



Test Valley Community Safety Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2021/22:

June 2022.

This assessment covers incidents in regards to Crime and Community Safety in the Test Valley Partnership area for the period from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. This period has continued to have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Therefore it is difficult to provide accurate interpretation of year-on-year data, and so the data provided is for information purposes, rather than for longer term trend analysis. Data from the last year pre-pandemic is also included for baseline comparison purposes.

Test Valley District Crime Data (2021/22 vs 2020/21): ¹

Crime Type:	No.	Change: +/-	+/-:2019/20 (Pre-pandemic)
• Homicide	4	(+4)	(+3)
• Violence with Injury	1,013	(+270)	(+24)
• Violence without Injury	2,531	(+712)	(+609)
• Rape	130	(+24)	(+22)
• Other Sexual Offences	266	(+84)	(+66)
• Robbery of Business	6	(+1)	(-6)
• Robbery of Personal Property	54	(+24)	(+3)
• Residential Burglary	366	(+17)	(-109)
• Burglary (Business and Community)	199	(-15)	(-1)
• Vehicle Offences	577	(+72)	(-10)
• Theft from person	60	(+37)	(+7)
• Bicycle Theft	62	(-8)	(-7)
• Shoplifting	216	(-19)	(-211)
• Criminal damage	663	(+22)	(-71)
• Arson	16	(-0)	(-10)
• Trafficking of Drugs	49	(-14)	(+9)
• Possession of Drugs	190	(+2)	(-54)
• Possession of Weapons	83	(-0)	(-13)
• Public Order	982	(+147)	(+203)
• Anti-Social Behaviour	1,453	(-51)	(-89)

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• Rural Crime	2,104	(+389)	(+406)
• Total Crime	8,373	(+1,588)	(+662)

In 2021/22, Total Crime in Test Valley increased by 1,588 despite having fallen in the previous year, overall increasing by 662 to the pre-pandemic period. Reporting levels were consistent across each of the first three quarters of 2021/22 (n= 2,151, 2,057, 2,185) before falling to 1,812 in Quarter 4 (Jan - March 2022). The highest levels of reports were made in November, June and July (770, 762, 753), whilst these fell to 645 in February and 449 in March ¹.

On a ward levels basis, the highest levels of reports were made in St Mary's (1,665); Alamein (1,171) and Winton (664). In the South of the District the highest levels of reports were made in Abbey Ward (532). Where considered on a per population basis, the trend showed that St Mary's (161.9 / 1,000), Abbey (113.8), Alamein (106.3) and Romsey Extra (98.6) showed the highest rates¹.

A total of 183 incidents were recorded as 'Hate Crimes', up from 127 in 2020/21. Reports peaked in October (n=25), and were lowest in May (6) and March (5)¹. Of these 105 were classified as 'Race Hate' (78 in 2020/21), 6 were related to faith or religion (previously 5); 7 were linked to gender (4), plus 34 sexuality related (31). A significant rise was noted in reports of disability based hate crimes (43) from 9 and 15 in the two preceding years ¹. When assessed by population sizes, the overall rate of recorded hate crimes in Test Valley stands at 1.494, which is the fifth lowest level in Hampshire¹.

A total of 853 (+160) reports were classified as 'Business Crimes', the seventh lowest rate in Hampshire, and representing 10% of all crimes (previously 10.3%). The majority of these were categorised as shoplifting (208), business burglary (151) or thefts (195) ¹.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

Analysis of the available data shows that reports of incidents of ASB made to Police have continued to fall by a further 51 incidents (3.26%) in 2021/22. Across the year the majority of these reports were classified as 'Community' (83.3%), with others being recorded as 'Personal' (3.6%) or 'Environmental' (13.1%) based.

In 2021/22, reports decreased year-on-year in quarters 1, 3 and 4, peaking in June (190) and August (177), likely to be linked to the European Football Championships, before falling back in December, Jan and February (89; 85; 70). However, a spike was noted in March 2022, with reports rising to 113. This was largely down to issues of youth ASB in Andover Town Centre and led to the formation of Op Solar.

