

SAFER BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

November 2026 - December 2031



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INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present Buckinghamshire's new Community Safety Strategy, which sets out our shared priorities and commitments for the next five years. This strategy reflects our determination to reduce crime, tackle anti-social behaviour, and protect the most vulnerable across the county.

No single agency can achieve this alone; success depends on strong partnership working between Buckinghamshire Council, Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, health services, probation, and voluntary sector organisations.

Our approach is informed by statutory duties and shaped by assessments of crime trends and consultation with residents, businesses, and young people. By listening to local voices and learning from past successes, we have identified the issues that matter most and developed plans to address them.

We recognise that improving safety is an ongoing challenge, particularly in times of economic pressure and changing social conditions. This strategy commits us to working together, sharing expertise, and coordinating both preventative and enforcement activity to maximise impact.

Our overarching aim is clear: to ensure that everyone who lives, works, or visits Buckinghamshire feels safe and is safe. Through collaboration, transparency, and innovation, we will continue to make our communities safer and stronger.



Craig McArdle

Corporate Director – Adults and Health,
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Co-Chair – Safer Buckinghamshire
Partnership Board



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SUMMARY

The Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Strategy 2026–2031 sets out our shared vision for ensuring Buckinghamshire remains one of the safest places in the country to grow up, raise a family, live, work, and do business. It builds on the strong progress and achievements of the last three years, while providing a clear direction for the next five.

This strategy outlines our commitment to preventing crime, protecting vulnerable individuals, and strengthening community confidence. The delivery of this strategy reflects the partnership's legal obligations relating to crime reduction, anti-social behaviour, public protection and counter-terrorism, guiding how we prevent harm, support victims and take proportionate enforcement action. The Partnership will also discharge its responsibilities under the Serious Violence Duty through the delivery of this Strategy and its supporting governance, delivery plans and partnership arrangements.

Our priorities for 2026–2031 have been shaped by detailed analysis of crime and disorder trends across the county, together with valuable insights gathered through local engagement, consultation, and feedback from our communities and partners.



To achieve our vision, the Partnership will focus on six key priorities:

- **Priority 1 - Neighbourhood Crime and Shoplifting**
- **Priority 2 - Anti-Social Behaviour**
- **Priority 3 - Fraud and Scams**
- **Priority 4 - Preventing Harm and Exploitation**
- **Priority 5 - Community Cohesion**
- **Priority 6 - Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

Together, these priorities provide a robust framework for creating safer, stronger, and more resilient communities across Buckinghamshire, over the next five years.

THE SAFER BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a duty on the police and local authorities to work together with named partner organisations to form a Community Safety Partnership and develop an action plan to reduce crime within the local area. In Buckinghamshire this partnership is called the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Board (SBPB).

The core members of the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Board are:

- **Buckinghamshire Council**
- **Thames Valley Police**
- **Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Service**
- **Thames Valley Integrated Care Board**
- **Probation Service – Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire**
- **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

The Board works with a wide range of partners from the statutory, community/voluntary and business sectors; and other organisations are invited to attend Board meetings and be involved in the work of the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership.

The voluntary and community sector plays a vital role in preventing crime, supporting victims and vulnerable people, building community resilience and helping the Partnership to reach and engage with local communities, and the Board is committed to working closely with these organisations to deliver shared community safety outcomes.

The Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Board works closely with other strategic boards to support the delivery of the priorities set out in the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy. Issues such as domestic violence and abuse, tackling serious violence and keeping children and young people safe, requires a safeguarding focus and long-term health interventions, to ensure that the underlying causes are addressed. A number of the priorities and actions outlined in the Strategy are shared across the four strategic partnerships, with regular meetings of the chairs of the boards enabling delivery of our shared priorities.

The Board has statutory duties in relation to:

- **Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs)**
- **Partnership Strategic Assessment**
- **Community Safety Strategy**
- **Community Engagement and Consultation**
- **Information Sharing Protocols and Information Sharing Agreements**
- **Reducing reoffending**
- **Preventing extremism**
- **Modern Slavery**
- **Anti-social behaviour**
- **Serious Violence**
- **Drugs and alcohol use**

ABOUT BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Buckinghamshire is a diverse and thriving county located between Greater London and the East Midlands. Home to approximately 579,000 residents, it combines vibrant towns such as Aylesbury and High Wycombe with extensive rural landscapes. The county benefits from strong transport links, proximity to international airports, and a high quality of life, making it an attractive place to live and work.

The population is projected to rise by 10.8% between 2024 and 2044, an increase of 54,100 people, taking the total population to around 633,100. Of this growth, the proportion of those aged 65+ will increase the most (by 33%), meaning an additional 36,200 older people by 2044. In this same time period, the number of young people (17 and under) in the population will drop by 5.6%, meaning 7,000 fewer children in the local population.

Buckinghamshire's population is becoming increasingly diverse. In the 2021 Census, 79.9% of residents were from White ethnic groups, down from 86.4% in 2011. The largest growth was seen in Asian, Asian

British or Asian Welsh ethnic groups, increasing from 8.6% to 12.4%, representing a 44% rise and the most significant change across major ethnic groups.

This shift is most pronounced among younger age groups. In 2021, 71% of those aged 0–24 were from White ethnic groups, compared to 93.3% of those aged 65 and over. A decade earlier, the figures were 79.6% and 95.9%, respectively. Over the same period, the proportion of younger people from Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh ethnic groups increased from 11.8% to 16.3%, while among older adults it rose from 2.7% to 4.4%.

Buckinghamshire is an affluent county but contains some of the highest levels of deprivation in England, with 3.3% of the population categorised as living in the 3 most deprived Indices of Multiple Deprivation deciles.

Buckinghamshire has better health overall in comparison to England and the South East. Life expectancy is higher for men and women; however, the health of residents



varies within, and between, local areas. For example, people living in more deprived areas are more likely to live in poor health and die younger than people living in more affluent areas. They are also more likely to develop multiple long-term conditions earlier, such as diabetes and heart disease.

Buckinghamshire has lower crime rates than England, the South East and Thames Valley. However, examining data at a smaller geographical level reveals areas within the county that experience crime rates far higher than the average rate for the county. Thames Valley Police is responsible for policing Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, along with Berkshire and Oxfordshire. It is the largest non-metropolitan force in England and Wales.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

During the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023–26, we made strong progress against our aims through project delivery, partnership working, and a victim-centred response to crime and disorder.

