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Tuesday, 2 March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

## COMMUNITY HOUSING AND HEALTH (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Community Housing and Health (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee has been arranged to take place **WEDNESDAY, 10TH MARCH, 2021 at 6.00 PM** to consider the following business.

In light of the current Covid-19 pandemic and government advice on social distancing, the meeting will be held online and streamed live on the Council's [YouTube channel](#)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christie Tims', written over a light grey circular stamp.

Christie Tims  
**Head of Governance and Performance**

**To: Members of Community Housing and Health (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee**

Councillors Eagland (Chairman), Evans (Vice-Chair), S Wilcox (Vice-Chair), Baker, Ball, Binney, Birch, Humphreys, Leytham, Parton-Hughes, Silvester-Hall, Tapper and M Wilcox



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## AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interests
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5. **Standing Items**
  - a) Lichfield District Health Provision
  - b) Staffordshire Health Select Committee
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**COMMUNITY HOUSING AND HEALTH (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY)  
COMMITTEE**

**20 JANUARY 2021**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors Eagland (Chairman), Evans (Vice-Chair), S Wilcox (Vice-Chair), Baker, Ball, Binney, Birch, Humphreys, Leytham, Parton-Hughes, Silvester-Hall, Tapper and M Wilcox.

(In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No.17 Councillors attended the meeting).

**36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**37 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

**38 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and agreed as a correct record.

**39 WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme was circulated and it was noted that information was awaited from Staffordshire County Council regarding Stroke Pathways and if necessary, would be moved to the next Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That the work programme be noted.

**40 STANDING ITEMS**

The Committee received a presentation from Wayne Mortiboys from Staffordshire County Council (SCC) on progress made at the new GP facility being built at the Greenhouse site, Burntwood.

It was reported that it had been considered and agreed that it would be easier and more cost effective to put in deeper foundations that would enable a first floor extension, if needed, now at the build stage than try and do this in the future.

It was also reported that the building would have a life of 60 years before requiring any major refurbishment. Rent for the GP practice had been agreed between SCC and the NHS for these 60 years on a peppercorn rate however the pharmacy element to the build would not be at peppercorn and for period of 15 years so it was noted that there could be up to five changes/re-contracts for the life of the building.

The Committee were pleased to hear and see the progress made especially in a short period from agreement. It was felt that it had taken some time to get an agreement and it was hoped that there would be some lessons learned moving forward. It was agreed that this was especially important as the Health & Wellbeing Centre was still deemed a temporary structure

and a permanent one much needed. It was reported that the finite temporary planning permission would help focus the project.

Drainage at the site was discussed and it was asked whether anything else could be done with the water tank instead of discharging it in to the water system. It was reported that the building was being built to a BRIAM excellence and it had been investigated in reusing that water collected for other means eg toilet flushing however there would still be a requirement to clean that water to an extent and it was agreed not to proceed.

Wayne Mortiboys was thanked for his presentation and it was agreed to invite him back for an update when appropriate.

RESOLVED: That the information received be noted.

The Committee then discussed other health matters that needed to be raised at the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee via the Council's representative, Councillor Leytham.

The news that the George Bryan centre would not reopen was discussed and there was some disappointment as the Committee felt they had been assured it would remain open by the NHS Foundation Trust at previous meetings. It was felt that mental health help was more important in current times due to effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and it was felt that there should be a request to review this decision at SCC made.

It was also requested that there be a review of the poor performance of South East Staffordshire CCG.

It was requested that SCC consider the need for a permanent Health Centre in Burntwood to replace the current temporary one.

It was requested that information be sort as to whether beds at the two Community Hospitals in the District were being used as Covid-19 recovery beds and if so, if there was any risk to other non-covid related patients or whether those non-covid related patients were able to access beds if required. It was reported that Community Hospitals had reverted back to their original requirements of taking more elderly patients in need of medical care and unable to return home and many currently would be covid-19 patients. It was discussed that the Together We're Better team assured the Committee previously that the Community Hospitals would continue to be operable and GPs be encouraged to use the facilities available including the underused maternity service at Samuel Johnson. It was suggested that the TWB team be invited back to give an update although it was noted that there was no requirement for them to attend unlike the SCC Committee.

RESOLVED: That the information given be noted and Cllr Leytham raise these matters at the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee.

## **41 HOUSING ASSISTANCE POLICY REVIEW**

The Committee received a report setting out the type of assistance offered to residents with disabilities or vulnerable to allow them to stay on their own home. It was reported that the policy had not been updated significantly since 2013 and the Committee were asked for their views on various options that could be considered for offering further assistance. It was noted that there was an underspend on Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) due to a number of reasons and it would be unlikely to fully spend the budget through offering statutory DFGs only.

The following options were discussed

Increase of discretionary top up grant for Mandatory DFG work

This was welcomed by the Committee as it would help ensure adaptations were not withheld or delayed whilst residents that needed to pay a contribution following the means test, found the necessary funds. It was felt that affordability should prevent anyone from accessing a grant however an assessment of hardship should be considered if required.

#### The Introduction of a Palliative Care Grant

The Committee were supportive of this grant which would be similar to a DFG but fast tracked to enable urgent works for terminally ill patients. It was felt it should be an easy process to apply for to ensure these very ill patients are not “bogged down in paperwork” and any barriers are identified and dealt with. It was agreed that there should not be partners for this as it would slow the process. Rachel Frondigoun from Cherry White consultants did inform the Committee that they would have to consider how to define terminally ill as this can affect the grant and has been of a challenge elsewhere. Some terminal diagnosis have been from 6 weeks to years and there would not be a risk of this grant being used to take advantage of the fast track route or bypass means testing.

#### Hospital Discharge Grant

It was felt this should be considered further and the details presented in the report were deemed acceptable. It was noted that Occupational Therapists were important in this process as they would assess need for appropriate and necessary work.

#### Relocation Grant

It was felt that people may not choose to move but have due to circumstances which can take up savings that could have been used towards adaptations.

#### Emergency Home Repair Grant (HRA)

It was stated that there should be a grant to ensure sub-standard housing was addressed?? however it was felt that the equity release promotion option should not be pursued.

It was felt that issues seen with DFGs and underspends were happening from recently and many other Local Authorities were dealing with similar and any changes introduced would be welcomed and only beneficial to residents.

It was felt that resources to implement these measures should be considered and any blockages with providers etc investigated. It was also suggested that, if possible, a peer review of the service may be of an advantage.

It was felt and requested that there be more detail in the environmental impact section of the report and how the use of grants could promote carbon reduction or whether there could be any energy efficient measures in adaptations.

The Cabinet Member and Officers were thanked for bringing the draft policy to the Committee at this early stage to allow for their views on options to aid develop it into its final version.

The Committee were thanked for their views and comments and it was agreed that options would be considered further and a draft brought back to Committee in March.

- RESOLVED:
- 1) That the current policy be reviewed and views recorded on the options identified;
  - 2) That the outcomes achieved by the Emergency Housing Repair Assistance Grant (HRA) and Energy Efficiency Grant (EE) be reviewed and comments recorded on options; and
  - 3) That comments be noted on other minor amendments recommended to the policy.

## 42 CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19): RECOVERY PLAN SCRUTINY

The Committee received a report on the Council's Covid-19 Recovery Plan updating them on the activity and ongoing issues around recovery and provide a narrative regarding the progress and achievements against the plan developed and issued in May 2020. It was reported that whilst this had been a significant body of work, the longer term impacts of the pandemic on both the authority and the district as a whole were yet to be fully quantified.

The recovery plan was split into four areas of focus; maintaining key services; helping those in need; supporting our businesses and keeping you informed and to support scrutiny of the plan, and due to its broad and overlapping nature, each committee dealt with relevant topics and areas under their remit.

The Leader of the Council answered questions and advised on matters raised.

The Committee were pleased to receive the report and praised all involved especially Officers in aiding the recovery of the Council and District of a whole. Staff across the authority were thanked for their very hard work and this Committee thanked the Housing Service and Environmental Health Service especially. It was asked whether there was help provided to Officers if stress levels were having an effect and it was reported that there was an agreement in place with The Listening Centre on a self-referral basis.

It was noted that the voluntary sector had been invaluable during this time and it was hoped that the information gathered on who they were and the services they could provide to communities would be maintained in the future. These groups were also thanked for all their work and efforts in the area. It was hoped that these organisations were being picked up by Support Staffordshire.

It was reported that the LGA had worked with many Council's in looking at recovery models and it was also noted that there had been challenges especially financially and it was hoped that central government would not pass that burden onto Local Authorities as with the help in reaching the shielding or distribution of grants, it was obvious that it was Local Authorities that could get the job done.

It was felt that those rough sleepers that had not engaged with the Council attracted more media attention and it may be useful to communicate what help was offered in the future especially as weather may be a factor soon.

It was reported that response received by the Corporate parenting Panel when all Members were asked for suitable places could be found to allow contact between families and children in care could be maintained was very positive and thanks was given for that.

It was asked whether the impact of the relocation of disabled parking from city centre streets to car parks and it was asked if that would be included in the forthcoming Equality Impact Assessment. It was reported that it was a difficult decision to take and the EIA will cover all it needs to.

The recently launched Community Lottery was discussed and it was requested that some communications be released to confirm that the Council was not getting any revenue from the scheme contrary to some comments seen and it was agreed to do this.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(The Meeting closed at 8.03 pm)

CHAIRMAN

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**COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND HEALTH (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2020-21** (Version 3)

Item	16 Jun	15 Sept	14 Jan	10 Mar	Details	Officer	Member Lead
<b>Policy Development</b>							
Terms of reference	✓				To remind the Committee of the terms of reference and suggest any amendments	CLL	N/A
General Health Service Review					To update Members by Briefing Paper as and when required.	GD	
Feedback to and from Staffordshire Health Select Committee (standing item)	✓	✓	✓	✓	The Staffordshire Health Select Committee's work programme will be attached to the agenda to aid the Committee raise issues with the LDC rep, Councillor Leytham.	GD	DL / JE
DFG performance		✓			Report on performance and actions	LR	AL
Community Safety Delivery Plan				✓	To include crime and disorder.	SB	AY
Housing Assistance Policy			✓	✓	Updates to Policy	LR	AL
Councillor Community Grant Scheme				✓		SB	AY
Covid Recovery Plan Scrutiny			✓		To consider elements of the Recovery Plan relevant to the remit of the Committee	GD	AL/AY
Stroke Pathways						GD	AL

**COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND HEALTH (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2020-21** (*Version 3*)

<b>Item</b>	<b>16 Jun</b>	<b>15 Sept</b>	<b>14 Jan</b>	<b>10 Mar</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Member Lead</b>
Discretionary Housing Payments						PL	AS
George Bryan Update					Noted this is the remit of SCC	GD	
Emergency Planning					As and when required	GD	

## Revised Housing Assistance Policy

Report of Councillor Angela Lax, Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Housing and Health



Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Contact Officer: Gareth Davies/Lucy Robinson

Tel Number: 01543 308741/308710

Email: gareth.davies@lichfielddc.gov.uk  
lucy.robinson@lichfielddc.gov.uk

Key Decision? YES

Local Ward Members All, as applies to the whole of Lichfield district.

**Community,  
Housing and  
Health (Overview  
& Scrutiny)  
Committee**

## 1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Housing Assistance Policy sets out the types of financial assistance the council offers to help residents who are disabled or vulnerable to remain in their own homes. Following consideration of the various options at the last meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021, this report seeks support for a revised policy at **Appendix 1**. As well as setting out the mandatory grants we provide for disabled adaptations, the policy now includes wider discretionary assistance with an increased amount of Disabled Facilities Top-up Grant and a new Discretionary Contributions Grant that will be funded from our ring fenced DFG budget underspends. Options considered at the last meeting for a palliative care and hospital discharge grant still require further discussions with Millbrook (the contractor that delivers DFGs on our behalf) and Staffordshire County Council so they cannot be included at this stage. We will therefore recommending to Cabinet that delegated authority is given to the Cabinet Member to introduce these at a later date once further work and discussions have concluded.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 That Members consider the revised policy at **Appendix 1** and recommend it to Cabinet for approval.

## 3. Background

### Disabled adaptations assistance

- 3.1 As was set out in the last report to this committee on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the council has a legal duty to provide Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. The maximum DFG award set by government of £30,000 has not been increased in line with inflation since 2008<sup>1</sup>. This has been found to be restrictive, as some complex adaptations particularly those for disabled children and young people often cost more than the upper limit. However, under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 (RRO) we do have the ability to provide discretionary assistance according to local need, including additional top-up funding which can be used to fund adaptations where the cost exceeds the upper grant limit per applicant.
- 3.2 The previous report set out various options to revise the policy which has not been significantly updated since 2013. It was agreed that improvements should be made to ensure that it was fit for purpose and introduce further discretionary assistance to enable more disabled adaptations to

<sup>1</sup> The 2018 DFG review led by Foundations found that if the £30,000 had been increased in line with inflation it would now be £38,000. See page 180 of the review at <https://www-foundations.uk.com/assets/PDFs/dfg-review-2018-main-report-final-nov-2018a.pdf>

take place and utilise the budget underspend. Since the last meeting officers have been exploring the preferred options, however due to further information gathering and discussions needed with Millbrook and Staffordshire County Council, discretionary assistance for palliative care and hospital discharge cannot be introduced from April 2021. However, as the discretionary assistance is included in an appendix to the new policy, we propose to recommend to Cabinet that delegated authority is given to the Cabinet Member to introduce these and other discretionary assistance that may be needed in the future, once further work and discussions have concluded. As well as completing minor changes to the policy, the two main changes we propose to include now are to increase the Discretionary Top-up Grant for applicants eligible for a mandatory DFG, and also introduce a Discretionary Contribution Grant towards the cost of some applicant's assessed contribution after the financial means test.

- 3.2.1 **Discretionary top-up grant** – this will be increased for mandatory DFG work to **£15,000** which would bring the maximum total grant available to £45,000 and ensure that more adaptations are not withheld or delayed. The top up grant will be fully land charged on owner-occupier applications for 10 years, in addition to any land charge already applied for the mandatory £30,000 grant.
- 3.2.2 **Discretionary Contribution Grant – up to £30,000** will be available towards the assessed contribution after the means test for certain applicants assessed as requiring works that are eligible for a mandatory DFG. Awards **over £5,000** will need to be approved on a case by case basis by the Housing and Wellbeing Manager or Head of Service. All awards will be subject to an assessment of hardship to demonstrate that applicants cannot afford their contribution, or do not have the means to secure a loan for their required contribution to the cost of works. As highlighted in the previous report, in 2019/20, 21 out of 88 applications were cancelled due to affordability issues and the majority were below £5,000.
- 3.2.3 Although we are not proposing a separate palliative care grant at this stage, introducing a discretionary contributions grant of up to £30,000 will mean that we could help applicants who, for example, are diagnosed with a terminal illness whilst still at employment age and under the means test would not qualify for a grant and instead be required to pay a large contribution. We will also be working towards a fast track DFG pathway for residents with a terminal illness that will need to be agreed by all partners in the Supporting Independent Living in Staffordshire (SILIS) partnership.

#### **Other amendments**

- 3.4 The proposal to amend the policy wording for the **Relocation Grant** has been done so that it is clear that the grant can be a stand-alone payment of up to a maximum £5,000 towards removal costs<sup>2</sup> in addition to a DFG for adapting the new home (i.e. up to the maximum statutory £30,000 plus any additional discretionary Top up grant up to £15,000).

#### **Home Repair Assistance and Energy Efficiency Grants (EE)**

4. Due to several difficulties in administration and very low usage of the capital budget, we are proposing to remove emergency home repair assistance grants and use the capital to purchase our own affordable homes instead. Procedures are being revised and improved on how we will use our enforcement powers under housing legislation to address urgent housing repairs. Any owner occupied housing in severe disrepair will be addressed through the service of enforcement notices and works done for them with their agreement and paid for by them in advance. Alternatively, if there is not an agreement or the occupier can't afford to do them or they lack capacity, then we propose to do works in default (WID) and charge the cost of works to their property as a land charge.

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<sup>2</sup> This is removal costs only and must not be used towards a house purchase.

4.1 As set out in the previous report, Energy Efficiency grants were introduced to help reduce the number of people living in fuel poverty by helping towards the cost of insulation and heating measures, such as the replacement of inefficient or broken boilers. As central government currently funds these types of works through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) we have not been using our capital to supplement the cost of works. As it is expected that ECO funding will continue into 2021/22 the need to use council funds towards EE measures will be very low or zero. Rather than remove this grant altogether, we are proposing to keep in the policy for eligible home owners but not assign any budget to it for the next 2 years; if ECO funding reduces or we need match funds for example then we will seek to have the budget reinstated earlier.

### Other amendments

5. Two other minor alterations have been made to the policy; this is the removal of reference to the Target Hardening scheme which is included in Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Policy as well as reference to empty homes which is covered by the Empty Homes Policy.

<p><b>Alternative Options</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To do nothing and make no changes to the current Housing Assistance Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is not recommended as the review of the policy has indicated certain issues which need to be addressed.</li> <li>• To retain the current procedure for administering HRA and EE grants may mean a continued underspend of these budgets.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. To not introduce the discretionary assistance options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By increasing the top up and introducing discretionary contributions assistance, more grants will be carried out thus increasing the annual spend and enabling more residents to live safely in their own homes, in particular those that need urgent adaptations due to a terminal illness.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. To explore other options not identified.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Consultation</b></p>	<p>Millbrook have been consulted on the proposed changes and are supportive of the proposed discretionary assistance. The County Council will be consulted before Cabinet approval is sought.</p>
<p><b>Financial Implications</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Since 2015-16, funding for DFGs has been provided to us via the Better Care Fund (BCF). As advised in the previous report dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 there has been an under spend of the budget over the last 4 years resulting in a surplus available of over £400,000 at the end of 2019/20<sup>3</sup>. This underspend will be used to provide the discretionary assistance set out in sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 above.</li> <li>2. There is no additional funding required as the proposed discretionary assistance will use underspends already included in the DFG budget.</li> <li>3. Millbrook, the Homes Improvement Agency generate a fee of 16% (+VAT) for completed adaptations which is eligible for grant funding and so comes out of the capital budget.</li> <li>4. Funding provision for HRAs and EE grants is provided for in the capital programme up to 2024/25 (funded by reserves) and will be transferred to our affordable property acquisition. The EE budget could be diverted back if government policy changes and we will need it to part fund measures again.</li> </ol>

<sup>3</sup> Our review has shown that the underspend this is due to a number of factors including an increase in BCF, additional unexpected BCF awards late in the financial year and performance issues with the Home Improvement Agency Millbrook. Also many grants do not reach completion because the applicant is required to contribute to the cost following the statutory means test.

