



**AVON &  
SOMERSET**  
POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER



# AVON & SOMERSET POLICE & CRIME PLAN

SAFER COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

2021/2025





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# PRIORITY 1

## PREVENTING AND FIGHTING CRIME



### AREAS OF FOCUS

- Vulnerable children and adults
- Male violence against women and girls specifically domestic abuse, sexual offences, stalking and harassment
- Drug crime and serious violence
- Neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour specifically burglary, car crime, robbery, theft, hate crime and rural crime
- Fraud and cybercrime
- Road safety

The first Peelian Principle says “*the basic mission for which the police exist is to prevent crime and disorder*”.



### KEY OBJECTIVES

### WHAT WE PLAN TO ACHIEVE?

- Reduce harm caused by crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- Increase the proportion of crimes reported to the police.
- Increase positive outcomes from reported crime and ASB.
- Fewer people to be killed and seriously injured on the roads.

Preventing crime is the single most important thing I want to achieve through this Police and Crime Plan. By preventing crime we reduce the need for a police response and reduce the need to punish people or suppress their rights.

With a focus on prevention we can reduce the amount of crime and ASB but we will never eliminate it. Therefore where incidents do happen I want them reported to the police and I want to see justice done.

## NATIONAL POLICE AND CRIME MEASURES

National priorities for policing are specified in these measures:

- ▶ reduce murder and other homicide;
- ▶ reduce serious violence;
- ▶ disrupt drugs supply and county lines;
- ▶ reduce neighbourhood crime;
- ▶ tackle cyber crime; and
- ▶ improve satisfaction among victims with a particular focus on victims of domestic abuse.

All police forces in England and Wales are expected to contribute achieving these priorities. As you can see the ‘areas of focus’ in this Police and Crime Plan align well with the national themes. By successfully delivering this plan we will be also contributing to the national effort to reduce crime and improve service for victims.

### VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND ADULTS

*A person is vulnerable if, as a result of their situation or circumstances, they are unable to take care of or protect themselves or others from harm or exploitation.*

