

SAFER CORNWALL

Kernow Salwa



Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment Refresh 2026

Acknowledgments

This update to the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly was prepared by the **Amethyst Community Safety Strategic Intelligence Team**, with support from the local **Serious Violence Reduction Partnership**.

We would like to thank all **specified authorities, wider stakeholders and our voluntary and community sector partners** who have provided data, material and/or comment on this profile's content and supported us in its production.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the **wider family of Community Safety Partnerships** across the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Peninsula and the **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**.

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Introduction

The [Serious Violence Duty](#) was introduced in 2022¹ as a statutory requirement to **prevent and reduce serious violence**.

It places a duty on specified authorities to plan, **share data** and information, develop a **strategic needs assessment** and **publish a strategy**. Local areas are encouraged to adopt a **public health approach**.

The Duty also amended the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that tackling serious violence is an explicit **priority for all Community Safety Partnerships** (CSPs).

Safer Cornwall co-ordinate the delivery of the Duty in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, through the Serious Violence Prevention Partnership.

The needs assessment and strategy are published on the [Safer Cornwall website](#) alongside an **independent evaluation** of the first two years of the programme.

The **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner** (OPCC) act as Duty convenor at Peninsula level, bringing together the work of the Community Safety Partnerships within the OPCC footprint, liaising with the Home Office and co-ordinating the allocation of the **Home Office Serious Violence Duty Grant**.

National Landscape

The Serious Violence Duty is built on the **Violence Reduction Unit** (VRU) approach. VRUs were established nationally in 2019 in the 20 police force areas with the highest rates of serious violence.

The objective of the VRUs was to adopt a **whole system approach**, improving multi-agency working between key partners including the police, local government, health and education professionals, community leaders and other key partners, in order to **tackle the root causes** of serious violence.

The [2023 VRU evaluation report](#) found that multi-agency working had led to partners being **better able to respond to violence** with reduced duplication of activity.

The government's **Safer Streets initiative** first launched in 2020 and delivered 5 rounds over 5 years focused on tackling anti-social behaviour, public space violence and violence against women and girls. **Cornwall received £1.19 million over 3 successive rounds** of the programme, delivering benefits for Falmouth, Truro, Camborne and Redruth.

The **updated Safer Streets mission** aims to reduce serious harm and increase public confidence in policing and in the criminal justice

¹ Introduced as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

system. The Government's target is to **halve knife crime over the next decade** and reduce anti-social behaviour and violence against women and girls.²

The Labour Party 2024 Election Manifesto committed to a '**Young Futures Programme**' and this is now a key element of the **Safer Streets Mission**.

As part of this commitment, government will fund **50 Young Futures Hubs** to bring together services to improve access to support for young people, targeting **areas with the highest need**.
8 Early Adopter Hubs will be operational by March 2026.

Each Young Futures Hub will meet three key outcomes:

- Increasing **opportunities**
- Improving **mental health** and wellbeing
- Reducing **vulnerability** to being drawn into **crime**.

The Young Futures Hubs form part of a **£70m transformation programme** for local authorities until March 2029 to enhance and **improve local youth service offers** to enable young people to thrive, as announced in the National Youth Strategy.³

They are just one part of **delivering support within a much wider youth landscape**. They will work closely with core services and wider

initiatives spanning youth, education, employment, social care, mental health, youth justice and policing.

The Home Office published the findings of a process **evaluation of the Serious Violence Duty** in January 2026.⁴ The evaluation explores the impacts on **partnership working and outcomes** achieved and also provides recommendations to support the further development of multi-agency approaches.

In January 2026, the Home Office announced a **new Serious Violence Duty Grant** for the three year period 2026/7–2028/9 providing further support for local partnerships to prevent and reduce serious violence. This is being provided as a **one year grant initially** with funding in years 2 and 3 dependent on the outcomes of a review in the first 6 months.

Central to the funding are the delivery of **four specific outcomes**:

- **Building local capacity** – ensuring specified and relevant authorities have the time, skills and resources to meet the Duty
- **Efficient targeting of resources** – using resource strategically to achieve the greatest impact
- **Pursuing sustainability** – embedding the Duty into existing processes and organisational structures to reduce reliance on short-term funding

² [Safer Streets - GOV.UK](#)

³ [Youth Matters: Your National Youth Strategy](#), Department for Culture, Media and Sport, December 2025

⁴ [Serious Violence Duty evaluation](#), Home Office, January 2026

- **Motivating partners** – fostering engagement and commitment to maintain momentum and support long-term impact

The funding aims to bring together the VRUs, the Duty and Young Futures Programme into **one combined grant programme** with a shared set of requirements and outcomes, with the aim of bringing **greater consistency in delivery and shared learning**.

Why focus on a prevention approach?

A 'public health approach' means looking at crime not as isolated incidents or solely as an enforcement issue. Instead, it is seen as a **preventable consequence of a range of factors**, such as adverse early-life experiences, or harmful social or community influences.

Public Health England⁵ sets out **three levels** of violence prevention:



⁵ [Preventing serious violence: a multi-agency approach](#), Guidance, Public Health England,

Experience of **violence is a risk factor for other negative health and social outcomes** across the life course, so preventing violence also makes a significant contribution to improving the **health and wellbeing of the population**.

Early identification and interventions are key to preventing violence and this requires a **long-term, whole system approach** and a shared, sustained effort by all key organisations working together **in and with communities**.

The ecological model for understanding violence

No single factor explains why some individuals behave violently toward others or why violence is more prevalent in some communities than it is in others.

Violence is the result of the **complex interplay of factors** at an individual and family level, and at a wider community and society level. These can **change over time**, depending on other factors like age. Risk factors often **occur in clusters** and **interact with each other** within the broader social, cultural and economic contexts.

Addressing **risk factors across the various levels** of the ecological model may contribute to decreases in more than one type of violence. For example, **healthy relationships education** addresses risk factors at an individual, family and community level, with the aim of preventing

Department of Health and Social Care, and Home Office (2019)

domestic abuse and addressing a key risk factor for youth violence.

