

Somerset Council & Safer Somerset Partnership: Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny 2023

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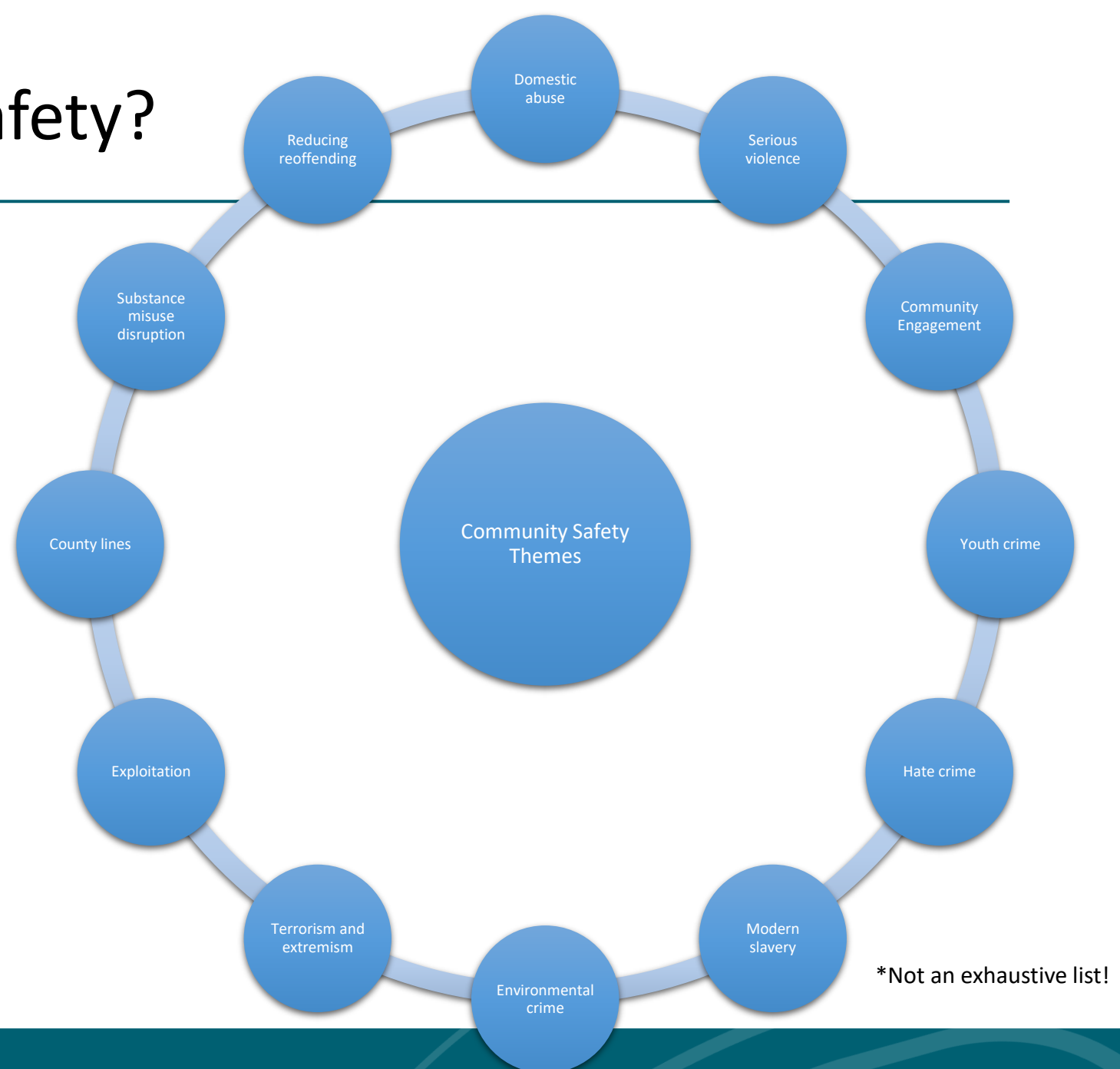
Somerset
Council

Content

- Community Safety, prevalence and Statutory Duties
- Somerset Council Community Safety Function
- The Safer Somerset Partnership and key functions
- Key achievements – focus on Domestic Abuse and Serious Violence
- Challenges and looking to the future

What is Community Safety?

