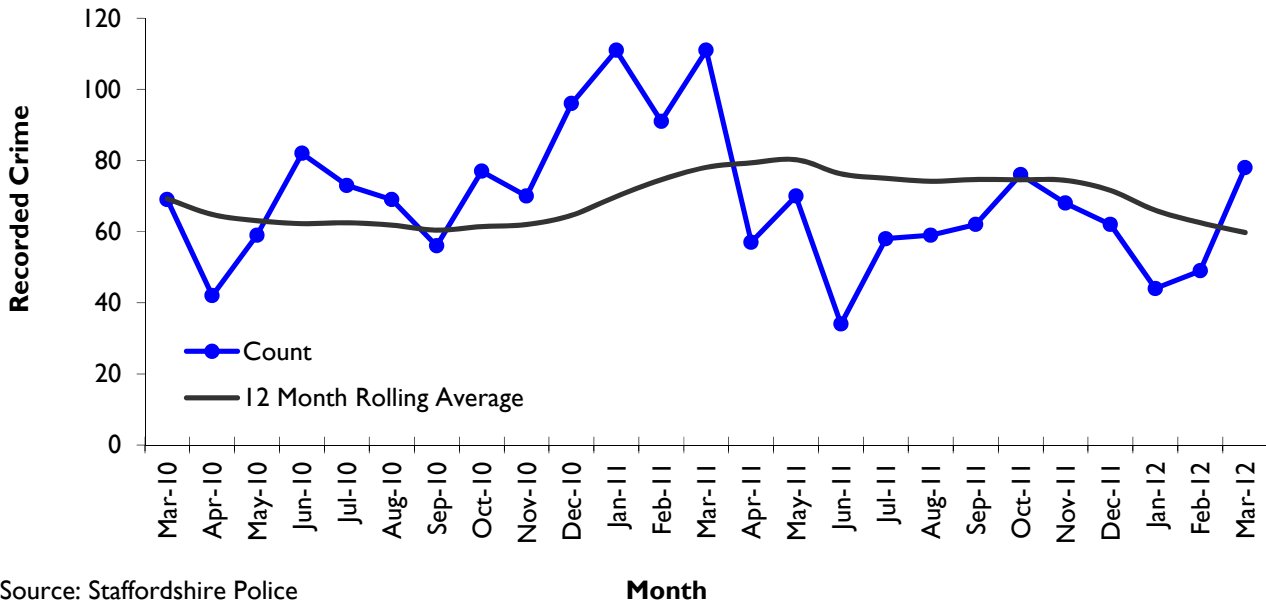
In 2011 males were 40% more likely to be injured as a driver or rider of a vehicle, and females 50% more likely to be injured whilst a passenger. This may suggest opportunities for targeted road safety campaigns in the future.

Recommendation: It is recommended that Lichfield District continue to prioritise road safety as part of the Staffordshire Safer Roads partnership, and that future road safety campaigns target young drivers, both male and female.

RE-OFFENDING AND ACQUISITIVE CRIME [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Lichfield District has also experienced a reduction in acquisitive crime of 7% (168 crimes) during 2011/12, whilst serious acquisitive crime experienced a 24% reduction (220 crimes) through considerable reductions in burglary of dwellings and vehicle crime. The district ranks below the average for all crime in terms of its most similar CSPs nationally⁸.