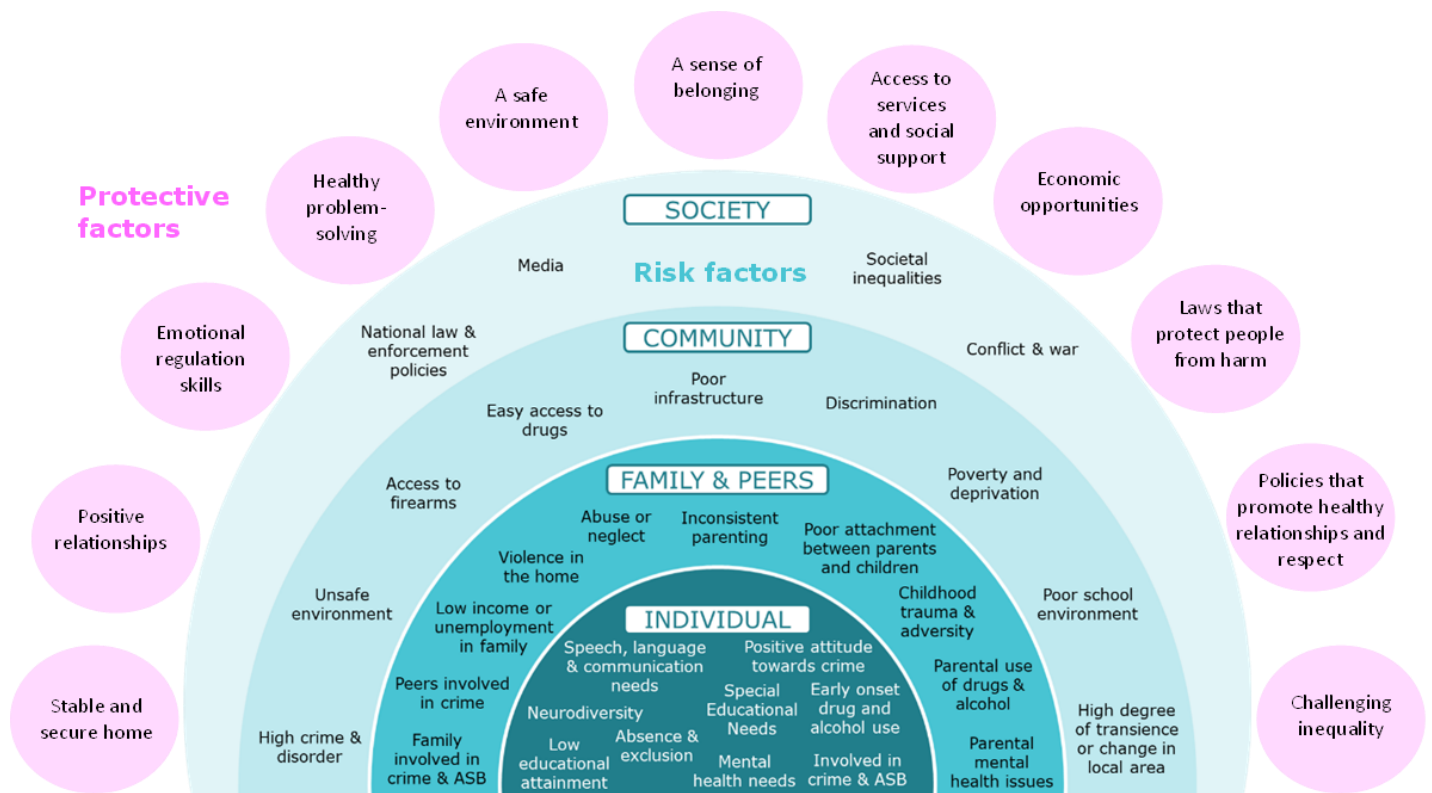
Protective factors act against risk factors and can explain why children who face the same level of risk are affected differently. A **combination of protective factors** can prevent the harmful influence of risk factors that have accumulated over a child's development.

Extensive research by the **Wave Trust**⁶ shows that violence is a behaviour that is caused and can, therefore, be prevented by **addressing the root causes of**

violence at the earliest stage (amongst very young children aged 0-3). Strategies too often rely on addressing the symptoms of violence, which often present at crisis point when the response is at its most costly and resource intensive.

Personal and social factors that contribute to violent behaviours are discussed in more detail under [Understanding Risk and Vulnerability](#).

The ecological model for understanding violence



⁶ The [WAVE Report 2005: Violence and what to do about it](#), George Hocking and Ita Walsh, Wave Trust, 2005

Our People: Key Information

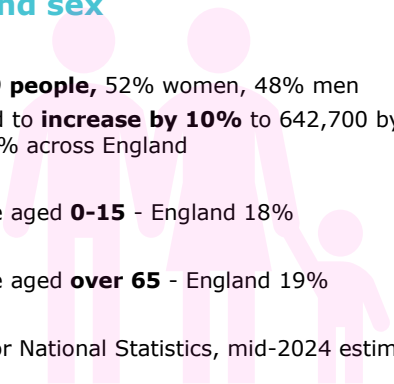
Age and sex

583,289 people, 52% women, 48% men
projected to **increase by 10%** to 642,700 by
2036 - 5% across England

16% are aged **0-15** - England 18%

26% are aged **over 65** - England 19%

(Office for National Statistics, mid-2024 estimates)



Other protected characteristics

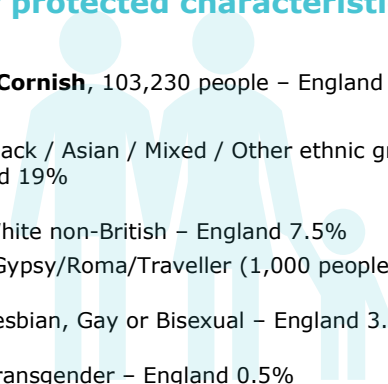
18.1% Cornish, 103,230 people – England 0.2%

3.2% Black / Asian / Mixed / Other ethnic groups
- England 19%

3.2% White non-British – England 7.5%
- 0.2% Gypsy/Roma/Traveller (1,000 people)

3.2% Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual – England 3.2%

0.3% Transgender – England 0.5%

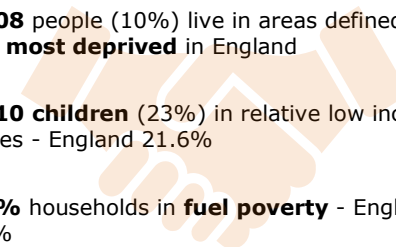


Vulnerable groups

58,608 people (10%) live in areas defined as the
20% most deprived in England

27,110 children (23%) in relative low income
families - England 21.6%

12.2% households in **fuel poverty** - England
11.4%



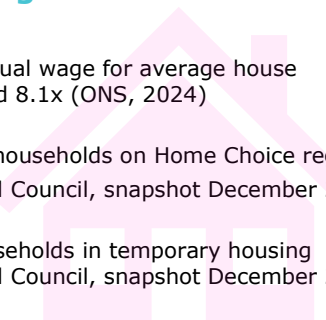
Housing

8.8x annual wage for average house
– England 8.1x (ONS, 2024)

23,842 households on Home Choice register
(Cornwall Council, snapshot December 2025)

846 households in temporary housing
(Cornwall Council, snapshot December 2025)

77 rough sleepers (Rough Sleeping Framework,
average monthly estimate, Oct 2024 - Dec 2025)



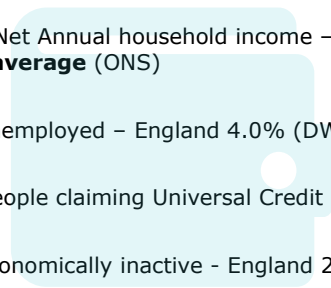
Economy

£30,720 Net Annual household income – **94% England average** (ONS)

2.95% unemployed – England 4.0% (DWP)

65,907 people claiming Universal Credit (DWP)

23.3% economically inactive - England 21.6%

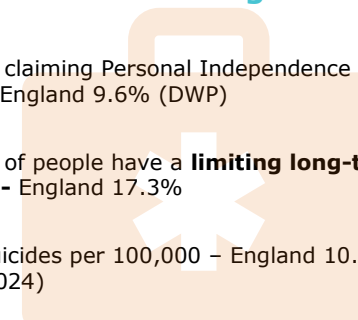


Health and wellbeing

11.3% claiming Personal Independence Payment
(PIP) – England 9.6% (DWP)

21.1% of people have a **limiting long-term illness** - England 17.3%

15.0 suicides per 100,000 – England 10.9 (ONS,
2022-2024)



All figures from the latest Census (2021) unless otherwise stated. Download Cornwall's [Local Insights](#) for more key statistics. Figures for the Isles of Scilly are provided on page 60.

Cornwall is a place of contrasts...

Cornwall is the **second largest local authority area** in the South West, covering an area of 3,559 km² and home to **583,289 people**. It is an area of many contrasts, where **affluence** sits alongside some of the **most deprived areas** in England.

The **population profile is older than the England average** with proportionately fewer people aged 0-15 and more people aged over 65.⁷

Whilst **94% of Cornwall's population are White British** our communities are home to people from a broad range of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, but in very small numbers.

Over **40% of residents** live in small settlements of less than 3,000 people. Rural **isolation** is a challenge in accessing social networks and essential services. This can result in **harms being more hidden**, such as domestic abuse and problem drug use.