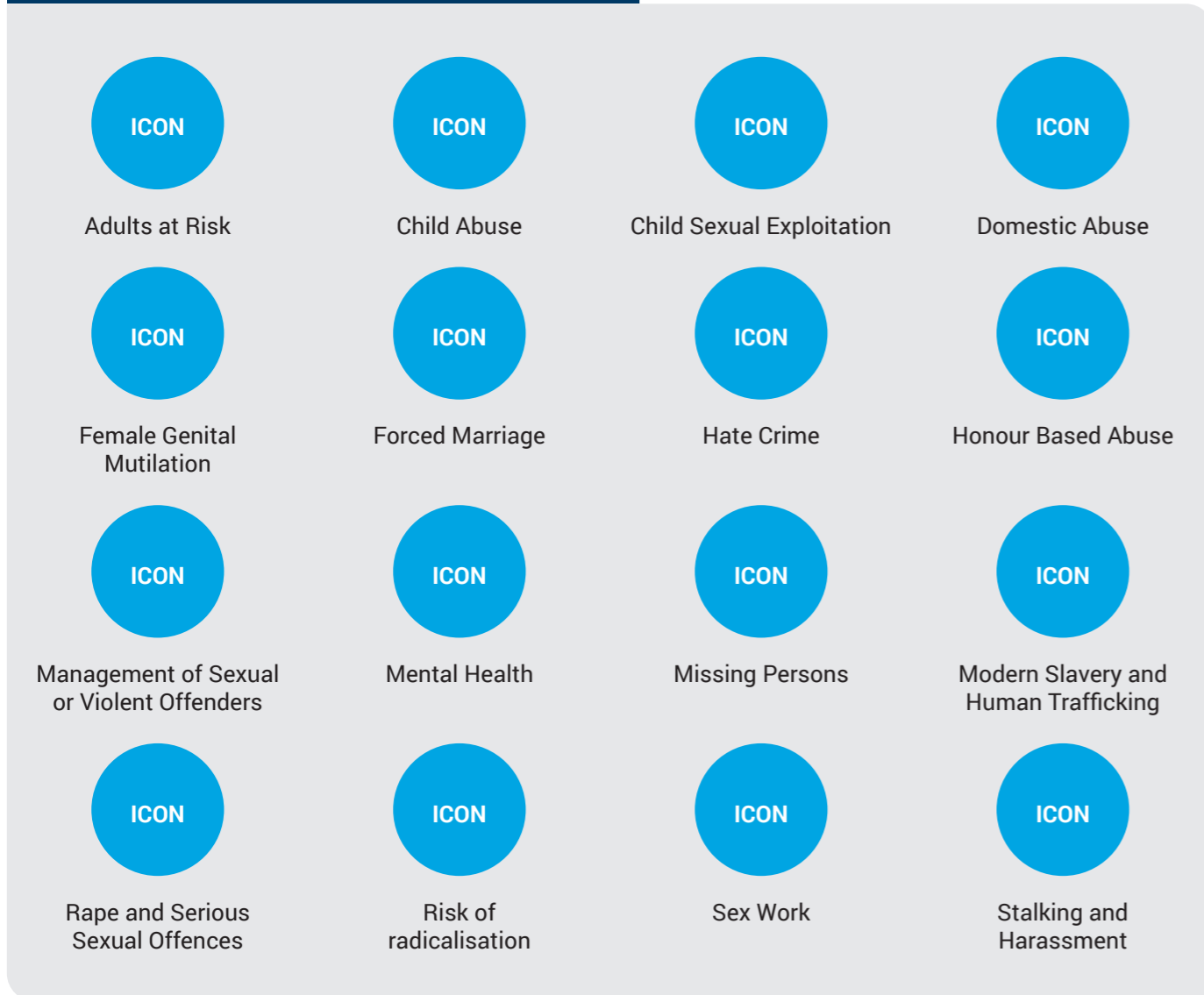


Vulnerability is not just something that effects ‘other people’. Anybody can become vulnerable at any time: that is the unpredictability of life. If you or your loved

ones are vulnerable, I want you to be a priority for Avon and Somerset Police.

RISK OF HARM		
PERSONAL FACTORS	SITUATIONAL FACTORS	
Age	Adverse Family Circumstances	Isolation
Difference	Adverse Community Circumstances	Lack of Power
Disability	Adverse Cultural Influences	Lack of Support
Ethnicity	Coercive Control	Language Barriers
Gender	Grooming	Poverty
Mental Health	Immigrant Status	Risky behaviour
Religion		
Sexual Orientation		
PRESENCE OF ABUSER OR EXPLOITER = HARM		

16 STRANDS OF VULNERABILITY



In Avon and Somerset, in the last year, there were nearly 22,000 vulnerable victims of crime<sup>2</sup>. Unfortunately many crimes against vulnerable people are hidden i.e. they are not reported to the police. So this figure only scratches the surface of the harm caused.

Exploitation is when somebody is groomed, forced or coerced into doing something they don't want to do for someone else's gain. This exploitation may be financial, emotional or physical. Often victims will have been exposed to risk outside the home – peer influences, the internet and social media are becoming key pathways into exploitation.<sup>3</sup> Exploitation of vulnerable adults and children is a significant part of the model of County Lines drugs dealing.

Slavery was abolished in this country about 200 years ago. However there are people in Avon and Somerset today subject to modern slavery and victims of Human Trafficking. The crime may be hidden but the people are not: they may be forced to work in businesses you have used, examples include nail bars and hand car washes.

Serious and organised criminals are benefitting from exploiting people in our communities.

I mentioned the hidden nature of these crimes therefore it is important that we build trust and confidence and A&S Police reach out to these victims in order that they come forward.

It is essential when victims do come forward that A&S Police:

- ▶ recognise and identify their vulnerability;
- ▶ hear their voice so it is at the heart of the investigation;
- ▶ investigate well to ensure the right outcome for the victim; and
- ▶ where possible secure a criminal justice outcome against the perpetrator.

A different approach is adopted where the perpetrator is a child. In these cases the aim is to work with them to divert them away from the criminal justice system and prevent future offending. It is important that even where children have committed a crime their own vulnerability is taken into account and this is particularly true for looked after children and care leavers. Partnership working is crucial in this and the police will continue to work in a way that reflects the national direction such as the [Youth Justice Board Strategic Plan](#).

The CoP and NPCC have issued a [National Vulnerability Action Plan](#) with the intent of improving how all police forces deal with vulnerability. Avon and Somerset Police have self-assessed against this plan and identified where they need to improve. They will continue assurance work against this plan to check and test their progress.

Vulnerability is complex and so the workforce require continued professional development to be able to effectively respond to these incidents. Avon and Somerset Police are adopting a trauma informed approach to policing. This approach is about recognising the trauma that crimes can cause and other trauma people have been through. This is about the police having empathy for the people they come into contact with and working in a way that does not re-traumatise them. This will take training but it is also about a change of attitudes and culture which will take years to embed. The police and partners should continue to explore, together, new and innovative approaches which will help protect and support vulnerable people; Project Bluestone is one example of this in practice (see 'area of focus' 1.3).