Neighbourhood Crime



400 **ADDITIONAL POLICE PATROL HOURS**

Secured PCC funding for 400 additional hours of police patrols in Buckinghamshire town centres, increasing visibility, reassurance and community confidence.



THAMES VALLEY BEST PRACTICE

Delivered a vehicle crime reduction programme recognised as Thames Valley Best Practice, including **26** Clear Car campaigns, direct engagement with **311** vehicle owners and support from eight local garages.

Anti-Social Behaviour



A MORE CONSISTENT RESPONSE

Introduced a new county-wide Anti-Social Behaviour Protocol and trained more than **80** partners, creating a more coordinated approach across Buckinghamshire.



STRONG ENFORCEMENT ACTION

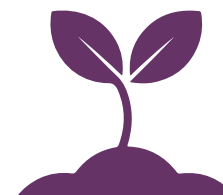
Secured Criminal Behaviour Orders, Closure Orders and Buckinghamshire's first Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction to tackle harmful and persistent ASB.

Serious Violence



SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

Supported **50** young people at highest risk of serious violence through the Caudwell Youth Programme, achieving a **97%** reduction in offending and improved relationships for **87%** of participants.



SHAPING FUTURES

Launched the Shaping Futures Programme to support young people at risk of violence and exploitation, and secured funding to continue delivery for a further two years.

Violence Against Women and Girls



A NEW STRATEGIC APPROACH

Launched the Buckinghamshire Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy and delivered annual partnership conferences, attended by more than **100** professionals each year.



BUILDING WORKFORCE CONFIDENCE

Provided more than **2,250** training places covering domestic abuse, misogyny, stalking, CAPVA, and related risks, strengthening local responses and support.

Exploitation of Vulnerable People



STRENGTHENING THE RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

Trained **196** practitioners through Hope for Justice to improve identification, safeguarding and support for victims of exploitation and modern slavery.



PROTECTING VULNERABLE WORKERS

Delivered an innovative pilot supporting sponsored care workers at risk of exploitation, providing advice, advocacy and welfare support to vulnerable individuals.

Partnership Achievements



SUPPORTING VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

Expanded the Safe Place Scheme to more than **260** locations across Buckinghamshire, improving access to support and reassurance for vulnerable residents.



INVESTING IN SAFER COMMUNITIES

Upgraded CCTV infrastructure with modern digital systems and helped manage more than **18,000** incidents through the control room, including locating more than **200** missing people.

SETTING OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2026 – 2031

The priorities within this Strategy have been developed through a comprehensive Strategic Assessment drawing on crime and disorder data, partner intelligence, local performance information and the views of residents. An eight-week public engagement exercise was undertaken to understand the issues that matter most to local communities.

To ensure that the voices of children and young people were reflected in the development of this strategy, findings from the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey, delivered in partnership with the Schools Health Education Unit (SHEU) during autumn 2025, were considered alongside local crime and disorder analysis. Together, these sources provide a robust evidence base, helping to identify current challenges, emerging risks and the issues of greatest concern across Buckinghamshire.



WHAT YOU TOLD US

Each year, the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Board carries out an annual public survey to better understand the views and concerns of local residents and communities.

In September 2025, we asked people across Buckinghamshire to identify the community safety issues they felt were most significant. The survey included multiple choice questions.

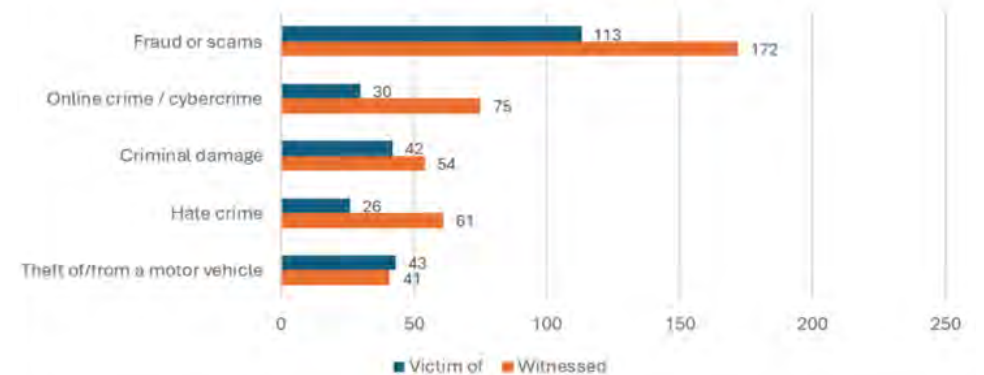
A total of 1,722 responses were received – an increase of 16% compared with the previous year. Of those who responded, 1,043 respondents identified as female, 596 as male, 64 preferred not to say, and 19 did not answer. Respondents aged under 24 accounted for a relatively small proportion of all returns, but this represented a slight increase compared with the previous year. The highest levels of response continued to come from older age groups, particularly those aged 45 to 74.

The survey results show that residents remain concerned about a combination of serious crime and visible local issues. The most commonly identified crime concerns were fraud and scams, online crime, criminal damage, hate crime and stalking or harassment. The top four concerns remained unchanged from the previous year.