Around **30% of people live in the main settlements** of Camborne, Pool, Illogan and Redruth, Falmouth, St Austell, Truro and Newquay. Whilst Cornwall's **larger towns** are small in a national context, they are **no less urban** in nature.

Cornwall's population is projected to grow overall, but some **coastal and rural communities** will see their population decline and/or age, which

will add to the challenge to pressures on existing services in these areas.

Wages in Cornwall are **below the national average** and the job market is reliant on **vulnerable sectors** (such as retail and hospitality). Since the pandemic, numbers of people in **temporary housing** having to live in poor conditions or **homeless** have increased and this is coupled with a housing shortage and unaffordable rents.

The UK continues to experience a prolonged **cost-of-living crisis**, with households having to cope with high costs of energy, food and housing. **Low-income households** are being most **acutely affected**, including many families in work.

Although national measures do not highlight Cornwall as a deprived area overall, there are **pockets of significant deprivation** across the county. **58,608 people**⁸ live in areas experiencing **multiple deprivation** factors.

These areas face a combination of challenges in relation to **living standards, crime and health inequalities**.

26% of children in Cornwall live in **low income families**, compared with 20% in the UK.⁹ This equates to 27,504 children.

⁷ Mid-2024 population estimates, Office for National Statistics

⁸ Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025

⁹ Children in low-income families, Department for Work and Pensions (2024)

Defining serious violence

In responding to the Duty, local areas are encouraged to explore and agree a **local definition of serious violence** based on local needs.

The Home Office's statutory guidance for the Duty suggests building upon the **World Health Organisation's (WHO) definition** of violence – "*the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation*".

The Government's Serious Violence Strategy, however, had a specific focus on **young people, gangs, drug-related violence and weapons**. It referenced specific crimes such as homicide, knife crime, and gun crime. It also recognised types of **criminality that involve serious violence**, such as gangs and county lines drug dealing.

The SV Duty guidance identifies **three key success measures** for tackling serious violence. These are reductions in:

- Hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object
- Knife-enabled serious violence recorded by the police
- Homicides recorded by the police

Whilst we acknowledge that these measures are set at national and

police force level, there is agreement locally that they are **not sufficient to evaluate local progress** towards achieving the cultural and systemic changes that will prevent future violence. It is also important to consider that these measures do not reflect the local picture of violence in Devon and Cornwall.

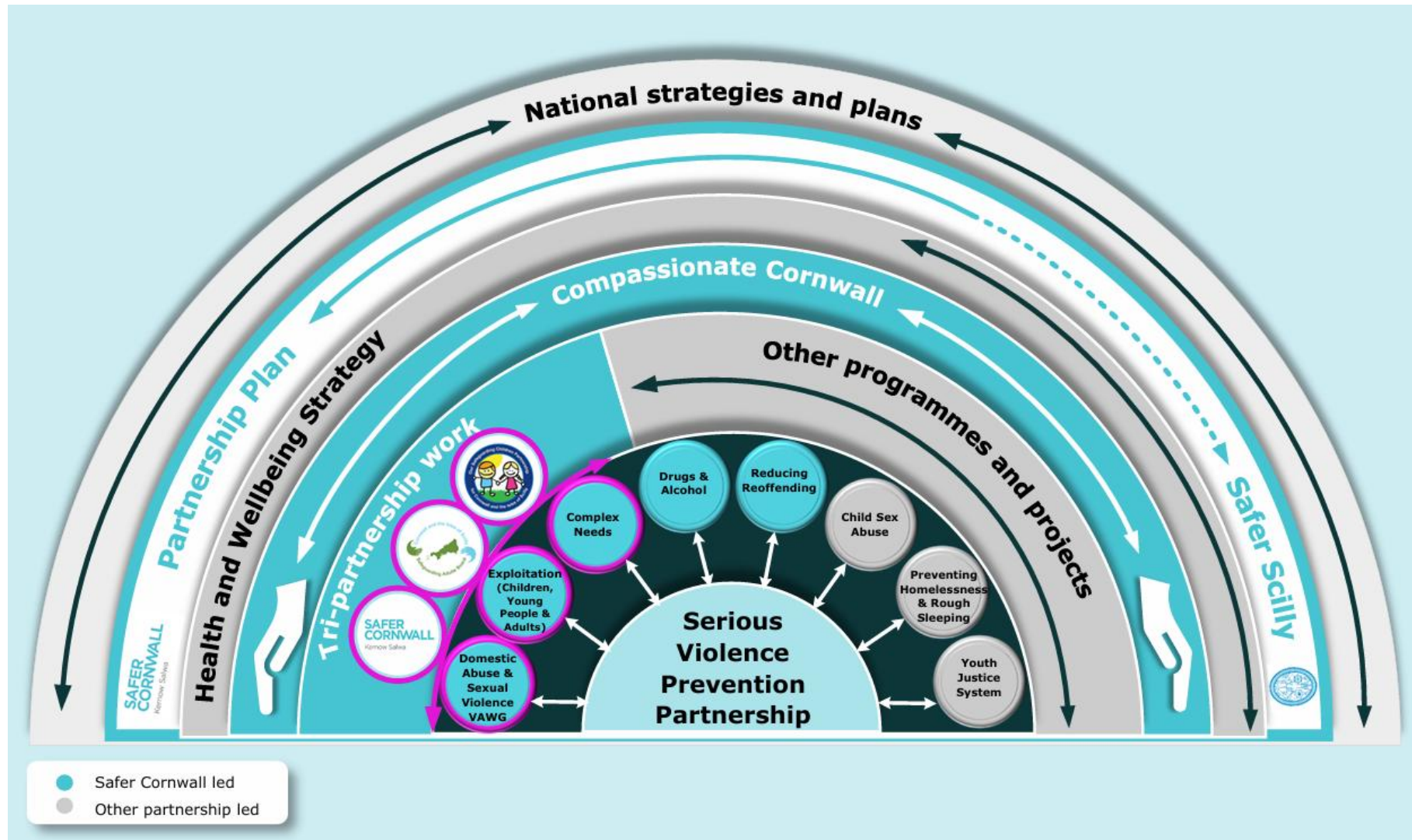
For the purposes of providing a **measure across the Force footprint**, we have agreed at Peninsula level to use a common 'technical' definition of serious violence, which is fairly narrow in scope but broader than knife crime.

Information drawn from this subset of crimes¹⁰ is included within this assessment, but we have focused more on the **contexts** in which violence takes place and the **most vulnerable people and places**.

Serious violence spans many contexts including domestic abuse and sexual violence, violence between young people, exploitation and drug trafficking and there is significant overlap between them.

We have a range of **specific strategies** addressing these as important issues in their own right, each drawing on their evidence and needs assessments. This document **brings together relevant key findings** and signposts to more detailed assessments where appropriate.

¹⁰ See [Developing a definition of Serious Violence](#).



Violence overview

Local crime context

Cornwall's all recorded crime rate is **in line with the average** for similar areas nationally. **36,064 crimes** were recorded by the police in the last 12 months¹¹, equating to **62 crimes per 1000** residents.

Recorded crime is up by 7% on last year. The increase is mostly accounted for by rises in shoplifting, stalking and harassment offences, violence without injury, criminal damage and public order offences.

A key factor in the rise in recorded crime is the continuing impact of **changes made** by Devon and Cornwall Police to improve recording and investigation standards alongside improved call handling.

Understanding crime increases

Devon and Cornwall Police are focused on **keeping communities safe** and delivering justice for victims through:

- **Improved access for victims** via increased front offices and improvements in 101 call wait times
- Effective **hotspot policing** initiatives
- **Improving response times** to incidents
- **Pro-active operations** focused on serious and organised criminals
- **Securing more positive outcomes** for victims through improved investigation quality

In 2024/25 it is estimated that these improvements **increased recorded crime by 8%** and are continuing to impact.