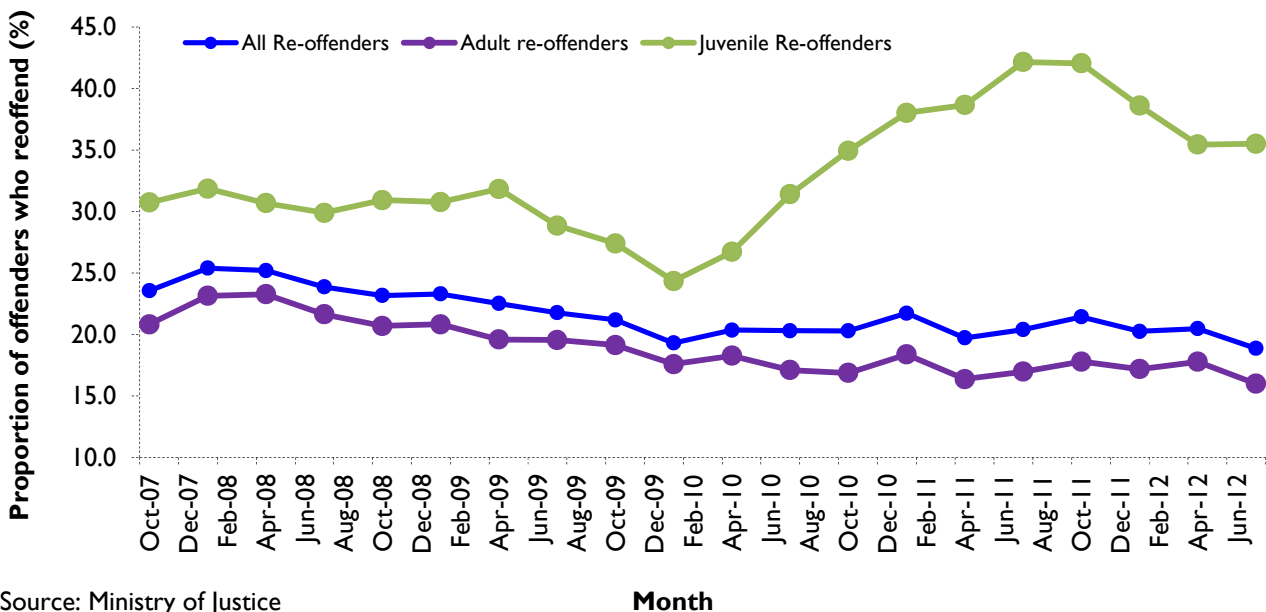
Figure 8: Long Term Trends in Serious Acquisitive Crime in Lichfield District [\[DATA\]](#)



Source: Staffordshire Police

Re-offending rates for both adults and young people are highest for those committing acquisitive crimes, particularly those within the definition of ‘serious acquisitive crime’ (burglary of dwellings, theft off/from motor vehicles and robbery) and shoplifting. Proven re-offending is defined as any offence committed by an offender receiving a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in a one year follow up period following a sanction, plus a further six months waiting period. This is referred to as a proven re-offence.

Figure 9: Proven Re-offending in Lichfield District, Adult and Juvenile Offenders with Trend as at July 2012



Source: Ministry of Justice

⁸ Source: iQuanta

Overall rates of re-offending in Lichfield District have been consistently lower than the Staffordshire rate, and long term trends are down. The overall proven re-offending rate for adult and juvenile offenders in the District is currently 18.9% (July 2012), the second lowest rate in Staffordshire, a decrease of 1.5 percentage points from the previous year. This is also just 3.5 percentage points lower than the overall Staffordshire rate.

The proportion of offenders who re-offend in Staffordshire is generally higher for juveniles than for adults. The rate tends to fluctuate although the general trend is up. In July 2012 juveniles in Lichfield District exhibited a proven reoffending rate that is 19.5 percentage points above the adult rate at 35.5% compared to 16.0%.

Integrated Offender Management is driven by a strong partnership focus, and aims to achieve sustainable reductions in re-offending of both adults and juveniles.

Recommendation: It is recommended that crime reduction, particularly serious acquisitive crime continue to be prioritised, and tackled through a partnership approach to Integrated Offender Management at a county level. It is also recommended that cross-border partnerships with regional neighbours be considered when formulating a strategic response to serious acquisitive crime.

4. TROUBLED FAMILIES

In early 2012, the Government confirmed its intention to ensure that 120,000 troubled families in England and Wales are 'turned around' by the end of this Parliament. These families are characterised by there being no adult in the family working, children not being in school and family members being involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. These families almost always have other often long-standing problems which can lead to their children repeating the cycle of disadvantage. One estimate shows that in over a third of troubled families, there are child protection problems. Another estimate suggests that over half of all children who are permanently excluded from school in England come from these families, as do one in five young offenders. Other problems such as domestic violence, relationship breakdown, mental and physical health problems and isolation make it incredibly hard for families to start unravelling their problems.

Staffordshire is working towards a shared vision across the partnership for a new way of approaching our work with an identified cohort of troubled families who cause high cost to the public purse, in order to address the determinants of those behaviours and improve life outcomes for family members.

Work has been undertaken in Staffordshire to map the actual number of troubled families with the aim of identifying (and engaging) with one-third of families in 2012/13 and the remainder in 2013/14 in accordance with DCLG guidance. This work has been led by Staffordshire Observatory, which involved of sharing of a variety of data sets including crime, education and worklessness held by Job Centre Plus. This data identifies families in contact with multiple organisations, or more than one member of the family in contact with the same organisation.