Contribution to the Delivery of the Strategic Plan	The Strategic Plan 2020-2024 has four corporate priorities; the one that delivery of DFG's will mostly contribute to is 'enable people' to help themselves and others as having an adaptation can lead to greater independence both in and outside someone's home and an improved quality of life. The provision of a new Housing Assistance Policy also contributes to the corporate priority 'Be a good council' that is transparent and accountable, responsive and customer focussed.
Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications	An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) and wider impact assessment will be completed for the policy before it goes to Cabinet for approval.
Crime & Safety Issues	None identified
Environmental Impact	The changes to the policy relate to financial matters and no direct environmental impacts have been identified.
GDPR/Privacy Impact Assessment	A GDPR/Privacy Impact Assessment will be completed on the revised policy before it goes to Cabinet.

RISK	Risk Description	How We Manage It	Severity of Risk (RAG)
A	The key risk is non delivery of the mandatory DFGs as the budget is spent on discretionary grants.	Expenditure levels will need to be closely monitored throughout the year to ensure that there are sufficient funds to cover all mandatory grant approvals. Only DFGs are mandatory and the policy states that discretionary assistance will only be made available if funding permits. Applications for the discretionary contributions grants over £5,000 up to £30,000 must be approved on a case by case basis meaning that higher awards will be closely controlled. A set amount each year could be allocated for discretionary assistance while we have budget underspends.	Likelihood: Green Impact: Amber Severity of risk: Green
B	Central Government funding is removed for energy efficiency schemes and there will be no help available for vulnerable residents in fuel poverty or living in homes with insufficient heating.	The council is kept well informed of an amendment or withdrawal of government funding which will give the opportunity to put internal funding back in place if needed.	Likelihood: Green Impact: Amber Severity of risk: Green

Background documents:

Lichfield District Council Housing Assistance Policy 2019

<https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/1074/housing-assistance-policy-2019>

Relevant web links:

Report to Community Housing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

<https://democracy.lichfielddc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=1689>

2018 DFG Review - Foundations

<https://www.foundations.uk.com/dfg-review.php>

# Lichfield District Council Housing Assistance Policy 2021

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## 1. Introduction

This policy sets out how Lichfield District Council (the Council) will offer financial help for improving and adapting homes in the district, together with the conditions and eligibility criteria associated with each type of assistance. Its aim is to support residents to improve their health and wellbeing by addressing problems with unsuitable homes that do not meet their needs.

This policy replaces the previous Housing Assistance Policy 2019 and will apply to all new applications from 1 April 2021.

## 2. Legal Context

The **Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996** (the 1996 Act) places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to provide assistance to qualifying disabled people<sup>1</sup> for home adaptations. These works (called eligible works) must be considered “necessary and appropriate” to meet their needs and “reasonable and practicable” with regard to the age and condition of the property. These are called mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs).

As well as these mandatory grants, Local Authorities also have the general power under the **Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002** (the RRO) to give assistance for home repairs, improvements and adaptations for the purpose of improving living conditions in its area.

Funding for this assistance is provided through the Better Care Fund (BCF<sup>2</sup>) which combines money from health and social care budgets in order to deliver health and care services. Any assistance provided from this fund must only be used for the specific purpose of funding adaptations for disabled people who qualify for a DFG made under the 1996 Act or the RRO.

**The Care Act 2014** requires local authorities to identify, provide and arrange services, facilities and resources to prevent, delay or reduce the needs of individuals either for care and support. This includes the adaptation of properties.

Under the **Housing Act 2004**, Local Authorities have a duty to keep housing conditions under review, including having regard to particular hazards that might be dangerous or prejudicial to health for certain vulnerable groups.

**The Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995** requires each authority to assess the energy conservation needs for their local area and the policies, strategies and practical measures which will help to make improvements. This includes providing assistance for those residents that are experiencing fuel poverty.

## 3. Local Context

Lichfield district is relatively prosperous and ranks within the lowest 25% of local authorities for overall deprivation. However, there are some parts of the district falling within 20% of the most deprived areas nationally, resulting in 4% of the population (nearly 4,000 residents) living in areas of relative deprivation.

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<sup>1</sup> These are people who are defined as disabled under section 100 of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996

<sup>2</sup> The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the NHS and local government which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing, and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.

Home ownership is high at 75% of homes in the district but has dropped by 4% since the 2001 census. Private renting has increased from 5% to 12% and social renting remains the same at 13%.

Like many areas of the country, it is predicted that there will be a significant increase in the number of older people. By 2035, the number of residents aged 65 or older will increase by 27%, the over 75 population by 44% and the over 85 population by 110%. It is predicted that the number of people with long term conditions and care needs will increase as a result, and dementia will become more prevalent amongst the older population<sup>3</sup>.

11% (around 4,600) of households live in fuel poverty<sup>4</sup> and the district has a significant rural population of nearly twice the national average, with limited access to the mains gas network. This contributes to around 70 excess winter deaths annually, similar to the national average.

Our **Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2023** recognises these challenges and sets out our vision for housing, in particular how it will meet housing needs within the district. To do this we have established priorities and identified targets for action to enable the provision of suitable and good quality housing for current and future residents of the district. The priority which is relevant to this policy is:

- To enable people to live in good quality homes that are suitable for their needs

The policy has also been developed to reflect the Council's **Strategic Plan** which states that we will work collaboratively to:

- Enable people to help themselves and others and live healthy and active lives
- Be a good council that is responsive and customer focused.

The policy also helps to deliver our **Health and Wellbeing Strategy** and our commitment to incorporating Health in All Policies (HIAP) and the priority to:

- Support older and vulnerable people in our communities to live and age well.

## 4. Types of Assistance available

The Council provides mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) to disabled residents who meet the required qualification criteria as set out in the 1996 Act, the accompanying regulations and subsequent amendments.

Under the RRO 2002 the Council has powers and flexibility to provide additional discretionary financial assistance based on local needs, local housing conditions and the resources available. The discretionary forms of assistance that we currently provide are detailed in **Appendix A**.

Following an assessment of need and the resources available to us, new forms of discretionary assistance may be developed and added in the future; these will be published on the Council's website as policy Appendix A amendments.

### 4.1 Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)

DFGs are provided to adapt a home environment to restore or enable independent living for individuals with a disability. The Council will provide DFGs within the guidance and scope set out in

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<sup>3</sup> Housing LIN: Research: assessment of the housing needs of older people, people with learning disabilities, people with mental health needs and people with physical disabilities in Lichfield District, February 2020

<sup>4</sup> A household is considered to be in fuel poverty if they need to spend more than 10% of their income to maintain a satisfactory heating regime.

the 1996 Act and other relevant legislation, regulations and guidance. The maximum grant set by central government is currently £30,000<sup>5</sup> minus any contribution required by a 'means test' (test of financial resources). Detailed information, including the grant conditions regarding our provision of DFGs can be found in **Appendix B** and should be read in conjunction with the full relevant legislation, regulations and guidance.

## 4.2 Discretionary Assistance

### 4.2.1 Discretionary grants for disabled adaptations

Discretionary grants for disabled adaptations are funded and delivered as part of Staffordshire County Council's Better Care Fund Plan. The Council reserves the right not to approve discretionary grants if funds or resources are not available at the time of application.

The discretionary assistance for disabled adaptations that is currently available are detailed in **Appendix A**.

### 4.2.2 Other Discretionary Assistance

In addition to assistance to help our disabled residents, the Council provides other discretionary assistance for certain qualifying households. Information on current schemes available is in **Appendix A**.

## 5. Review

The Council will review all the discretionary grants and their impact on a regular basis, and will endeavour to ensure that those available make the best use of the funds available to us.

New forms of discretionary assistance that we introduce in the future will be published on the Council's website as amendments to Appendix A. Changes to the appendices and minor changes to the policy will be approved by the relevant Cabinet Member prior to their publication on the website.

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<sup>5</sup> The maximum grant available is subject to change by central government in future years.

## Appendix A

## Part 1 Discretionary Grants available for disabled adaptations

Grant	Maximum Amount	Is a Means Test Required?	Who is Eligible?	How is Eligibility assessed?
<p><b>Discretionary Top-up Grant</b></p> <p>To top-up a mandatory DFG where cost of eligible work exceeds the maximum grant (currently £30,000)</p>	£15,000	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disabled applicants who are owner-occupiers, private or social sector tenants.</li> <li>Parents/guardians applying on behalf of children under 19 years old.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant has been assessed as eligible for a mandatory DFG</li> <li>The household is assessed as being in financial hardship</li> <li>All other means of funding e.g. charitable contributions have been explored.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Discretionary Contribution Grant</b></p> <p>To assist with the payment of a contribution where the adaptation works cannot be carried out due to applicant affordability issues</p>	<p>Assessed contributions <b>up to £5,000</b> granted where the applicant does not have the financial resources to pay the contribution.</p> <p><b>£5,001 up to £30,000</b> will be reviewed on a case by case basis by a Senior Council Officer against agreed criteria (available upon request)<sup>6</sup></p>	No additional means test – the grant is to assist with the outcome of a mandatory DFG financial assessment which will already have been carried out. An affordability assessment will be completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disabled applicants who are owner-occupiers, private or social sector tenants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant has been assessed as requiring works that are eligible for a mandatory DFG</li> <li>It is considered that payment of the assessed contribution would cause financial hardship</li> <li>All other means of funding e.g. charitable contributions have been explored.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Relocation Grant</b></p> <p>To assist where it is not possible to suitably adapt the applicant's current home to meet their needs, or the cost of doing so is prohibitive. It will contribute to the cost of moving to a more appropriate home.</p>	<b>£5,000</b>	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disabled applicants who are owner-occupiers, private or social sector tenants.</li> <li>Parents/guardians applying on behalf of children under 19 years old.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant has been assessed as eligible for a mandatory DFG</li> <li>The cost of the relocation grant must be smaller than the original grant, including the estimated costs of any adaptations required in the new home</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> The criteria will be agreed by the Head of Service and will be reviewed from time to time.

Note: In all the above discretionary grants, a land charge will be placed on the property if owner-occupied, equivalent to level of assistance provided for a period of 10 years from the date of certified completion. This charge is in addition to any land charge placed for any Mandatory DFG award.

## Appendix A

### Part 2 Other discretionary assistance

In addition to the mandatory and discretionary assistance we provide to help our disabled residents, the following grant assistance is currently available for certain qualifying households. The Council reserves the right not to approve discretionary grants if resources are not available at the time of application.

#### 1. Energy Efficiency Grant

This grant is to assist eligible low income and vulnerable home owners to install energy improvements in their homes when government funding does not meet the full cost of installation.

Applicants will first be assessed to determine if they are eligible for the government's **Energy Company Obligation (ECO)** scheme which is intended to help with energy improvements such as cavity wall and/or loft insulation and the replacement of inefficient boilers or other heating systems. Its purpose is to reduce fuel poverty and cold homes, promote energy reduction and encourage the uptake of lower carbon energy technologies.

Local Authorities can determine eligibility criteria for these schemes under **Flexible Eligibility**<sup>7</sup> (or 'Flex'), allowing certain vulnerable householders to access these grants that would not normally qualify under the government's criteria. The Council has included private tenure households deemed to be fuel poor as eligible for this funding and who:

- live in a cold home with EPC rating of E, F or G; and/or
- have a long term health condition made worse by living in a cold home.

In addition to this scheme, the Council also participates in the **Staffordshire Warm Homes** programme which funds the installation of first time gas connections and central heating systems into eligible homes.

For eligible home owners, where the government funding for these two schemes does not meet the full cost of installation, the Council's Energy Efficiency Grant will provide supplementary funding to ensure these works go ahead up to a maximum of £2,000.

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<sup>7</sup> Details are available on the website at <https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/download/44/statement-of-intent-for-eco-flexible-eligibility>

## 1. Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants

The Council will award a Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) according to the governing legislation, principally the 1996 Act and subordinate regulations and orders as amended, as well as guidance issued by central government. These publications detail, amongst other matters, the types of work that may be funded, the maximum grant payable (currently £30,000), and the test of financial resources where applicable.

### 1.1 Qualifying Criteria

All owner-occupiers and tenants, licensees or occupiers who can satisfy the criteria in sections 19-22 of the 1996 Act are eligible to *apply* for a DFG, but applicants must be aged 18 or over (this does not apply to the disabled person, who may be younger). Tenants of some social landlords (Registered Providers) may have parallel and equally effective systems which can be no less effective or generous than DFG. Being eligible to apply does not automatically confer approval. Some applications will not meet statutory tests as described below, and other applicants may have significant means tested contributions in excess of the cost of works.

As a part of the application process, the Council will require certificates relating to property ownership and future occupation, and will request permission from the owner to do the work. The Council would reasonably want to ensure the tenant has the right to carry out the works and that the landlord would not object or attempt to reinstate the property and evict the applicant. The Council can also waive the owner's certificate requirement if it is considered 'unreasonable' in the circumstances.

### 1.2 Qualifying Works

Those works eligible for a Mandatory DFG are set out in section 23(1) of the 1996 Act, as amended. These are:

- i. facilitating access by the disabled occupant to and from the dwelling, qualifying houseboat or qualifying park home, (now including the garden) or
- ii. making the dwelling, qualifying houseboat or qualifying park home safe for the disabled occupant and other persons residing with him;
- iii. facilitating access by the disabled occupant to a room used or usable as the principal family room;
- iv. facilitating access by the disabled occupant to, or providing for the disabled occupant, a room used or usable for sleeping;
- v. facilitating access by the disabled occupant to, or providing for the disabled occupant, a room in which there is a lavatory, or facilitating the use by the disabled occupant of such a facility;
- vi. facilitating access by the disabled occupant to, or providing for the disabled occupant, a room in which there is a bath or shower (or both), or facilitating the use by the disabled occupant of such a facility;
- vii. facilitating access by the disabled occupant to, or providing for the disabled occupant, a room in which there is a wash hand basin, or facilitating the use by the disabled occupant of such a facility;
- viii. facilitating the preparation and cooking of food by the disabled occupant;

- ix. improving any heating system in the dwelling, qualifying houseboat or qualifying park home to meet the needs of the disabled occupant or, if there is no existing heating system or any such system is unsuitable for use by the disabled occupant, providing a heating system suitable to meet his needs;
- x. facilitating the use by the disabled occupant of a source of power, light or heat by altering the position of one or more means of access to or control of that source or by providing additional means of control;
- xi. facilitating access and movement by the disabled occupant around the dwelling, qualifying houseboat or qualifying park home in order to enable him to care for a person who is normally resident and is in need of such care;
- xii. facilitating access to and from a garden by a disabled occupant; or making access to a garden safe for a disabled occupant.

## 2. Local enhancement to DFG in Lichfield district

The Council may include as part of the Mandatory DFG, the cost of a maintenance agreement for an extended period (where available) from the certified date for stair lifts, through-floor lifts, Wash/Dry style toilet, step-lifts and similar equipment installed with the assistance of that grant.

## 3. Necessary, Appropriate, Reasonable & Practicable

A DFG will only be awarded if the works are both **‘necessary and appropriate’** and **‘reasonable and practicable’**, where the housing authority has consulted the welfare authority (Staffordshire County Council) or its agents. Where an applicant prefers a different scheme of works to that designated as ‘Mandatory’ in terms of meeting identified needs by the Council, the Council may offer to ‘offset’ the value of the original scheme towards those greater works with appropriate safeguards. This is at the discretion of the Council (or its nominated Home Improvement Agency).

Works which have been commenced prior to the approval of an application will not be eligible for financial assistance.

Unexpected works which arise during the carrying out of eligible works will be considered for assistance if the additional works could not have been reasonably foreseen before commencement and are vital to the completion of a safe and effective scheme.

Unforeseen works carried out without prior approval of the Council will not be eligible for assistance. Approval should always be sought in writing, timed and dated with details of the extra items and costs. Where unforeseen works are necessary these will be added to the grant up to the specified maximum for Mandatory DFG. Costs above the Mandatory grant maximum may be supported by discretionary assistance in accordance with this policy. Care must be taken when agreeing to schemes of works on third-party property such as tenanted accommodation, to ensure that the property owner is fully engaged with the decision process.

## 4. Fees

The Council is funding the Home Improvement Agency (HIA) service in part through fees which have been contractually agreed and will be funded based upon the cost of works and through grant applications. HIA fees have no impact on an applicant’s assessed contribution – the applicant does not contribute towards the fees. An applicant’s actual costs may exceed their assessed contribution if the

works cost exceeds the maximum, or the applicant has arranged for a wider scope or change of works or product or has chosen a more expensive contractor.

The Council's DFG award is for a sum of funding only and is not inclusive or exclusive of using a particular contractor or product. Applicants may, if they choose, specify and their own contractors, agents, products and design but will take responsibility for those choices which may fall outside of the remit of the Council's appointed HIA Service and become a 'Preferred Scheme' ( see below) under their own management.

## 5. Financial Assistance

A Mandatory DFG will be subject to a means test in accordance with the regulations made under the 1996 Act, as amended. The maximum Mandatory DFG award is currently £30,000 minus any contribution required by a 'means test' (test of financial resources). Successive applications may be awarded for those persons whose condition is degenerative, or they develop additional needs. If the maximum grant limit is changed by statute then the maximum available DFG award by Lichfield District Council will reflect this.

Where successive applications are awarded, the applicants' assessed contribution to the first grant award will be considered if within the time period of the contribution originally calculated (10 years if owner, 5 years if tenant).

NOTE: where an applicant is in receipt of a recognised, qualifying, means tested benefit they will not be further means tested and they will have no calculated contribution to make. Where works are for the benefit of a child or young person of 19 years age or younger at the date of application – they too will be exempt a means test.

## 6. Order of processing applications

All DFG applications will usually be processed in chronological order, in line with any approved priority system, excepting in extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the Council.

## 7. Recovery of assistance awarded

Some Mandatory DFG may be recoverable in accordance with permitted values. Where the applicant is an owner-occupier and not a tenant, a sum of up to £10,000 may be recovered for works in excess of £5,000 if the property was sold or title otherwise transferred within 10 years of the certified (completion) date of works. This is subject to the Council's discretion to reduce or waive this in the case of financial hardship. All recoverable costs would be registered as a **land charge** against the property.