What presents the greatest risk of harm?

Priorities for the **Safer Cornwall Partnership Plan 2025-2028** were identified based on the 2024/25 Community Safety **Strategic Assessment**. The following high risk themes were identified:

What causes the most harm?

- Problem drug use and drug-related deaths
- Dependent drinking and harms to health
- Domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Exploitation, including County Lines
- Anti-social behaviour
- Hate crime
- Serious violence, including knife crime

The evidence is refreshed annually and a series of multi-agency [MoRiLE workshops](#) contribute to this assessment on a range of themes.

Changes in levels of reporting

(likelihood in the risk matrix) affected the risk scores between 2024/25 and 2025/26, and some issues moved up or down risk bands as a result.

The **issues that cause the most harm remain broadly the same**, however, so no changes were needed to the **priority aims** in the plan. Partners agreed that our

¹¹ Police recorded crime, calendar year 2025 compared with the previous 12 months.

existing strategic framework will continue to respond effectively.

The assessment also identified four clear cross-cutting themes:

- **Online space** – the need for stronger digital awareness and challenging social media misinformation
- Growing understanding of the prevalence and impacts of **childhood sexual abuse** – as a feature of adult vulnerability, as well as children
- **Multiple vulnerabilities** – people need longer and more intensive support, co-ordinated across multiple services
- **Early prevention** is critical to reduce harm – in school and in the community, delivered through strong Voluntary and Community Sector support and whole family approaches.

In addition, under the **organisational risk** section of the assessment, **capacity pressures** across the system were cited as impeding our ability to manage many of the high risk issues effectively; there has been **no positive change** in this regard since last year.

A summary of the [Strategic Assessment](#) is published on the Safer Cornwall website.

The next section provides a broad overview of the **prevalence** of violence in Cornwall, the **types** of violence and **broad context** in which it occurs. It draws on the **latest police data** (12 months to December 2025) and the **thematic paper on violence** developed with partners via the MoRiLE workshop (produced in August 2025).

Key statistics¹²

- **595 serious violence crimes** ►-2%, 2% of all recorded crime

Broader measures of violence:

- 5 homicides ► 0%
- 4,740 violence with injury offences ►-2%, of which
 - 1,681 Domestic abuse crimes (36%) ► 0%
 - 1,074 crimes involving a victim under 25 (23%) ▼-9%
 - 851 Night Time Economy¹³ (18%) violence ▼-12%
 - 117 crimes involving a knife (2%) ►-2%
- 199 robberies ▲+39%
 - 43 robberies involving a knife ►+5%/2 crimes (22% of all robberies)
- 873 knife crimes¹⁴ ▲+11%
 - 164 possession of a knife offences ► 0%
 - 709 other crimes involving a knife ▲+14%
- 367 assault presentations to ED/MIUs¹⁵ ▼-28%
- 133 ambulance callouts to stab/gunshot incidents¹⁶ ▲+37%

¹² Unless otherwise stated, Police data covers the calendar year 2025 compared with the previous year.

¹³ Non-domestic crimes that took place between 9am and 5am. Data quality is improving but is not complete enough to identify public place crimes

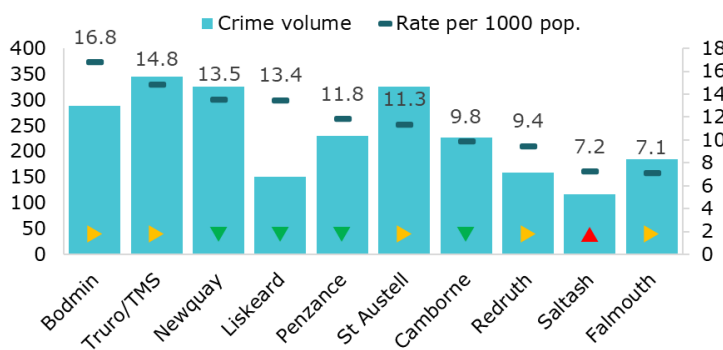
¹⁴ Includes possession offences and use of a knife in the commission of another offence

¹⁵ 12 month period to July 2025, compared with the previous 12 months

¹⁶ Calendar year 2025 compared with 2023 (incomplete data for 2024)

Using the police 'technical' definition¹⁷, serious violence makes up **2% of all recorded crime**, with the majority of crimes relating to violence with injury (71%). The level of serious violence has **remained stable** compared with the previous year.

The broader measure of **violence with injury accounts for 13% of all recorded crime** in Cornwall. This has also remained broadly stable over the last year but has **fallen in our larger towns** where we have delivered **targeted initiatives**, including within our Safer Towns and Hotspot Action Areas.



We routinely use police data to **benchmark local crime rates** with national rates. Despite the drop in recorded crime, our local rate of **violence with injury remains high** compared with the average for similar CSP areas¹⁸ nationally.

Just over a third of violence with injury is recorded as **domestic abuse** related and, recognising this

as a significant area of hidden harm, we continue to prioritise **driving up reporting** of this type of crime.

Domestic abuse makes up a **greater proportion of recorded crime** locally¹⁹ and is a key factor in pushing Cornwall's rates of violent crime above the average for similar areas nationally.

Home Office defined 'most serious violence' primarily relates to grievous bodily harm and **makes up 4%** of all violence with injury. We have seen a **reduction in these crimes** and our crime rate is **comparatively low** (25% below the average for similar CSP areas nationally).

It is of note that **only a proportion of violent crime is reported** to the police. The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates that only around **44% of violence is reported**, although **serious assaults** are more likely to be **reported and captured well**²⁰ within police data.

Data from **Cornwall's Emergency Department and Minor Injuries Units** on presentations for assault-related injuries consistently indicates that around **45% of assaults are not reported** to the police. One of the factors that can reduce the likelihood of assaults being reported is **fear of reprisals**.

¹⁷ See [Developing a definition of serious violence](#).

¹⁸ Cornwall is ranked 12th out of 15 areas, where 15=the highest crime rate.

¹⁹ [Domestic Abuse Statistics Data Tool](#) year ending March 2025 (latest), ONS November 2025. Police recorded crimes classified as

domestic abuse-related – Devon and Cornwall 21%, England 15%.

²⁰ Crime Survey for England and Wales, year to March 2025: [Annual Supplementary Tables](#); reporting estimates - all violence 44%, wounding 65%, assault with minor injury 40%

People and places



Violence, particularly domestic abuse, is strongly correlated with the presence of **multiple deprivation factors**, and most strongly linked to **income, employment, health, and education, skills and training**.

Mapping rates of violent crime shows that violence is **clustered in our main towns**, with Bodmin, Truro, Newquay and Liskeard seeing the highest rates per 1,000 residents.

As well as containing some of our **most deprived areas**, the influx of people into town centres for **work, education and leisure** create more opportunities for crime and increase crime rates. We also see **predictable spikes** in anti-social behaviour, thefts and violence over the summer months.

Ambulance data also highlights **Bodmin and Truro** as top **repeat locations for call-outs**, along with Camborne and St Austell. However, closer inspection of the data indicates that a large proportion of the incidents attended relate to **self-harm** rather than assaults.

Looking at non-domestic crimes, **one in five** violence with injury crimes took place in **night-time hours** (9pm to 6am), which we use as a proxy for **Night Time Economy** (NTE) violence. **NTE crime levels have reduced** across Cornwall. In many places the level of NTE activity has not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Over recent years, town centres in Cornwall have seen **more anti-social behaviour in the day time**. This has included some violent and aggressive behaviours, such as **assaults on shopworkers and emergency workers**.