Any activity that is designed to prevent and reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and reassure communities, so they feel safer.



A diagram illustrating the concept of violence as a contagious disease. It features five stylized human figures on a light blue background. Three figures are colored orange, representing individuals affected by violence, while two are white with dark blue outlines, representing unaffected individuals. Curved arrows indicate the transmission of violence: one arrow points from a white figure to an orange figure, another from an orange figure to another orange figure, and a third from an orange figure to a fourth orange figure. A fourth arrow points from an orange figure towards the right, towards the text. The overall layout suggests a chain of contagion.

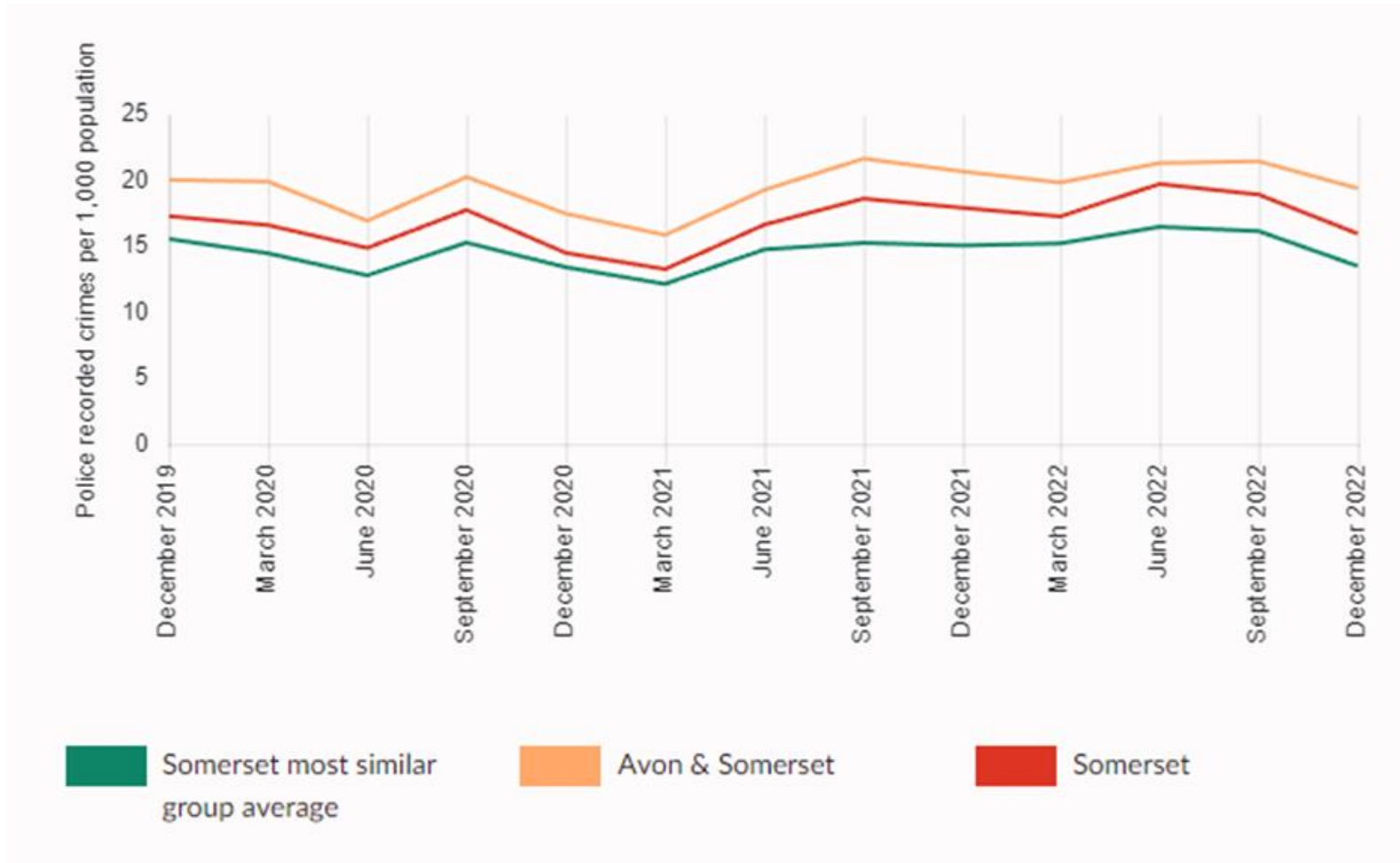
Taking a Public Health Approach

"Violence is a contagious disease...violence is spread from one person to another.."