NOTE: this is separate and different to the potential repayment of grant in the event of a breach of occupancy conditions or detected fraud. Also, local authorities are entitled to recalculate grant awards in limited circumstances, such as for example if any relevant insurance claims are pending, and to cease making payments and to seek repayment in some cases as detailed in sections 40-42 of the 1996 Act.

The Council will also impose a standard condition that it may recover specialised equipment, such as stair lifts, where no longer required.



## 8. Conditions relating to Contractors, Standard of Works and Invoices

In approving an application for financial assistance, the Council will require as a condition that the eligible works are carried out in accordance with any specification it has decided to impose.

An applicant must take all reasonable steps to pursue any relevant legal or insurance claim (e.g. medical negligence or accident) which can be made in relation to the eligible works and must notify the Council of the outcome of such a claim and repay the equivalent financial assistance so far as is appropriate, in the Council's view.

The eligible works must be carried out by the contractor(s) upon whose estimate the financial assistance is based, or if two estimates were submitted, by one of those contractors. The Council's consent must be obtained prior to the commencement of works if a contractor who did not submit an estimate is to carry out the works, and if an agreement is given, an estimate from the new contractor must be submitted to the Council (this does not automatically convey a difference in revised grant award – any additional costs must be separately financed by the applicant).

An invoice, demand or receipt will not be acceptable if it is given by the applicant or a member of the applicant's family. Where works are carried out by the applicant or a member of their family, **only** the cost of materials used will be eligible for financial assistance.

It is a condition of the financial assistance that the eligible works are carried out within 12 months of the date of approval of the application. This period may be extended by the Council if it thinks fit, particularly where it is satisfied that the eligible works cannot be completed for good cause – requests for additional time must be made in writing before the 12 month period ends, and approved extra time will be confirmed in writing by the Council.

The payment of the financial assistance to the applicant will be dependent upon the works being carried out to a standard that is satisfactory to the Council and upon receipt of a satisfactory invoice, demand or receipt for the works and any preliminary or ancillary services or changes.

The Council will usually make payments direct to the contractor on behalf of the applicant, and not usually to the applicant. Where the applicant disagrees with a payment made direct to a contractor, no payment shall be made until any dispute is resolved. Legislation permits the Council to make payment by delivering to the applicant an instrument of payment in a form made payable to the contractor, OR by making payment direct to the applicant in accordance with information provided prior to grant approval.

NOTE: Contractors receiving direct payment may be required to provide sufficient information to be set up on the Council's financial systems – BUT this should not frustrate the applicant's choice, as the Mandatory DFG grant (only) is an award of funds and not an award tied to a specific contractor with additional financial conditions. Other discretionary awards and forms of assistance may allow different rules on payment in kind etc.

## 9. Recovery of compensation

It is a condition of the grant that the applicant must take all reasonable steps to pursue any relevant claim for personal injuries which caused the applicant to apply for a DFG or related assistance, and to

repay to the Council the grant or assistance, so far as is appropriate, out of the proceeds of any claim, or to use that award directly to fund the adaptations work.

### 10. Future occupation of the dwelling

It is a condition of the grant that throughout the grant condition period (that is 5 years from the date of certification) the dwelling is occupied in accordance with the intention stated in the certificate of owner occupation or availability for letting, or intended tenancy.

NOTE: There are no provisions regarding the possible repayment of a Mandatory DFG in the event of an exempt disposal of the property. No conditions apply in respect of future occupation of a dwelling where a DFG is approved for works to the common parts of a dwelling.

### 11. Preferred Schemes

Applicants who meet the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) eligibility criteria and are therefore entitled to a grant may wish to 'top-up' the DFG funding themselves with a 'preferred scheme'. The DFG recommendation by the Occupational Therapist will be for the most cost-effective solution which will look to adapt an existing property e.g. by removing the bath and replacing with a level access shower (wet room). Applicants may prefer to choose a different option and a wet room upstairs may not be the preferred washing facility. The applicant will be responsible for the difference in costs between the DFG and the final cost of the works, including unforeseen costs. Written evidence of being able to afford the cost of the additional works is also required.

The HIA technical officer and Occupational Therapist will work with the applicant, their architect and builders as applicable, to ensure that the final scheme meets the disabled person's needs and where applicable planning and building control regulations have been adhered to.

If an applicant pursues their own scheme then the Council or its nominated HIA will provide a copy of all necessary documentation required for a valid and complete application to be made and will provide an information pack regarding how to proceed.

### 12. Recovery of specialised equipment

For clarity – the equipment installed in a property is the responsibility of the applicant, both during and after any warranty period, but in the event it is no longer required for the applicant the Council have an automatic first right to recovery for re-use, subject to the condition of the equipment and any making-good costs. Such equipment recovery, assessment, repair, refurbishment, cleaning, storage and reinstallation is at the Council's discretion, cost and risk, and not at the applicants. The applicant or their family, executor or heirs should notify the Council in such circumstances, and the Council will endeavour to provide a swift assessment and decision. The Council may also waive this recovery requirement if it considers it appropriate to do so and is not obliged to remove or dispose of unwanted equipment.

### 13. Repayment

Where a land charge (repayable grant) is due for recovery, on receipt of a written request from the responsible person the Council will consider the options to reduce or waive repayment in particular circumstances to be determined in accordance with the following criteria:

- the extent to which the recipient of the grant would suffer financial hardship were they to be required to repay all or any of the grant;
- whether the disposal of the premises is to enable the recipient of the grant to take up employment, or to change the location of their employment;
- whether the disposal is made for reasons connected with the physical or mental health or wellbeing of the recipient of the grant or of a disabled occupant of the premises;
- whether the disposal is made to enable the recipient of the grant to live with, or near, any person who is disabled or infirm and in need of care, which the recipient of the grant is intending to provide, or who is intending to provide care of which the recipient of the grant is in need by reason of disability or infirmity.

If that initial decision is not accepted and further appealed, details of that appeal will be determined by the appropriate Senior Officers of the Council.

All recoverable charges will be recorded as local land charges.

The land charge will be placed in accordance with 2008 General Consent<sup>1</sup> which enabled local authorities to place a local land charge for the portion of the grant over £5,000. The charge can be up to £10,000 and applies if the owner wants to sell the property within 10 years of the certified (completion) date.

Worked examples of the charge are given below:

<b>Total Grant Awarded</b>	<b>£12,000</b>	<b>£15,000</b>	<b>£25,000</b>
Exempt amount	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Remaining value of grant	£7,000	£10,000	£20,000
<b>Charge placed</b>	<b>£7,000</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£10,000</b>

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[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/7811/generalconsent2008.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7811/generalconsent2008.pdf)

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## COMMUNITY SAFETY DELIVERY PLAN

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement

Date: 10 March 2021

Contact Officer: Susan Bamford/Ian McGibbon

Tel Number: 01543 308170/01543 308005

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Key Decision? YES

Local Ward Members All wards



## COMMUNITY, HOUSING & HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 provides a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) to produce a three year community safety plan, which is reviewed annually. The Plan must show how the CSP will tackle community safety issues and challenges.
- 1.2 To provide the evidence base for the Community Safety Delivery Plan the Staffordshire Observatory produce a strategic assessment which looks at crime figures, trends and prevalent issues and suggests priorities for the District. The latest update was published in February 2021 and is informing the development of the 21/22 delivery plan.
- 1.3 Whilst there has been little change in the Community Safety priorities, it inevitably highlights the impact of Covid 19 on communities and in particular those at increased risk.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That members give their views on the Community Safety Priorities and the contribution that Community Safety partners can make.
- 2.2 That members give their views on the revised format for the Community Safety Delivery Plan.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Staffordshire Observatory have carried out a review of the current priorities in order to identify any changing or emerging key strategic priorities and risks for the local area. These have been cross referenced against known existing local priorities and findings for the locality. Where priorities are changed or amended from the 2019 full assessment, this has been highlighted in the assessment, attached at Appendix A.
- 3.2 The identified priorities are as follows:
  - Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Car Key Burglary and Vehicle Theft
  - County Lines
  - Fraud
  - Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding (including Alcohol and Mental Health)

- 3.3 In terms of 'Places of Greatest Risk' the assessment identifies Stowe ward that includes the city centre as a priority for a number of priority issues. As a centre for business and tourism in the district it seems sensible to have a specific community safety focus for the city centre, joining with business and tourist interests. Chasetown is also identified as a priority area for ASB and domestic abuse and cross cutting issues such as child protection (including county lines). It therefore seems appropriate to have a specific focus on improvements in this area.
- 3.4 There is no significant change in the above priorities but increased recognition within the assessment of cross cutting vulnerabilities, together with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, particularly on those who already had vulnerabilities, which place them at greater risk. As is the case nationally, there are concerns about the impact of the pandemic and the increased risks for ASB, domestic abuse, county lines and fraud.
- 3.5 The Strategic Assessment recognises that restrictions imposed as part of the government approach to controlling the Coronavirus pandemic have resulted in significant reductions in recorded crime and disorder from mid-March 2020 onwards. This is particularly the case with regards to crime, disorder and ASB taking place in public places. However whilst there has been a significant reduction in ASB recorded by the police, over the same period there has been a significant increase in ASB reported to the community safety team. The majority involving neighbour disputes.
- 3.6 The Strategic Assessment also flags up that the following are not considered a main priority for Lichfield, but are recommended for additional consideration due to their volume, impact on communities and level of public expectation;
- Repeat and Persistent Offending
  - Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism (*Replaces Counter Terror / Domestic Extremism*)
- 3.7 A series of recommendations for the Community Safety Partnership's consideration is set out on page 6 of the Strategic Assessment and these will be reflected in the Delivery Plan. The contribution that the Community Safety Partnership can give to the above will be addressed through the delivery plan. Some consideration will also be given to the other challenges which, while not necessarily overly present in the partnership area, require the contribution of the whole partnership:
- Modern Slavery
  - Fire and Fire Risk
  - Business Crime
  - Serious Violence.
- 3.8 Funding from the Staffordshire Police Commissioner's Office supports the delivery plan. We received notification on 11 February 2021 that £53,913.75 had been awarded, with a deadline to submit the delivery plan to the commissioner's office by 1 May. The Community Safety Delivery Group are meeting on 15 March to consider the draft plan. It has not therefore been possible to bring a draft plan to this committee at this stage. However this meeting does present an opportunity for members to bring forward any suggestions that could help with the delivery of the community safety plan. It is also proposed that the format of the plan is improved and members views on this are being invited. Attached at Appendix B is a suggested revised format.

Alternative Options	1. There is a statutory requirement to produce a Community Safety Delivery Plan so there is not an alternative option available. However, members may wish to make suggestions or how the priorities can be delivered.
Consultation	1. Consultation is taking place with Community Safety partners.
Financial Implications	1. The delivery plan is supported by funding from the Police Commissioner's Locality Deal Fund and from partner resources.

Contribution to the Delivery of the Strategic Plan	1. Community Safety plays a key role in Enabling People and Shaping Place.
Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications	1. Community Safety positively impacts on groups with protected characteristics, particularly older and younger people and groups who may experience Hate crime. An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken before the delivery plan is finalised.
Crime & Safety Issues	1. The Community Safety Delivery Plan will impact positively on our duty to prevent crime and disorder within the District (Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1988).
Environmental Impact	1. Actions to address ASB recognise that some ASB can have a negative environmental impact and seeks to prevent this.
GDPR/Privacy Impact Assessment	1. The development of the Community Safety Plan does not involve any sharing of personal data. Any monitoring of delivery excludes personal data.

	Risk Description	How We Manage It	Severity of Risk (RYG)
A	Partners do not engage in the development or delivery of the Community Safety Delivery Plan	The Delivery Plan is developed and managed by the CSP Delivery Group which includes a range of partner agencies	Risk – Green Impact - Yellow - Likelihood – Green
B	Outputs and outcomes are not achieved	The plan is monitored regularly through the CSP Delivery Group and funding outcomes reported to the Staffordshire Police Commissioner’s Office	Risk – Yellow Impact - Yellow - Likelihood – Green
C	Financial resources available to implement the plan are reduced	The plan would have to be revisited	Risk – Green Impact - Yellow - Likelihood – Green
D			
E			

**Background documents**  
[Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2020](#)

**Relevant web links**  
[community-safety-delivery-plan-2020-2023 \(lichfielddc.gov.uk\)](https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/community-safety-delivery-plan-2020-2023)  
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# Community Safety Strategic Assessment Annual Refresh Report

Lichfield

2020

Produced on behalf of



and



Working in partnership with



<b>Title</b>	Lichfield District Community Safety Partnership: Community Safety Strategic Assessment Refresh Report (2020)
<b>Description</b>	This Community Safety Strategic Assessment provides evidence and intelligence to inform the strategic decision-making process - helping commissioners and partners to determine the priorities that require particular attention in their local area.
<b>Date created</b>	Final copy – February 2021
<b>Produced by</b>	Strategy Team, Staffordshire County Council
<b>Contact</b>	Stuart Nicholls (Research Lead) Strategy Team, Staffordshire County Council  Email: <a href="mailto:stuart.nicholls@staffordshire.gov.uk">stuart.nicholls@staffordshire.gov.uk</a>
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## Introduction and Context

Under the Police and Justice Act 2006 (England & Wales) local authorities are duty-bound to 'provide evidence-based data to support Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in their planning and duties'.

Evidence-based data is required to relate to crime and disorder taking place within the local area, which includes; Recorded crime, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Alcohol, Drug and Substance misuse.

It is a statutory obligation for Community Safety Partnerships to produce or procure an annual localised Strategic Assessment (SA), providing a strategic evidence base that identifies future priorities for the partnership and evaluates year on year activity. The approach and format of these is not prescribed by legislation.

SAs should be used to underpin a local area Community Safety Plan which is made publicly available through the partnership's and Commissioner's Office websites by 1st April each year. In Staffordshire agreement has been reached that Community Safety Plans will be produced three yearly and refreshed annually in line with the SA.

This SA (2020-21) is being produced as an annual refresh of the full three yearly assessment, produced last year.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had a considerable and unprecedented impact on the lives of everyone in the UK, including those in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

At the time of this report, latest data<sup>1</sup> shows that over 1,400 people in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have lost their lives as a result of COVID-19, with Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent currently (as at 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020) in the highest tier of government restrictions, due to rates of infection which are above the national level.

The virus and measures to control rates of infection (such as the national lockdowns, systems to limit social contact, and the temporary closure of education settings) have had a significant impact on many; directly affecting individual's physical health, mental health and well-being, education, and employment.

A survey of local residents (n=3,921) carried out by Staffordshire County Council<sup>2</sup> highlights that more than 3-out-of-5 people (63%) felt that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their life overall – with those with a disability or limiting illness, and those who have been furloughed, having experienced even greater negative impact.

The pandemic has also had a significant impact on how front line services have operated; including protective measures for front line staff through use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and limiting non-essential face to face contact with the public and service users, and with other professionals.

The combined impact of reduced contact with the public, significant limitations on travel and social contact, and closure and strict restrictions in public spaces and recreational spaces, is that almost all services have seen unprecedented shifts in demand. As a result, in approaching this year's annual CSSA Refresh report we must consider that data for the year is highly irregular, and that observations and analysis should be considered in the context of the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on 'normal' day-to-day life.

Rather than focus on Covid-19 within this assessment as a single specific priority or risk to community safety, the impact of the pandemic has been considered and discussed as a factor in each individual priority theme, wherever it is relevant.

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<sup>1</sup> Office of National Statistics (ONS) Death registrations and occurrences by local authority (Week 47 – ending 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/Covid-19-residents-survey-results.aspx>

## Key findings and comparison to previous (2019) assessment

### Significant overall changes and findings

Restrictions imposed as part of the government approach to controlling the Coronavirus pandemic have resulted in significant reductions in recorded crime and disorder from mid-March 2020 onwards. This is particularly the case with regards to crime, disorder and ASB taking place in public places.

The data for the period from April 2019 to March 2020 has shown limited significant change in most types of crime since the last assessment, and in the time leading up to the first UK lockdown in March 2020.

Across most major crime types, crime in Lichfield is statistically similar to England & Wales, with the exception of Criminal Damage & Arson, Public Order, and Weapon Possession offences – where rates are significantly lower.

Average increases in overall crime observed across all Safety Partnership areas nationally (+2%) have not been seen in the Lichfield Safety Partnership area (-1%). The most significant increase locally has been in recorded Stalking and Harassment offences (+19%), however this is in line with CSP areas across England & Wales (+21%).

There has been no significant shift in the composition of any of Safety Partnership area in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, and demographic analysis of Lichfield within the previous (2019) Strategic Assessment remains relevant.

### Changes against priorities

#### Fraud

- Fraud is of increased and growing concern in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. Monthly Fraud incidents picked up by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) increased significantly following the first UK lockdown in March 2020 – and have remained consistently high since.
- Much of the increase has comprised of less-sophisticated fraud, taking place through online marketplaces and auctions. With increases in online shopping during the pandemic, it is likely levels will remain high into 2021.

#### Vulnerable persons (all)

- There is growing concern that the wider impact of COVID will result in considerable increases in demand relating to all major vulnerabilities (alcohol, drug and substance misuse, mental health, safeguarding)
- Analysis<sup>3</sup> has already found that, taking account of pre-pandemic trajectories, mental health has worsened substantially (by 8.1% on average) as a result of the pandemic. Young adults and women – groups with worse mental health pre-pandemic – have been hit hardest.

### Changes against additional considerations

#### Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism

- This priority replaces two pre-existing priorities around *Community Cohesion & Hate Crime* and *Counter Terror/Prevent* – with the two merged together and renewed focus on Community Cohesion.
- This merge is taking place in the wake of Brexit, as well as in response to increases in Right Wing extremism, and tension in some communities resulting from breaches of COVID guidance and legislation.
- Since the time of the last report the UK terror threat level has been increased from 'Substantial' to 'Severe' – the second highest threat level, following terror attacks in 2020 in mainland Europe.

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<sup>3</sup> Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) - The mental health effects of the [first] lockdown and social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK

## New and revised recommendations

A full list of recommendations, including those still in place from the previous (2019) three-yearly full Strategic Assessment, as well as recommendations made below, can be found in Appendices A & B at the end of this report.

### Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Work is needed to better understand where Hate is a factor in ASB and identify if there are communities where Hate-related ASB is of particular concern. Where there are concerns that ASB is hate-related, Partnerships should consider whether this is significant enough to refer cases to Prevent.

### Domestic Abuse

Safety Partnerships should remain sighted on the Domestic Abuse Bill (2020) - due to become law in April 2021. This places statutory duties on upper-tier LAs, including the duty to provide victims (and their children) with appropriate safe accommodation and support whilst in accommodation. Responsible authorities will be required to form Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards and CSPs should ensure that they engage with these accordingly.

### Fraud

Telephone and courier fraud still present a high risk to particularly vulnerable and socially isolated groups. As these are individuals who are often not connected digitally, it is essential that awareness raising activity includes a focussed element for identified high-risk groups who might be missed by online and digital awareness raising activity. With growth in online auction/marketplace fraud, those who are connected digitally are also at increasing risk – awareness raising strategy should consider younger age groups who spend more time online – in addition to older age groups who have moved their essential shopping activity online for the first time throughout the pandemic.

### Drug Supply & County Lines

*[See recommendation below relating to Vulnerable Persons]*

### Vulnerable Persons

Given the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic; on physical health, mental health and well-being, employment, and education – it should be considered that over the next 12-24 months there will be increases in numbers of people and families considered to be vulnerable. Partnerships must consider that this will not only increase demand on support services and partners, but also increase numbers of individuals who may be at increased risk of criminal exploitation. It is important that mechanisms to document, share, and escalate concerns around exploitation and vulnerability can cope with increased pressure.

### Recommendations linked to additional considerations

**Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism:** There should be additional consideration for children who receive home education, including those who have started to be home educated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that they are receiving a well-rounded education in order to prevent any extremist teachings.

Safety Partnerships should engage with the development of Community Cohesion partnership work through the Safer & Stronger Communities Strategic Group, which will link in to existing strategic Hate Crime work and the Prevent board. Partnerships should also strongly consider whether there is a need to work with local partners and stakeholders (such as voluntary sector partners) to develop local Community Cohesion strategy for their local area.

As people spend more time online as a result of COVID-19-related restrictions on social contact, it should be considered that there is increased risk around online radicalisation. Partnerships should continue to raise awareness of extremism and potential signs of radicalisation within communities, and particularly in those communities at risk of emerging extreme right-wing and far-right extremism. Young people, parents/guardians and community members should have an awareness of prevalent extremist groups.

**Public Place Violence & Serious Violence:** All Safety Partnership areas must anticipate that when COVID restrictions become more relaxed, activity in public places (including activity linked to the night-time economy) will increase considerably – and as such there will likely be an equivalent increase in Public Place Violent and alcohol-related offences.

**Business Crime:** Preliminary findings from Staffordshire Commissioner's Office report on Business Crime suggests that there may be a need for greater engagement with smaller businesses in partnership areas, in order to better understand their needs and how they are impacted by crime

## Staffordshire Commissioner's Office Priorities

It is recommended Community Safety Partnerships consider their approach to community safety challenges in the context of the priorities identified in the 2017-2020 Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Strategic Plan ([Safer, Fairer, United Communities for Staffordshire](#)). Although recognising that these priorities may develop or change from April 2021 onwards, partnerships should consider opportunities to tackle priorities through;

**Early Intervention and Prevention:** Addressing root causes wherever possible and shifting the focus of investment from acute to early help services. Intervening early to identify and support those most vulnerable to experiencing crime and helping those who have started experiencing problems by supporting them to address the issues that they face.

**Supporting Victims and Witnesses:** Being a victim of crime can be truly damaging and have a lasting impact on feelings of safety and well-being. It is essential to ensure that victims (both individuals and businesses) and witnesses have access to prompt and appropriate support, which is easily accessible.

**Managing Offenders:** Preventing offending and reducing the likelihood of re-offending by delivering early intervention activities such as targeted education. Diverting those involved in minor offences, particularly the most vulnerable, away from unnecessary contact with the criminal justice system through triage processes and diversion schemes. Helping those motivated to change to reintegrate successfully into the community and achieve stable lifestyles away from crime.

**Public Confidence:** Making individuals and communities feel safer and reassured. Ensuring that the people of Staffordshire are better informed and involved in how policing and community safety arrangements are delivered, helping thereby to increase public confidence, build trust through transparency and open communication, and reduce the fear of crime

## Summary of Local Community Safety Priorities

A review of the priorities identified and confirmed in the three-yearly full CSA has taken place, in order to identify any changing or emerging key strategic priorities and risks for the local area. These have been cross referenced against known existing local priorities and findings for the locality. Where priorities are changed or amended from the 2019 full assessment, this has been highlighted. The identified priorities are as follows;

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Domestic Abuse
- Car Key Burglary and Vehicle Theft
- County Lines<sup>4</sup>
- Fraud
- Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding<sup>5</sup> (including Alcohol and Mental Health)

The following are not considered a main priority for Lichfield, but they are recommended for additional consideration due to their volume, impact on communities and level of public expectation;

- Repeat and Persistent Offending
- **[REVISED]** Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism (*Replaces Counter Terror / Domestic Extremism*)

In addition, there are some challenges which, while not necessarily overly present in the partnership area, require the work of the whole partnership to address. It is important for each partnership to consider how they can contribute to the force-wide approach and strategy. These challenges are highlighted as;

- Modern Slavery
- Fire and Fire Risk
- Business Crime
- Serious Violence
- **[MERGED]** (Community Cohesion and Hate Crimes merged into *Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism*)
- **[MERGED]** (Counter Terror / Prevent merged into *Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism*)

<sup>4</sup> County Lines refers to organised drug supply and trafficking routes into and out of 'county' and rural areas from metropolitan areas.

<sup>5</sup> Contextual Safeguarding regards the practice of safeguarding individuals (particularly young people) within the context of the environment and setting that they are in, particularly in environments outside of their usual family environment, such as school and public places.



## People and Communities at Greatest Risk

Vulnerability is cross-cutting; many of those considered vulnerable for a range of concerns (including general safeguarding, social isolation, economic stress, and health and mental health concerns) are also additionally vulnerable to criminal exploitation and victimisation through crime and ASB.

Those considered to be particularly vulnerable to experiencing crime, safeguarding concerns or being criminally exploited tend to be consistent over time. There is no change to these groups from the 2019 Strategic Assessment, and in high-risk groups remain as;

- 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

Those who belong to the 'Family Basics' demographic Mosaic group tend to be the most disproportionately affected by almost all aspects of crime and anti-social behaviour in Lichfield (5% of population, 11% of all victims).

These are primarily younger families (aged 25-40) with infant or primary school-aged children, living in lower-cost housing, in areas with higher levels of deprivation. Adults in these communities tend to have limited qualifications; many are employed in lower-paid and lower-skilled jobs resulting in limited financial resources and high levels of economic stress, with many requiring an element of state support, particularly through access to social housing and through universal credit. As the Lichfield population primarily comprises of those in more affluent socio-demographic groups, those in more disadvantaged communities may feel particularly isolated and detached from the rest of the district.

In Lichfield there are additional concerns in terms of risk of experiencing acquisitive crimes, such as Burglary, Car Key Burglary and Fraud, in particular affecting;

- Older adults (aged 50+) in more affluent, rural fringe areas with low levels of housing density
- Socially isolated older adults (aged 50+) with limited or no social networks

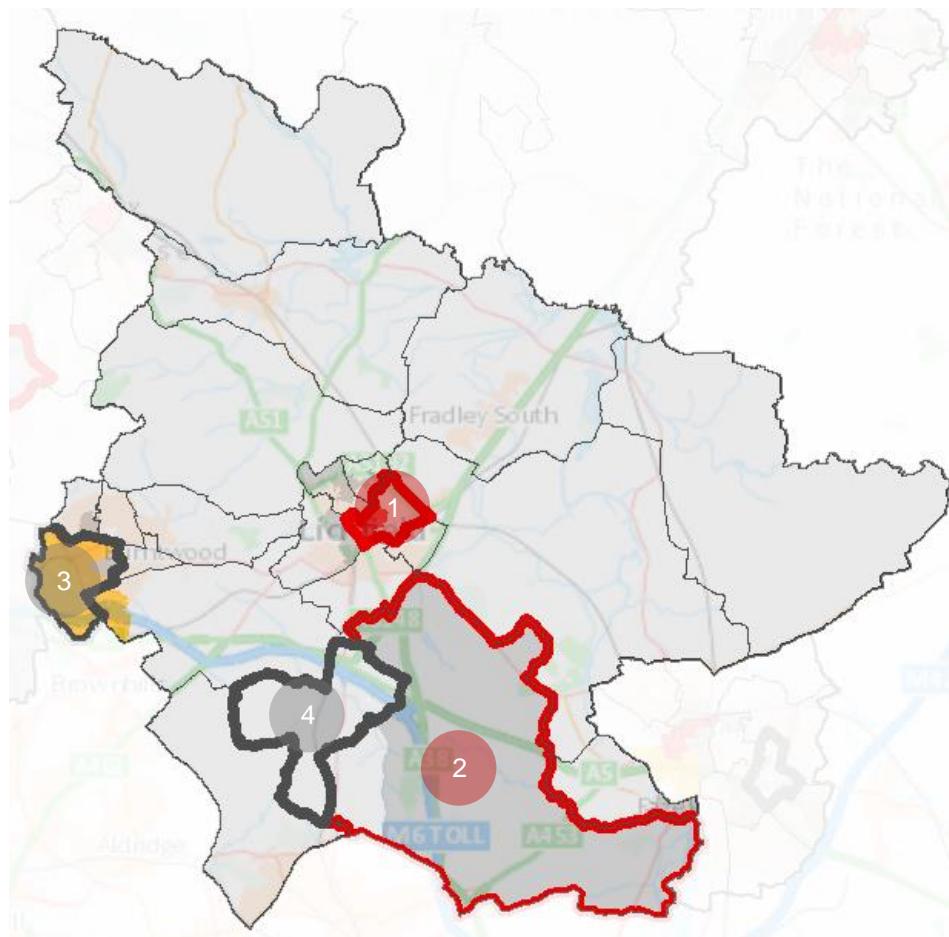
Those who belong to the 'Prestige Positions' demographic group remain particularly disproportionately affected by Burglary and Car Key Burglaries, despite being disproportionately *under* affected by crime overall.

These are primarily older adults (aged over 60) living in higher-value detached homes, usually in fairly isolated areas. Communities in this group tend to experience significantly less overall crime and disorder compared to more-disadvantaged areas, and as such are often less resilient to experiences of crime.

Older people living in isolation, who are particularly vulnerable to experiencing Fraud offences, are also vulnerable to 'door step' crime, which may involve intimidating and aggressive behaviour on the part of the offenders or an element of befriending or grooming of the victim to facilitate the offending or repeat victimisation.



## Places at Greatest Risk



### **1. Stowe (Lichfield City) (Overall crime, Public-Place Violence and Theft / Shoplifting)**

As the ward that covers the largest public-space in Lichfield, Stowe sees the highest rates of crime overall, as well as statistically high levels of Shoplifting and Theft from the person offences. Levels of public-place violence are above the force average, particularly late-night offences (21:00-04:00hrs) and offences including alcohol as an aggravating factor. As a result the area also sees a high level of ASB relating to Rowdy and Inconsiderate Behaviour.

### **2. Bourne Vale (Residential Burglaries, Drug Possession, Vehicle Offences, CSE flags)**

The Bourne Vale ward (Burntwood area, border with Cannock Chase) sees rates of overall offending and ASB which are in line with force averages, but Burglary and particularly Residential Burglaries which are far above the force levels. The area has seen a substantial number of Car Key Burglaries in the last 18 months and sits inside a force hot-spot for these offences. Bourne Vale is the only ward in Lichfield with high rates of Drug Possession, which are significantly above the force average. While Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is not an overall concern for Lichfield, and very low in volume, Bourne Vale sees an above-average number of CSE-flagged offences, compared to all other wards in Lichfield.

### **3. Chasetown (ASB, Domestic Abuse, Child Protection – some Vehicle Offences)**

The ward sees the highest rate of ASB in Lichfield, primarily relating to Neighbour Disputes and Nuisance Vehicles – both of which are significantly higher than the force-wide rates. Chasetown also has the second-highest overall crime rate in Lichfield district. Domestic-flagged offences in the ward are the second-highest in the area – possibly contributing towards particularly high rates of children subject to Child Protection Plans.

*Although not flagged as a priority ward through overall offending rates or volume of incidents, the following may need consideration;*

### **4. Shenstone**

While Shenstone sees low rates of crime and ASB overall, the area sees exceptionally high levels of Vehicle Offences. The rate of Residential Burglary in the area have fallen on the previous year, however the area remains highly affected by Vehicle thefts, with a rate of Vehicle Offences 3x higher than the force average, and almost double the rate for England & Wales.

## Overview of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Overall rates of recorded Crime and ASB in Lichfield are the third-lowest in the force-area, below the overall force-wide rate, and below the rates for the West Midlands region and England & Wales.

Rates of Burglary in Lichfield are above the force average, but not considered to be statistically high. However, there is one ward within Lichfield where Residential Burglary rates are considered significantly high, and two where vehicle offences are significantly above the ward average for Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent.

### Rates of Recorded Crime and ASB – Home Office (2019-20)<sup>6</sup>

	Rate per 1,000 residents			
	Lichfield	Staffordshire (Force Area)	West Midlands (Region)	England & Wales*
Total crime (excl. fraud)	<b>57.0</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>88.9</b>
<b>Criminal damage and arson</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>9.4</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Sexual offences</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Theft offences</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>32.2</b>
Burglary	4.2	4.2	6.6	6.3
Residential burglary	2.5	2.8	4.8	4.4
Non-residential burglary	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.9
Vehicle offences	5.7	5.0	8.1	7.7
Theft from the person	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.9
Bicycle theft	0.3	0.7	0.8	1.5
Shoplifting	4.6	6.3	5.7	6.1
All other theft offences	6.5	6.9	6.9	8.7
<b>Violence against the person</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>29.9</b>
Homicide	...	0.0	0.0	0.0
Death or serious injury - unlawful driving	...	0.0	0.0	0.0
Violence with injury	6.1	7.7	9.9	9.1
Violence without injury	7.7	10.2	11.2	12.3
Stalking and harassment	7.4	8.9	7.9	8.4
<b>Drug offences</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Possession of weapons offences</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Public order offences</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>7.6</b>
<b>Miscellaneous crimes against society</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>22.7</b>

Indicates higher than force-wide rate

\*Data for England & Wales excludes Greater Manchester Police

<sup>6</sup> Table shows offence types as grouped by the Office of National Statistics (ONS)

# Community Safety Strategic Priorities

## Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

### Volume and potential harm:

High volume / Moderate individual harm / Severe community harm

### CSPs with priority:

Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

### Summary:

ASB accounts for a significant amount of demand across the partnership, with 2,185 incidents in 2019-20 – equivalent to around 26% of policing demand in the area.

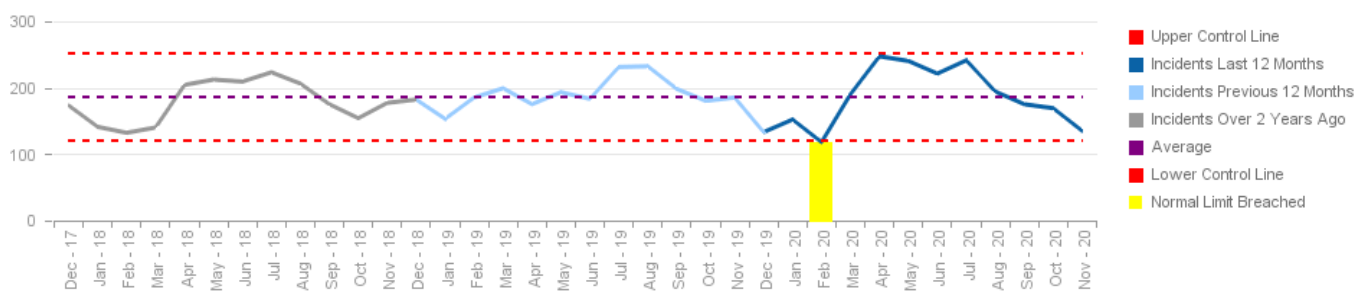
Recorded rates of ASB in Lichfield are below the Staffordshire Force Area (20.9 per 1,000 compared to 28.9 per 1,000) and the rate for England & Wales (22.7 incidents per 1,000 people), but there are some hotspot areas – particularly around Lichfield centre (Stowe ward) and Chasetown.

ASB in Lichfield remains dominated by reports of incidents of ‘Rowdy and Inconsiderate Behaviour’ and to a lesser extent ‘Neighbour Disputes’. The rate of Neighbour Disputes in Chasetown is statistically high compared to the Force average, as is the rate of reports of Nuisance Vehicles. Much of the ‘Rowdy and Inconsiderate Behaviour’ is focussed towards Stowe ward, which covers the majority of Lichfield city centre.

In the 12 months to the end of November 2020, ASB incidents in Lichfield fell by around 4% compared to the previous 12 months. However, this period includes a surge in ASB reporting in April 2020 relating to COVID breaches – since 20<sup>th</sup> April COVID breaches have been recorded separately to other types of Anti-Social Behaviour.

Since new recording began (20<sup>th</sup> April 2020) up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 there had been 801 ASB incidents in Lichfield which were specifically breaches of COVID-related legislation – equivalent to 7.6 per 1,000 residents. This is lower than the force-wide rate of 8.9 per 1,000 population.

### Lichfield – ASB Incidents, three years to November 2020, Staffordshire Police:



**Comparison to Force:** Overall rate similar / Some ward rates high

**Local rate (per 1,000 people):** 20.9

**Force rate (per 1,000 people):** 28.9

**Direction of travel:** Decrease (-4%) in 12 months to November 2020.

**Public expectation:** Moderate

**Local hotspot wards:** Chasetown (All ASB), Stowe (Rowdy and Inconsiderate behaviour)

**At risk groups:** Deprived and disadvantaged communities – particularly those in high housing density areas and with high proportions of social housing. Town centre areas are also high risk from Rowdy and Inconsiderate Behaviour.