From its peak in 2011 at 1,234 in Quarter 2 of that year, reports fell to 268 in Quarter 4 of 2021/22 (latest available figures).¹

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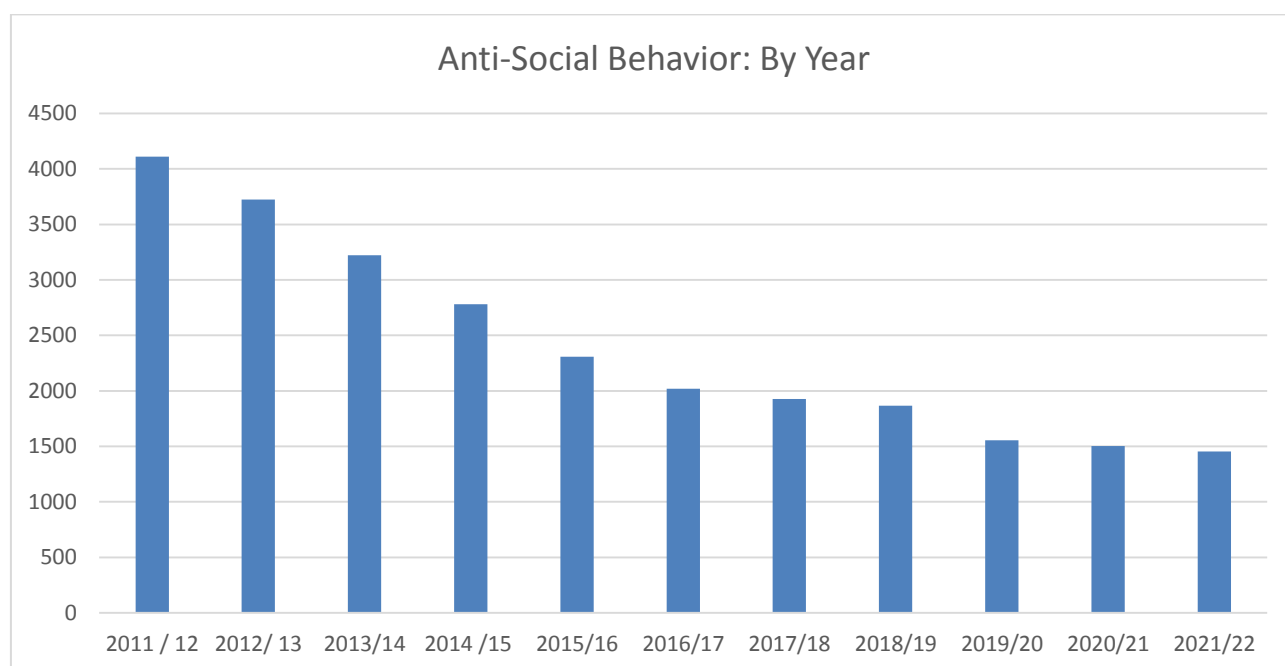
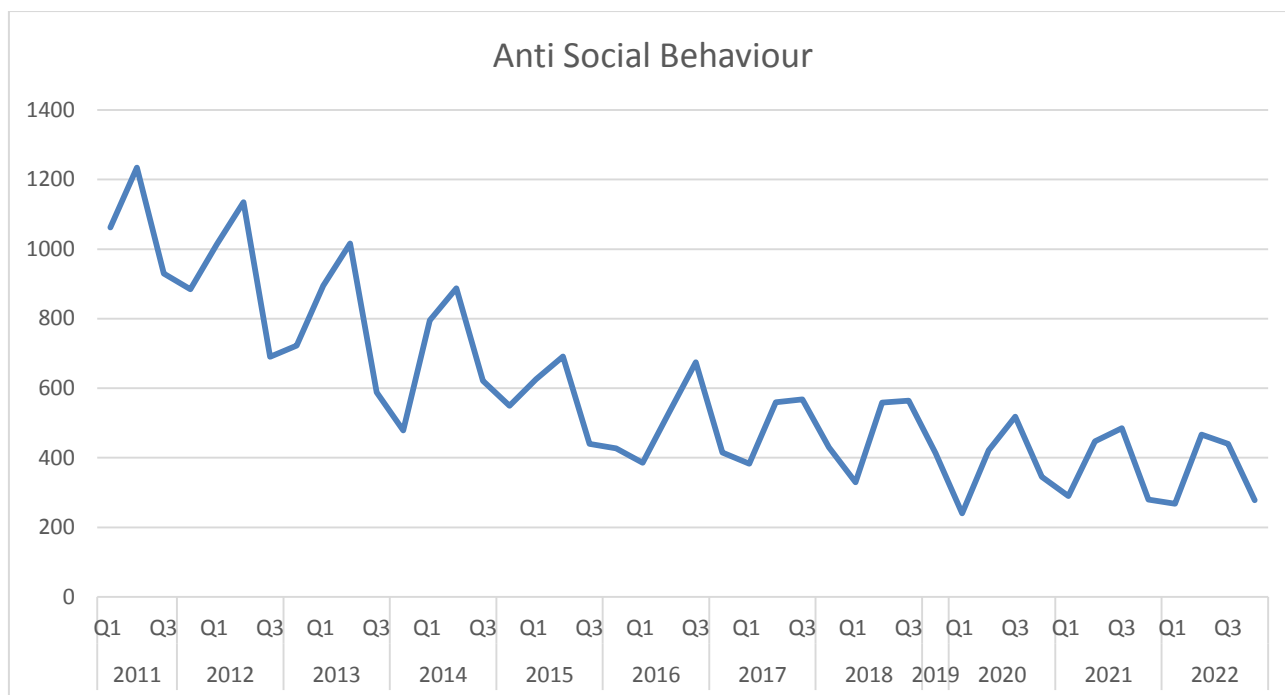
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When considered by Ward, the highest levels of reports of ASB remained noted in St Marys (278:+5); Alamein (153: -55); Winton (148: +15) and Abbey (132: +3) wards ¹. Countywide, Test Valley District recorded the sixth lowest levels of ASB over the year, without adjustment for population numbers ¹.