A 'Troubled Family' is defined by the DCLG as a household where individuals:

1. are involved in crime and anti-social behaviour,
2. have children not in school,
3. have an adult on out of work benefits, and
4. cause high costs to the public purse.

Any family that meets all of the first three criteria should automatically be considered to be part of the project. The last element is a 'local discretion filter' that can be used to identify additional families or prioritise those already identified as meeting the first three criteria. The focus of these additional criteria is to include families who are high cost/concern including those with health problems. For 2012/13 the local discretion criteria in Staffordshire have been confirmed as families currently supported by Local Support Teams (LSTs) and households where at least one adult is on the Probation caseload.

Across Staffordshire, 476 families have been identified that meet all three of the first criteria, or two out of three criteria plus local discretion data sets. **46** of these families (10% of the total) live in Lichfield District, equal to a rate of 1.1 families per 1,000 households. The number of families recorded in each district varies considerably, as shown in figure 10 on the following page.

Further work is now underway to profile these families to understand their common needs and highlight 'hotspot' communities.

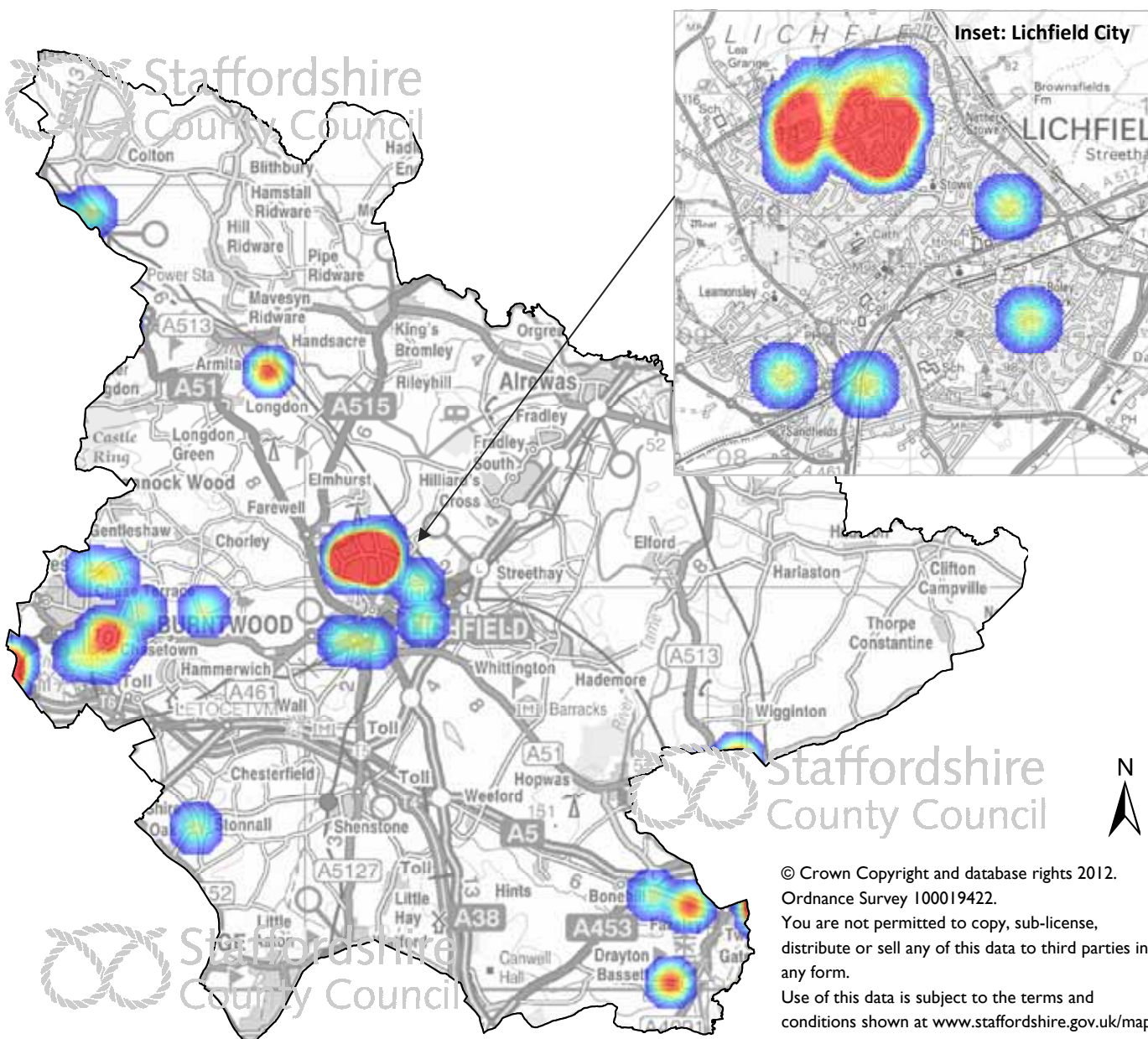
Figure 10: Troubled Families in Staffordshire 2012/13 by district