## Domestic Abuse

### Volume and potential harm:

Moderate volume / Severe individual harm / Substantial community harm

**CSPs with priority:** All Safety Partnership Areas

### Summary:

Domestic Abuse affects all communities and is not unique to any one part of Staffordshire or Stoke-on-Trent. While Domestic Abuse presents a significant risk to the immediate victims, it also has a wider negative impact where children are present in households. Links between Domestic Abuse and child neglect/abuse are well known and evidenced.

Nationally reported increases in Domestic Abuse due to the March lockdown and wider impact of COVID on society have not been seen in Lichfield – in the 12 months to November 2020 there is a moderate reduction (-3%) on the previous 12 months. While there was a considerable drop in reported incidents in April 2020, these returned to average levels in May 2020, and have remained consistently within expected levels to date (November 2020).

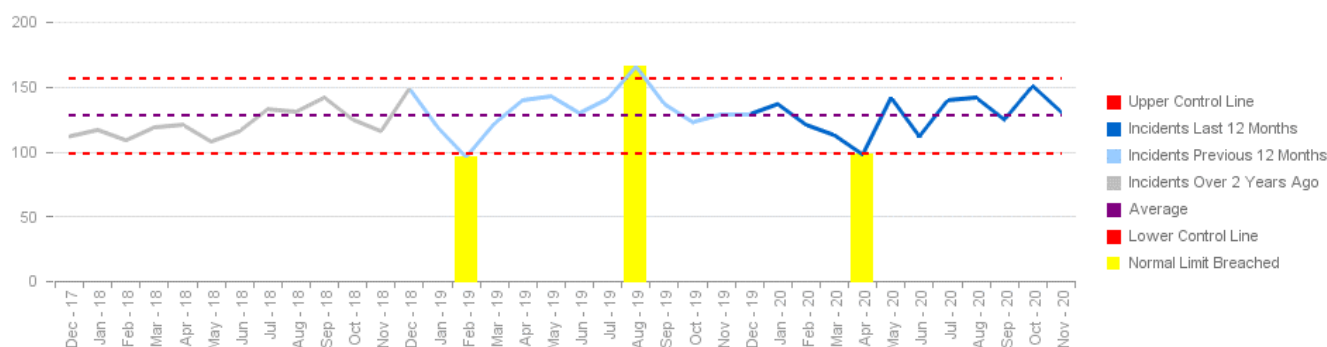
In 2019-20 the majority (80%) of recorded Domestic offences in Lichfield were violent offences; 31% Stalking & Harassment, 29% Violence without injury and 20% Violence with injury.

Domestic incidents are not limited to Violent Offences and cross a range of offence types; around 7% of domestic offences in Lichfield are instances of Criminal Damage, 3% are instances of Theft and 2% were Sexual Offences.

Victims of Domestic offences are disproportionately repeatedly victimised compared to victims of other types of crimes. In Lichfield in 2018-19, while 21% of victims of any crime were repeat victims and were the victims in 38% of all crimes in the area; 38% of victims of Domestic-flagged offences were repeat victims, who were the victims of 62% of all Domestic crimes.

Although moderate numbers (773 incidents) Stalking and Harassment incidents have increased by 19% in the 2019-20 financial year in Lichfield – however rates still remain lower than the force-wide and national level. Around half (48%) of all Stalking and Harassment offences in Lichfield are domestic-related, which is the same as the level for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent overall.

### Lichfield - Domestic-related crime, three years to November 2020, Staffordshire Police



**Comparison to Force:** Overall rate lower / Two wards above average

**Local rate (per 1,000 people):** 11.2

**Force rate (per 1,000 people):** 14.2

**Direction of travel:** Slight reduction (-4%) in 12 months to November 2020

**Public expectation:** Moderate

**Local hotspot wards:** Curborough (26.1), Chasetown (22.8), (Chadsmead, 17.9)

**At risk groups:** Disproportionately younger women (aged under 30), and those who live in already disadvantaged communities. However, anyone can become a victim of DA, and there are male victims in the area, and victims who are older adults. Households where there are high levels of economic stress and alcohol/drug use and dependency are at particularly high risk. Offenders are also disproportionately younger (aged under 40) and male, although there are also female offenders.

## Car Key Burglary and Vehicle Theft

### Volume and potential harm:

Low volume / Moderate individual harm / Low community harm

### CSPs with priority:

Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Tamworth

**Summary:** As anti-theft technology in vehicles has improved, approaches to vehicle theft have changed. With many modern vehicles unable to be driven without their keys, criminals are increasingly using burglary to facilitate vehicle theft; entering properties purely to steal vehicle keys and key fobs - driving the stolen vehicle away from the scene.

There additionally remains challenge relating to the use of electronic devices to facilitate theft of vehicles which use 'keyless' technology – without the criminal needing to access the key fob itself. So-called 'relay attacks' can be committed without an individual needing to physically access the keys, using a device to pick up the key fobs signal from indoors, and 'relay' this to the vehicle outdoors. Regionally, it is considered that this approach to vehicle theft has contributed significantly to the rise in vehicle thefts across the West Midlands region.

Although less common, and lower volume, changes in anti-theft technology have also resulted in some increases in aggravated vehicle-taking or "car-jacking" – where a vehicle is stolen whilst in use, usually on the road.

While acquisitive crime in general has reduced drastically in the year ending November 2020 (28% reduction compared to previous 12 months, compared to 17% reduction across crime overall), this has largely been driven by reductions in more prevalent and high-volume theft offences such as shoplifting – with Vehicle Thefts and Residential Burglary not reducing by the same level as other acquisitive types of crime. At the time of this report – Vehicle Thefts had returned to be in line with three-year monthly averages, although Residential Burglaries remain lower.

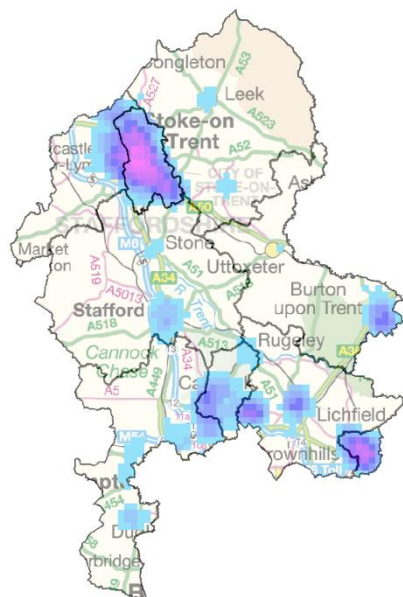
While Lichfield saw a substantial fall in Burglary in 2019-20 (-27% overall, -31% residential) compared to the previous year, the area saw a considerable increase in Vehicle Offences (+23%). Rates of Vehicle Offences in two wards (Shenstone and Chasetown) are significantly higher than the rate for England & Wales.

Rates of motor vehicle thefts per 1,000 population in Lichfield are the second highest in the force-area (2.1 compared to 1.6 force-wide). These offences have typically been focussed in the south-east of the force-area, with Tamworth and Lichfield particularly affected compared to other CSP areas.

Offences appear to be particularly targeted and have affected areas and communities which typically do not experience high levels of overall crime. The wards in the force-area with some of the highest proportions of burglaries resulting in a vehicle theft are also often wards with some of the lowest rates of crime overall.

The demographic groups affected are very different to victims of crime overall. Those affected tend to be working-age households with above-average incomes, in more affluent suburban areas, primarily with higher-value detached properties – in areas which in general experience very low rates of crime overall and ASB.

### Heat Map of Vehicle Offences, (Staffordshire Police, 2019-20)



**Direction of travel:** On-going challenge. Remains highly targeted.

**Public expectation:** Moderate

**At risk groups:** Communities in higher-value suburban areas with detached homes and lower-levels of overall housing density. Analysis across the force-area suggests that households in the most affluent parts of affected CSP areas have been disproportionately affected by car key burglaries.

**High risk areas:** Shenstone (15.1 – third-highest rate of vehicle offences of 201 wards in force-area). Chasetown (13.4 – seventh highest rate in force)

Bourne Vale remains of some concern with a slightly higher than average rate of Vehicle Offences (8.7) and a high rate of Burglary (8.1).

*NB: High density of Vehicle Offences shown in Stoke-on-Trent relates to the urban nature of the area – this is also the case in Burton-upon-Trent in East Staffordshire. Vehicle Offences in these areas are in line with general offending levels for the CSP areas.*



## County Lines

### **Volume and potential harm:**

Small volume / Substantial individual and community harm

### **CSPs with priority:**

Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

### **Summary:**

The use of County Lines to traffic drugs from urban areas into rural areas, causes significant issues for communities; particularly through the degradation of local areas through use of properties for drug use, drug supply and other criminal activity, and as a result of violent disorder and disputes between Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) and Urban Street Gangs (USGs) over control of particular County Lines and Drug Supply in specific areas.

The use of County Lines by OCGs is not limited to the supply and movement of drugs; the same criminal infrastructure is linked to Modern Slavery and People Trafficking, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Serious Violence, Money Laundering and the supply of illegal weapons.

The operation of County Lines by OCGs often relies on the activity of 'cuckooing'; a practice where criminals take over a person's home and use the property to facilitate exploitation. It takes the name from cuckoos who take over the nests of other birds. Victims are often people who misuse substances such as drugs or alcohol, but there are cases of victims with learning difficulties, mental health issues, physical disabilities or who are socially isolated. People who choose to exploit will often target the most vulnerable in society and will establish a relationship with the vulnerable person in order to access their home. Cuckooed addresses are commonly used to store or distribute drugs, but can also be used in people trafficking and modern slavery, supply or storage of illegal firearms, sex work, or as 'safe houses' for criminals themselves who are trying to avoid detection by the Police.

There is a level of County Lines risk in all CSP areas in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent – with known risks around organised drug supply through County Lines as well as People Trafficking / Modern Slavery offences, in addition to elements of weapons offences. There is additional risk in a number of areas in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent, due to high proportions of children in care, who are at elevated risk of being criminally exploited and recruited into organised crime by both OCGs and USGs.

Although Covid-19, and associated Government mandated travel and social restrictions, have undoubtedly had an impact on both levels and visibility of County Lines activity locally, there is still a persistent ongoing threat in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

**Direction of travel:** Long-term risk

**Public expectation:** Critical / National expectations

**Local hotspots:** *(See Staffordshire Police's Serious and Organised Crime Assessment)*

### **At risk groups:**

#### **Criminal exploitation:**

Young males (aged 10-19) in disadvantaged communities. In Lichfield these are primarily the Chadsmead and Curborough wards.

#### **'Cuckooing' risk:**

Adults with drug or alcohol dependency, and adults and young adults with learning difficulties and/or mental health needs – particularly those who are living independently but who are socially isolated.

## Fraud

**Volume and potential harm:** Moderate volume / Severe individual financial harm / Moderate community harm

**CSPs with priority:** Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands

**Summary:** In the 12 months to October 2020, The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) recorded Fraud losses to business and individuals in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent totalling around £15million.

Fraud is increasingly sophisticated, organised and technologically advanced. Fraud and scams using internet banking and remote computer access, mean that criminals can defraud individuals and businesses of large sums of money quite rapidly. However, this does not mean that less-sophisticated Fraud, including doorstep crime and ‘false representation’ scams, are no longer a concern.

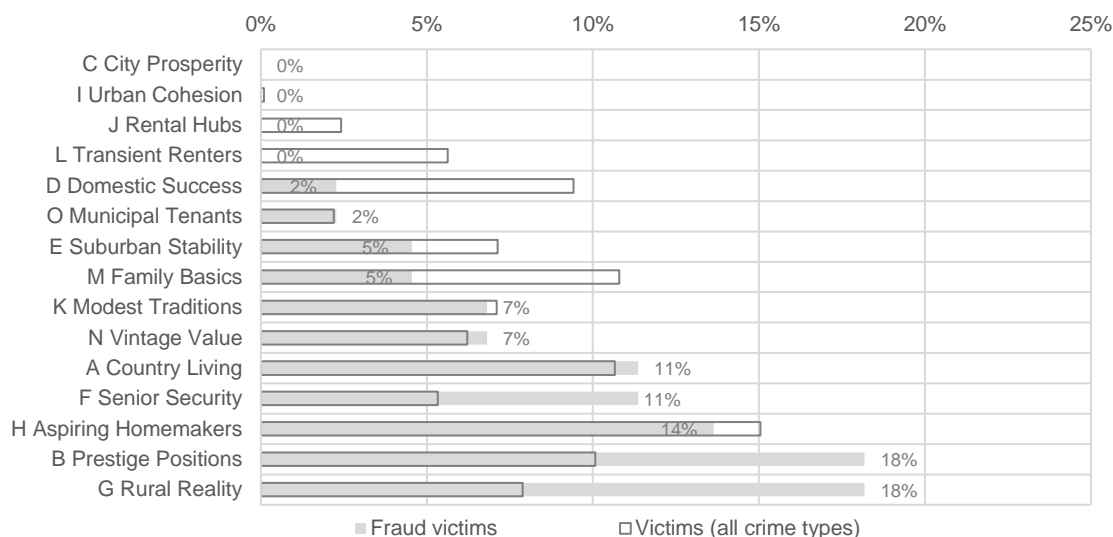
It appears that the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on Fraud. In the six months following the UK lockdown in March 2020, NFIB reporting<sup>7</sup> shows that average monthly Fraud in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent has risen from around 390 per month (Oct 2019 to March 2020) to 500 per month (Apr to Sept 2020) – equivalent to a 29% increase.

Given that a high proportion of Fraud relates to online shopping and auctions, and 59% of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent residents reported<sup>8</sup> an increase in online shopping during the pandemic – it is likely that the two are linked. While incidents have increased significantly, estimated losses have not, suggesting that much of the increase seen from April 2020 onwards comprises of lower-loss Fraud. Issues around ‘romance fraud’ also remain a concern.

In the force-area<sup>9</sup>, Action Fraud recorded 4,800 incidents of Fraud in the 12 months to October 2020, equivalent to a rate of 4.2 per 1,000 residents – making Fraud as prevalent than Burglary (4.1 incidents per 1,000). However, this is slightly lower than the rate for England (5.4 per 1,000 population).

Those most affected by Fraud tend to be amongst those less affected by most other types of crime – mainly older people in more affluent communities. Those vulnerable to Fraud are also often vulnerable to ‘door step’ crime, which may involve intimidating and aggressive behaviour or an element of befriending or grooming of the victim to facilitate offending or repeat victimisation. The average victim of doorstep crime is over 80 years old and lives alone.

**Victims of Fraud compared to all victims of Crime in Lichfield, 2018-19 (socio-demographic group, Mosaic):**



**Direction of travel:** N/A

**Public expectation:** Critical

**At risk groups:**

The most disproportionately prevalent groups amongst Fraud victims are those in the Rural Reality Mosaic group, the Prestige Positions group and Senior Security – accounting for 48% of all Fraud referrals, but only 23% of victims of crime overall. Victims of Fraud are more likely to be over 50 years of age than victims of most other types of crime, and more likely to live in more affluent and often more isolated communities.

<sup>7</sup> NFIB – Fraud dashboard - <https://colpolice.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/60499304565045b0bce05d2ca7e1e56c>

<sup>8</sup> Staffordshire Resident’s Survey – Covid-19 - <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/Covid-19-residents-survey-results.aspx>

<sup>9</sup> NB: Data provided through the NFIB Fraud Dashboards are available at force-level only – and are not presently available by CSP area

## Vulnerable Persons: Alcohol

### Volume and potential harm:

Moderate volume / Moderate individual and community harm

**CSPs with priority:** Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme

### Summary:

Alcohol is often present as a factor in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Domestic Abuse, Violent crime and Public-Place offences. Those who are dependent on alcohol are also a particularly vulnerable group irrespective of whether they are victims of crime, offenders, or neither; with poorer-than-average health outcomes, limited social and support networks, and vulnerability to being criminally exploited.

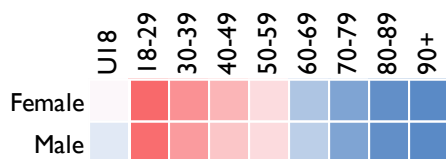
The rate of alcohol-flagged offending in Lichfield is consistently amongst the lowest in the force area (4.1 per 1,000 compared to 5.4 per 1,000), however rates in some parts of the locality are uncharacteristically high.

Although rates of alcohol-related crime are below the force-wide level, alcohol is a local health concern<sup>10</sup>; hospital admission episodes for alcohol-related conditions amongst Lichfield residents overall are similar to the national level, however amongst women figures are significantly above the national level. Although rates of alcohol-specific deaths are amongst the lowest in the force-area (7.4 per 100,000) they are still statistically similar to the national level (10.8).

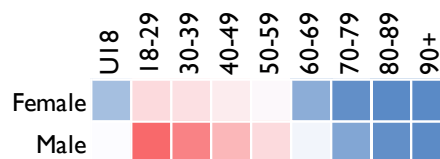
Alcohol is a factor in around 7% of crime in Lichfield, which is similar to the force-area average of 8% of crime. Similarly to the force-area overall alcohol tends to be broadly almost twice as prevalent in Violent offences (15%) in the CSP area compared to offending overall, and three times as prevalent in Violence with injury offences (24%).

While previously (2019 Strategic Assessment) alcohol had been more prevalent in Violent offences in Lichfield than the force average, in 2019-20 data the area has seen alcohol-related violent offences fall back in line with the average for Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent.

### Victims of alcohol-related crime:



### Offenders in alcohol-related crime:



### Comparison to Force:

Overall alcohol-related offending in line with force. Alcohol-related violent and public-place violent offending slightly above force levels.

### Alcohol-related offending

Local rate (per 1,000 people): 4.1

Force rate (per 1,000 people): 5.4

### Proportion of violent offences flagged as alcohol-related

Local rate (percentage): 15%

Force rate (percentage): 15%

### Proportion of Public-place violent offences flagged as alcohol-related

Local rate (percentage): 24%

Force rate (percentage): 22%

**Direction of travel:** Persistent concern

**Public expectation:** Moderate

### Local hotspots:

Stowe ward: 15.4 alcohol-related offences per 1,000 population.

Curborough: high rate of alcohol-flagged offences (9.7 per 1,000) despite average overall crime rate

### At risk groups:

Clinical and public health data suggest that women aged 40+ and males aged 65+ are most vulnerable to health inequalities as a result of alcohol dependency. Victims of alcohol-related offences are equally male and female, but predominantly those aged 18-29 and 30-39.