Overall for Hampshire the crime rate (including anti-social behaviour incidents) was 64.0 per 1,000 people in the population (measuring from Oct 2020 – Sept 2021) ⁹. Violence against a person was the most frequently report crime (25.3 per 1,000) followed by Theft (14.5 per 1,000). In Test Valley these

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rates were close to the average, 63.0 for all crime types, 24.5 for Violence against a person and 16.1 for Theft offences. The area within the district with the highest rates of all crimes was Andover town centre ⁹.

Online reports of incidents of Anti-Social Behaviours to Test Valley Borough Council's Community Safety Team fell from 174 in 2020/21, to 124 in the year to 31st March 2022 (-50) ⁸.

During 2021/22, Aster Housing's ASB Team opened a total of 299 cases across their local stock of 5,854 properties. Of these, 113 were domestic abuse cases; 33 were related to drugs; and 16 concerned noise reports. A total of 34 involved verbal abuse, harassment and intimidation, with 12 related to physical violence. 8 cases were hate related. A further 70 cases were linked to Anti-social behaviours ⁴. Vivid Homes have reported a total of 25 incidents of ASB (for the period July 2021 – June 2022), of which 12 pertain to domestic abuse or honour crimes, and 4 to drug related nuisance. For context in 2020/21 Vivid held a total stock of 904 properties across the district ⁶. No confirmed stock figures have been available for the year to March 2022.

The Andover Business Improvement District [BID] operate a team of Rangers who undertake high-visibility patrols of the town centre, who have authorised powers to enforce the Public Space Protection Order in the area. Of the incidents most relevant to this process, their highest levels of report made during the year were for Begging (146); Young People (69); Drug Use (44); and Public Disorder (36).

Within this data the highest levels of reports for Begging took place in Quarter 1 (April 27; May 25; June 18), with report rates falling quarterly to 10 in Quarter 4. For Drug Use the peak was also in April (26) with no subsequent month exceeding 4 reports. Rangers also recorded 25 breaches of the Public Spaces Protection Order, which included 17 pertained to antisocial behaviours resulting from the consumption alcohol (8) or its seizure (9), and 7 of public defecation or urination ¹⁰. As this is the first full year of the Rangers operation, there is no previous benchmark data on which for comparison on these figures at this time.