Top Crime Concerns for Residents - 2025



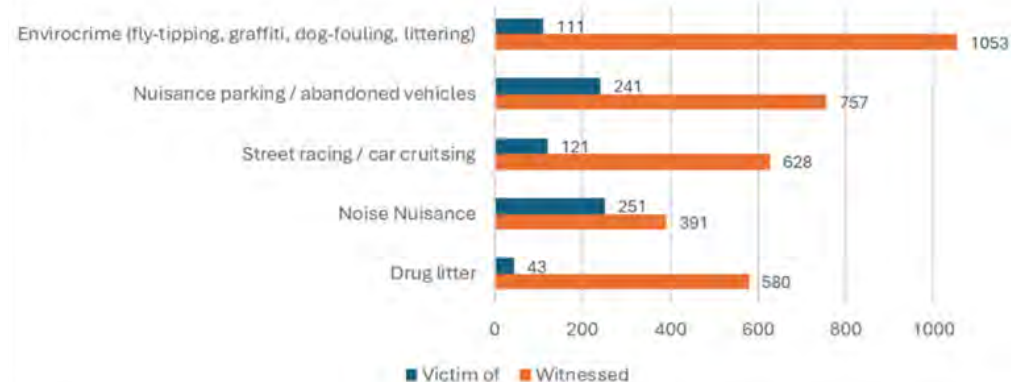
Top Crime Concerns for Residents - 2024



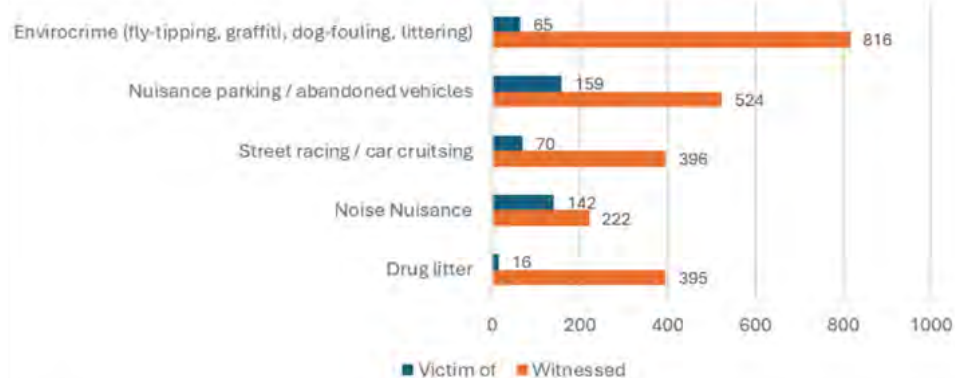


For anti-social behaviour, the strongest concerns related to environmental issues such as fly-tipping, graffiti, dog fouling and littering, alongside nuisance parking, street racing, noise nuisance and drug-related litter. These findings suggest that residents are concerned about both high-harm offences and the everyday issues that influence how safe and well-managed local areas feel.

Top ASB Concerns for Residents - 2025



Top ASB Concerns for Residents - 2024

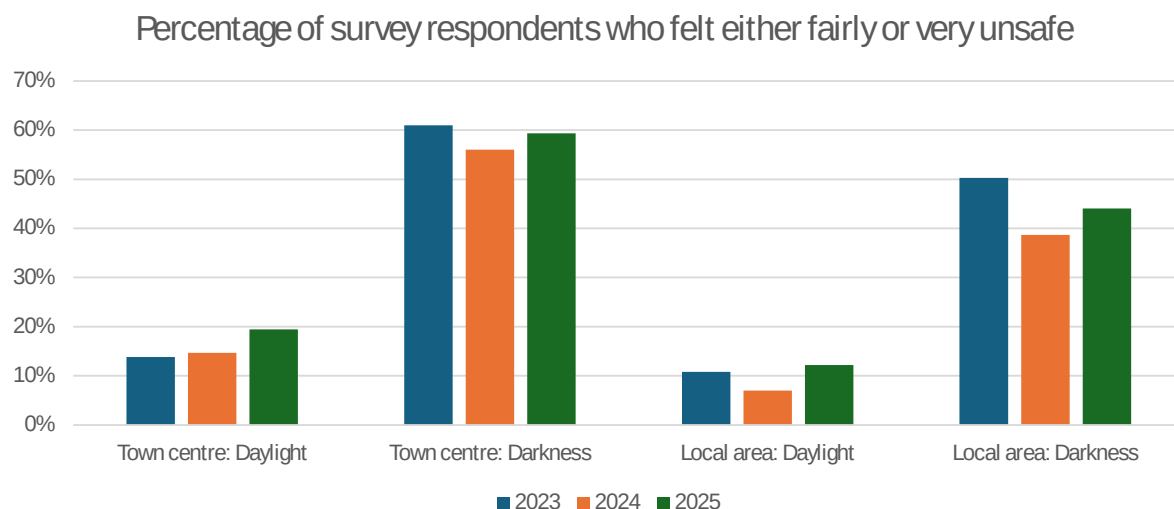


How safe people feel

The survey also shows that feelings of safety vary significantly depending on location and time of day.

Most respondents reported feeling safe during the day, but perceptions of safety reduced significantly after dark, particularly in town centres. In 2025, 44% of respondents reported feeling unsafe in their local area after dark, increasing to 59% of respondents in town centres after dark.

These findings suggest that concerns about crime, anti-social behaviour and the accessibility of public spaces continue to influence how safe people feel within their communities.



What children and young people told us

The findings below draw on both the Community Safety Survey and the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey, providing insight into the experiences, perceptions and priorities of children and young people across Buckinghamshire. Together, they highlight a number of common themes that emerged consistently across both surveys.

At a glance:

Across both surveys, children and young people consistently highlighted concerns about:

- Feeling less safe after dark, particularly in town centres and public spaces. The experiences of women and girls, who were more likely to report feeling unsafe, particularly after dark.
- Harassment, hate crime and bullying, with some groups reporting poorer safety experiences than others.

- Online harms, including exposure to harmful content and concerns about online safety.
- Violence, exploitation and weapon-related incidents, highlighting the importance of prevention and early intervention.
- Drug-related activity, street drinking and anti-social behaviour in local communities.
- The condition and safety of public spaces, including environmental anti-social behaviour and nuisance activity.
- Fraud and scams, which remained a notable concern among younger respondents.

Although younger people represented a smaller proportion of respondents (118 responses) to the Safer Buckinghamshire Board survey, their responses provide important insight into the issues affecting them.

Children aged 0–16 identified fraud and scams, online crime and theft as their main crime concerns, whilst young adults aged 16–24 were more concerned about hate crime, harassment, sexual harassment and personal safety. Both age groups highlighted environmental anti-social behaviour, nuisance parking, street drinking and drug-related activity as significant concerns.

Taken together, the findings from both surveys have helped shape the priorities and commitments within this strategy and will continue to inform the delivery plans that support it.

The concerns raised by children and young people are reflected throughout the strategy. Issues relating to safety, violence, exploitation and weapon-related incidents have informed our priority on Preventing Harm and Exploitation. Concerns about harassment, hate crime, bullying and belonging have helped shape our Community Cohesion priority. Feedback on women and girls' experiences of safety is reflected in our focus on Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls. Concerns about online harms, anti-social behaviour, neighbourhood crime and the impact of drugs and alcohol are also addressed through the relevant priority areas and partnership activity set out in this strategy.



Safer Buckinghamshire survey

For respondents aged 16–24, concerns about personal safety were particularly evident after dark. In their local area, 18 respondents reported feeling fairly unsafe and 16 reported feeling very unsafe, giving a combined total of 34 respondents. Similar findings were seen for town centres, where around 31 respondents reported feeling either fairly unsafe or very unsafe after dark.

