



**AVON &  
SOMERSET**  
POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER

# Performance Report

Quarter ending March 2023 (Q4 2022/23)

**Action Fraud** – is the UK’s national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where victims should report fraud if they have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

**ASP** – Avon and Somerset Police

**Charge** – the formal accusation of an offence, put to a suspect after an initial investigation; this is the start of the prosecution and they will then have to appear at court. [The police can make the decision to charge in less serious offences where the case would be dealt with at Magistrates Court.](#)

**County lines** – a model of illegal drug selling typically involving the supply of drugs from larger cities to smaller cities and towns. This model will often involve exploitation of vulnerable people.

**CPS** – [Crown Prosecution Service.](#)

**Cyber dependent crime** – these are offences that can only be committed using a computer, computer networks or other form of information communications technology.

**Disruptions** – these are more than prosecutions of offences – disruptions are a more flexible and dynamic approach which seeks to interfere with offenders’ networks, lifestyles, and routines so that it is harder for them to commit crime.

**Domestic abuse** – [is where a person is abusive towards another, they are personally connected and are 16 years of age or older.](#)

**Drug trafficking offences** – these are all drug offences other than simple possession of drugs.

**Hate Crime** – where the offender has either demonstrated or been motivated by hostility based on a person’s race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

**MSG** – [Most similar groups.](#) These are groups of police forces that have been found to be the most similar to each other based on an analysis of demographic, social and economic characteristics which relate to crime. They are designated by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS). The forces ‘most similar’ to Avon & Somerset are Derbyshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Staffordshire and Sussex.

**Neighbourhood Crime** – defined in the national [Beating Crime Plan 2021](#) as vehicle-related theft, domestic burglary, theft from the person and robbery of personal property.

**Patrol** – the department of Avon and Somerset Police which has most uniformed officers; these officers attend more incidents than any other department.

**Positive outcome rate** – all recorded crimes must have an outcome assigned at the end of the investigation. Positive outcomes are counted as [Home Office outcomes](#) 1-8 and 22. The Positive outcome rate is the proportion of all outcomes that were positive.

**Project Bluestone** – is the Avon and Somerset Police response to Rape and Serious Sexual Offences. A transformative pathfinder approach being rolled out nationally as part of the cross-governmental improvement plan Operation Soteria.

**Rural Crime** – any offence occurring in a rural area which directly or indirectly affects a farming or rural business or the rural communities. Rural means a close association with or dependence upon the land within that location.

**Serious violence** – defined nationally these are offences that result in the death of a person, “endanger life” or “wounding offences”.

**TacAd** – Tactical Advisor – a person with specialist knowledge or experience of a particular topic who can provide advice to colleagues on how matters should be dealt with.

# **National Police and Crime Measures**

**(Priorities for Policing)**

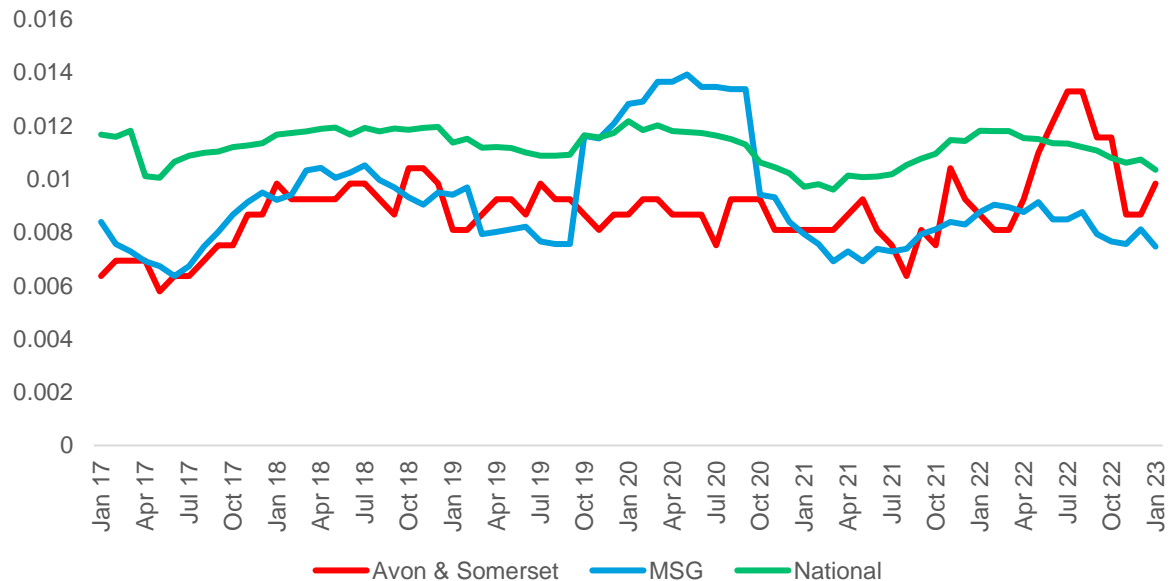
## **Contribution of Avon and Somerset Police**

# Reduce Murder and Other Homicide

## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Police recorded Homicide offences	Stable	6th/8 MSG (above MSG average rates)

Homicide - 12 Month Rolling Rates per 1000 Residents



## Planned Action to Drive Performance

- Continued high intensity policing activity in serious violence hotspots, across the force area, utilising [Home Office Grip funding](#). This will be intelligence driven and combined with problem-solving approaches to design out crime such as additional CCTV, improved lighting and engagement with licensees in the night time economy.
- Embedding of a new 'Initial Learning' review that will take place within 14 days of a homicide occurring to ensure learning is recognised and prevention opportunities acted upon.
- Ongoing communication with other forces and partners to scope and identify good practice in the prevention and reduction of homicide offences.
- Stalking training and awareness inputs, that will include an input on Stalking Protection Orders, to be delivered to call handlers throughout 2023..
- Development of refreshed sudden death procedural guidance, ensuring the thorough completion of investigative actions at the scene of every sudden death, and the early identification of any associated criminality.
- Ongoing review of the force's Risk to Life or Threats of Serious Harm procedure to ensure the force responds adequately to protect those at risk of serious harm or death.