Andover Town Street Pastors have been unable to operate during the lockdown and other Covid-19 restriction periods. However, they are in the process of recruiting new co-ordinators with a view to resuming their activities in the near future ¹³.

Domestic Abuse:

Nationally the pandemic lockdown periods have seen a significant increase in reports of Domestic Abuse over this period. In Test Valley, a total of 1,494 reports were made to Police, an increase of 274 (22.5%). This represents the fifth lowest rate across Hampshire. Most months from May onwards saw year-on-year increases in the levels of reports, with peaks in June and July (141/149) again likely linked to the European Football Championships, and December and March (133 / 148) whilst dipping between these periods to a low in October (95)¹.

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The majority of reports were made for 'violence without injury' (898), followed by 'violence with injury' (323), and rape (65). Of these reports, the majority of victims were aged between 25-29 (207; +3), of which 70 (-5) were listed as repeat victims, with next highest concentration being aged between 30-34 (187; -52), of which 62 (-15) were listed as repeat victims ¹. Information on suspects shows highest rates of reports are from those aged 30-34 (215) with 82 listed as repeats. The highest reports of offence for Domestic Abuse continued to be Common Assault (381) and Actual Bodily Harm (315) ¹.

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, known as 'Clare's Law', allows individuals to ask Police for information about a partner's previous domestic abuse history; and for the Police to proactively disclose information in some circumstances. Data from this process shows that in Test Valley, there were 22 occasions where these rights were exercised (up from 15), of which 16 (11) were under the 'Right to Ask' category ¹. The 'Right to ask' enables someone to ask the Police about a partner's previous history of domestic violence or violent acts, whereas the 'Right to Know' can allow Police to proactively disclose information in some prescribed circumstances ¹.

Serious Violence:

Data from the risk factors shows that Test Valley is not included in the three districts with the highest risk of violence across Hampshire. Under a broad definition of most serious violence the number of crimes across Hampshire increased in 2020/21 to 4,689 recorded between October 2020 and September 2021 from 4,151 in 2019/20. All districts, apart from Fareham, recorded an increase in the number of crimes. After factoring in population, Test Valley was not listed in the Top four published districts with the highest rates of crime per head ².

When focusing on the narrow definition of most serious violence where the aggrieved or offender was aged under 25, Test Valley was not listed in the published top 3 areas which had the largest number of crimes, or those with the highest numbers of these crimes which involved a knife, where the aggrieved or offender was aged under 25. Analysis of narrow definition most serious violence indicated there was one hotspots within the district, in Alamein Ward (27). However, focusing on small area analysis (below beat level) using 2020/21 data the areas has not been highlighted as an area with high numbers of knife crime in those aged under 25 ². Analysis by the VRU shows that this ward has higher levels of benefits claimants and income deprivation affecting children than the County average but in line with areas of comparable issues, although it has lower levels of pupil suspensions.

Public Health:

Hampshire County Councils 'Healthy Places' report for Test Valley [March 2022] ⁹, has assessed local housing in regards to its impact on health. The areas 'housing affordability ratio' shows how affordable housing is compared with median gross earnings (the higher the ratio the less affordable housing has become). The affordability ratio for Test Valley has increased from 6.7 in 2002 to 8.8 in

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2020, compared to higher increases in Hampshire (6.4 to 9.2) but a smaller across England (5.1 to 7.8). Test Valley ranks as one of the middle districts in housing affordability⁹.

Test Valley also has a lower rate of overcrowded homes than Hampshire, (4.0% / 5.3%), and England (8.7%). The rate of homeless households (per 1,000) is lower in Test Valley (4.1) than Hampshire (4.8) and England (6.3)⁹.

Test Valley has a similar proportion of households living in fuel poverty as Hampshire (6.4% / 6.4%) but lower than England (13.4%), although there are small areas (in the more deprived areas of Andover) which have higher proportions of fuel poverty. The index for excess winter deaths for Test Valley shows figures comparable to Hampshire overall and England⁹.