Girls and young women reported feeling less safe after dark than other groups of respondents. Feelings of unsafety increased in the evening and were most pronounced in town centres. Concerns raised by younger females included harassment, hate crime, online harms, drug-related activity and safety in public spaces. These findings highlight the importance of continuing to address both real and perceived safety risks affecting women and girls, particularly in public places and online environments.

These findings reinforce the importance of continuing to prioritise the safety of children, young people, women and girls. They highlight ongoing concerns around harassment, hate crime, online harms, drug-related activity and safety in public spaces, particularly after dark.

Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey

The Partnership has also considered findings from the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey. In 2025, 7,838 children and young people from 54 education settings across Buckinghamshire took part, providing one of the largest sources of insight into the experiences of local children and young people.

Most children and young people reported feeling safe at school, online and when travelling to and from school. However, feelings of safety were lower when out after dark or using public transport.

The survey also highlighted concerns relating to violence and exploitation, including weapon-related incidents and requests to carry weapons. Some groups, including girls, young carers, children with SEND and lesbian, gay or bisexual young people, were more likely to report feeling unsafe, experiencing bullying or harassment, or being exposed to harmful online content.

These findings reinforce the importance of preventing harm and exploitation, tackling violence against women and girls, addressing online harms and ensuring community safety activity reflects the experiences of children and young people.

What the findings tell us

Taken together, the findings from both the annual Community Safety Survey and the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey provide a consistent picture of the issues affecting how safe people feel and the concerns they have about crime and anti-social behaviour in Buckinghamshire. Residents highlighted a combination of high-harm offences and visible local issues, including fraud and scams, online crime, hate crime, stalking and harassment, environmental anti-social behaviour, nuisance parking and drug-related concerns.

Feelings of safety were generally positive during the day but reduced significantly after dark, particularly in town centres. Young people identified many of the same concerns, whilst placing additional emphasis on online harms, harassment, hate crime, violence, exploitation and the safety of public spaces. Women and girls, alongside some other vulnerable groups, were more likely to report feeling unsafe after dark.

The findings demonstrate that community safety is about more than recorded crime. People's experiences are shaped by the condition of local environments, visible anti-social behaviour, confidence in public spaces, online activity, and their sense of belonging and connection within their communities. The results reinforce the importance of taking a balanced approach that combines enforcement with prevention, early intervention, safeguarding, support for victims and action to address the factors that contribute to crime, harm and vulnerability. The issues identified through both surveys have directly informed the priorities and commitments set out within this Strategy.



CRIME AND DISORDER IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The Strategic Assessment, produced every three years, with the previous document being produced in 2023 using data up to March 2022, provides an evidence-based analysis of crime and community safety issues in Buckinghamshire. Its purpose is to inform the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership's priorities for the coming years. The assessment draws on multiple sources, including Buckinghamshire Council Social Care, Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, the Crime Survey for England & Wales (CSEW), and national datasets from the Ministry of Justice.

Overall crime levels in Buckinghamshire have remained broadly stable over the past three years; however, this stability masks notable shifts within individual offence categories. Acquisitive crime has remained largely unchanged since 2022/23, although sharp increases in shoplifting (+80%) and robbery (+66%) have offset reductions in other subcategories. Shoplifting alone now represents 27% of all acquisitive offences, with activity concentrated in retail centres such as High Wycombe and Aylesbury. These trends have informed the Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner's Retail Crime Strategy, which has driven improvements in both reporting and enforcement.

Fraud and cybercrime remain among the most widespread and financially damaging offences across the UK. Nationally, an estimated 4.2 million fraud incidents occurred during 2024/25, and locally the Thames Valley area recorded losses exceeding £73

million via Action Fraud reports. The Safer Buckinghamshire survey consistently identifies fraud and cybercrime as leading community concerns, emphasising the need for strengthened prevention and awareness activity.

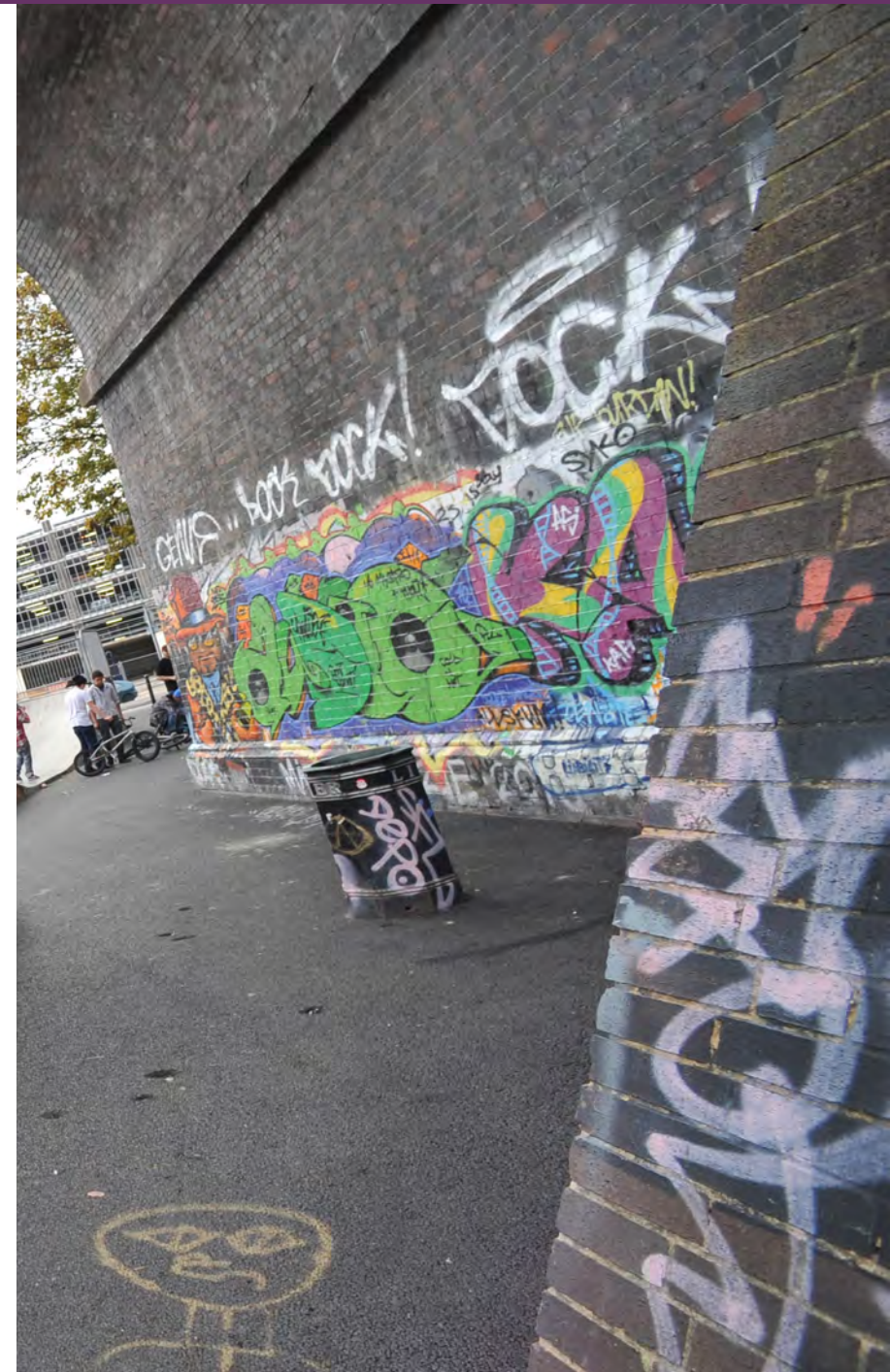
Violence against the person continues to account for a substantial proportion of recorded crime in Buckinghamshire. Encouragingly, there has been a gradual decline across most violence categories: homicide has fallen by 67% over three years, and harassment and stalking offences have decreased by 11%. However, serious violence involving knives and other high-harm offences has risen by 7%, particularly in urban wards such as Abbey (High Wycombe) and Aylesbury North.