## Comments

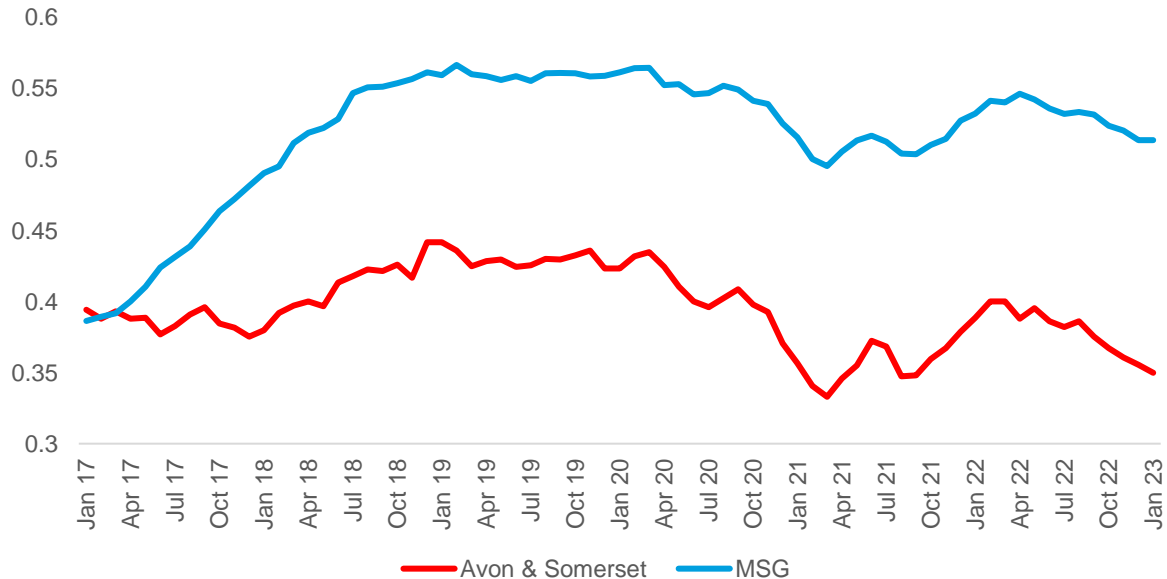
- Between the period of January-March 2023 there were 7 recorded Homicides across Avon and Somerset. This volume accounts for the recent noted increase in rate per 1000 residents.

# Reduce Serious Violence

## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Police recorded serious violence offences	Stable	3rd/8 MSG (below MSG average rates)

Serious Violence - 12 Month Rolling Rates per 1000 Residents



## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Increased commitment to high intensity policing activity in serious violence hotspots, particularly in transport hubs, night time economy and high footfall urban green spaces.
2. New tasking group, comprising local and regional specialist teams to identify and look at top Organised Crime Groups, serious violence and persons at risk.
3. Prioritising intervention and diversion through the Violence Reduction Unit.
4. Enhancements to Command and Control systems to improve intelligence related to high harm offenders.
5. Increased disruption activity in relation to Organised Crime Groups.
6. Updates to Knife Crime plan to better equip officers when responding to knife related or higher harm incidents.
7. Embed strategic multi-agency working through, and in line with, the Serious Violence Duty.
8. New intelligence process for identifying and responding to criminals with access to firearms.
9. Continued engagement with chairs of shooting clubs and firearms dealers to reduce the likelihood of firearms getting to people with criminal intent.