District	Troubled Families 2012/13	Rate per 1,000 households
Tamworth	81	2.6
Newcastle-under-Lyme	76	1.4
Cannock Chase	71	1.7
East Staffordshire	67	1.4
Stafford Borough	64	1.2
Lichfield District	46	1.1
South Staffordshire	36	0.8
Staffordshire Moorlands	35	0.8
Staffordshire County	476	1.3

Note: the numbers in this table represent the total number of families that it is suggested that each district works with during 2012/13. Further analysis is required at a local level to identify if all of these families are suitable for this approach and therefore numbers may be subject to change.

The map in figure 11, below, shows the areas in Lichfield District to record the highest number of 'troubled families'. It is clear that these are not equally distributed across the district and highlights the opportunity to work with the wider community in these areas.

Figure 11: Location of Troubled Families in Lichfield District 2012/13



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5. EMERGING TRENDS AND CURRENT EXCEPTIONS

The overall trend for community safety in Lichfield District is positive. The district is getting safer and the majority of reported crimes exhibit a downward trend. However, analysis of partnership performance had highlighted several areas that may benefit from short term interventions.

BURGLARY OTHER [[DATA](#)]

Burglary in buildings other than a dwelling has increased by 10% in 2012. Whilst burglary of dwellings have reduced considerably in the past 12 months, this increase would suggest that other types of premises are being targeted as an alternative.

OTHER THEFT [[DATA](#)]

Despite the reductions in overall crime rates, crime classified as 'other theft' has increased, from 574 crimes in 2010/11 to 678 during 2011/12, an increase of 18%. Other theft is defined as 'theft if not classified elsewhere' and therefore is difficult to define, however the increase in Lichfield District is consistent with a county wide increase in this type of offence.

It is recommended that work is undertaken to understand the true nature of the offences being classified as 'other theft' in order to formulate an appropriate strategic response.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC) [[READ MORE](#)]

Under current Home Office plans, police authorities will cease to exist as of 22 November 2012, when police and crime commissioners take office. As well as marking a significant transition in police accountability, the abolition of police authorities will also herald a new world for community safety partnerships (CSPs).

Commissioners, unlike police authorities, will not be responsible authorities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. At the same time some of the powers the Secretary of State has in relation to partnerships, including the power to require a partnership to produce a report, will be transferred to commissioners. Commissioners will also be given a range of funding streams, a number of which have until now been given to partnerships. It will then be up to the commissioner to decide what community safety related services they want to commission in their area. They do not have to look to community safety partnerships to do this but could turn to the voluntary sector, the private sector or even individuals to provide the services they believe are needed⁹.

Across Staffordshire there is a commissioning infrastructure in place that will support the successful candidate. Advice from the Home Office suggests that CSPs should prepare for the arrival of the PCCs and, from an analytical perspective, be able to demonstrate success and value for money that will inform the funding decisions transferred to the PCC office.

HOUSING BENEFIT REFORM

There are a number of possible impacts of housing benefit reform on services, including but not limited to increased numbers of private rental evictions, increase in debt recovery, homelessness and insolvency applications. These eventualities may impact on crime levels, particularly acquisitive crime and fraud. Although the precise impact is difficult to anticipate, the reforms should be borne in mind when formulating crime reduction strategies in the coming year.

⁹ Police and crime commissioners: A guide for community safety partnerships [[Link](#)]

6. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Partnership activity has resulted in considerable improvements in rates of crime and disorder across the previously identified priority locations. Whilst there are other areas of the district where crime has increased, these priority areas account for 49% of all crime and 50% of all reported incidents of ASB, and are consequently still the hotspot locations for crime and disorder.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the areas identified in the 2011 Strategic Assessment continue to be prioritised. There are no other areas of Lichfield District that currently require a strategic focus.