(Slutkin 2013)

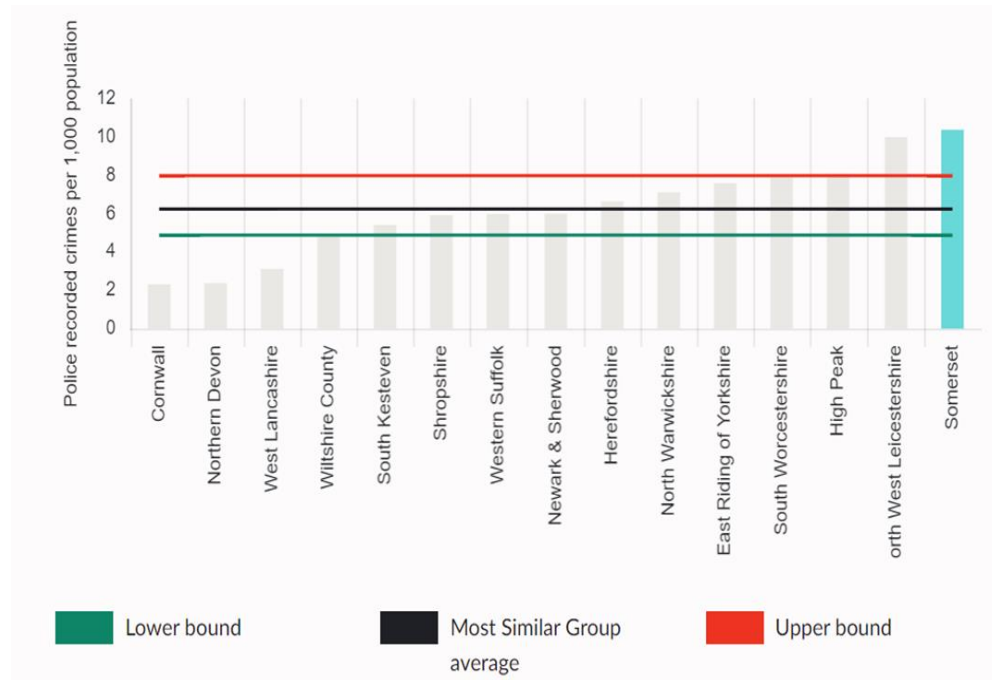
It is therefore, preventable!