<sup>10</sup> Public Health England (PHE) 2018-19 Health Outcomes Data – Public Health Outcomes Framework



## Vulnerable Persons: Mental Health

### Volume and potential harm:

Small volume / Moderate to severe individual harm / Low community harm

**CSPs with priority:** Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

### Summary:

Mental Health is a cross-cutting theme, with links to a range of other vulnerabilities. Many with mental health needs appear in other high-risk cohorts; including those with drug and/or alcohol challenges, those who are socially isolated and living in poor quality housing, as well as young people and adults who are at risk of criminal exploitation.

The COVID-19 pandemic is anticipated to have a considerable impact on mental health and wellbeing over coming years. It is expected that demand relating to mental health will increase considerably into 2021 and beyond. In mid-April 2020, at the peak of the national lockdown, Staffordshire Police recorded a considerable surge in weekly mental health incidents – far above expected upper limits.

Local<sup>11</sup> and national<sup>12</sup> COVID surveys have highlighted that more than two-thirds of people feel that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their life, with many feeling stressed and anxious. Further analysis<sup>13</sup> found that, taking account of pre-pandemic trajectories, mental health has worsened substantially (by 8.1% on average) as a result of the pandemic. Young adults and women – groups with worse mental health pre-pandemic – have been hit hardest.

Public Health England (PHE) estimates<sup>14</sup> for Lichfield suggest that around 8.6% of children aged 5 to 16 years (approximately 1,150 children) in the area are likely to have a mental health disorder<sup>15</sup>. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest proportion in the force area and falls within the bottom 20% of Local Authorities in England.

Similar estimates from PHE suggest that the area has a below average rate for adults with common mental health disorders (13.9%), and is below average for adults aged 65 and over (8.9%) – both of these rates are amongst the lowest in the force area.

### Estimated prevalence of common mental disorders (Public Health England):

		% of population
Children (age 5-16)	England	9.2
	<b>Force-wide</b>	<b>9.5</b>
	Lichfield	8.6
Adults (age 16+)	England	16.9
	<b>Force-wide</b>	<b>16.4</b>
	Lichfield	13.9
Older adults (age 65+)	England	10.2
	<b>Force-wide</b>	<b>10.2</b>
	Lichfield	8.9

Estimated prevalence of depression within Lichfield is statistically similar to England, although a the second-lowest in the force area.

**Comparison to Force:** Previously, rates of Mental Health calls to police were above the force average, although the estimated clinical prevalence of mental health disorders is low.

### Mental Health calls to Police (2018-19):

**Local rate (per 1,000 people): 5.5**

**Force rate (per 1,000 people): 4.9**

<sup>11</sup> Staffordshire County Council – Residents Survey

<sup>12</sup> Office of National Statistics (ONS) - Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain

<sup>13</sup> Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) - The mental health effects of the [first] lockdown and social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK

<sup>14</sup> <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/mental#page/0/gid/1/pat/6/par/E12000005/ati/201/are/E07000192>

<sup>15</sup> Mental Health disorders include, but are not limited to; Anxiety, Depression, Eating Disorders, Schizophrenia, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, Hyperactivity Disorders, Phobias and Paranoia.

## Vulnerable Persons: Contextual Safeguarding

**Volume and potential harm:** Moderate volumes / Moderate to Severe individual and community harm

**CSPs with priority:** Cannock Chase, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

**Summary:** While overall rates of Children's Safeguarding interventions in Lichfield are low, there are some communities in the area that still experience significant safeguarding challenges. The 'toxic trio' of risks that are most likely to result in home or family safeguarding concerns – parental mental ill-health, drug and alcohol misuse, and domestic abuse are present in parts of Lichfield, resulting in an elevated level of need for safeguarding of young children (under 11 years of age).

While Lichfield has some of the lowest rates of Child Protection Plans (CPP) and Looked-after Children (LAC) overall, there are some communities (such as Chasetown and Chadsmead) where rates are significantly higher than England.

Historically, the majority (63%) of children in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent who are subject to a Child Protection Plan are primarily being safeguarded as a result of neglect, followed by just under a third (31%) who have experienced emotional abuse. Compared to England, the force-area consistently sees a greater proportion of children subject to a plan as a result of neglect, with lower proportions experiencing emotional, physical or sexual abuse.

It is considered, that similarly to many other areas of vulnerability – the COVID-19 pandemic will result in considerable increases in demand for safeguarding services. In an assessment conducted by the NSPCC<sup>16</sup> it is considered that the Coronavirus pandemic will considerably intensify a range of risk factors that children face, particularly as a result of;

- **Increase in stressors to parents and caregivers**  
*The risk of child abuse is higher when caregivers become overloaded by the stressors in their lives. There are indications that the coronavirus pandemic has increased stressors on caregivers*
- **Increase in children and young people's vulnerability**  
*There are indications that conditions caused by the pandemic have heightened vulnerability of children and young people to certain types of abuse, e.g. online abuse, abuse within the home, criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation.*
- **Reduction in normal protective services**  
*There is evidence that the 'normal' safeguards relied on to protect children and young people have been reduced during the pandemic. However social connections and support can provide a protective effect for children's safety and wellbeing.*

While it is important to consider the safeguarding of young children and risk of harm within the family environment, as individuals move from early childhood and into adolescence, they spend increasing amounts of time socialising independently of their families. During this time the nature of young people's schools and neighbourhoods, and the relationships that they form in these settings, inform the extent to which they encounter risks of significant harm in settings outside their families.

Young people who are Looked After Children (LAC) and who have been placed in care, or who attend pupil referral units (PRUs) are at increased risk of criminal exploitation and gang involvement - due to their level of vulnerability and often unstable and limited social and support networks. Young people groomed into criminal activity are often used for high risk activity, increasingly linked to County Lines, such as street dealing and transporting drugs.

This presents some concern in Lichfield, particularly in Chadsmead, where the rate of LAC per 10,000 under 18s has previously been statistically higher than the rate for England.

**Direction of travel:** On-going concern in specific parts of the locality

**Local hotspots:** Chasetown (significantly high rates of Child Protection Plans), Chadsmead (significantly high rate of Looked After Children)

**At risk groups:**

**Criminal exploitation:**

Males aged 10 to 19 in disadvantaged communities (particularly including LAC and those in PRUs)

**Children's safeguarding:**

Children (birth to 17) living in communities with higher levels of deprivation, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol use.

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<sup>16</sup> NSPCC - Social isolation and the risk of child abuse during and after the coronavirus pandemic (2020)

# Additional Challenges for Consideration

## Repeat and Persistent Offending

**Priority:** Re-offending

**Priority sub-type:** Repeat and Persistent Offenders

**Volume and potential harm:** High volume / Moderate individual harm / Substantial community harm

**CSPs with priority:** Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

**Summary:**

Repeat and persistent offenders are consistently disproportionately responsible for crime in Staffordshire, with the minority of offenders responsible for the majority of offences.

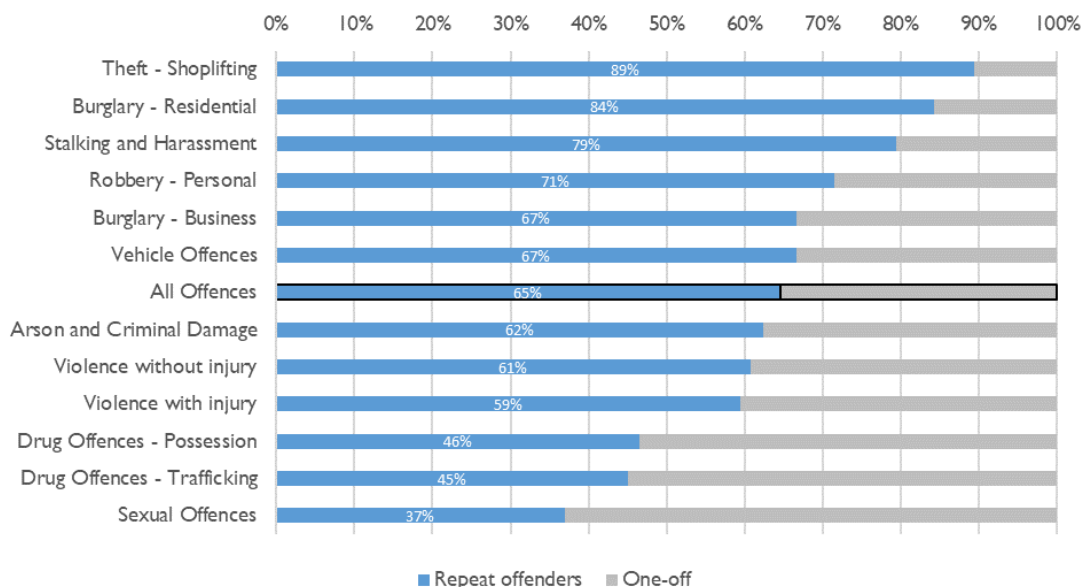
In 2018-19 whilst around 40% (525) of the 1,310 offenders living in Lichfield were considered repeat or persistent, they were responsible for 65% of recorded crimes where an offender was identified – 1,495 incidents out of 2,250.

Most major types of crime (apart from Drugs Offences and Sexual Offences) saw more than half of all incidents committed by repeat offenders, however, acquisitive crimes, such as Burglary, Vehicle Offences, Theft and Robbery tend to see the highest proportion of repeat offenders, while the proportion of Domestic-flagged offences committed by repeat offenders was in a little higher than the proportion of overall crime committed by repeat offenders (69%).

Offenders with known drug offences or offences where drugs were considered a factor in their recent offending history, are substantially more likely to be repeat and persistent offenders. Around 51% of those flagged for drug-related offending in Lichfield were repeat and persistent offenders, compared to 39% of those with no recent drug-related offending. Offenders with previous drug-related offending tend to be responsible for a disproportionate amount of acquisitive offending across the force area (committed 25% of acquisitive crime, 17% of crime overall) this is particularly the case in Lichfield; with drug-related offenders responsible for about 12% of crime overall, but around 26% of acquisitive crimes, and very low proportions (4%) of Violent offences.

Youth offenders (those aged under 18) are not disproportionately likely to be repeat and persistent offenders (around 41%). The proportion of youth offenders for Lichfield is similar to the force area overall; 9% aged under 18 year olds, compared to 10% across the force area.

**Lichfield, Proportion of offences committed by Repeat Offenders, 2018-19 (key offence types):**



**Comparison to Force:** Slightly lower than force

**Local proportion:** 40% offenders, 65% crime      **Force proportion:** 45% offenders, 71% crime

**Direction of travel:** N/A (New indicator)      **Public expectation:** Substantial

**At risk groups:** Offenders with previous drug-related offending are particularly likely to repeatedly offend – primarily committing acquisitive offences such as Shoplifting, Theft and Burglary.

## [REVISED] Community Cohesion<sup>17</sup> & Tackling Extremism

**Volume and harm – Community Cohesion:** Low volume / Substantial individual harm / Moderate community harm

**Volume and harm – Extremism:** Minimal volume / Risk of mass loss of life / Critical community harm

**CSPs with priority:** Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, (Lichfield), Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, Stafford, (Staffordshire Moorlands), Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

### Summary:

In the period of the European Union (EU) referendum (2016-17) Hate Crime increased nationally by 30% (17,300 incidents) on the previous year, with increases seen in all following years to date at a national level. While the large majority of national incidents (76% in 2019-20) are based on the victim's Race or Religion, Hate offences against the Transgender community, based on Disability, or on Sexual Orientation have all more than doubled in recent years.

Locally in the 12 months to November 2020, there has been no change in levels of Hate Crime compared to the previous 12 months – although there was a significant spike in June 2020 after the easing of the national lockdown (highest numbers recorded in a single month in three years). It is considered that leaving the EU on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 will have a similar impact to the 2016 referendum, and there will be an increase in Hate-related offences.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also had an effect on Community Cohesion; while the pandemic has strengthened many communities within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with people providing support to those in their local area, it has also exacerbated and highlighted issues within a small number of more fragmented communities – with local outbreaks and compliance with government guidance proving to be a source of friction, and a threat to cohesion.

The cost of Covid-19 to society and state has been significant. It has become clear that while the spread of virus has been fairly indiscriminate, the impact has not been felt equally across all communities. Opportunities for social mixing, one of the most powerful forms of reducing prejudice and promoting empathy, have been severely limited – with some restrictions likely to continue. As the full impact of the pandemic unfolds, government decision-making has the potential to affect social and political trust, which can be exploited by extremist groups.

In parallel to the Covid-19 pandemic, over Summer/Autumn 2020 terror-related attacks have been carried out in mainland Europe. As a result, the UK national terror threat level has increased compared to last year's report - and is now at Severe (the second highest threat level): meaning that an attack in the UK is considered '*highly likely*'.

The terror attack on London Bridge in 2019, which was carried out by an individual from the Staffordshire force-area, highlights the need for all partners to continue to deliver against our statutory obligations to create stronger, more cohesive and safer communities. Stoke-on-Trent remains a Home Office Prevent priority area with the city council receiving additional support from the Home Office for its work to tackle to extremism.

### Comparison to previous assessment:

- Increasing evidence of Far-right support – with increasing Prevent referrals for Far-right ideologies.
- Risk and concerns around Al-Qaeda/ISIL-inspired extremism remain high
- Increase in National terror-threat level from 'Substantial' up to 'Severe'
- Departure from European Union to take place in January 2021.

**Local hotspots:** (Where appropriate see Staffordshire Police Counter-Terror Local Profile)

**Direction of travel:** Growing concern

**Public expectation:** Critical / National expectations

**At risk groups:** Hate Crime offenders are predominantly young men and more likely to be under 18 than offenders overall. Female Hate Crimes offenders tend to be in the 30-39 age group. Victims are predominantly males aged over 18, and particularly those aged 30-39. Although most victims are male, there are more female victims than female offenders. Those with Asian or Black ethnicity are disproportionately likely to be victims of Hate Crime.

Based on recent Prevent referrals, those at greatest risk of being radicalised remain younger males (aged under 20 years) although a growing number are in older age groups, including those aged 50 and over. In the last year, around 1 in 25 of those referred through Prevent in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was female.

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<sup>17</sup> As per the Local Government Association (LGA) definition of cohesive community as one where; There is common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities; The diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances are appreciated and positively valued; Those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities; and, Strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and within neighbourhoods

## Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery refers to the offences of human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour. This can then be considered as five sub threats: sexual exploitation of adults; trafficking of adults into conditions of labour exploitation; trafficking of adults into conditions of criminal exploitation; trafficking of minors into conditions of sexual, criminal or labour exploitation; and other forms of exploitation<sup>18</sup>.

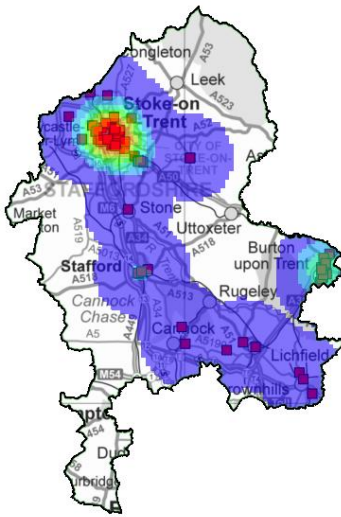
Many victims, some of which are children, work in the construction industry, in agriculture, in the sex industry, and in places like nail bars, car washes, and cannabis farms.

The scale of Modern Slavery is consistently and gradually increasing and it is likely to continue to do so<sup>19</sup>. Modern Slavery is a highly complex and hidden crime which makes it challenging to accurately measure in terms of prevalence; however there have been year on year increases in the number of victims identified. Staffordshire has seen a gradual increase in the reporting of Modern Slavery which is in line with the national picture.

Both victims and perpetrators of Modern Slavery offences in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are predominantly British, followed by Vietnamese; with both perpetrator and victim often being of the same nationality. British victims tend to have fallen on difficult times, making them vulnerable to the false promise of well-paid work complete with decent accommodation.

Concerns remain over the ongoing problem of clandestine entrants found at motorway service stations which are common drop off locations for illegal immigrants.

### Modern Slavery recorded by Staffordshire Police



## Fire and Fire Risk

Some pockets of Lichfield have a high proportion of lower value residential properties in areas of high housing density, and that may carry some fire risk. The majority are also areas with higher proportions young families with limited resources.

There are a range of factors which appear to disproportionately result in casualties compared to the number of dwelling fires that they are a factor in, these are primarily; incidents involving chip-pan or deep-fat fryers, fires that are started by smoking materials (such as cigarettes), fires in dwellings where no alarm system is present, fires where the main occupant is under the influence, and fires where the main occupant has an underlying medical condition or illness. It is important that homes are fitted with functioning fire alarms as a minimum, and that communities are encouraged to engage with the Safe and Well programme ran by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue in order to have the safety of their homes assessed and addressed.

Fires affecting businesses can have significant impact; causing difficulties for suppliers, retailers and affecting employees either temporarily or sometimes permanently. Up to 60% of small businesses do not recover from a severe fire. It is incredibly important that new businesses engage with the Fire & Rescue business support service team to receive fire safety advice and guidance.

<sup>18</sup> NCA – National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2018

<sup>19</sup> <https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking>

## **Business Crime**

The total price tag of burglary, shoplifting, robbery, criminal damage, theft and other offences against businesses in Staffordshire is estimated at over £7,300 per hour. Fraud alone costs companies £9.1 billion nationally a year. Over a third (39%) of businesses do not report crime to police.

In the 12 months to November 2020, there were around 630 instances of Fraud recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) affecting organisations in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with total losses of around £4.6million. Local research conducted on behalf of the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office has highlighted that many small businesses locally are particularly concerned about Fraud and Online crime, and this acts as a barrier to their development of online services.

Staffordshire has a high proportion of small and micro businesses, many of which do not have the same resilience as larger national and multi-national businesses. As a result, smaller businesses risk being significantly harmed and disrupted by experiences of crime. Business crime affects a broad range of businesses in Staffordshire; from incidents of criminal damage and arson, to large businesses who are victims of fraud, and farms who are victims of machinery and 'off-road' vehicle thefts (such as quad-bikes, 4x4s and Land Rovers) used in farming and agriculture.

On a national scale there have been significant Cyber-Crime offences committed against large businesses, particularly linked to "Ransom-ware" based extortion, which still present a significant risk to businesses, particularly those who rely on less up-to-date information technology infrastructure and equipment.

## **Serious Violence: Knife Crime**

Knife Crime is a high profile national and regional issue, with a significant amount of media attention and a critical level of public expectation that it will be addressed.