Integrated Offender Management is driven by a strong partnership focus, and aims to achieve sustainable reductions in re-offending of both adults and juveniles. Re-offending rates are highest for those committing serious acquisitive crimes.

Recommendation: It is recommended that crime reduction, particularly serious acquisitive crime continue to be prioritised, and tackled through a partnership approach to Integrated Offender Management at a county level. It is also recommended that cross-border partnerships with regional neighbours be considered when formulating a strategic response to serious acquisitive crime.

Alcohol is clearly a significant risk factor in crime and disorder issues, particularly violent crime, increasing the likelihood of offending and risk-taking behaviour, as well as increasing vulnerability.

Recommendation: It is recommended targeting the misuse of alcohol in young people and adults is likely to have a positive impact on levels of violent crime, anti-social behaviour and the environmental implications associated with alcohol misuse, such as ASB and Criminal Damage. It is also recommended that activities aimed at reducing alcohol are targeted in the priority areas identified in the 2011 Strategic assessment.

In recent years Domestic Violence in Lichfield District has been the subject of much proactive activity aimed at increasing reporting of this hidden crime.

Recommendation: Given the hidden nature of this type of offence it is recommended that Lichfield District continue to work to reduce repeat victimisation, to increase reporting through raising awareness of services available to victims and their families, and work to protect those people who are most vulnerable.

Considering the influence of alcohol in domestic violence offences, it is further recommended that this priority take account of and be incorporated into wider alcohol harm reduction initiatives.

In 2011 males were 40% more likely to be injured as a driver or rider of a vehicle, and females 50% more likely to be injured whilst a passenger. This may suggest opportunities for targeted road safety campaigns in the future.

Recommendation: It is recommended that Lichfield District continue to prioritise road safety as part of the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership, and that future road safety campaigns target young drivers, both male and female.

The delivery of community safety within neighbourhoods of Lichfield District needs to be sensitive to the issue of reassurance. In areas where fear of crime is high, whether or not residents feel that the issues that matter to them in their local area are being dealt with, may be more important than the absolute level of crime and disorder.

Recommendation: It is recommended that relevant information about crime, safety and partnership activity be published in a manner that meets the needs of the community, in order to reassure residents that the partnership understand what is important to them, *and* that action is being taken.

It is therefore critical to understand the issues that matter most to the communities of Lichfield District. This can be achieved through analysis of the FtD survey and completed CCRs² and should be informed by high quality customer insight.

APPENDIX A: LICHFIELD DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY MATRIX