Recorded levels of domestic abuse in Buckinghamshire have remained broadly stable over recent years, with around 4,100–4,200 domestic abuse related offences recorded annually. Within this overall stability, there has been a notable change in the composition of reported offences. While incidents of violence with and without injury have shown small reductions over the three-year period, recorded sexual offences within a domestic abuse context have increased in volume. In 2024/25, 213 domestic abuse related rape offences were recorded, alongside 119 other sexual offences, compared with 138 and 57 respectively in 2022/23. These offences continue to represent a relatively small proportion of total domestic abuse crime, but their seriousness means they remain a key priority for partnership response.

Sexual offences more broadly have also risen locally, with 1,243 offences recorded in 2024/25, an increase of 164 offences compared with the previous year. Rape offences accounted for 462 of these incidents, while other sexual offences totalled 781. Local analysis indicates that a majority of offences are reported within a year of occurrence, with reporting timeliness improving in recent years, suggesting growing confidence in reporting and access to support.

Issues of exploitation and vulnerability remain complex and require a nuanced response. Police recorded modern slavery offences in Buckinghamshire have reduced slightly over the last three years, falling from 66 offences in 2022/23 to 61 in 2024/25. In contrast, concerns raised to Adult Social Care have increased in volume, rising from 76 concerns in 2022/23 to 138 in 2024/25. This growth is driven primarily by an increase in sexual exploitation concerns, which rose from 38 cases in 2022/23 to 97 in 2024/25. While these numbers remain relatively low in absolute terms, the trend indicates improved identification and reporting of exploitation, particularly among women aged 18–44. Consistent with wider evidence, exploitation concerns are disproportionately associated with deprivation, with nearly half of all recorded concerns over the three-year period linked to individuals living in Buckinghamshire's most deprived communities.

Substance use and drug-related offences show a moderate upward trend, with drug trafficking concentrated in High Wycombe and Aylesbury North. Anti-social behaviour has increased by 8%, driven by environmental ASB, which has increased by 39%.



HOW THE EVIDENCE HAS SHAPED OUR PRIORITIES

The Strategic Assessment highlights that Buckinghamshire remains a relatively safe county, but also identifies a number of emerging and persistent issues that require a coordinated partnership response. Whilst overall crime levels have remained broadly stable, the data shows significant increases in some offence types, including shoplifting, robbery, serious violence involving knives, sexual offences, exploitation concerns, environmental anti-social behaviour and drug-related activity. It is important to note that increases in recorded incidents do not necessarily indicate a corresponding increase in prevalence. In some cases, they may reflect improved reporting, greater confidence among victims and communities to come forward, enhanced identification and recording practices by agencies, and increased public awareness driven by national and local media coverage. At the same time, residents continue to identify fraud and scams, online crime, hate crime, anti-social behaviour and feelings of safety after dark as key concerns. Children and young people have also highlighted the importance of addressing online harms, harassment, violence, exploitation and the safety of public spaces.

Taken together, the evidence demonstrates the need for a balanced approach that addresses both the crimes causing the greatest harm and the issues that most affect people's day-to-day experiences of safety. It also highlights the importance of prevention, early intervention, safeguarding vulnerable people, supporting victims, tackling repeat offending and strengthening confidence within communities. In addition, it highlights the need to address the different crime and community safety challenges experienced across Buckinghamshire's villages, rural communities, market towns and urban areas, ensuring that partnership activity reflects local needs as well as countywide priorities.

In response, the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership has identified six priorities for 2026–2031. These priorities reflect the issues raised by residents and young people, are informed by detailed analysis of crime and disorder trends, and focus partnership activity on the areas where it can have the greatest impact over the next five years.

The six priorities are

- **Neighbourhood Crime and Shoplifting**
- **Anti-Social Behaviour**
- **Fraud and Scams**
- **Preventing Harm and Exploitation**
- **Community Cohesion**
- **Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

PRIORITY 1

Neighbourhood Crime and Shoplifting

Neighbourhood crime directly affects how safe people feel in their daily lives. Offences such as burglary, vehicle crime, shoplifting and theft undermine trust, damage local economies and can have a lasting emotional impact on victims. These issues affect communities across Buckinghamshire, from rural villages and market towns to larger urban centres, and can have a significant impact on residents' quality of life and confidence in their local area.

For the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership, reducing neighbourhood crime is vital to building confident, resilient communities where people feel secure at home, at work and in public spaces. The Partnership will also work with local businesses, town centre stakeholders and regeneration partners to help ensure that crime prevention and community safety considerations support the long-term vitality and regeneration of Buckinghamshire's town centres. Tackling these crimes requires coordinated intelligence, targeted prevention, and strong engagement with residents and businesses.