Prevalence

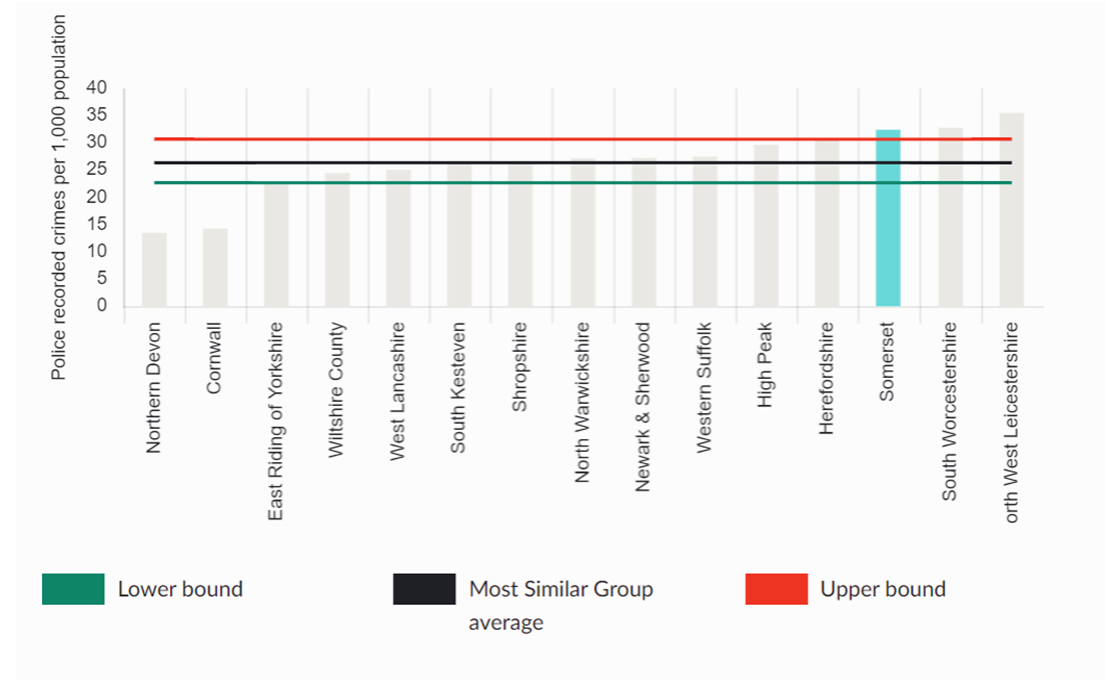


Areas of focus

Public Order offences



Violence and Sexual offences



Statutory Duties

Legislation	Duty
Crime and Disorder Act (1998)	Duty for agencies to work together and share information to reduce crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour.
Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act (2004) Section 9	Stipulates that Local Community Safety partnerships must commission and publish Domestic Homicide Reviews .
Police and Justice Act (2006)	Community Safety Needs Assessment and Strategy
Police and Crime Act (2009), Section 108	Places a statutory duty on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce reoffending by adult and young offenders.
Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014	Introduced more effective tools and powers for a range of statutory organisations; including community triggers.
Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015), Section 26	Prevent Duty – CLTP, Awareness and Training and lead Prevent Board, Due regard. Revised Channel Duty - Channel Panel
Domestic Abuse Act (2021)	New definition , Council to lead all activity. Domestic Abuse Board on a statutory footing, Strategy, Assessments, commissioning, safe accommodation.
Serious Violence Duty: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act (2022)	Requires agencies to share information, formulate evidence-base, and then produce and implement a strategy

What is the Community Safety Function in Somerset Council?

Strategic

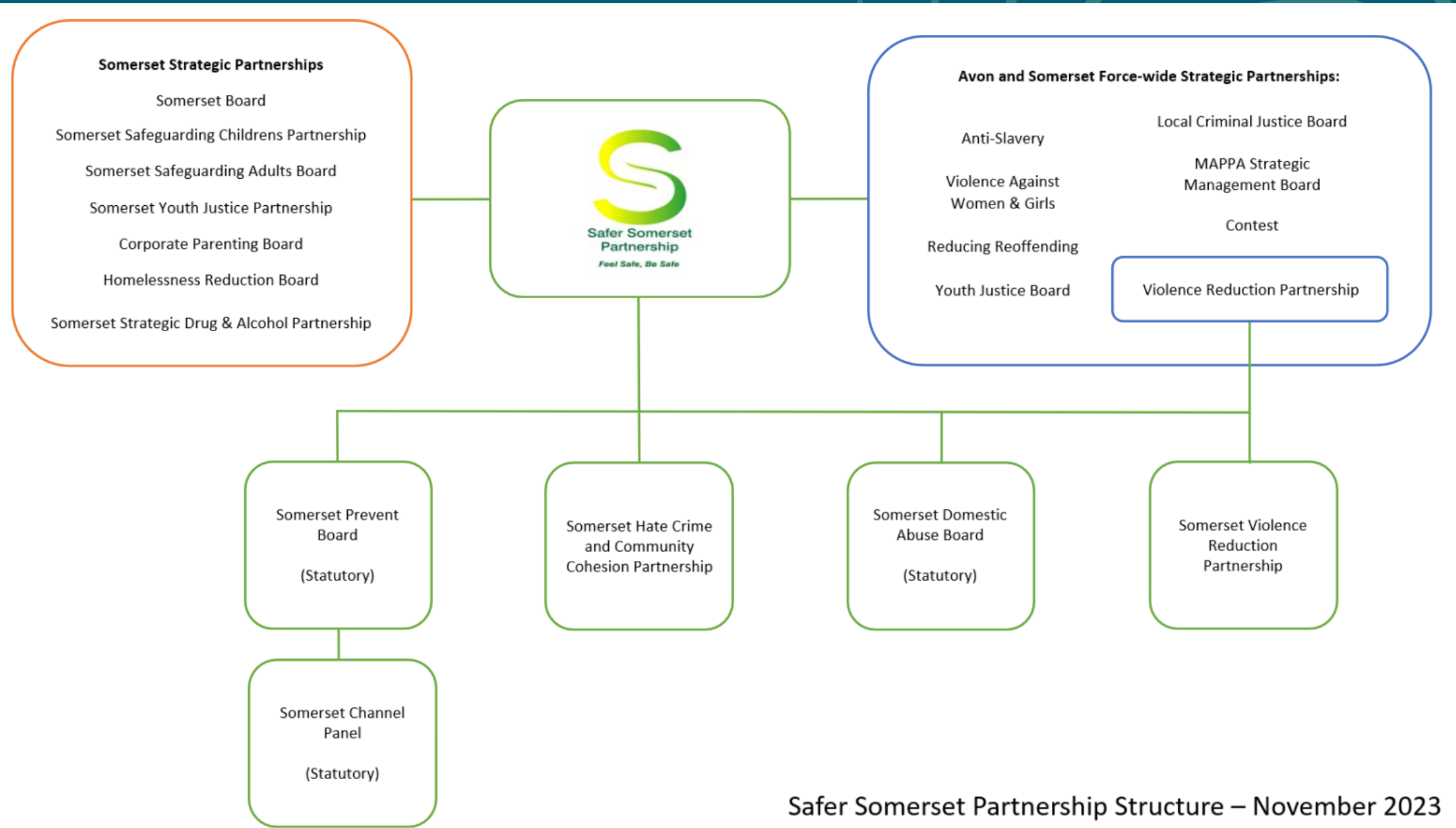
- Translate Legislation into Local Policy
- Ensure Council discharges its statutory responsibilities
- Strategy development
- Commissioning and service design
- Allocates budgets against strategic priorities
- Partnership Management
- Systems change