## Comments

1. ASP benchmark well against the MSG group of forces, based on rates of serious violence per 1000 residents.

# Disrupt Drugs Supply and County Lines

## Measures Summary

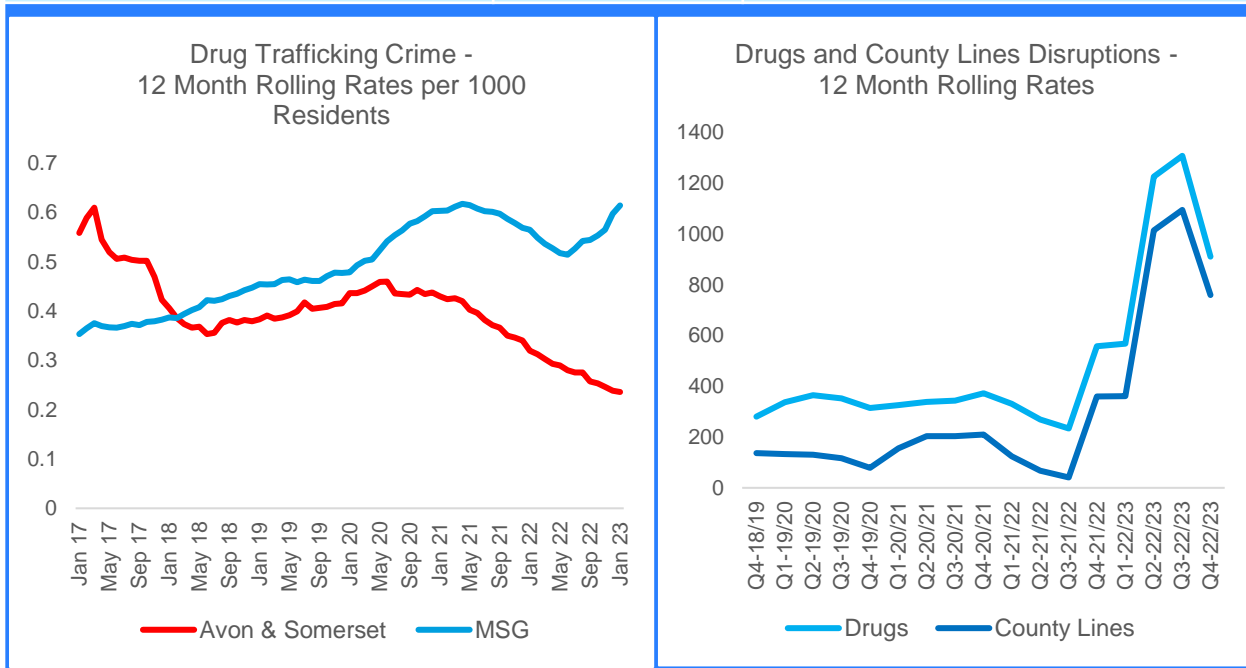
Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Number of drug trafficking offences	Reducing	8th/8 MSG (below MSG average rates)
Number of all drug disruptions	Increasing	Not available
Number of county lines disruptions	Increasing	Not available

## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Proactive work with charity 'Parents against criminal Exploitation' to raise awareness and highlight current trends in drugs supply and County Lines.
2. Discovery work, using on-call youth support workers, to encourage early engagement while children are in custody to maximise early disruption opportunities (reachable moments).
3. Home Office surge funding to provide high visibility patrols in Bristol and Bath to increase community engagement and build intelligence..
4. Operation Vanquish (previously Scorpion): Co-ordinated regional disruption activity to proactively disrupt county lines criminality; protecting communities from criminals engaged in drugs activity and improving community confidence through multi-agency partnership work.
5. Enhancements in the collection and analysis of data to assess the impact of tactics and approaches adopted in Operation Scorpion. This will enable the evidence-based identification of successful policing approaches, in reducing reoffending and improving community confidence surrounding drugs crime.

## Comments

1. The force has a lower rate of drug trafficking offences per 1000 residents, compared to the MSG forces and this gap has been growing since mid 2020. This may indicate less proactive identification of the offending.
2. The increase in recorded disruptions was linked to intensification as part of Operation Scorpion.



# Reduce Neighbourhood Crime

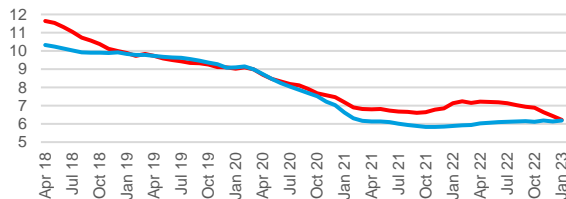
## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Police recorded residential burglary offences	Reducing	4th/8 MSG (above MSG average rates)
Police recorded vehicle crime offences	Reducing	5th/8 MSG (below MSG average rates)
Police recorded personal robbery offences	Stable	6th/8 MSG (above MSG average rates)
Police recorded theft from the person offences	Reducing	3rd/8 MSG (above MSG average rates)

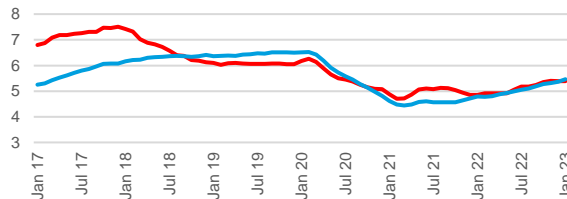
## Planned Action to Drive Performance

- Enhancements to the Problem Solving template to signpost officers to best practice, as well as targeted training for neighbourhood supervisors.
- Evaluation of Problem Solving Plans to identify best practice and ensure consistency in the response to Neighbourhood Crime, with a process to share good PSPs with a central hub and signposting to the College of Policing's 'Practice Bank'.
- Enhancement of the existing proactive and reactive capabilities within Remedy, through structural and process improvements, to reduce neighbourhood crime in local communities across Avon and Somerset.
- Enhancement of the Integrated Offender Management capabilities, through process improvements and police officer uplift investment; thereby better managing neighbourhood crime offenders, and reducing reoffending.

Residential Burglary - 12 Month Rolling Rates per 1000 Households



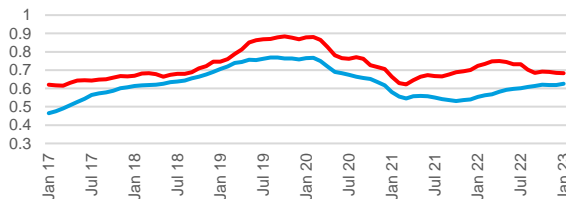
Vehicle Offences - 12 Month Rolling Rates per 1000 Residents