To reduce neighbourhood crime and shoplifting, we will:

- Use information, data and local insight to identify priority locations, individuals and emerging issues, enabling targeted partnership responses.
- Strengthen multi-agency information sharing and joint partnership working, supporting coordinated and effective action.
- Deliver tailored partnership interventions that address the specific needs of priority areas, individuals and recurring issues, supported by visible patrols, community engagement, prevention and enforcement activity.
- Build confidence in communities through visible partnership activity, meaningful engagement and clear communication.
- Support residents and businesses to reduce opportunities for crime through prevention activity, advice and awareness campaigns.
- Regularly review information and adapt approaches quickly to address emerging or changing neighbourhood crime issues.
- Address neighbourhood crime and shoplifting associated with drugs and alcohol through coordinated early intervention, enforcement and access to treatment and support.
- Tackle repeat neighbourhood crime by focusing on persistent offenders and coordinating criminal justice and support responses to reduce reoffending and repeat victimisation.

PRIORITY 2

Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour erodes quality of life, fuels fear of crime and can escalate into more serious offending if left unaddressed. Community safety partners play a crucial role in responding consistently and proportionately, using a blend of early intervention, problem-solving and enforcement. By working together, partners can tackle repeat patterns, support vulnerable victims, and restore confidence in local areas where ASB has a disruptive and persistent impact. We will strengthen our focus on environmental forms of ASB, such as fly-tipping, graffiti, and abandoned vehicles - while also working to create cleaner, safer, and more welcoming town centres and public spaces.



To prevent and respond to anti-social behaviour, we will:

- Empower communities to report ASB and access support through clear communication and engagement activity.
- Strengthen partnership problem-solving and proportionate enforcement, particularly where ASB is persistent or causing significant harm.
- Create safer, more welcoming public spaces and town centres where people feel confident and connect.
- Enhance partnership responses to environmental ASB, with coordinated action on fly-tipping, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and other environmental harms.
- Embed a consistent countywide approach, ensuring agencies make effective and proportionate use of available anti-social behaviour powers and tools.
- Improve information sharing and strengthen prevention, enabling earlier identification of repeat locations and people who may be vulnerable to harm.
- Address anti-social behaviour associated with substance use, through coordinated enforcement and access to treatment services.
- Reduce repeat anti-social behaviour by targeting persistent individuals and delivering proportionate interventions that address underlying causes.

PRIORITY 3

Fraud and Scams

Fraud and scams are among the most prevalent and rapidly growing types of crime, often targeting the most vulnerable people in our communities. These offences can lead to significant financial loss, emotional distress, and long-term impact - yet they frequently go unreported. The Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership is committed to working together to protect residents from harm by tackling fraud and scams, including those that occur online. This priority will focus on prevention, raising awareness, and supporting victims to reduce the impact of these crimes.



To protect residents from fraud and scams, we will:

- Increase public awareness and understanding of fraud and scams, helping residents recognise risks and stay safe.
- Promote clear reporting routes so victims know where to report fraud and how to access timely support.
- Strengthen coordinated partnership responses to deliver a consistent and effective approach to prevention, enforcement and victim support.
- Strengthen the identification and protection of vulnerable residents most at risk of fraud-related harm.
- Use data, intelligence and enforcement activity to target offenders and disrupt fraud affecting Buckinghamshire residents.
- Address the underlying drivers of fraud by responding to financial vulnerability, substance use and other risk factors through early identification and targeted support.
- Reduce repeat fraud and scams by focusing on prolific offenders and strengthening coordinated disruption and prevention activity.

PRIORITY 4

Preventing Harm and Exploitation

Vulnerable individuals—whether due to age, disability, exploitation risk, mental health, or social circumstances—face greater exposure to harm and reduced capacity to protect themselves. Safeguarding those most at risk within our communities by addressing serious violence, and the many forms of exploitation, including Modern Slavery. This priority focuses on protecting our most vulnerable through early identification, robust support for victims, and strong partnership working to disrupt offenders and reduce harm. This includes working alongside partners such as the Youth Justice and Support Team to identify risks early, support vulnerable young people and prevent involvement in serious violence and exploitation.

This priority also provides the strategic basis through which the Partnership fulfils its responsibilities under the Serious Violence Duty.



To prevent harm and exploitation, we will:

- Support the early identification of vulnerability and exploitation to enable timely support and safeguarding.
- Build a coordinated partnership response to serious violence, exploitation and modern slavery.
- Work with partners to increase awareness and understanding of serious violence and emerging risks, including online harms and digital environments, helping communities and professionals to recognise concerns and seek support.
- Work alongside youth justice, safeguarding and community partners to strengthen early intervention and diversion opportunities for young people at risk of exploitation, violence or offending.
- Use data and insight to identify priority groups and locations vulnerable to serious violence and exploitation, enabling proactive and targeted partnership responses.
- Enhance trauma-informed support for victims, helping them recover and reduce the risk of further harm.
- Strengthen early identification of exploitation, substance use and wider vulnerability, improving access to specialist support and promoting earlier intervention.
- Work with partners to identify and disrupt persistent perpetrators, reducing repeat exploitation and strengthening prevention activity.

PRIORITY 5

Community Cohesion

Safe communities are built on trust, inclusion and strong relationships between residents, agencies and local groups. When cohesion breaks down, tensions can rise, misinformation spreads, and vulnerability to exploitation or extremism increases. By prioritising community cohesion, the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership will help create environments where people feel connected, respected and able to thrive together.

When people experience physical and psychological safety, they are more likely to trust others and participate in community life. Conversely, when safety is threatened, individuals or groups may withdraw out of fear. Unity and support from others are therefore crucial in restoring confidence and enabling re-engagement, as seen when communities unite after incidents of violence or division. Safety and security also encompass the capacity of people and communities to adapt to shocks and change, preventing differences from escalating into division or conflict.

Strong cohesion reduces the risk of conflict, supports early identification of emerging issues and builds a shared sense of belonging across Buckinghamshire. It also helps create communities where hate incidents and hate crime are less likely to occur, and where those affected feel confident to seek support and report concerns. Hate crime can have a significant impact not only on individuals but also on wider communities, damaging trust, increasing fear and creating divisions that undermine community cohesion.