Anti-social behaviour has a **negative impact on residents** and contributes to fear of violence although anti-social behaviour in itself is not violent. **Youth ASB has been identified as a Cornwall-wide concern**, with some groups of young people travelling between towns and behaving anti-socially.

We have seen **rising trends** in online threats of violence, bullying and sexual harassment. Use of **generative AI** is featuring in online sexual abuse and exploitation, sextortion and bullying. **Online radicalisation** is a real and present threat and targets the most vulnerable people. **Risks are dynamic** and criminal use of technology moves at pace.

Hostility has continued to escalate – particularly towards refugees, asylum seekers and the trans community. Nationally, we have seen **protest activity** become faster, more decentralised and more disruptive. There has been a significant rise in **community tensions**, in some cases leading to targeted intimidation and hate.

Online space plays a key role in amplifying fear, spreading misinformation and **normalising harmful narratives**.



For all types of violence, the risk of **victimisation is greater for younger people** and victimisation reduces with age.

Excluding sexual violence, where young people under 18 are at greatest risk, people **aged 18 to 34** experience the highest rates of violence and are more likely to commit violence.

Males and females are equally likely to experience violence, but the type of **violence differs**. Females are more likely to experience domestic abuse and sexual violence, whereas males are more likely to experience non-domestic violence (such as street violence).

There has been a drop overall in violence with injury crimes involving **young people as victims** – by 11% for under 18s and by 7% for 18-24 year-olds. There has been a **small increase**, however, in crimes where a **knife was used**, including some instances of wounding and GBH.

A 2025 police profile on **Urban Street Gangs** indicated an increased level of intelligence about the involvement in **violence and County Lines** amongst specific groups of young people. Issues identified including drug taxing, cuckooing, Class A drug dealing and domestic burglaries/car theft.

Violence makes up **a third of all offences** committed by young people in the **Youth Justice System**. Young people committed 167 violent offences in 2025/26. Offences related to **serious**

violence accounted for 10% (down from 22% last year).

Sexual offences committed by young people have **increased**. 7% (38 crimes) were sexual offences, up by 12 crimes or 46% on last year. The majority were serious crimes.

Whilst the numbers of serious offences are small, it is recognised that the **impact on victims and communities is significant**.

We recognise that **children involved in crime are also victims**, often through abuse and neglect in early childhood, but also within their social networks and relationships with peers.

County lines operations are increasingly controlled locally, with an ongoing threat from Organised Crime Groups. The top concerns are crack cocaine, synthetic drugs and ketamine. **Violence taking place in this context is less likely** to be reported due to fear of reprisals.

Children excluded/out of school are identified as an **at-risk group** for exploitation and violence. Local rates of exclusion from school are **well above national rates** and we have seen significant pressures on **Alternative Provision** and support for vulnerable children and families.

Other populations where there may be hidden risk include **marginalised** populations, people who are **rurally isolated** and people whose needs fall **below statutory thresholds** (so may be 'under the radar').

Community Views

The '**Have Your Say**' survey is run annually by Safer Cornwall to capture residents' views about their local community. **851 people** responded to the 2025 survey.

77% of respondents had **seen or experienced crime or anti-social behaviour** in the previous 12 months, similar to 2024 (76%).

The most common issues were **environmental** or **street-based anti-social behaviour**. One in four respondents (22%) had experienced some form of violence from a stranger and one in ten from someone they knew (9%).

Consistent with previous years, the survey showed **high levels of community concern** where drug dealing and drug use has become **more visible**. **49%** of respondents had **seen drug use or dealing**.

Only **31%** of people who witnessed drug use or dealing **reported it to police**.

Witnessing drug use and dealing has a **significant impact on public satisfaction** as well as how safe people feel. People who had seen drug use or dealing were:

- **More likely to feel unsafe** in the day-time (21% vs 13%) and at night (64% vs 35%)
- **Less confident in the police and council** – 72% disagreed that the police and council are tackling anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their local area (all respondents 55%).

17% of respondents who felt fairly or very unsafe after dark cited **groups of young people** loitering, being loud, or **behaving aggressively** as a reason for this and **15%** cited **violence/crime** - including mention of assaults, knife crime, vandalism, and general criminal activity - as reasons for feeling unsafe.

Issues experienced

● No ● Yes



Domestic abuse and sexual violence

Key statistics²¹

- 7,603 domestic abuse crimes ▲+5%, of which
 - 1,681 violence with injury (22%) ► 0%
 - 2,227 stalking and harassment offences (30%) ▲+23%
 - 207 crimes involving a knife (3%) ►+20%
- 3,509 domestic abuse non-crime incidents ▼-16%
- 2,023 sexual offences ▲+4%
 - 819 crimes victim U18 ▼-5% / 284 crimes victim 18-24 ▲+6%
- 6,917 adults 16+ supported by DASV community service ► +1%

Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse is the main driver of harm in Cornwall; in terms of its contribution to **violence experienced now** and in the context of **adverse childhood experiences** and future impact.

Young people are **disproportionately affected by domestic abuse**, both as children in abusive households²² and as young adults experiencing abuse within their own relationships.

Witnessing violence or abuse is one of the Adverse Childhood Experiences that research shows will go on to significantly affect **short term outcomes for children** but also impacts across the life-course, with longer term effects on the **health, wellbeing and mortality**.

This is especially true for children from **lower socio-economic backgrounds**, certain **ethnic**

minorities or from families who are **socially isolated**.²³

Nationally police recorded domestic abuse crimes have started to fall for the first time in a decade, but the level of **domestic abuse crimes** reported in Cornwall is **still increasing**.

Domestic abuse-related crimes make up **22% of all crimes recorded** by the police in Cornwall.

Reports of domestic abuse crimes to the police have increased by 5% compared with last year. The rise is primarily in **stalking and harassment** offences and **sexual offences** with young people aged 16-19 experiencing the highest rates of victimisation for stalking.

Many of the more challenging domestic abuse cases in Cornwall involve victims with **multiple and overlapping complex needs**, making them particularly

²¹ Unless otherwise stated, Police data covers the calendar year 2025 compared with the previous year.

²² The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises children affected by domestic abuse as victims in their own right

²³ Bryant et al (2020), The rise of adverse childhood experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

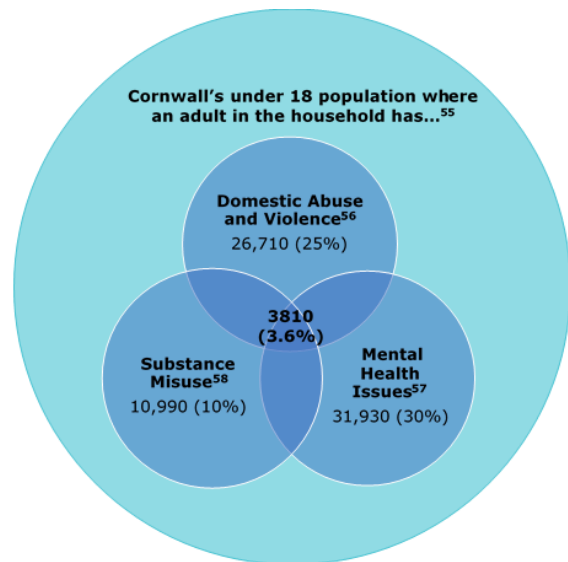
vulnerable to exploitation and further harm.

A significant proportion of these individuals have experienced **abuse and exploitation dating back to childhood**. These individuals are increasingly needing longer, more resource intensive interventions to address long term mental health concerns and challenges around accessing essential support such as appropriate housing.

Safer Cornwall has received notification of 27 potential **domestic abuse related deaths** since the end of 2022, with 12 meeting the criteria for a Domestic Abuse Related Death Review.