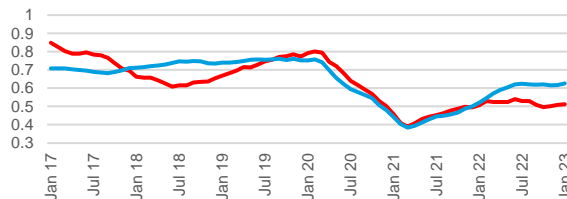
Avon & Somerset

MSG

Personal Robbery - 12 Month Rolling Rates per 1000 Residents



Theft from the person - 12 Month Rolling Rates per 1000 Residents



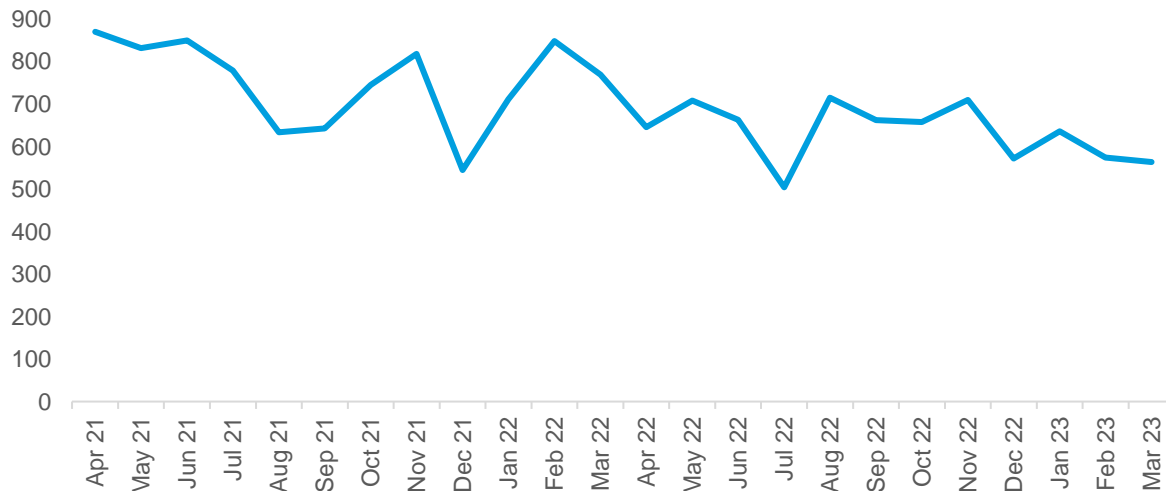
## Comments

- Recorded neighbourhood crimes were impacted significantly during the COVID-19 lockdown periods, and as a result saw large reductions. Although there have been some increase since they have not returned to pre-COVID levels.

## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Investigate 100% of all cyber dependant crime disseminated to forces	Stable (100%)	Not available
Provide 100% of all cyber dependant crime victims with specialist advice	Stable (100%)	Not available
Action Fraud Offences	Reducing	Not available

Action Fraud offences disseminated to Avon and Somerset Police



## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Delivery of cybercrime prevention advice and specialist victim support, through the cybercrime protect officer capability.
2. Promotion of fraud-awareness, linking to national campaigns, to increase public understanding of offending methods and to deliver appropriate crime prevention advice.
3. Recruitment and establishment of additional investigation capacity to support asset and monetary seizures in financial investigations.
4. Continued use of cyber volunteers and specials to enhance specialist cybercrime knowledge.
5. Commencement of a Digital project to address a number of investigative areas including complying with HMICFRS recommendations regarding legal requirements and information security.
6. Embedding crypto-currency training within financial investigation, fraud and cyber teams; equipping staff with enhanced skills and capabilities for the seizure and investigation of offences associated with crypto-currencies.

## Comments

1. There is no local measurement similar to the national measures, which focus on 'Confidence in the law enforcement response to cyber crime' and 'the percentage of businesses experiencing a cyber breach or attack'. Both of these measures are captured at a national level.

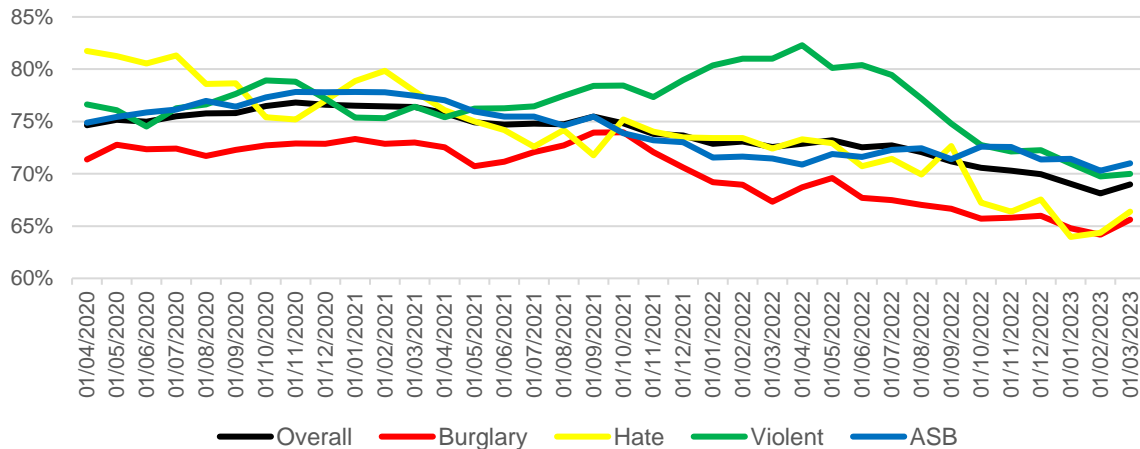


# Improve Victim Satisfaction, with a Focus on Victims of Domestic Abuse

## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Overall victim satisfaction rate	Reducing	Not available
Burglary victim satisfaction	Reducing	Not available
Hate crime victim satisfaction rate	Reducing	Not available
Violent crime victim satisfaction	Stable	Not available
ASB victim satisfaction rate	Reducing	Not available