The Mental Wellbeing vulnerability index shows that most of Hampshire's urban populations are more likely to experience vulnerable mental health as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions than the rural populations. This urban-rural divide is particularly evident for Andover's town centre (alongside those of Basingstoke, Eastleigh, and Winchester), compared to surrounding parts of the districts. Overall, Test Valley was one of the less vulnerable district in Hampshire. However, there were pockets of vulnerability in East Anton and the town centre where there was a young population, people renting their homes, and lone parents⁹.

Within Test Valley the greatest alcohol harm rates were seen in Andover Town Centre, being its most urban area. The district also has a rate of gambling premises of 7.7 (per 100,000 of the 18+ population), which is lower than many Hampshire districts and most of these premises area also located in Andover town centre⁹.

The Healthy Places report concludes that Test Valley is a 'relatively affluent area with good air quality although there are small areas of deprivation within northern Andover. In these areas there is a younger population with increased food insecurity, fuel poverty, and lower internet engagement. Within the town centre of Andover there were higher rates of crime, alcohol harm, social isolation and more gambling premises'⁹.

Other Data:

Fraud and Online Exploitation – Across Test Valley District, a total of 311 reports of Fraud were made to Action Fraud, with the bulk being made between June and August 2021. The majority of these, where recorded, were linked to online shopping and auction based frauds and scams, followed by Advance Fee frauds and hacking¹. With the rapid acceleration by many institutions to encourage greater digital inclusion, on-line service delivery and on-line social connectedness during Covid, this is likely to be continued as a long-term aspect which could open up some people vulnerable to fraud and on-line exploitation, without education and support.

In the year to 31st March 2021, HF&RS completed a total of 36 'safe and well' safeguarding visits to residents, alongside 289 fire incidents in Test Valley District. To date no comparable data has been available for the year 2021/22.

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Road safety - The number of accidents and the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads has been declining nationally and this trend is replicated in Test Valley, falling annually from a recent peak in 2018 to 2022, for both the number accidents and of people involved⁹.

Environmental - Test Valley has around 1,530 homes that fall into a flood risk category. Public health data does not identify any particular areas of risk, only that these homes are spread throughout the district⁹, however the districts Community Resilience Forum is a partnership of local agencies and Parishes which has worked to identify areas of higher risk and promote plans to help address them⁸.

Air quality in Test Valley is lower towards the south of the district, nearer the border with Southampton. In the district a lower proportion of the population is exposed to medium or high levels of NO2 and PM2.5 than as Hampshire as a whole⁹.

Public Perceptions - A YouGov survey for the Police and Crime Commissioner across 2021 showed that residents of Test Valley registered high rates of 'feeling safe in my community' of between 72% in Jan 2021, peaking at 91% in March 2021. These rates are broadly similar to the county average (70-90%)¹. Hampshire County Councils 'Healthy Places' report notes that 90% of the districts residents rate the community they live in as 'safe' (compared to 59% in England)⁹.

The ONS Opinion and Lifestyle survey reported that between October 2020 and February 2021, 3.6% of people in Test Valley felt 'always or often lonely', compared to 5.7% of people in Hampshire and 7.3% in England⁹.

Proposed Community Safety Priorities: 2022/23

The Community Safety Management Group has reviewed its priorities for 2022/23, on the basis of the views and priorities of the Group partners, and the most recently available strategic and partner data. They will remain subject corroboration with Police's Force Control Strategy priorities and the priorities of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure consistency of approach.

The draft proposals, subject to the agreement of the Test Valley Partnership Board, will remain as follows:

CSP Priority Areas for 2022/23:

- Community Crime Prevention and Public Safety. To increase public reassurance and confidence to report issues to public bodies.
- Anti-Social Behaviour, through Positive engagement and early intervention with young people, to identify and address potential causal issues of behaviours.
- Supporting Vulnerable People in Need, including issues of Domestic Abuse, Scams, and Hate Crime.
- Drug related harm, including knife crime and Modern Slavery linked to 'County lines'.
- Fire Safety; including the promotion of Safe and Well visits and advice.
- Maintain rural community confidence, through encouraging co-operative partnership amongst landowners and partners.

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- To encourage co-operative partnership amongst agencies and community/voluntary sector groups working towards enhanced and positive communities.