Issue/Problem	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Annual Change	5 Year Change	Volume	2007/08 Rate	2011/12 Rate	County Rate	Diff from County
ALL RECORDED CRIME	5,756	5,688	4,829	4,615	4,326	- 289	-6.3%		58.33	43.84	51.79	-15%
Anti-Social Behaviour	3,646	3,678	3,140	2,262	1,807	- 455	-20.1%		36.95	18.31	25.51	-28%
Violent Crime	1,189	1,159	1,138	887	906	19	2.1%	20.9%	12.05	9.18	12.55	-27%
Serious Violent Crime	46	31	36	29	40	11	37.9%	0.9%	0.47	0.41	0.60	-33%
Assault With Less Serious Injury (4 Year Change)	-	519	493	385	334	51	-13.2%	7.7%	5.26	3.38	4.79	-29%
Violence With Injury (4 Year Change)	-	550	529	414	374	40	-9.7%	8.6%	5.57	3.79	5.40	-30%
Alcohol related violence (3 Year Change)	-	-	212	173	231	58	33.5%	5.3%	2.22	2.34	2.83	-17%
Domestic Violence (4 Year Change)	-	219	207	262	229	33	-12.6%	5.3%	2.22	2.32	3.26	-29%
Sexual Violence	77	64	63	67	54	13	-19.4%	1.2%	0.78	0.55	0.67	-18%
Acquisitive Crime	2,768	2,733	2,323	2,288	2,120	168	-7.3%	49.0%	28.05	21.48	23.68	-9%
Serious Acquisitive Crime	1,102	1,084	831	937	717	220	-23.5%	16.6%	11.17	7.27	6.87	6%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	199	186	115	145	101	44	-30.3%	2.3%	2.02	1.02	1.07	-4%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	493	551	381	388	325	63	-16.2%	7.5%	5.00	3.29	2.97	11%
Burglary of Dwellings (Rate Per Households)	344	280	296	359	259	100	-27.9%	6.0%	8.88	5.94	5.70	4%
Burglary other Buildings	527	500	342	324	355	31	9.6%	8.2%	5.34	3.60	3.88	-7%
Robbery Personal	46	44	37	33	26	7	-21.2%	0.6%	0.47	0.26	0.25	6%
Shoplifting	225	276	255	276	319	43	15.6%	7.4%	2.28	3.23	3.53	-9%
Theft of pedal cycle	78	81	72	56	66	10	17.9%	1.5%	0.79	0.67	1.12	-40%
Theft from Person	82	79	67	40	38	2	-5.0%	0.9%	0.83	0.39	0.52	-26%
Other theft	620	593	598	574	678	104	18.1%	15.7%	6.28	6.87	8.43	-19%
Business Crime	866	864	490	545	612	67	12.3%	14.1%	8.78	6.20	6.53	-5%
Hate Crime	53	49	36	31	32	1	3.2%	0.7%	0.54	0.32	0.49	-34%
Criminal Damage	1,216	1,126	886	786	758	28	-3.6%	17.5%	12.32	7.68	9.82	-22%
Arson	34	44	28	31	26	5	-16.1%	0.6%	0.34	0.26	0.42	-37%
First-Time Entrants to YJS (4 Year Change)	137	44	41	54	21	33	-61.1%			0.21	0.36	-41%
Deliberate Ignitions	183	143	121	125	164	39	31.2%		1.85	1.66	2.69	-38%
False alarm malicious calls	17	10	6	18	21	3	16.7%		0.17	0.21	0.24	-10%
Dwelling fires no smoke alarm	25	17	16	11	4	7	-63.6%		0.25	0.04	0.06	-30%
Casualties Killed or Seriously Injured	29	25	26	25	16	9	-36.0%		0.29	0.16	0.24	-34%
Children Killed or Seriously Injured	-	3	1	2	-	2	-100.0%		0.00	0.00	0.01	-100%
Motorcycle casualties	29	38	42	30	28	2	-6.7%		0.29	0.28	0.31	-8%
Casualties Young people 16-25 years	156	110	111	135	120	15	-11.1%		1.58	1.22	1.16	5%
Drug Offences	177	181	148	154	216	62	40.3%	4.99%	1.79	2.19	2.97	-26%
Drug users - Young people (new referrals)	23	46	57	49	35	14	-28.6%		0.23	0.35	0.36	-2%
Street Drinking (ASB)	83	69	66	77	45	32	-41.6%		0.84	0.46	0.88	-48%

APPENDIX B: CHANGE IN CRIME & ASB IN PRIORITY LOCATIONS, 2010/11 TO 2011/12

% CHANGE IN CRIME

CHANGE IN CRIME

	Chadsmead	Chasetown	Curborough	Fazeley	Leomansley	Stove		Chadsmead	Chasetown	Curborough	Fazeley	Leomansley	Stove
All Crime	-6	-35	26	-54	27	21	All Crime	-3%	-11%	13%	-16%	8%	3%
Total Violence	-24	-9	-6	-2	4	19	Total Violence	-29%	-13%	-10%	-3%	5%	14%
Violence With Injury	-11	-10	-2	-4	-6	0	Violence With Injury	-32%	-27%	-8%	-15%	-13%	0%
Domestic Violence	-10	0	2	5	11	2	Domestic Violence	-45%	0%	14%	38%	122%	14%
Serious Acquisitive Crime	-8	-9	9	-17	-9	8	Serious Acquisitive Crime	-20%	-23%	41%	-20%	-16%	22%
Theft From Motor Vehicles	-1	2	7	0	-3	5	Theft From Motor Vehicles	-6%	14%	70%	0%	-12%	38%
Theft of Motor Vehicles	0	-6	4	-3	-3	-2	Theft of Motor Vehicles	0%	-60%	400%	-25%	-30%	-25%
Burglary of a Dwelling	-3	-8	0	-9	-3	1	Burglary of a Dwelling	-20%	-53%	0%	-32%	-14%	10%
Shoplifting	4	20	1	4	4	-18	Shoplifting	133%	95%	0%	67%	40%	-13%
Criminal Damage	9	-22	1	-31	25	-10	Criminal Damage	17%	-31%	2%	-50%	53%	-10%
Anti-social Behavior	-32	-47	-23	-60	-83	-66	Anti-social Behavior	-21%	-22%	-16%	-42%	-43%	-19%
Deliberate Fires	-6	12	-1	0	4	6	Deliberate Fires	-43%	43%	-14%	0%	44%	120%