A combination of process changes to capture **domestic abuse related suicides** and increasing awareness amongst partner agencies has contributed to the number of **Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews**²⁴ being commissioned tripling since 2017 with the figures for 2024 experiencing the highest number on record. So far in 2025, 6 reviews have been commissioned and a further 13 are ongoing.

It is estimated that **1 in 4 children**²⁵ in Cornwall live in households where an adult is or has been **affected by domestic abuse** – that's 26,700 children. For 6.2%, **6,620** children or 1 in 16, the abuse will have been **experienced in the last year**.



Practitioners within the MoRiLE workshop reported an **over-reliance on children verbally disclosing forms of abuse**, despite evidence showing that many face significant barriers to doing so – including fear, trauma, loyalty to family members, and shame. This reliance can lead to missed safeguarding opportunities.

Data from our commissioned domestic abuse and sexual violence service, Safer Futures, reveals that just over **1,800 children** under the age of 18 were recorded as being linked to around 1,700 clients²⁶, accounting for 25% of all clients with an open episode.

26 of these linked children were known to have been on a **Child Protection Plan** in the last 3 years, 74 had been assessed as a **Child in Need** while 7 were in the care of the local authority as **looked after children**.

²⁴ Formerly known as Domestic Homicide Reviews

²⁵ Estimating the prevalence of the 'toxic trio', Children's Commissioner's Office (Chowdry, 2018)

²⁶ Clients aged 16 or over, not necessarily a parent and could be sibling or other family member or friend. Would generally be living in the same household, but not always

Experience of domestic abuse is a **strong theme across our most vulnerable cohorts** of young people, often present with other vulnerabilities such as mental health issues and substance use.

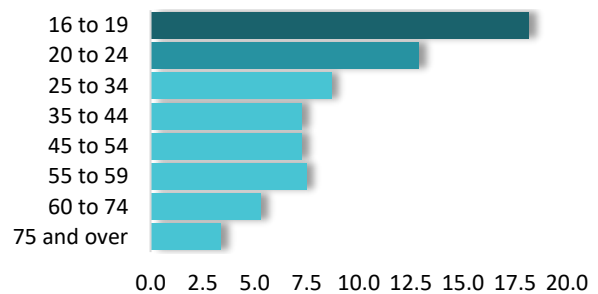
3.6% of children under 18 years old in Cornwall (4,000 children) are estimated to live in a household where an adult is or has been affected by **co-occurring** domestic abuse, drug and/or alcohol problems and mental health problems.

- Domestic abuse is present in the home for **61% of children at risk/experiencing exploitation** and referred to MACE.²⁷
- **1 in 5 young people engaged with the Youth Justice Service** have witnessed/experienced domestic abuse
- **19% of young people in drug and alcohol treatment** are affected by domestic abuse, above the national profile of 15%.

Young people can also experience domestic abuse in their **own intimate partner relationships**. They may also **demonstrate harmful behaviours themselves**, towards partners or family members.

National prevalence estimates indicate that **young people** are most likely to have experienced domestic abuse in the last 12 months, particularly the 16-19 age group (18.2%).²⁸

Prevalence of domestic abuse in the last year for people aged **16+ years**, England and Wales, y/e March 2025



In 2024/25, we observed that the number of crimes where the **victim was under 18 had increased by 20%**. Local partners attributed this to two main factors: firstly, the **ongoing improvements** in police recording practices and secondly, the growing recognition of **children as primary victims under** Section 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Over the same time period the number of under-18s seeking support from Safer Futures saw a slight drop. **1,164 under-18s were recorded as seeking support by Safer Futures** in 2024/25 down by 5% from the peak of 1200+ seen during 2023. This drop is most pronounced amongst 16–17-year-olds (9%).

The number of **18-24 year-olds** in service had also shrunk back towards 2023/24 levels (-6%) to

²⁷ The Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE) Panel provides the operational response to all forms of exploitation, up to the age 25.

²⁸ Crime Survey for England and Wales, Year ending March 2025

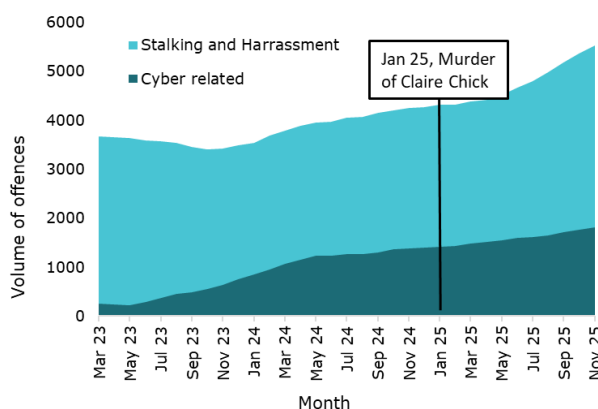
961 people over the same period. Reasons for the decline include a consolidation and reduction of waiting lists as well as a vacancy in the Children and Young People Independent Domestic Violence Advisor team.

National estimates of **stalking and harassment**²⁹ also indicate that a **higher percentage of younger people** experienced stalking, with the highest rate among those aged 16-19 years (9% experienced stalking in the last year).

Police recorded stalking and harassment offences have seen a continuous rise over recent years.

Looking at crimes over time, there has been a steep rise in reported crimes since January 2025. This is a trend that is **mirrored across the force area** and can be linked to the murder of [Claire Chick in Plymouth](#).

The chart also shows when the impact of **recording improvements for cyber related offences** has started to take effect. This increasing trend has remained relatively consistent since May 2024.



²⁹ [The nature of violent crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

Within these figures, there was a **rise of 87% in stalking offences** reported to the police in 2025 and an increase of 38% in harassment offences, compared with the previous year. The **majority of stalking offences** are recorded as domestic abuse related (81%), compared with around 22% of harassment offences.

Sexual Violence

Current estimates project that around **10,500 people** aged 16 years or over in Cornwall are **victims of sexual assault each year** (2.2% of the population).

The **highest risk age categories are again amongst young people**, with the estimated number of victims far exceeding reports to police.

The Crime Survey found that, although there is year-to-year volatility in these estimates, **over the last 10 years there has been an increase in prevalence of sexual assault** (further to a decrease in the ten year period prior to March 2014).

Over the same time period, there has been a **sustained rise in police recorded sexual offences**. Previous analysis has explored potential drivers behind these increases, including **improved police recording** and response, **heightened public awareness** following the #MeToo movement and **high profile cases** (such as the

murders of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa).

In Cornwall, sexual offences reported to the police have **continued to rise**, driven by an increase in reporting by adult victims (+12%). Crimes involving young people under the age of 18 as victims have seen a small reduction, having previously risen year on year.

83% of victims of rape and other sexual offences are **female** with the largest numbers appearing across the **12-19 years old age groups**. Reported crime data indicates that younger people, especially teenagers, are more likely to report a sexual offence, which is in line with the prevalence estimates.

Schools and services working with young people report concerns about a **rise in misogynistic language and behaviours** and the impact on young people's relationships.

In Cornwall, 16% of recorded victims of non-fatal strangulation were under 18. **Strangulation during sex is common among young people**. A 2024 IFAS survey³⁰ of over 2,300

respondents found that **35% of 16–34-year-olds** had experienced being strangled or choked during consensual sex, while **27%** reported having done so to a partner—highlighting the widespread nature of the practice within this age group.

Sex and relationship education should be carefully delivered to looked-after children, emphasising mutuality and consent as well as openly discussing grooming (including online, exploitation, and control and coercion) in relationships, gender dynamics and issues affecting people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or other sexual orientations (LGBTQ+).