Staffordshire overall has not seen the same increases in Knife Crime experienced nationally and across the West Midlands region – with Knife Crime incidents continuing to fall in 2019-20. However, some parts of Staffordshire experience higher levels of knife crime than others, particularly Stoke-on-Trent and Tamworth, and to a lesser extent, East Staffordshire and Stafford.

While knife crime accounts for very low volumes of crime in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (0.5 offences per 1,000 population, 2019-20) it carries a substantial risk of harm to individuals.

In recent years, those who were known perpetrators of knife crime were drastically more likely to be those aged between 15-19 years (26% of knife crime, 12% of all other crime). Those either side of the 15-19 year age group, those aged between 10-14 and 20-24 are slightly more likely than average to commit knife crimes than other crimes, but this falls rapidly for those aged 25 and older.



## Quality of Life and Wider Determinants

There are a range of factors which affect individual quality of life, life chances and overall vulnerability. In Lichfield, while the overall area is one of the more affluent in the force-area, pockets of disadvantage and deprivation still exist and affect communities.

The factors considered to be of most concern within Lichfield are; deprivation and economic stress, alcohol, social isolation and children and young people at risk of safeguarding.

Although Child safeguarding demands are not high in Lichfield, rates of Child Protection Plans (CPP) are a particular concern in Chasetown, and rates of Looked-after Children (LAC) are a particular concern in Chadsmead – both of which see rates which are uncharacteristic for Lichfield overall and above national levels.

Lichfield is one of only two CSP areas in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent where school attainment at KeyStage 4 (previously GCSE) is above the national level.

School attainment in the area is generally above the national average at KeyStage 4 (previously GCSEs) however, in the most deprived parts of the area (particularly Chadsmead), school attainment is a concern. There has been additional challenge in the last 12 months, as 2020 exams were replaced with 'expected' grades due to the Coronavirus pandemic – which resulted in many children receiving Attainment 8 results which were below those required in order to access their preferred next stages of education.

Overall levels of out-of-work benefit claimants in Lichfield are below with the force area, with a higher proportion of adults employed in Managerial, Senior, Professional and Technical occupations. Levels of average earnings in Lichfield are above the national average, however, although more affordable than the national average, housing is the least-affordable in the force area – with the average house price at 7.3 times the average income, compared to 6.5 for the force area. In addition to disadvantaged parts of the district which have high levels of economic challenge, there are also number of communities in Lichfield where the cost of living still results in economic stress for residents, even though household earnings are above-average for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

There is evidence that long-term alcohol use has a negative effect on Lichfield residents, particularly those aged 65 and over and women – with levels of hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions significantly above the national average amongst women.

## Public Confidence & Feeling the Difference

**It should be noted, that in 2019, the decision was made to redevelop its approach to a Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent public confidence residents' survey. As such the Feeling the Difference survey ceased.**

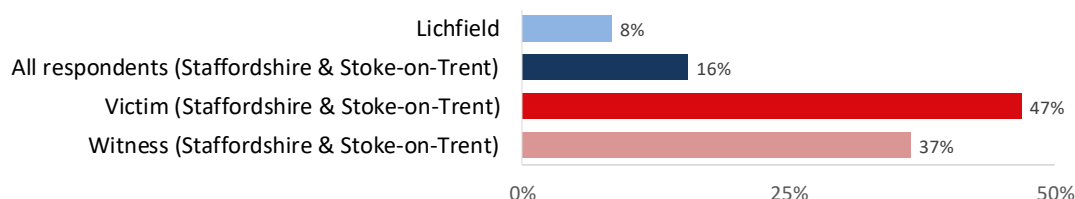
**The final wave of the Feeling the Difference surveys were completed in late 2018 (referenced below) with a new residents' survey introduced in late 2020. Findings from the new survey will be shared, as relevant, once made available.**

In previous analysis a high proportion of residents in the local area were satisfied with Lichfield as an area to live (95%) and the large majority were satisfied with their quality of life (88%).

Around 2-out-of-5 residents (42%) appear to be satisfied with the level of visible police presence in the local area, although Lichfield residents report the highest feelings of safety in the force area. Local residents report that they feel very safe in Lichfield during the day (99%) and the very large majority also feel safe after dark (90%). Most residents (92%) feel that it's unlikely that they will be a victim of crime at any point in the future.

Data shows us that those who have previously experienced crime first-hand, as either a victim of crime or a witness to a crime, generally feel less safe than the population overall. This is particularly acute when considering how safe residents feel at night or after dark.

### Feel likely that they will be a victim of crime



# Appendices

## Appendix A: Overall recommendations

Ensure that partnerships maintain links with Staffordshire Police, through the Knowledge Hub and local Policing Commanders, in order to identify emerging risks and priorities in 'real time' as they occur throughout the year – including making use of available Business Intelligence resources such as the Staffordshire Police Knowledge Hub BRAIN Gateway, and making use of relevant emerging risk assessment and strategic documents.

Partnerships should engage with Police Thematic Leads for each of their identified areas of priority in order to engage with and influence the Police response to priority challenges.

Ensure that partnerships remain engaged with relevant Needs and Risk Assessments developed through the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office, through Local Authorities, and in other Safety Partnership areas, so that emerging learning and recommendations can be reflected in ongoing partnership strategy and delivery.

Where services have been commissioned centrally, Safety Partnership areas and services should engage with one-another in order to share knowledge and expertise, to ensure that delivery is appropriately meeting local demand, and compliments any existing delivery and services.

The full partnership should explore approaches which will allow young people to anonymously report concerns around crime, radicalisation or extremist behaviour, and criminal exploitation - which can then be escalated through mechanisms such as Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) or similar. In particular, but not limited to, giving young people an opportunity to communicate concerns that they may have about;

- Potential criminal exploitation of themselves or others (incl. gang-related activity/recruitment)
- Knowledge of weapons possession or 'stashing'<sup>20</sup> amongst their peers
- Drug or alcohol misuse (their own, or that of others)
- Potential radicalisation or extremism, or other concerning hate-related behaviour
- Knowledge of other criminal behaviour in the community which is a cause for concern

## Appendix B: Specific recommendations for key priorities

*As this report considers the current position in the context of the priorities and recommendations set out in the full three-yearly Strategic Assessment (issued last year, 2019) many recommendations and priorities remain unchanged from the previous full SA. Where recommendations are new additions or revised compared to the previous report, these are clearly highlighted with a prefix.*

### Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

**[REVISED]** Work is needed to better understand where Hate is a factor in ASB and identify if there are communities where Hate-related ASB is of particular concern. Where there are concerns that ASB is hate-related, Partnerships should consider whether this is significant enough to refer cases to Prevent.

#### **Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:**

*The pan-Staffordshire ASB Strategy group should continue to engage with Safety Partnerships and vice versa to help improve our knowledge and understanding of ASB in the force-area There is a need to continue to develop understanding around risk and protective factors affecting young people and their involvement in ASB.*

*Partnerships should continue to share information on perpetrators and particularly repeat and younger perpetrators (of both public place ASB and Neighbour Disputes) to ensure that individuals receive multi-agency support where appropriate in order to reduce re-offending. [Cross-cutting to Repeat & Persistent Offending recommendations]*

As much ASB is public-place Rowdy & Inconsiderate Behaviour, Partnership areas should continue to consider options to limit ASB in hot-spot areas, including the use of provisions such as Public Space Protection Orders.

### Domestic Abuse

**[NEW]** Safety Partnerships should remain sighted on the Domestic Abuse Bill (2020) - due to become law in April 2021. This places statutory duties on upper-tier LAs, including the duty to provide victims (and their children) with appropriate safe accommodation and support whilst in accommodation. Responsible authorities will be required to form Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards and CSPs should ensure that they engage with these accordingly.

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<sup>20</sup> Stashing refers to the practice of hiding knives and other weapons in public places, such as parks or undergrowth, so that they are available for individuals to use in violent offences – without the additional risk of being in possession of the weapon.



**Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:**

*There is a continued need for collaborative working across the whole force-area to support the DA agenda, led by established pan-Staffordshire governance arrangements and delivered through the DA Strategy and Action Plan.*

*There is a continuing need for partners in front-line service to have a strong awareness and understanding of signs of non-physical types of domestic abuse, (e.g. coercive control, financial abuse, psychological abuse including stalking). There is a need to continue to raise public awareness around these types of domestic abuse.*

*Reaching out to hard to engage cohorts; including men, BME, LGBTQ+, those with Learning Difficulties, Mental Health needs, those in rural areas, as well as those from isolated or marginalised communities is vital in order to give individuals the confidence to come forward and seek support. This should remain linked to other services such as mental health, drug and alcohol misuse and homelessness, as well as education providers from age 14 and up.*

*Safety Partnerships should engage with partners to develop and improve understanding of Stalking and Harassment offences, and continue to improve awareness and understanding of the Stalking Protection Act (2019) and how the Police can apply for Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) to address offending and protect victims.*

**Car Key Burglary and Vehicle Theft**

**Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:**

*There is a need to raise awareness of measures that individuals can take to reduce the risk of becoming victims of such types of crime, particularly in high risk and hot-spot areas, and amongst high risk groups. This is equally the case for business and small business owners who rely on vehicles as a business asset.*

*Safety Partnerships should continue to engage with Staffordshire Police to identify emerging hot-spot areas and vehicle makes/models which are at particular risk, in order to direct relevant preventative activity as appropriate.*

**County Lines**

**[NEW]** Given the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic; on physical health, mental health and well-being, employment, and education – it should be considered that over the next 12-24 months there will increase in numbers of people and families considered to be vulnerable. Partnerships must consider that this will not only increase demand on support services and partners, but also increase numbers of individuals who may be at increased risk of criminal exploitation. It is important that mechanisms to document, share, and escalate concerns around exploitation and vulnerability can cope with increased pressure. *[Duplicated within Vulnerable Persons recommendations]*

**Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:**

*Safety Partnerships should continue to develop and enhance partner and community awareness and sharing of concerns linked to County Lines; primarily the signs of criminal exploitation of young people through organised crime and gang activity, and the signs of criminal exploitation of vulnerable adults through cuckooing activity. Partnerships should continue to promote and encourage community use of Crime Stoppers to allow anonymous reporting.*

*Safety Partnerships should continue to develop and embed an approach which primarily treats vulnerable individuals who have been criminally exploited as victims in need of support, and ensure that there are targeted early intervention and prevention opportunities in place for individuals who are being or who have been criminally exploited.*

*There is an ongoing need to continue education in secondary schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) around risks attached to gang membership and organised crime, including ensuring that the mechanisms exist to allow young people to appropriately and anonymously raise concerns about the criminal exploitation of themselves or their peers. Centrally there is a need to ensure that those working with children in care (LAC) such as Care Homes and Foster Carers are aware of signs of criminal exploitation and feel confident in reporting concerns as appropriate.*

**Fraud**

**[REVISED]** Telephone and courier fraud still present a high risk to particularly vulnerable and socially isolated groups. As these are individuals who are often not connected digitally, it is essential that awareness raising activity includes a focussed element for identified high-risk groups who might be missed by online and digital awareness raising activity. With growth in online auction/marketplace fraud, those who are connected digitally are also at increasing risk – awareness raising strategy should also consider younger age groups who carry out much of their non-essential shopping online, as well as older age groups who are new to using online services for essential shopping.

**Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:**

*Safety Partnerships should support local services and communities in recognising signs of potential fraud and raising awareness of different types of fraud tactics. It is critical that carers, relatives, friends or neighbours of someone who is vulnerable know how to spot signs of fraud.*

*It remains beneficial to centrally develop and implement a pan-Staffordshire Fraud strategy; to provide knowledge and tools directed towards residents and businesses, and to create a force-wide structured approach to fraud prevention.*

*Preventative activity remains essential; it is important to raise awareness of types of fraud, and the action that individuals can take in order to verify legitimacy if they are unsure of whether activity is fraudulent or not.*

*Awareness raising activity must involve mechanisms for reaching those who live in isolation, those with additional needs and especially those who are not digitally, socially or geographically well-connected.*

*There is a need to develop a co-ordinated approach to doorstep crime across the range of agencies. There remains a need to raise awareness of the signs of doorstep crime, as well as provide advice and support to carers, relatives, friends or neighbours of those identified as vulnerable. At a central level there is a need to consider how doorstep crime can be addressed with existing and emerging strategy, with CSPs contributing towards ongoing development.*

*Businesses should be kept aware of links between cyber-security and Fraud risks attached to 'ransom-ware' cyber-attacks, and how to protect themselves.*

### **Vulnerable Persons (incl. Alcohol, Safeguarding and Mental Health)**

**[NEW]** Given the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on physical health, mental health and well-being, employment, and education – it should be considered that over the next 12-24 months there will be increases in numbers of people and families considered vulnerable. Partnerships must consider that this will not only increase demand on support services and partners, but also increase the number of individuals who may be at risk of criminal exploitation. It is important that mechanisms to document, share, and escalate concerns around exploitation and vulnerability can cope with increased pressure. *[Duplicated within Drug Supply and County Lines recommendations]*

#### **Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:**

*Alcohol is a cross-cutting theme across a range of priorities – partners should continue to consider where alcohol may be a factor in offending behaviour or in levels of vulnerability, ensuring support and intervention includes alcohol-related support. Support should be particularly intensive for young people with identified emerging alcohol concerns.*

*Being under the influence of alcohol remains a factor that disproportionally leads to casualties in dwelling fires, it is vital that those delivering support to individuals around alcohol also assess their residences for fire-related risks.*

*Centrally there is a need to continue to promote activity to raise awareness of the significant risks attached to drug and substance misuse, including the significant health and psychological risks attached to psychoactive substances previously referred to as 'legal highs'. There is a need to ensure that there is appropriate multi-agency support for young people with drug-related and suspected drug-related offending, in order to deter drug use and provide early treatment where addiction or dependency may be a concern. This should include work with schools, education providers, children's homes and foster carers where appropriate, to ensure that there is a sound understanding of the early signs of substance misuse, so that young people can be supported at the earliest possible opportunity.*

*There is a need to continue work with appropriate partners, so that workers are able to identify those with drug and substance misuse needs who are at risk of, or may be the victims of, criminal exploitation through activities such as cuckooing or through gang or organised crime activity, and appropriately document, share and escalate concerns.*

*Stronger knowledge of contextual safeguarding is essential in protecting vulnerable people. Partnerships should help lead the way in moving thinking around safeguarding forwards to address extra-familial risk; including supporting businesses in developing awareness of risks to young people and developing confidence in reporting any concerns.*

*It is essential that young people are aware of signs of potential criminal exploitation, and that mechanisms exist to allow young people to safely communicate concerns about criminal exploitation of themselves or their peers.*

*There is an ongoing need to keep prevention and early intervention work at the heart of community safety strategy, particularly focussing on young people who are at risk of either offending or becoming victims of crime. This must include work with looked-after-children (LAC) who are a particularly at-risk group and children in Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) who are greater risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system and increased risk of exploitation.*

*Mental health is a cross-cutting area of need, with many of the most vulnerable victims and offenders (including those under 18) experiencing mental health challenges. It is recommended that partners continue to consider the impact of mental health on individual's levels of vulnerability and on their behaviour, ensuring that there are packages of appropriate multi-agency support for those with appropriate levels of need.*

## **Recommendations against additional considerations**

### **Repeat and Persistent Offending:**

#### **Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:**

*Continue to engage with partners and Offender Management (as appropriate) to ensure that are appropriate packages of multi-agency support for offenders, particularly those with drug and substance misuse and dependency. Support should be particularly intensive for younger offenders (under 21) who have drug dependencies or drug and substance misuse challenges.*

*Partnerships should consider that those who commit repeat acquisitive offences in order to sustain drug or alcohol misuse or dependency are at high risk of criminal exploitation and may need additional support and consideration at multi-agency risk assessment meetings.*

*Partnerships should continue to share information on perpetrators and particularly repeat perpetrators (of both public place ASB and Neighbour Disputes) to ensure that individuals receive multi-agency support where appropriate. It is particularly important that young people who are repeat perpetrators of ASB are identified and supported appropriately to prevent further patterns of offending. [Duplicated within ASB recommendations]*

*Continue activity with domestic abuse perpetrator programme providers. Approaches should consider additional support needs for offenders around alcohol and drug/substance misuse, mental health, and behavioural and emotional needs and challenges. Support should be particularly intensive for those who are first-time domestic offenders, and domestic offenders who are under 21 years old.*

### **[REVISED] Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism:**

**[NEW]** There should be additional consideration for children who receive home education, including those who have started to be home educated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that they are receiving a well-rounded education in order to prevent any extremist teachings.

**[NEW]** Safety Partnerships should engage with the development of Community Cohesion partnership work through the Safer & Stronger Communities Strategic Group, which will link in to existing strategic Hate Crime work and the Prevent board. Partnerships should also strongly consider whether there is a need to work with local partners and stakeholders (such as voluntary sector partners) to develop local Community Cohesion strategy for their local area.

**[REVISED]** As people spend more time online as a result of COVID-19-related restrictions on social contact, it should be considered that there is increased risk around online radicalisation. Partnerships should continue to raise awareness of extremism and potential signs of radicalisation within communities, and particularly in those communities at risk of emerging extreme right-wing and far-right extremism. Young people, parents/guardians and community members should have an awareness of prevalent extremist groups.