To strengthen community cohesion, we will:

- Celebrate and build upon the strengths of Buckinghamshire's communities to enhance connections within and between Buckinghamshire's diverse communities.
- Support community led action that creates opportunities for positive relationships, shared experiences and belonging.
- Work alongside communities to understand local concerns, including experiences of prejudice, discrimination and hate crime, and strengthen trust and confidence in public services.
- Proactively identify areas at risk of community tension, using data and local intelligence to guide early intervention.
- Strengthen support for individuals, and where appropriate their families, who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism, ensuring access to timely intervention and safeguarding.
- Improve confidence to report hate crime and increase awareness of the support available for victims.

PRIORITY 6

Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

Domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) remain pervasive and deeply harmful issues affecting victims, families and communities. They can lead to severe physical, emotional and economic consequences and require a coordinated, trauma-informed approach across all agencies. Prioritising this area is essential to ensuring victims receive timely support, perpetrators are held to account, and long-term prevention is embedded in local systems. No community can be safe unless everyone—especially women, girls and vulnerable people—is protected.

While this Strategy sets out the Partnership's overarching commitment to tackling domestic abuse and VAWG, delivery will be supported through the Buckinghamshire Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, which provides a dedicated focus on these issues.

We will work closely with partners to improve reporting pathways, strengthen safeguarding measures, and deliver targeted campaigns to raise awareness. Violence Against Women and Girls is not inevitable.



To tackle domestic abuse and VAWG, we will:

- Challenge barriers that prevent victims and survivors accessing the help and support they need.
- Work with partners to prevent perpetrators causing further harm and improve accountability.
- Create opportunities for earlier intervention and prevention, reducing the likelihood of abuse occurring or escalating.
- Work with partners to ensure children affected by domestic abuse and violence against women and girls receive the support they need to achieve positive outcomes in life.
- Embed a trauma-informed approach to the VAWG response across the partnership.
- Develop and promote innovative approaches that support individuals across the spectrum of need, from education and disclosure through to safety planning and addressing harmful behaviour.
- Strengthen partnership approaches to addressing the links between drugs, alcohol, domestic abuse and VAWG, ensuring early intervention, effective risk assessment and joined-up support for victims and families.
- Collaborate with partners to reduce repeat abusive behaviour by strengthening approaches to managing offending behaviour, supporting rehabilitation and prioritising victim safety and long-term prevention.

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

The six priorities set out in this Strategy do not operate in isolation. Many of the underlying causes of crime, harm and community safety concerns cut across multiple priorities and require a coordinated, whole system response. Two such drivers - drugs and alcohol use, and offending - are fundamental to understanding and addressing harm across Buckinghamshire.

These cross-cutting themes are not additional or optional considerations. They are integral to how each priority will be delivered, how risk will be identified, and how sustainable outcomes will be achieved. By embedding them consistently across all six priorities, the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership will ensure that prevention, early intervention and enforcement activity is joined up, proportionate and targeted at root causes as well as symptoms.

Drugs and Alcohol

Drugs and alcohol use are widely recognised as significant drivers of crime, vulnerability and community harm. Substance use is closely linked to neighbourhood crime, anti-social behaviour, violence, exploitation, domestic abuse and reduced feelings of safety, particularly in town centres and areas affected by deprivation or population churn.

Across all priorities, the Partnership will take a consistent approach to addressing the impact of drugs and alcohol by focusing on prevention, early identification of need, enforcement where appropriate, and clear pathways into support and treatment. This includes tackling the supply of illegal drugs, disrupting organised criminal activity, reducing alcohol related harm, and ensuring individuals have access to timely help to reduce dependency and associated risk.





Drugs and alcohol-related harm is addressed across Buckinghamshire through the Buckinghamshire Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP), which brings together statutory partners to deliver a coordinated response in line with national Combating Drugs expectations. The CDP provides the primary vehicle for strategic leadership, delivery and system coordination in relation to substance use, including prevention, enforcement, treatment, recovery and wider harms associated with drug and alcohol use. This includes responsibility for maintaining a countywide understanding of need, overseeing delivery activity and ensuring alignment with health, criminal justice and community-based interventions.

The Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership does not duplicate this activity, but will seek assurance that drug and alcohol-related harms are being effectively addressed through the work of the CDP.

Offending

Preventing offending and reducing the risk of re-offending are important elements of creating safer communities. Repeated offending can have a significant impact on victims, communities and public services and is often associated with a range of wider factors, including substance use, poor mental health, unstable housing, trauma and social exclusion.

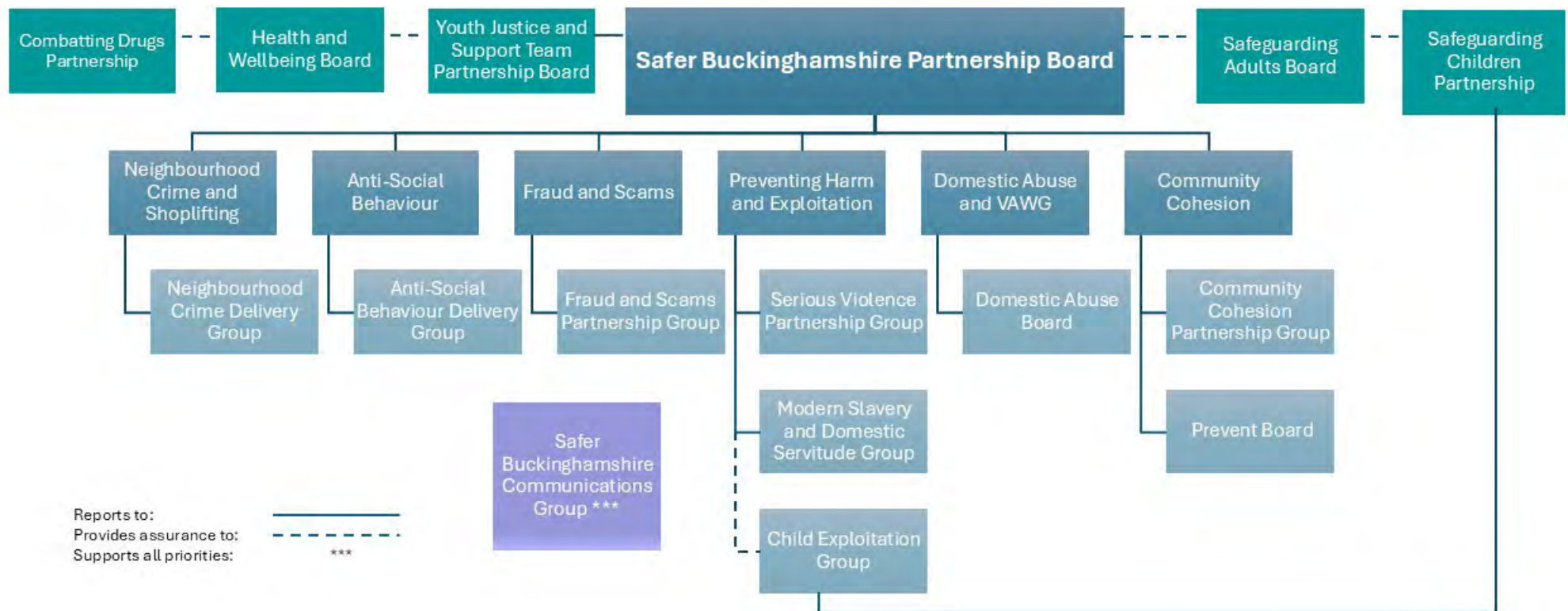
The Partnership recognises the importance of coordinated working across criminal justice, health, housing, employment, education and community services. Across all priorities, partners will seek opportunities to support early intervention, improve access to appropriate support, and contribute to effective rehabilitation and reintegration, while balancing this with proportionate enforcement and safeguarding arrangements.