Find out more

- Read: [Domestic abuse and sexual violence needs assessment](#)

³⁰ [Strangulation during sex in the UK](#), IFAS (2024)

Young people

Key statistics³¹

- 812 violence with injury crimes³² involving a victim under 18
 - Non-domestic 732 crimes ▼-11% / Domestic 80 crimes ▲+8%
- 571 violence with injury crimes involving a victim aged 18-24
 - Non-domestic 342 crimes ▼-7% / Domestic 229 crimes ►-0%
- 121 knife crimes involving a victim under 18 ▲+11%
- 367 assault presentations to ED/MIUs³³ ▼-28%
 - 50 aged under 18 ▲+11% / 99 aged 18-24 ▼-21%

Overall police data shows a small increase in **crimes where young people under the age of 18** were recorded as the victim. The **increase is mainly seen in low level violence** and stalking and harassment, with improvements to police recording practice being a key factor here.

There has been a **drop overall in violence with injury crimes** involving young people as victims – **by 11% for under 18s** and by 7% for 18-24 year-olds (non-domestic offences). There has been a **small increase**, however, in crimes where a **knife was used**, including some instances of wounding and GBH.

A 2025 police profile on **Urban Street Gangs** indicated an increased level of intelligence about the involvement in **violence and County Lines** amongst specific groups of young people. Issues identified including drug taxing, cuckooing, Class A drug dealing and domestic burglaries/car theft.

The **group dynamics are complex** and span **several geographical locations** but are strongly interconnected. Young people identified are **known to services** and information is proactively shared through Local Disruption and Support Meetings, ensuring that **safeguarding and disruption interventions** are implemented.

Violence and knife crime

Community organisations working with young people are concerned about a perceived **increased in knife carrying**, but anecdotal reports continue to outweigh the quantifiable evidence.

Risks may be more hidden from statutory services, particularly amongst children and young adults who are **not in school**.

Children may carry knives for a range of reasons including:

- **Fear of perceived threat** which increases in those young people who have previously been the victims of knife crime

³¹ Unless otherwise stated, Police data covers the calendar year 2025 and compares it with 2024.

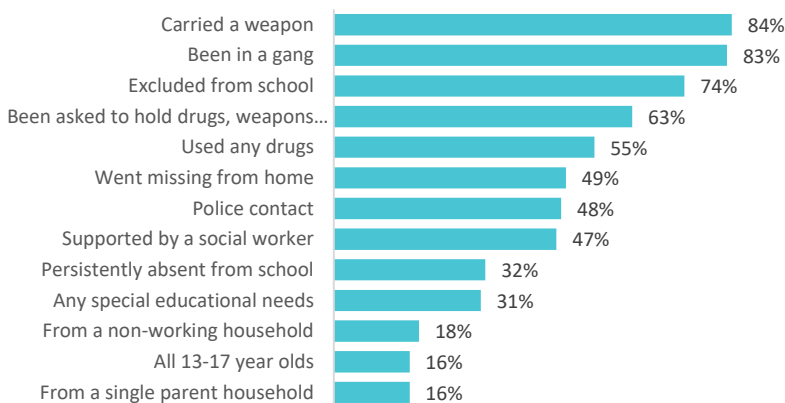
³² Includes homicide, violence with injury and violence without injury.

³³ 12 month period to July 2025, compared with the previous 12 months

- To achieve **social status** particularly when other avenues of achievement, particularly academic, are closed off
- In relation to exploitation and involvement in **criminal gangs**
- **Poverty and deprivation** creating potential pathways into knife related crime
- Experiencing **Adverse Childhood Experiences**

National research³⁴ shows that **carrying a weapon, gang involvement and exclusion from school** were the most common vulnerability factors for children who have perpetrated violence.

Vulnerabilities of children who have perpetrated violence - YEF



A relatively low number of **serious violence and knife crimes** are coming to the attention of the **Youth Justice Service** in Cornwall and trends have been stable over the last 12 months. Whilst the numbers are small, it is recognised that the

impact on victims and communities is significant.

A local 2025 Knife Crime Strategic Profile³⁵ highlights that the majority of people who commit knife crimes are aged between **14 and 19 years**, are proportionally more likely to be **male** and are often **repeat suspects/offenders**.

A notable number of knife crime flag offences are reported at 3pm which may **suggest a link to young people finishing school**. The strong correlation between the age of those that commit and are victims of knife crime supports the notion of **peer on peer violence**.³⁶

Nationally, **knives** or other sharp instruments are the **leading cause of homicides** amongst **teenagers**, accounting for 65% of homicides of 13-19 year-olds in 2024/25.

However, the number of knife-related homicides of 13-19 year-olds is **down 59%** compared to 2023/24 the lowest level recorded in a decade. In contrast, the number of 13-19 year-olds **killed by other means was unchanged** at 12 compared to the year before.³⁷

Knife-enabled crime has moved from a rising trend in 2023/24 to a **measurable decline** in the most

³⁴ [Who is affected by violence? | Youth Endowment Fund](#)

³⁵ [Beyond the Headlines 2025.pdf](#)

³⁶ Devon and Cornwall Police Strategic Problem Profile: Knife Crime Jan 2025

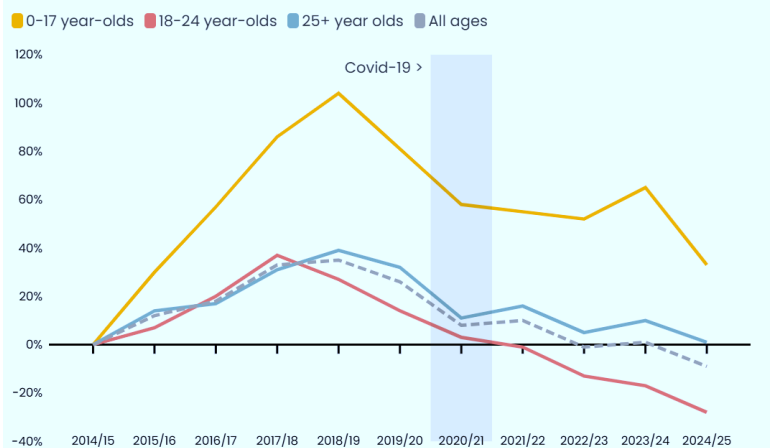
³⁷ [Teenage homicides in England and Wales fall to a decade low | Youth Endowment Fund 2026](#)

recent reporting period, dropping by over 3,400 offences between late-2023/24 and mid-2025.³⁸

Children make up a minority of knife crime offences overall in England and Wales. 99% of children convicted of these offences are for possession only rather than for threatening use of, or to enable knife related serious violence.

Knife-related hospital admissions fell for all age groups in the latest year.

Number of admissions to hospital for assault with a sharp object, by age group – percentage change since 2014/15.



Nationally, the likelihood of **children being admitted to hospital** as victims of assault with a sharp object has **fallen** in the most recent year.

NHS Digital data for **2024/25** shows that **409 children aged 0–17** were admitted to hospital for knife or sharp-object assault, representing a **20% decrease** from the **509 admissions recorded in 2023/24**.

This decline reverses the rise seen the previous year, when admissions had increased by 9%. Over the longer term, however, admissions

remain higher than a decade ago, with current levels still **33% above those recorded in 2014/15**.³⁹

Current measures to restrict weapon sales on social media are inadequate, allowing young people easy access to knives and other weapons. A recent review of online knife sales raised concerns about the **glamorisation of knife possession**

and highlighted that restrictions applied to other illegal items do not extend to knives.