A partnership action plan for these priorities covering the period Oct 2022 - June 2023 will be drawn up and monitored by the Community Safety Management Group, and its sub groups, subject to their approval by the Test Valley Partnership. ³

Project Updates: ³

‘Op Mazi’: 2021/22 was again impacted heavily by the pandemic as were those who had previously been noted as being ‘street –attached’ and very few complaints were received from the public. Partnership patrols continued to be completed from July through to October. A small a number of individuals were noted and engaged with whilst out drinking but in the main had moved away from Pocket Park to more discrete areas where they were less visible. Various reports of begging in the town centre were received but these revolved around two repeat offenders. In March 2022, the Op Mazi patrols were aligned with those of Op Solar to provide a high visibility presence in the town centre to address both issues collectively, and will resume in summer 2022.

‘Op Solar’ ⁵ – Was a joint operation launched by Police to address increasing Youth crime and ASB issues which were being reported in Andover Town Centre in early spring 2022. The operation was a district priority and combined increased co-ordinated patrols with additional partnership diversionary and engagement activities for young people, including new Pool competitions and a DofE scheme, alongside increased use of ABC’s, parental home visits, community beat surgeries, out court disposals and other enforcement action as appropriate. The project has continued into 2022/23.

Community Safety Week ⁸ – March 2022 saw the inaugural Test Valley Community Safety Week take place. Test Valley Borough Council, along with partners Yellow Brick Road and Resilience Voyage, ran a series of events in Andover and Romsey focusing on working to support and educate young people in helping to deter negative and anti-social behaviours.

One highlights of the week was the ‘Choose Your Own Path’ bus, operated by mental health and young people’s group Resilience Voyage. The bus toured the borough, providing young people with an immersive experience involving workshops and interactive activities to help educate them on different topics including the dangers of substance misuse, knife crime and gang exploitation, designed to impart important knowledge and understanding in a fun and interactive way.

The bus engaged with 4 schools: John Hanson; Winton Community; Test Valley and Romsey Schools. Others, and the public, were able take part at sessions held in Andover High Street and Abbotswood.

Around 150 young people took part, and four key areas were evaluated - Knowledge of substances and how they affect you; Self-awareness in how you think, feel and behave; Dealing with substance misuse situations; and knowledge of prison.

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90% of attendees noted an increase in their knowledge and understanding in 1 or more of the 4 areas with the majority of these noting an increase in 3 or 4 of the areas (56%). The main areas that the young people felt they had increased understanding in were, Self-awareness in how you think, feel and behave and knowledge on dealing with substance misuse situations.

- 62% increased their Knowledge of different substances and how they affect you
- 64% increased their knowledge Self-awareness in how you think, feel and behave
- 67% increased their knowledge on dealing with substance misuse situations and keeping yourself safe and understanding
- 64% increased Knowledge of the realities of prison

Community-MARAC⁸ – In 2021/2 the Community-MARACs had 33 cases referred and reviewed across the district, unchanged from the previous year.

The Legacy Project¹¹: The Legacy Project is an early intervention programme tackling the risk of criminal exploitation of young people, including serious violence, gang life, county lines and modern slavery, by positive engagement with mentors with similar life experiences. Since its launch as a pilot in Andover in 2020, the project was successful in receiving funding to expand to the whole of Test Valley from April 2021.

In the financial year 2021 – 2022, 71 nominations for The Legacy Project were received from across Test Valley (30 nominations received 2020/21). Nominations come from Police, Children’s Services, Schools and self-nominations. Of these 54 have worked with mentors for 12 weeks each. Mentors work with young people where they feel most comfortable (i.e. at school/ in the community). Progression routes for young people included: participation in Young People’s Mental Health Strategy Meetings, Work Placement at Finkley Down Farm, supported use of a gym, setting up a t-shirt design business, paid employment, participation in Police ‘DofE’ partnership project to increase access to outdoor opportunities. 63% of beneficiaries showed improvement in 3 or more development areas.

The project has also evolved from a partnership with the London-based ‘UpSkillU’, to YBRP as the providers, following issues with the logistics of working with an organisation based out of area during a pandemic, and has led to being more responsive to the beneficiaries needs.