Victim Satisfaction -  
12 Month Rolling Rate



## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Implementation of the new local [violence against women and girls framework](#) (which includes DA).
2. Project Bluestone (see below slide). This will support victims of domestic abuse-related RASSO.
3. Improvements to the management, monitoring and enforcement of all protective orders, ensuring breaches are robustly dealt with.
4. Creation of new victim information packs to ensure that victims of crime are provided with relevant information, guidance and support.
5. Joint Police and CPS scrutiny panel to review police decisions of 'no further action', identifying learning and best practice to be fed back to the organisation.
6. Increased scrutiny on cases finalised where the victim declines to prosecute or evidential difficulties exist to ensure the victim is at the heart of the investigation.
7. Regular check and test of supervisor reviews examining quality of the investigation, with a particular focus on safeguarding.
8. Development of co-location working practices for Independent Sexual Violence Advisors in police premises to enable closer working.

## Comments

1. Dwelling burglary shows higher satisfaction levels than all burglary (80.3% vs 65.6%).
2. There is no existing domestic abuse victim satisfaction survey currently in place in Avon and Somerset.

# Better Criminal Justice Outcomes for Rape Cases

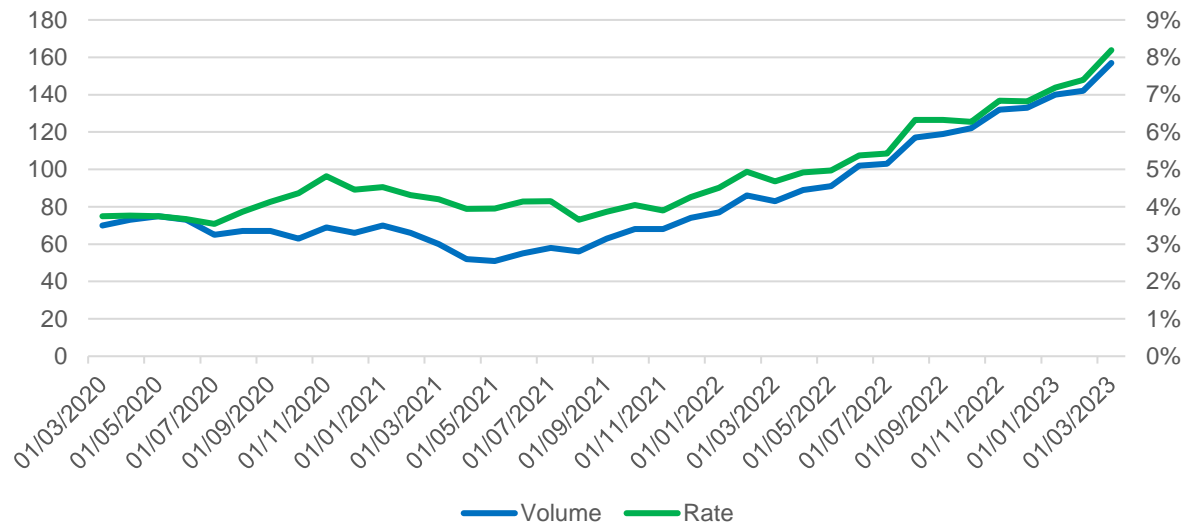
## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Charge volumes for rape offences	Increasing	Not available
Charge rate for rape offences	Increasing	3rd/8 MSG (below MSG average rates)

## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Delivery of Project Bluestone, and the recruitment and implementation of specialist teams dedicated to the investigation of rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO). (Project Bluestone proposed the development of a 'gold standard' framework for the investigation of RASSO, using specialist investigators to enhance victim contact and disrupt persistent offenders).
2. Focused improvements for case file quality and the increased use of early advice from the Crown Prosecution Service, in order to improve criminal justice outcomes for RASSO.
3. Focussed improvements in the accessibility and service provision of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) to victims of sexual violence.
4. Development of supervisor guidance to quality assure RASSO investigations. Accompanied by assurance of supervisor reviews to assess and monitor the quality of supervisory direction and investigative action-setting.
5. Continued joint training with CPS and ISVAs to improve partnership working for a better joined up approach to support victims through the criminal Justice System.

Rape - 12 Month Rolling  
Charge & Summons Volume and Rate



## Comments

1. There has been a sustained improvement in the number and volume of charge and summons since the end of 2021. This is directly attributable to Project Bluestone.

# Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025

## Contribution of Avon and Somerset Police\* Priority 1 – Preventing and fighting crime

\*The national measures in the previous section also align with the local plan as shown below.