Tactical

- Needs Assessment and collecting intelligence
- Problem Solving
- Contract monitoring
- Facilitating multi-agency meetings
- Managing quality assurance processes (i.e. case reviews)

Operational

- Community engagement
- Community facing multi-agency working
- Case management
- Enforcement (enviro crime and ASB)
- Tenancy support



Safer Somerset Partnership Structure – November 2023

Funded interventions against the Community Safety Plan 2022 - 2025

Protect People from the Harm of Domestic and Sexual Abuse

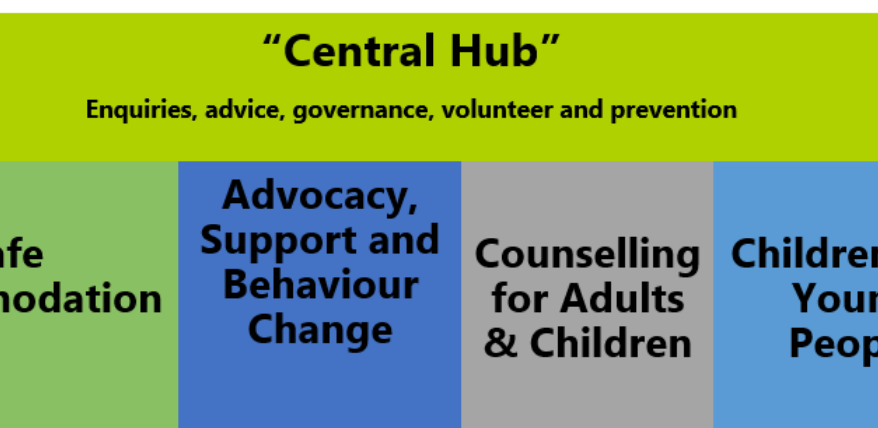
- Project SHE - diversion workers work across Somerset to help divert females from the Criminal Justice System by supporting them to engage with support in a safe and therapeutic environment.
- Domestic Abuse Notification Administrator - facilitate the sharing of domestic abuse information with GPs.
- Large scale awareness campaign

Improve Somerset's response to Serious Violent Crime

- VRU Communications strategy - To include work to implement the Serious Violence Duty and improve accessibility
- Spot purchasing of bespoke schools packages and community prevention and response packages
- Drug and alcohol Hospital Navigators
- Teachable moments programme
- Safer Streets project – joint work between Somerset and North Somerset

Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- Jump Start - Sports mentors for young people at risk of ASB and/or youth justice interventions
- Buddi Tag - Provision of personal monitoring devices that provide active GPS tracking and promote curfew compliance. Somerset Children's Social Care can use these to protect children at risk from exploitation.
- Upgrade to CCTV in Rhode Lane
- Yeovil Boxing Project - Weekly sessions for targeted young people who are on the periphery of the YJ system.