#### **Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:**

*All Safety Partnership areas must continue with Prevent activity and the work of the Prevent Board; maintaining and building further positive engagement between communities, police and partners; to enable identification of key individuals who may be radicalising others, and to safeguard any vulnerable persons.*

*There should be central consideration about whether there may be a need for enhanced mechanisms to allow young people to raise concerns if they feel they or their peers are becoming radicalised or showing extremist behaviour.*

*There remains a need for the Prevent Board and Safety Partnership areas to support partner agencies with low Prevent referral rates, including supporting their understanding of the referral mechanism to improve referral quality.*

*Safety Partnerships and Prevent partners should continue raising awareness of existing and emerging far-right and extreme right-wing groups and encourage reporting of concerns through usual channels such as Prevent.*

*Safety Partnerships should engage with other partners to improve knowledge and understanding of hate crime amongst groups who are less present in recorded incidents, in particular; the LGBTQ+ community, those with disabilities and/or learning difficulties, and those with mental health needs.*

## **Modern Slavery:**

### **Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:**

*Safety Partnerships should continue with co-ordinated partnership activity to tackle modern slavery, including the implementation of consistent training packages to improve awareness and knowledge of the factors which may highlight victims and perpetrators and to increase our understanding of the scale and scope of this threat.*

*Safety Partnerships should contribute to the multi-agency Anti-Slavery Partnership Tactical Group; to assist with early intervention for victims, disruption of offender networks and support a co-ordinated approach to enforcement activity. It is important for partners to remain engaged and in tune with national discussion around Modern Slavery, and developments to make the National Referral Mechanism better tailored for victimised children and young people.*

*It is important for partners and front-line services to have strong awareness of the range of offending included under Modern Slavery including that many victims and perpetrators of Domestic Servitude and Forced Labour offences in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent are British. Safety Partnerships should remain engaged with Staffordshire Police and the Police Knowledge Hub in order to become aware of any shifts or emerging changes in Modern Slavery.*

## **Fire and Fire Risks:**

### **Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:**

*Support partners in front-line services to be able to recognise fire-risk in homes and recognise where factors are present that have links to disproportionate levels of fire-related casualties. Partners should make appropriate referrals to Fire and Rescue, or provide appropriate information, advice and support to individuals to reduce risk. This should also extend to partners who engage with businesses and the agricultural community.*

## **Business Crime:**

**[NEW]** Preliminary findings from Staffordshire Commissioner's Office report on Business Crime suggests that there may be a need for greater engagement with smaller businesses in partnership areas, in order to better understand their needs and how they are impacted by crime.

### **Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:**

*Continue to engage with Business Crime Advisors at the Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce as appropriate. Engage with the development and delivery of pan-Staffordshire Business Crime strategy.*

## **Serious Violence and Knife Crime:**

**[NEW]** All Safety Partnership areas must anticipate that when COVID restrictions become more relaxed, activity in public places (including activity linked to the night-time economy) will increase considerably – and as such there will likely be an equivalent increase in Public Place Violent and alcohol-related offences.

### **Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:**

*All Safety Partnerships should remain engaged with the development and delivery of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Serious Violence Reduction Strategy.*

*Partnerships should continue work with licensing authorities to identify and tackle heavy drinking in areas with high levels of alcohol-related disorder and public place violence. Authorities should work with licenced premises to support staff in recognising signs of potential violence amongst individuals/groups and take appropriate preventative action.*

*To reduce re-offending, joined-up multi-agency support should exist for first-time violent offenders (including those who do not progress through the criminal justice system) in order to support and address relevant behavioural needs and/or any needs relating to mental health, in addition to relevant needs relating to alcohol or substance misuse.*

*Partnerships should continue to focus on early intervention for young people at risk of gang involvement and should to continue to engage in the delivery and development of gang prevention and disruption strategy as appropriate.*

*There is ongoing need to work with education settings, pupil referral units, care homes, prisons, youth groups, other youth services, and housing associations to raise awareness of the dangers, risks and legal repercussions associated with carrying knives and other weapons. Local evidence suggests a need to focus on those aged 11-18 years.*

## Appendix C: Methodology

The prioritisation setting process for 2020-21 has taken account of existing priorities, analysis, reporting and intelligence to identify any shift in, or emerging key priorities - validated through conversations with individual CSP leads.

Previous priorities have been identified through a review of existing strategic risk and threat assessments, analysis of locality data, local and force-wide intelligence, intelligence from appropriate partners and stakeholders and national bodies (such as Action Fraud).

## Appendix D: Data tables

**Overall Crime: Ward-level count and rate, 2019-20** (wards where rate is above average)

Ward Name	ALL CRIME	Arson and Criminal Damage	Burglary	Drug Offences	Misc. Crimes Against Society	Possession of Weapons	Public Order Offences	Robbery	Sexual Offences	Theft	Vehicle Offences	Violence against the Person
Stowe	134.3	15.2	5.8	4.4	1.0	1.1	8.9	1.1	3.2	45.0	5.7	42.3
Chasetown	118.5	13.4	5.4	5.6	2.3	1.2	4.9	1.4	1.6	30.3	13.4	38.9
Bourne Vale	87.6	4.0	8.1	4.4	13.4	1.0	2.3	0.0	2.7	9.7	8.7	31.2
Curborough	71.7	6.0	2.1	1.2	1.2	0.2	3.9	0.2	3.7	7.2	5.6	40.5
Boney Hay & Central	64.2	6.7	2.2	0.8	1.3	0.5	3.3	1.3	2.0	15.0	5.2	25.8
Fazeley	58.6	5.7	5.5	0.6	1.3	0.4	2.8	1.3	1.9	6.1	8.3	24.8
Leomansley	57.9	6.0	2.5	1.4	0.4	0.0	3.2	0.3	1.7	12.6	5.8	24.1
Chadsmead	57.3	5.8	3.1	1.7	0.6	0.2	3.3	0.0	3.1	7.1	3.9	28.5
Shenstone	56.0	9.2	3.7	4.6	1.8	0.0	1.8	1.4	0.5	6.0	15.1	11.5
Summerfield & All Saints	51.3	5.7	2.1	1.7	1.3	0.6	1.7	0.0	1.4	7.7	6.6	22.4
Longdon	49.8	4.1	10.2	2.0	1.0	0.5	1.0	0.0	0.0	7.6	2.0	21.3
Alrewas & Fradley	46.2	6.0	5.5	1.5	0.7	0.3	1.8	0.0	0.8	6.8	7.3	15.1
Hammerwich with Wall	43.0	5.4	3.3	3.8	0.7	0.5	1.6	0.9	0.0	8.9	6.6	9.9
Little Aston & Stonnall	40.6	4.0	6.2	0.6	0.2	0.0	2.3	1.2	0.0	9.4	5.6	11.0
Armitage with Handsacre	38.2	2.9	3.0	1.0	1.0	0.5	2.3	0.4	1.5	4.1	2.5	18.9
Whittington & Streethay	37.1	3.5	5.3	1.1	0.4	0.2	1.6	0.5	0.7	7.6	6.2	9.4
St John's	32.6	2.6	2.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.4	0.3	1.6	8.1	3.7	11.7
Colton & the Ridwares	32.0	2.7	5.4	0.9	0.5	0.5	2.3	0.0	0.0	4.1	4.1	11.3
Highfield	31.2	2.2	2.2	1.1	0.4	0.2	2.7	0.0	1.1	3.3	3.6	14.0
Mease Valley	29.5	2.6	7.2	0.5	0.5	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.5	6.7	4.1	5.7
Chase Terrace	27.4	3.6	3.2	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.6	0.9	4.5	3.2	9.8
Boley Park	26.6	4.2	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.5	5.4	2.8	9.6

Key ■ Significantly above average ■ Above average



## Appendix E: Mosaic Groups (Source: Experian Mosaic, Grand Index v3.00)

Group/Type	Group/Type Name	One-Line Description
A	Country Living	Well-off owners in rural locations enjoying the benefits of country life
B	Prestige Positions	Established families in large detached homes living upmarket lifestyles
C	City Prosperity	High status city dwellers in central locations pursuing careers with high rewards
D	Domestic Success	Thriving families who are busy bringing up children and following careers
E	Suburban Stability	Mature suburban owners living settled lives in mid-range housing
F	Senior Security	Elderly people with assets who are enjoying a comfortable retirement
G	Rural Reality	Householders living in less expensive homes in village communities
H	Aspiring Homemakers	Younger households settling down in housing priced within their means
I	Urban Cohesion	Residents of settled urban communities with a strong sense of identity
J	Rental Hubs	Educated young people privately renting in urban neighbourhoods
K	Modest Traditions	Mature homeowners of value homes enjoying stable lifestyles
L	Transient Renters	Single people renting low cost homes for the short term
M	Family Basics	Families with limited resources who budget to make ends meet
N	Vintage Value	Elderly people with limited pension income, mostly living alone
O	Municipal Tenants	Urban residents renting high density housing from social landlords

## **Community Safety Delivery Plan Outline 2021 – 2022**

### **Introduction**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places obligations on the Community Safety Partnership to produce a Community Safety Plan to outline how all partners intend to work together to impact upon crime and disorder, substance misuse and reduce reoffending in the local area. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 changed the way crime and anti-social behaviour was to be tackled, as it is recognised that in order to be effective, agencies needed to work together to address the issues collectively.

### **Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in Lichfield District**

Lichfield District CSP has a core group of members that includes representatives from the following organisations:

Lichfield District Council  
Staffordshire Police  
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Staffordshire Probation Service  
Staffordshire County Council  
Bromford Housing Group  
Support Staffordshire  
Pathway  
Humankind

### **Impact of Covid 19**

The delivery plan for 2020 – 21 was produced prior to the Covid 19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic has changed the outlook for the delivery of public services and realigned many priorities. This plan will need to be flexible as recovery from the pandemic commences and new issues emerge. In addition each priority identified below will have to be cognisant of the changes to perception and demand as we emerge from Covid restrictions.

### **Lichfield Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2020 (Appendix One)**

On behalf of the CSP the Strategy Team at Staffordshire County Council create an annual strategic assessment, with the following description:

“This Community Safety Strategic Assessment provides evidence and intelligence to inform the strategic decision-making process - helping commissioners and partners to determine the priorities that require particular attention in their local area.”

This assessment, helps the formulation of the priorities for Lichfield District CSP and helps drive the delivery plan.

### **Lichfield CSP Priorities 2021 – 2022**

The Strategic Assessment has highlighted the following priorities for Lichfield:

Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)  
Domestic Abuse  
Car Key Burglary and Car Theft  
County Lines  
Fraud  
Vulnerable Persons – Alcohol; Mental Health; Contextual Safeguarding – Complex Cases

City Centre  
Chasetown

There is also a development needed in the assessment of data.

In addition the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) for Staffordshire has identified approaches to tackling Community Safety challenges as follows (P.7):

Early Intervention and Prevention  
Supporting Victims and Witness  
Managing Offenders -  
Public Confidence

These principles have been incorporated into the responses to the priorities identified above and run through the proposed responses to each plan. In order to make this more effective they have been recast slightly.



## Action Plan

The action plan is still in development and needs to be completed, agreed and published by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021. The template set out below and the examples given are indicative of the kind of structure proposed for the plan in 2021/22. The Actions and responses are yet to be developed and agreed by partners. They will though build upon existing provision and gaps will be, where possible, be filled through services commissioned through Locality Delivery Funding.

It is acknowledged that at this stage there is, in some areas a lack of consistent data to enable an effective assessment of some of the proposed actions. In itself the development of a better base line data set for the partnership will be an aspiration for 2021/22. An example of this is that we currently only have data provided by the police as to the number of reports of ASB received by them. We know though that some of our local registered social landlords receive and manage a significant number of ASB cases that may never be reported to the police.

It is not anticipated that all services provided by all agencies will be captured in the action plan but that this will be a high level plan setting out the key actions which may be delivered by a number of different agencies.

Anti-social Behaviour (example)		
Early Intervention Prevention	Actions	Outcomes
	Develop or commission diversionary sporting activity in the community aimed at providing positive alternative activities for young people	Reduction in ASB incidents reported in 'hotspot areas'
	Triaging of ASB reports to key agencies to prevent duplicated responses and ensuring the most appropriate supporting agency offers support at the earliest opportunity	Quicker more effective responses at an early stage
Managing Perpetrators	Actions	Outcomes
	Taking swift positive action to tackle those causing anti-social behaviour to 'stop the harm' and prevent a recurrence	Reduction in repeat incidences of ASB and repeat victimisation
Supporting Victims & Witnesses	Actions	Outcomes

	Working closely to offer support to people suffering from ASB to ensure that they are better able to deal with the issues they are facing	Better satisfaction with the ASB response
Public Confidence	Actions	Outcomes
	Develop regular communications and messaging to the people of Lichfield District to encourage them to manage instances of ASB more effectively and seek support from the CSP as required.	A community more capable of responding to and managing ASB

Domestic Abuse (example)		
Early Intervention Prevention	Actions	Outcomes
	Ensure all reports of domestic abuse that are responded to by Staffordshire police are effectively risk assessed at source and appropriate support offered	Fewer medium and high risk cases and incidents being reported
Managing Perpetrators	Actions	Outcomes
	Repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse to be identified and be offered support to change behaviour	Reduction in repeated domestic abuse by the same perpetrator
Supporting Victims & Witnesses	Actions	Outcomes
	Commissioned and voluntary services to be engaged appropriately around all survivors of domestic abuse	Increased numbers of survivors of domestic abuse engaging with support agencies and increasing their resilience and awareness as to how they can get help
Public Confidence	Actions	Outcomes
	Publicity and awareness raising around key events and times of the year, e.g. Euro 21, Christmas	Increased levels of awareness and confidence that if domestic abuse occurs there is support readily available.



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## COUNCILLOR LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement

Date: 10 March 2021

Contact Officer: Susan Bamford

Tel Number: 01543 308170

Email: Susan.bamford@lichfielddc.gov.uk

Key Decision? YES

Local Ward Members All Wards



## COMMUNITY, HOUSING & HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 A Councillor Community Grant Scheme is being considered to enable councillors to directly award funding to grassroots organisations in their ward. Small amounts of funding can make a big difference to communities at a local level and elected members are well placed to identify local needs.
- 1.2 If agreed it is proposed that the scheme is run as a pilot over 2 years in order to assess its impact and value for money.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That members give their views on the option of setting up a Councillor Local Community Grant Scheme.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 Across the District we are lucky to have a strong, vibrant and diverse voluntary and community sector which plays a key role in supporting residents and local communities and particularly those who need some extra help. Voluntary and Community Sector organisations are able to reach people and places where statutory organisations may not be able to, delivering earlier support, individually tailored help and offering great added value.
- 3.2 In recognition of the role the voluntary and community sector plays, the council has continued to make funding of £200k available on an annual basis. £163k of this is currently open for bidding with a closing date of 29 April 2021. This has a minimum funding award of £5k so as to fund longer term projects that can show a significant impact across the district or for specific communities. A further £23k is distributed on an annual basis in partnership with We Love Lichfield. This scheme has a maximum award of £1K.
- 3.3 Voluntary and Community organisations vary enormously both in terms of their size and structures and how they support local communities. Whilst many rely on significant grant funding to deliver key support, for some more grass root organisations a small amount of funding such as £50 towards a new cooker for a lunch club can make a massive difference. Some of these groups are not eligible for some funding because they are not charities or constituted organisations.
- 3.4 Elected members are often well placed to identify local needs and are in touch with grass root organisations operating in their ward. On this basis a small amount of funding awarded through a

councillor community grant scale could have a significant impact with a minimum of administration. Those members who are county councillors will be familiar with similar schemes through the county council.

3.5 Attached at Appendix A is a proposed scheme. If agreed it is recommended that this is run as a pilot over 2 years in order to assess the impact and value for money. To make it as easy as possible for grassroots organisations to apply it would be supported by a simple on line application form focussing on the purpose of the organisation and what they need funding for. Any funding awarded would have to be paid into a bank account in the name of the group.

3.6 If each member is given £300 for their ward then £14,100 would be available across all wards. At this stage this funding has been taken out of the £177k larger funding scheme, currently open for applications.

Alternative Options	1. The funding earmarked for the scheme could be made available through the funding prospectus currently open but as this has a minimum award of £5k this isn't available to small grassroots organisations.
Consultation	1. Leadership Team and the Cabinet member for Community Engagement have been consulted on the draft scheme.
Financial Implications	1. This is not additional funding as the £14k required to fund the scheme has been taken from the £177k available for projects to support local communities. 2. The funding has potential to make a significant difference to local grass root organisations at minimum cost. If the scheme is managed by members the key costs would be to process the payments.
Contribution to the Delivery of the Strategic Plan	1. Funding voluntary and community sector organisations makes a significant contribution to Enabling People and Shaping Place.
Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications	1. The funding could be used to fund activities that support groups with protected characteristics and therefore support the council's equalities objectives.
Crime & Safety Issues	1. The funding could be used to impact (positively) on our duty to prevent crime and disorder within the District (Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1988) – e.g. security measures.
Environmental Impact	1. The funding could be used to fund grassroots activities that have a positive environmental impact.
GDPR/Privacy Impact Assessment	1. If the proposed scheme is agreed a Privacy Impact Assessment would be undertaken. The group/ contact information would be sent directly to the ward councillor and appropriate information safeguards would need to be put in place in relation to contact details.

	Risk Description	How We Manage It	Severity of Risk (RYG)
A	Inappropriate awarding/ use of funding	Members would make declarations about the use of funding and the	Risk - Yellow

		amount of funding available ensures there is no significant financial risk	Impact – Yellow / Red (dependent on amount awarded)  Likelihood - Yellow
B	Funding not allocated	The responsibility for allocation funding would rest with members	Risk – Yellow  Impact – Yellow  Likelihood - Yellow
D			
E			

### Background documents

### Relevant web links

[www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/cvsfunding](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/cvsfunding)

[www.welovelichfield.com](http://www.welovelichfield.com)

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## **Councillor Local Community Fund**

The purpose of the fund is to enable Councillors to respond to local needs by awarding one-off funding to voluntary, recreational and community groups who can make a difference in their locality.

Each Councillor has £300 to award for the benefit of their area and is responsible for determining how they wish to promote and use the budget. The fund will be advertised on the council's website and shared with voluntary and community sector forums. Awards can be made to any not for profit group that is supporting the local community, with amounts ranging from £25 to £300. Ward Councillors also have the option to join up with other Councillors up to a maximum award of £900 per group.

Applications can be made at any time from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> December but will be awarded on a first come first served basis for use by 31 March the following year. Applications are made direct to the ward Councillor who ensures that the application form is fully completed and all of the required information is included. The ward Councillor makes the funding decision and lets the applicant know of the outcome of their decision.

Payments are made by bank transfer to an account in the name of the group/Organisation on the application form. All awarded funding must be claimed and reimbursed within the current financial year. Unspent funds will not be carried forward into the next financial year.

The funding cannot be used for projects or activities that will only benefit an individual or an individual family or a private business, political organizations or projects or activities that seek to promote a faith or belief as their main purpose. A Councillor cannot fund a group or activity if they or a member of their household are a trustee of the Organisation applying for funding.

All approved funding allocated will be published at the end of the financial year. At the point of agreeing funding Councillors will be required to sign a declaration stating that as far as they are aware making the payment to the community groups would not result in fraudulent or illegal activity or any practices that would bring Lichfield District council into disrepute.

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