National measures	Local areas of focus
Reduce Murder and Other Homicide	Drug crime and serious violence
Reduce Serious Violence	
Disrupt Drugs Supply and County Lines	
Reduce Neighbourhood Crime	Neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour
Tackle Cybercrime	Fraud and cybercrime
Improve Victim Satisfaction, with a Focus on Victims of Domestic Abuse	Supporting victims of crime and anti-social behaviour
Better Criminal Justice Outcomes for Rape Cases	Male violence against women and girls

# Vulnerable children and adults

		Impact				
		Not currently undertaking any work	Started work but requires considerable development and/ or improvement	At this current time, it is not possible to make a judgement about performance	Performing well but there are still areas which require development and/or improvement	Performance is advanced, all outcomes are being met and the areas for development are nil or negligible
<b>Implementation</b>	Action is a one-off, with the action perceived as not being helpful, not having worked or that it wouldn't work in practice					
	Action is tended to be thought about in response to a crisis or external stimulus		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence-Led Prosecutions</li> <li>Officer Norms</li> <li>Recruitment</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with Communities</li> </ul>	
	Delivery of the action is low cost or process focused rather than quality-focused (i.e. how many or how much, rather than how well)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voice of the Victim</li> </ul>			
	Action is actively invested in and areas of improvement are always being sought		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data Collection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognition and Response</li> <li>Mental Health</li> <li>Access to Services</li> <li>Appropriate Action</li> <li>Tasking and Review Process</li> <li>Analytical Capability</li> <li>Evidence and Investigation</li> <li>Resilient Staff</li> <li>Multi-Agency Hubs</li> </ul>	
	Action is a way of life and embedded in everything staff do, from the frontline to senior managers					

## Planned Action to Drive Performance

- 'Think Child' campaign to raise awareness of staff's responsibility to be more child-focussed and ensure that vulnerable children are identified and safeguarded early. This will include a series of webinars from specialist officers and staff; training for frontline officers about a trauma-informed response to children that have suffered abuse; school visits by local neighbourhood officers and violence reduction teams; and promotion of the signs to look out for and how to report concerns.
- Undertake a Child Protection self-assessment against a set of criteria to understand where we are performing well and where there are gaps.
- Improvements to the allocation of crimes against children to ensure these are investigated by the right specialist teams with appropriate safeguarding and a child-focus.
- 'Protecting vulnerable people' to be included in the Performance Control Strategy to improve oversight and in response to the recent PEEL areas for improvement.

## Comments

- This is too broad for performance to be captured in a couple of statistical measures. The ASP self-assessment (left) provides a better insight, with priority areas highlighted, and vulnerability reports are scrutinised by the PCC on a quarterly basis.
- Some of the most prolific types of vulnerability are covered separately in this report e.g. domestic abuse and RASSO.

# Male violence against women and girls

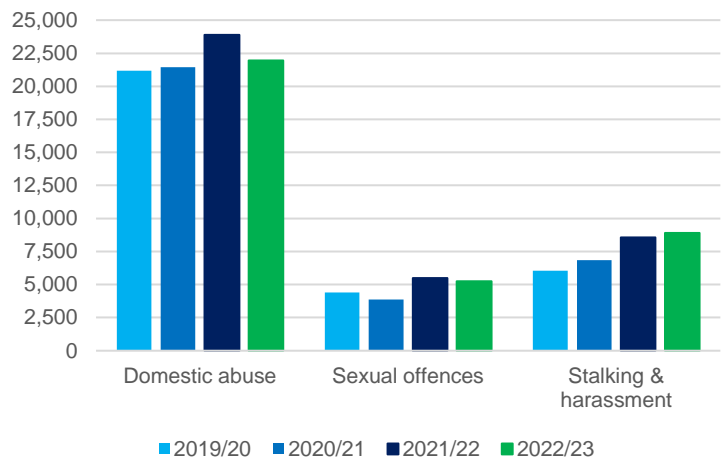
## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Domestic abuse recorded crime	Stable	Not available
Sexual offences recorded crime	Increasing	
Stalking & harassment recorded crime	Increasing	
Positive outcome rate	Stable	Not available

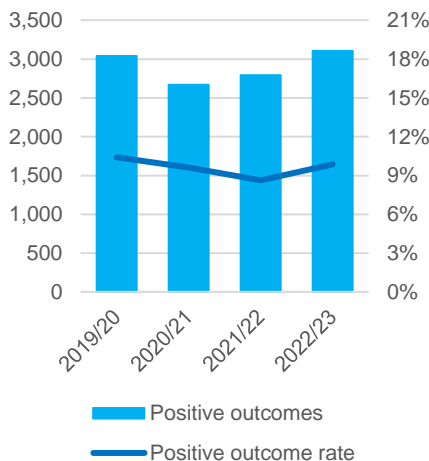
## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. [Local Delivery Framework](#) which reflects the [national framework](#). The plan has 34 actions against three pillars: build trust and confidence; relentless perpetrator pursuit and safer spaces.
2. Supporting victims, tackling perpetrators and prevention all form part of the plan. It also seeks to address the internal culture of policing to ensure there is no place for misogyny within the force and robustly addressing police perpetrated violence against women and girls.
3. Training – nationally recognised and comprehensive package called DA Matters being delivered to all front line personnel. Supported by monthly learning packages on domestic abuse, stalking and harassment.
4. Project Bluestone (see previous slide) will improve the response to RASSO.
5. Additional officers in Integrated Offender Management to manage higher risk domestic abuse perpetrators.

### Recorded Crime



### Positive Outcomes



## Comments

1. Improved crime recording processes, within Avon and Somerset Police, have driven the increases in 2021/22 recorded crime for domestic abuse and stalking and harassment.