Domestic Abuse 2022-2023

- Implementation of the new **Domestic Abuse Act statutory duties**
- Redesign of Domestic Abuse Services for April 2023:
 - Increase portfolio of safe accommodation
 - Childrens services
 - Counselling trial
- Redevelopment of the New Domestic Abuse Board
- Investment in digital solutions
- Ongoing campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse
 - Employers toolkit
 - 2022-2023 activity resulted in 1003.29% average monthly increase in visitors to the website and a 9.98% increase in calls to SIDAS

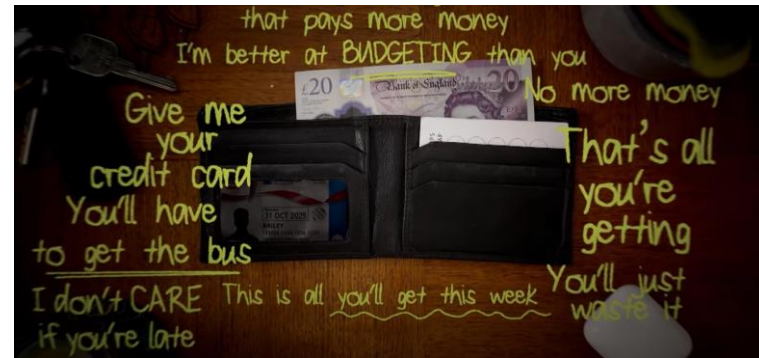
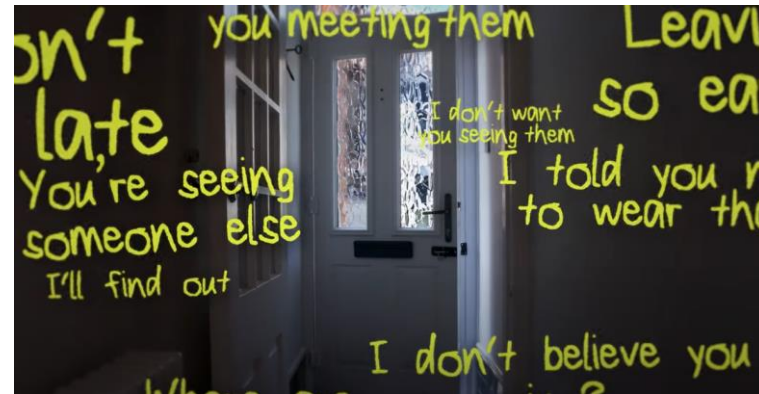
Beyond the bruises:

Somerset's new fight against non-physical domestic abuse

Aims to raise the profile of lesser-known types of domestic abuse and encourage those who may not realise they are being abused to come forward for support and advice.

Launching on White Ribbon Day and at the beginning of the worldwide campaign 16 Days of Action Somerset Council has commissioned 12 short films to shine the spotlight on non-physical types of domestic abuse.