A case study is outlined below to highlight the projects work: ‘J’s story -

Vulnerabilities: Trauma; Involvement in ASB; Experiencing isolation/ exclusion at school; Neuro-diverse; ADHD; Concerns about CSE.

J was nominated for The Legacy Project by a local PCSO due to behaviour at home and in the community. There were concerns about him not being able to perceive the consequences of his behaviour and therefore be at risk of exploitation for example if he were asked to run drugs.

J initially attended sessions with his mentor Gemma (a social work student on placement) and brought a friend with him. While it was positive that he was attending it was felt that he wasn’t

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getting the most from sessions. It was arranged that his friend would also have a mentor at separate times. J engaged very well, exploring a range of issues including managing emotions, carrying a knife, relationships, taking risks, identity and self-esteem. Gemma used a range sessions including activities, discussions, and off-site experiences as opportunities to walk and talk in a safe environment. J demonstrates trust in Gemma in how he has opened up about the way he is feeling.

J was excluded from school partway through the mentoring programme. Gemma introduced J to Stephen (a social work student on placement with us) and J has been accessing Mind and Muscle gym (places funded by Energise Me) twice a week. While J has been in between school placements the mentoring session and gym visits have been vital in offering J an outlet from home and some structure to his week. A new school placement has been offered support provided to J during a time of transition, Gemma would offer an additional 6 weeks of sessions, with the gym sessions continuing also. J has started sessions with Youth Options and was feeling anxious about this, so Gemma attended to support him, having their mentoring sessions on the journey.

Gemma has maintained communication with J's mum throughout. J's mum has children's services involvement but has not found them to be very supportive. She has appreciated Gemma's support for J and having someone to talk to. The experience of this case has highlighted that we would benefit from having Family Mentors embedded within TLP.

Next steps: 6 weeks of further sessions with Legacy Mentor; Participation in Tri-phase positive activity project with YBRP, Police and DoFE; Continued access support through Youth Options; Starting new school. Next steps for mum: Help to access support, i.e. NVR parenting programme.

'ICE': As a result of the Covid pandemic and resultant lockdown periods, the ICE programme was suspended during 2020/21 and 2021/22. It is planned that this will resume in 2022/23 subject to guidelines and agreement with partners ³.

Big Band Buffet: Due to the Covid-19 Restrictions in place, and the vulnerabilities of the demographic involved with the Big Band Buffet did not take place in 2021/2. It is planned for the event will resume in 2022, subject to national and local guidelines ³.

'Cut it Out': Cut It Out is a new initiative developed by TVBC to help promote information about, and access to Domestic Abuse services locally. The project aims to work with and train volunteers from the hair and beauty sectors to become 'Domestic Abuse Ambassadors', and to spread this knowledge to staff, customers, and others in the sector. The objective being to provide a safe space for women to raise and discuss issues of DA in neutral environment, to understand what constitutes DA and the options available to them.

The project began being piloted in Romsey / Southern Test Valley from January 2022, utilising free training from 'Stop Domestic Abuse'. The project pilot was well received, although there were concerns about the timing post covid lockdown, and the level of time training would take (2x 1/2day sessions), in the sector whilst recovering from the pandemic and its effect on businesses. To this end the remaining pilot has been postponed to reduce pressure and encourage take up longer term ³.

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Statutory Reporting Items: ³

Community Trigger: ‘Community Trigger’ is a statutory device which gives victims and communities the right to request a formal review of their case where circumstances of ASB meet a set threshold. CSP’s are obliged to publish details of all Trigger requests and outcomes annually.

In 2021/22 no formal Community Trigger review requests were received, although Test valley Borough Council did voluntarily instigate a Community Trigger following a report made by a resident where the criteria met the requirements. This process has been concluded and the case continues to be monitored under the Community-MARAC.

Domestic Homicide Review: During 2021/22 one new request to consider a Domestic Homicide Review was received from a national support agency. The case did not meet the criteria for a DHR and following discussions with the referring agency and family representatives, was referred to the Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership for a Serious Safeguarding Review to be considered as the most appropriate model for investigation in to its circumstances.

Prevent /Channel: Two referrals were made to the Channel Panel from Prevent in the district in 2021/22 ³, both of which were considered and adopted by the panel for further support ².

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