# Hate crime

## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Recorded crime	Increasing	Not available
Positive outcome rate	Stable	Not available

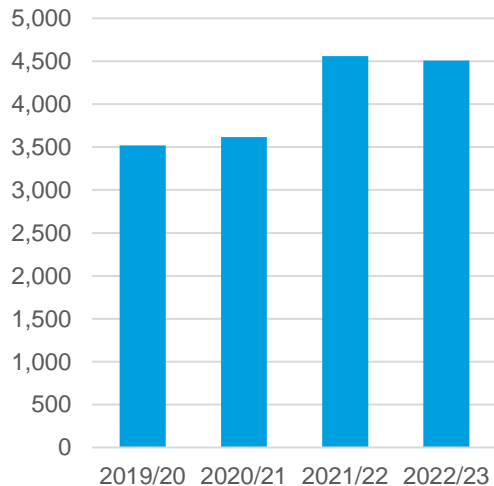
## Planned Action to Drive Performance

- Improvements made in line with the Police Race Action Plan will help improve the service for Black, and Black heritage people. Race hate crime being the most significant type of hate crime.
- ASP are an ice-breaker force under the Police Race Action Plan which will include improving the response to officers and staff that are victims of hate crime. This will include improving the 7 Point Promise for officers that have been victims of hate crime.
- The Hate Crime Assurance Panel and TacAd case reviews have already led to additional training. Further checking and testing of this learning will continue as part of the feedback process.
- Embedding of Hate Crime Quality Assurance checklist to improve investigation standards.
- In partnership with Dimensions charity, specialist training will be developed in relation to disability hate crime, and will include engagement with local community groups.

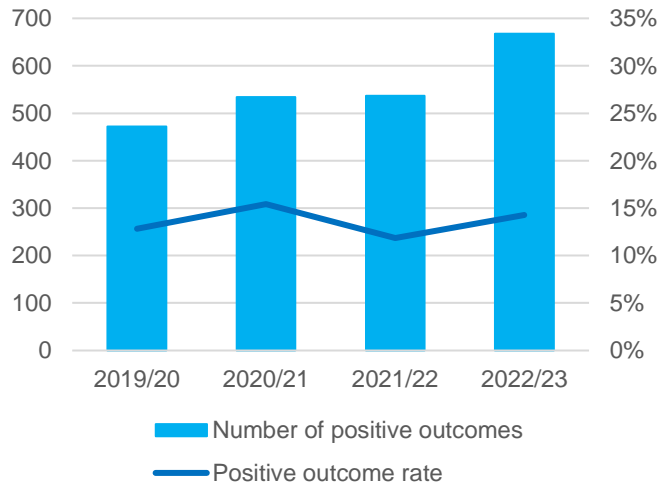
## Comments

- The increases in crime are thought to be caused by a combination of more offending, more reporting to the police and better recording practices.
- The increase in hate crime recorded by ASP between 2020/21 and 2021/22 is 26% - the same as the national increase in recorded crime.
- The number and proportion of positive outcomes has increased compared to the last pre-pandemic year.

### Recorded Crime Count



### Positive Outcomes



# Rural crime

## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Recorded crime	Decreasing	Not available
Positive outcome rate	Stable	Not available

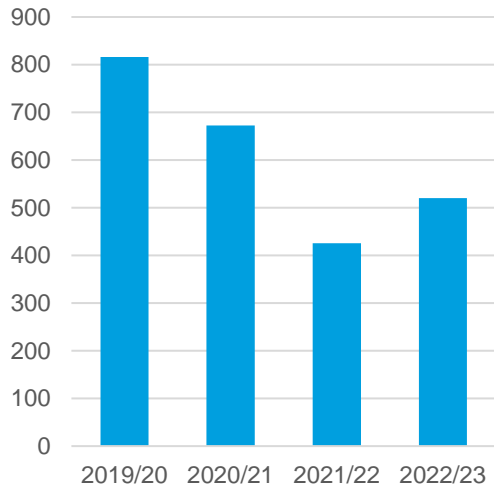
## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Expanding the Rural Affairs Team to provide this specialist resource across all rural areas of Avon and Somerset.
2. Avon and Somerset Police Rural Affairs Delivery Plan with key actions below.
3. Improve training and internal communications about rural affairs.
4. Improve collection and analysis of rural crime data.
5. Co-ordination of force resources to tackle rural crime.
6. Increased collaboration across the South West forces with a focus on disrupting Organised Crime Groups.
7. Better crime prevention by upskilling the workforce and working with partner organisations and community groups like Farm Watch.

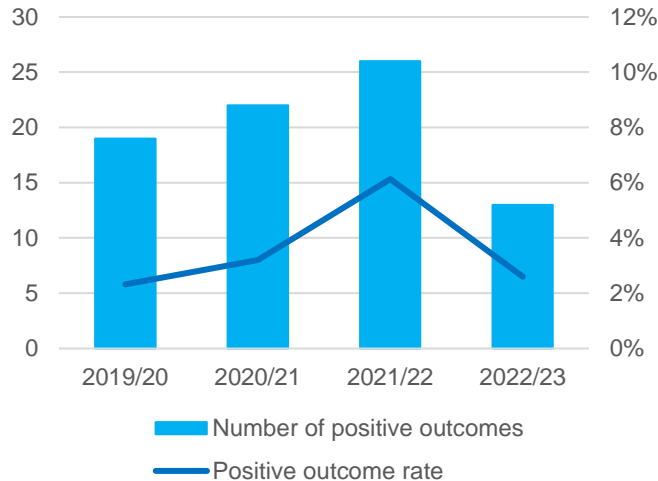
## Comments

1. About two thirds of rural crimes are acquisitive crimes. All acquisitive crimes reduced as a result of COVID lockdowns. However, non-rural acquisitive crime has increased in both years since and is higher than 2020/21; rural acquisitive crime is still lower than 2020/21. This could be as a result of less rural crime but equally could be less reporting or failure to flag these crimes on police systems.