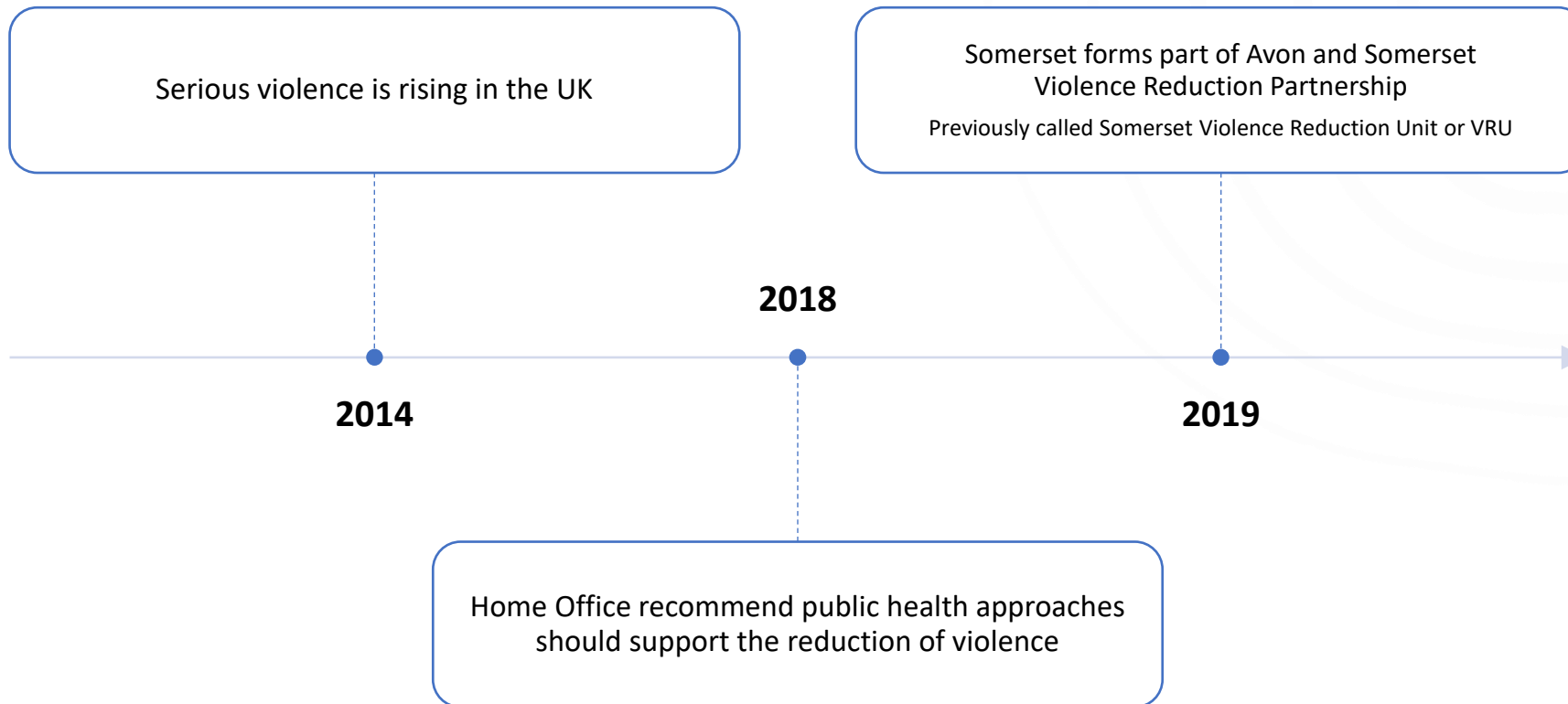
The films direct anyone who is experiencing these forms of abuse to a new website, somersestdomesticabuse.org.uk, where they can get more information, support and advice or by contacting the service on 0800 69 49 999.



[YouTube Link](#)



Serious Violence



Headline data:

Somerset remains a safe place to live, however 1/3 of recorded serious violent crimes in Avon and Somerset occur in Somerset.

Police data suggests Somerset has an increase in the reporting of knife crime, youth violence, domestic abuse and sexual offences

Activity 2022-23



£530,887

VRU Grant approx. 70%
spent on interventions



1398

young people at risk
received support



800

training spaces
provided for
professionals



7540

People reached
through engagement
in our schools, parks
and town centres

A&E Navigator case study



Male aged 15

...presented with an injury to his hand. He reports that on Saturday morning at 3am he was out, a car pulled up, 2 men got out and beat him up and stamped on his hand, pulling one of his nails out. He says they are associated with County Lines.

The young person agreed to ongoing support from SDAS YP Team & was allocated a worker. Due to the levels of concern a Strategy meeting was held.

Challenges for Community Safety Function & Current Priorities

Challenges	Current Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ System change and ambition but reliant on short term or annual grant funding.➤ Advocating for prevention, in a reactive system➤ LGR – community safety may become fragmented➤ Resources are limited but the agenda is ever changing and growing.➤ High number of Needs assessments and strategies to produce throughout the year with minimal resource. (domestic abuse, CTLP, serious violence, community safety)➤ Domestic Homicide Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Review of the community safety team and related functions across the council.➤ Review of arrangements for meeting the Serious Violence Duty in Partnership and how the Council responds to youth violence.➤ New collaboration with North Somerset for Needs Assessment and analytical work.➤ Somerset Reducing Reoffending Strategy.

Time for Questions



Recommendation - Members are asked to consider the format of this segment of the Committee meeting and recommend how they would like to see this run in future years.

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