By embedding these cross-cutting themes throughout the delivery of the Strategy, the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership will support a coordinated approach to addressing factors associated with crime and vulnerability, helping to strengthen community safety and resilience across Buckinghamshire.

HOW WE WILL WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

The Safer Buckinghamshire Board has the responsibility to deliver the priorities that are set out within this Strategy. The Board is also responsible for the strategies, frameworks and delivery plans that support this Strategy, including the Serious Violence Framework, the Buckinghamshire Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, and the Prevent Partnership Action Plan. The Partnership works closely with the Youth Justice and Support Team and the Safeguarding Children Partnership to ensure a coordinated approach to preventing serious violence, exploitation and youth offending, with a shared focus on early intervention and diversion. This requires partner organisations to work together to share skills, knowledge, and resource in order to effectively deliver a service that achieves our ambitions and makes Buckinghamshire a safer place to live, work and visit.

The following diagram illustrates how the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership interacts with and obtains assurance from other Boards and Delivery groups.



MEASURING SUCCESS

Delivering this Strategy requires strong partnership working, clear oversight, and a shared commitment to continuous improvement. To ensure we remain accountable to our communities and responsive to emerging challenges, the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership will adopt the following approach to measuring progress and evaluating impact.

Strategic Oversight and Governance

The Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Board will provide overall strategic leadership and assurance. The Board will meet three times a year to review progress against each priority, monitor risks, and ensure that partnership activity remains aligned with the needs of Buckinghamshire's communities. This regular oversight ensures that decisions are informed by the latest data, operational insight, and partner feedback.

Delivery Plan

The Safer Bucks Partnership Board has an annual delivery plan to drive forward the delivery of this strategy. This delivery plan will set out clear actions and owners to deliver each of the strategy priorities.

Delivery will be monitored by the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Board through regular performance reports, demonstrating progress, highlighting challenges, and identifying opportunities for enhanced collaboration. In addition, the Board will request exception reporting where progress stalls and thematic deep dives into emerging risks or priority areas. The partnership delivery plan will be updated annually.

Delivery Groups

Each strategic priority will be championed by a Safer Bucks Board member/s and supported by multi agency subgroups. These delivery groups will translate the commitments in this Strategy into detailed plans, setting out the actions, responsibilities, and timescales required to drive meaningful and sustained change.

They will report to the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Board, demonstrating progress, highlighting challenges, and identifying opportunities for enhanced collaboration.

Delivery groups will also consider relevant measures and indicators as part of their ongoing work.

Listening to Our Communities

Delivering this strategy requires a clear focus on impact, not just activity. Understanding the experiences and concerns of our residents is central to effective community safety. A Community Safety Survey will be undertaken every year to gather insight into how safe people feel and the issues they are most worried about. These findings will help shape future activity, influence resource allocation, and inform targeted interventions. Feedback from communities—particularly those who may be under represented—will be actively sought to ensure our approach is inclusive and responsive.

Transparency and Accountability

An Annual Report will be published each year, summarising achievements, reviewing progress against delivery plans, and highlighting areas where further action is required. The report will bring together a wide range of information, including:

- analysis of crime and community safety data
- emerging trends and risks
- feedback from community engagement
- what the partnership has delivered and learned

This annual review allows partners to adjust their approach, respond to new challenges, and ensure that our efforts continue to improve community safety and cohesion across Buckinghamshire.

Measuring Our Impact

The following indicators show whether we are making a difference to people's lives:

Neighbourhood Crime and Shoplifting

- Percentage of people who think crime to be a very/fairly big issue in Buckinghamshire (from the annual Safer Buckinghamshire survey).
- Increased partnership activity to reduce neighbourhood crime and shoplifting.
- Level of engagement with relevant community safety campaigns, including increased interaction and participation across digital and community channels.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Reduction in repeat ASB victimisation.
- Increase in percentage of cases successfully resolved at ASBAG.

- Percentage of people who think anti-social behaviour is a very/fairly big issue in Buckinghamshire (from the annual Safer Buckinghamshire survey).

Fraud and Scams

- Evaluate engagement with new partnership fraud and scams campaigns.
- Level of partnership outreach engagement with elderly/vulnerable people, regarding fraud and scams awareness.

Preventing Harm and Exploitation

- Number and reach of awareness and training sessions delivered to frontline staff, partners and communities on modern slavery and serious violence.
- Number of NRM (or equivalent) referrals (including setting a baseline for Buckinghamshire Council through the Modern Slavery case worker post).
- Proportion of identified modern slavery victims receiving support within defined timescales.

Community Cohesion

- Percentage of people who feel safe/unsafe in their local area (from the annual Safer Buckinghamshire survey).
- Extent of agreement that people feel their local area is a place where people from different background get on well together (taken from national the Community Life survey).
- Number and rate of recorded hate crime in Buckinghamshire (police data).

Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

- Total number of people receiving support from DA and VAWG services.
- Train 80 Domestic Abuse Champions from partners organisations/VCS.

This activity will be incorporated into an overall delivery plan for the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Strategy which will be reviewed annually to ensure it addresses emerging themes and changes in public feedback.