### Recorded Crime Count



### Positive Outcomes

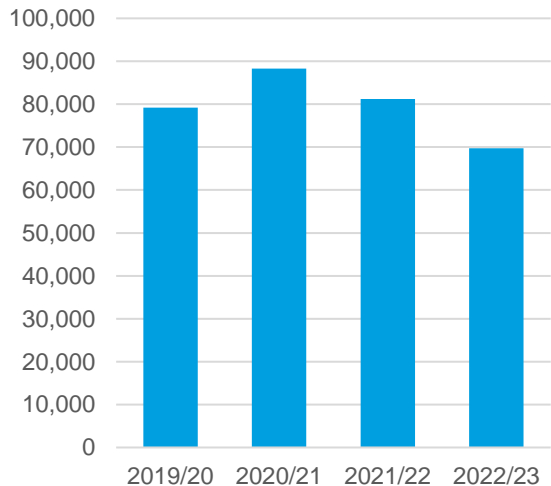


# Anti-social behaviour

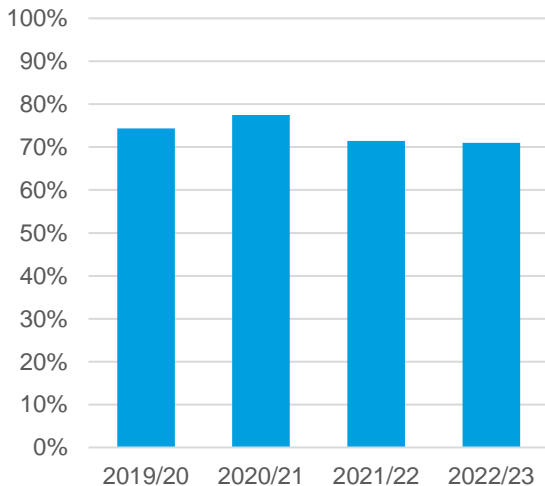
## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend / Outlook	Benchmark
ASB incidents	Decreasing	Not available
ASB victim satisfaction	Decreasing	Not available

ASB Incidents



ASB Victim Satisfaction Rate



## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Improvement in the Early Intervention capability to focus on, divert and support children and young people who are becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. Including a revised delivery plan that aims to improve collaboration across work streams such as Violence Reduction Units, Missing Persons and crime prevention.
2. Implementation of the new ASB Service Standard aimed at ensuring our structures and processes enable us to tackle ASB in a way that reduces its impact on victims and communities, develops understanding, learning and resolution for perpetrators, reduces harm, manages persistent perpetrators through appropriate justice resolutions and meet the needs of all victims.

## Comments

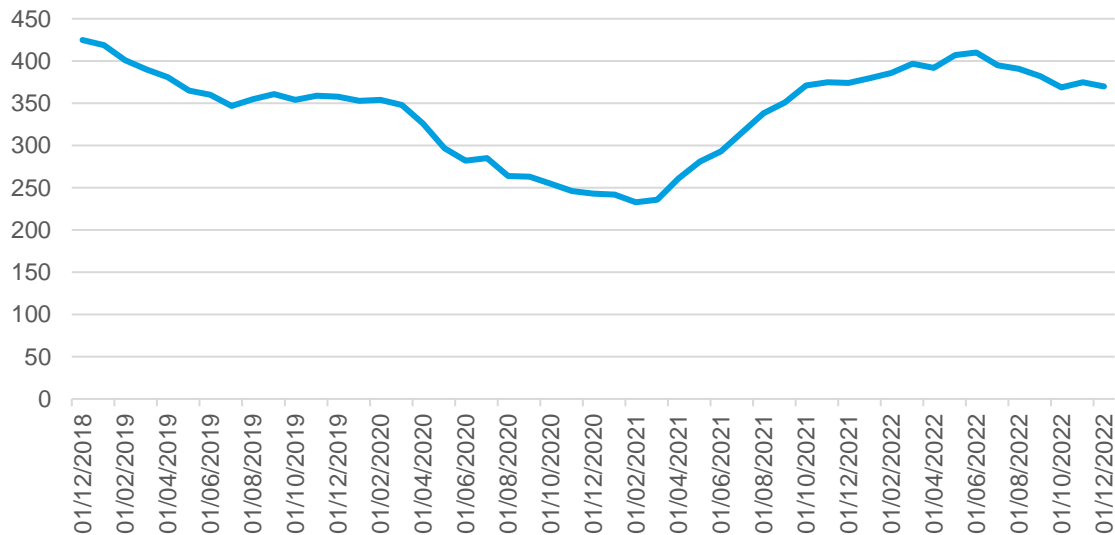
1. Unlike recorded crime, ASB incidents grew in 2020/21 but have now decreased to below pre-pandemic levels.



## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend / Outlook	Benchmark
Collisions involving death or serious injury	Stable	Not available

Number of collisions where somebody was killed or seriously injured - 12 month rolling total



## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Increase in the number of police officers in the proactive Roads Policing Unit (RPU).
2. Road Safety team to move into a new management structure with the RPU to ensure closer working between the teams.
3. Creation of a dedicated post to manage the Community SpeedWatch Scheme. The scheme now has more than 1800 volunteers and generated 53k warning letters to speeding drivers in the last 12 months.
4. Continued development of Roads Policing and Road Safety tasking to improve use of data and intelligence to identify road risk, this will include integration with offender management.
5. Fortnightly Roads Policing tasking meeting to align with other operational policing tasking meetings, to create improved understanding, governance and management of road risk across the organisation.

## Comments

1. The significant reduction in 2020 from the previous year was as a result of the pandemic and lockdowns. The number of collisions has returned to similar levels to 2019.
2. There is almost no change between 2022 and 2021.