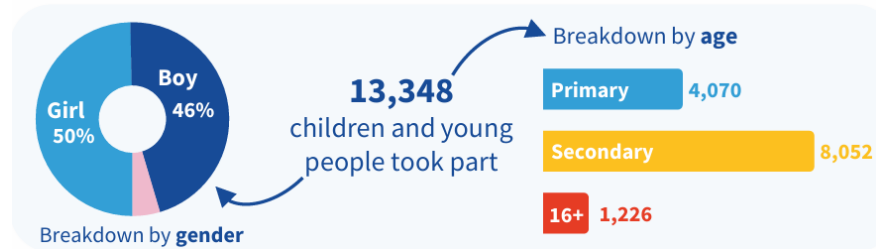
Without visible safeguards from tech companies, **underage users can access sites** selling both legal and illegal weapons, with grey market sellers exploiting loopholes to operate legally while offering minimal protection against sales to minors or individuals intending violence.

The **rise of 3D technology** also presents significant challenges for law enforcement as it enables individuals to anonymously design, produce, and deploy lethal weapons with limited risk of detection or traceability⁴⁰.

³⁸ [Performance Tracker 2025: Police | Institute for Government](#)

³⁹ [Knife crime | Youth Endowment Fund](#) March 2025

⁴⁰ [Legal Frameworks And Ethical Debates Surrounding 3d Printed Weapons In Modern Society](#) – George Petropulos 2025



Feeling safe

The Right On Survey is an **extensive biennial consultation with children and young people** in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

The survey invites children and young people to let us know their thoughts on a wide range of issues that impact their lives – questions about **feelings of safety** have been agreed with Safer Cornwall. **13,348 children and young people** took part in 2025.

This survey forms **part of wider engagement and participation work** to ensure we are connected with the children and young people of Cornwall.

The majority of children feel safe at school, out and about in their community in day-time and on-line.

There were, however, some **distinct differences by age**. Feelings of safety at school particularly were **lower for secondary-age children** (13 to 15 year olds) and there was a **marked difference between boys and girls**, with girls feeling less safe. These figures then improved again for boys and girls post-16.

From age 12 onwards, the greatest difference between girls and boys was in how safe they felt when **out**

after dark with 1 in 4 of all girls saying that they never felt safe.

When asked what would make their area **a better place** to live in, young people of all ages **unanimously** wanted more **things for young people to do and places to go**.

Around **one in four children** said that a safer area or **less crime** would make their local area better, this dropped to only around one in six for 12-15 year olds and rose again post-16.

1 in 3 primary-age girls were more likely to think that **less shouting, fighting and violence** would make their area better. Older children were less likely to see this as an issue, but across all ages **girls showed higher levels of concern** about safety and violent behaviours in their local area.

A large proportion of young people **'usually' or 'always'** feel included as part of their school community, the lowest feelings of engagement were concentrated in the **13 year-age group with 1 in 3 girls**, in particular, **feeling excluded**.

Girls in every age group tended to feel less included than boys. This is mirrored in the community

inclusion results where only 1 in 2 girls of secondary and college age reported feeling part of their community compared to 2 in 3 boys.

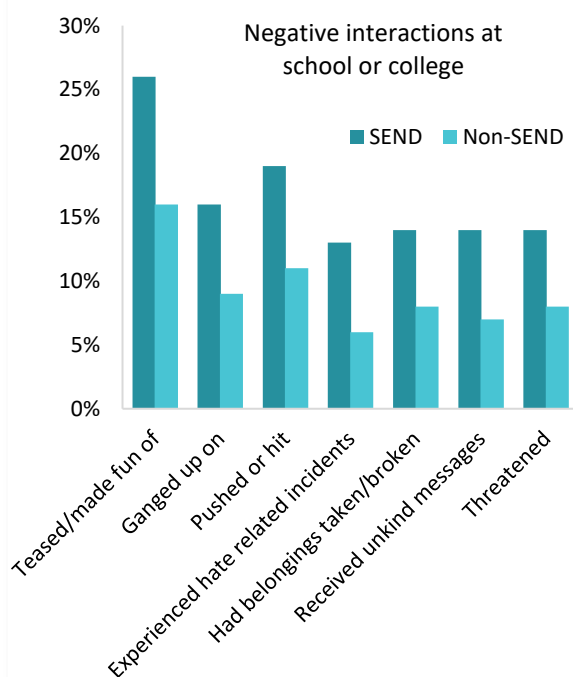
Across all age groups those young people who have the **most marked negative experiences** or views peaked at 15 years of age for both boys and girls (years 10 and 11).

This includes:

- Their **online experiences**
- Feelings of safety
- Perceptions around **inclusion and being heard** in both school and their wider community

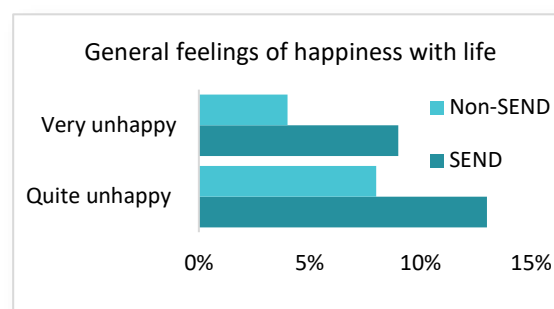
Children with SEND

Notable differences were evident in responses from young people with **special educational needs and disabilities** (SEND) in relation to feeling safe in school and negative interactions they experience here.



Children with SEND experience **higher frequency of negative experiences** than their non-SEND peers.

Overall **feelings of happiness** with their life was also reported as **lower** in **secondary children with SEND**.



68% of SEND students felt 'always' or 'usually' **safe** in school compared to **81% non-SEND** and this was lower for girls at 64%. This was particularly marked for 13-year-old girls where **14% with SEND reported 'never' feeling safe** compared to 4% non-SEND.

Similarly, **feelings of safety** during the day, **whilst travelling and after dark were all lower**, with 29% of SEND girls 'never' feeling safe at night (rising to 34% of 12 year olds) compared to 20% of non-SEND girls.

Over **1 in 4 Secondary students with SEND reported not feeling included and part of school**, a similar proportion to those reporting a lack of community belonging.

Right On Survey 2025

ONLINE



- 43%** spend 3-6 hrs daily online
- 28%** spend 6+ hrs daily online
- 65%** have seen something online they found upsetting
- 36%** have been asked to say or do something online that they felt uncomfortable with.
- 29%** would not tell anyone at all about what they had seen or experienced
- 35%** find out about relationships & sexual health online or via social media

PERCEPTIONS



- 34%** said that their school cared about them and their wellbeing
- 22%** felt that all people were treated and valued equally
- 20%** said that school teaches them how to deal with their feelings
- 55%** said that there was an adult in school that they could talk to if they had a problem
- 31%** felt that the school have fair consequences for breaking rules
- 18%** felt that their views and opinions were taken seriously with **36%** feeling included
- When asked how their views and opinions were listened to at school the top positive response was 'through teachers and adults' at **34%**

BEHAVIOURS



- 77%** sometimes/often made fun of
- 47%** sometimes/often ganged up on
- 47%** sometimes/often pushed or hit
- 50%** sometimes/often sent unkind messages by text/call/online
- 38%** sometimes/often feel threatened
- 27%** reported not telling anyone about these types of incidents. When they did **36%** stated that things did not get any better

Girls

Boys

Age
15



57%

Said their mental or physical health worried them so much it affected day to day life

8% disclosed they felt very unhappy with their life in general and **13%** said they were quite unhappy



34%

Said their mental or physical health worried them so much it affected day to day life

3% disclosed they felt very unhappy with their life in general and **8%** said they were quite unhappy



45% feel part of their community and included and **31%** feel listened to

40% always and usually feel safe in their local area in the dark

73% always and usually feel safe in school

Only **17%** of girls feel unsafe online sometimes with **3%** stating they never feel safe

Girls would prefer to find information and support via TikTok (**56%**) websites (**36%**) and Instagram (**31%**) than visitors to school (**25%**)

64% feel part of their community and included and **43%** feel listened to

70% always and usually feel safe in their local area in the dark

72% always or usually feel safe in school

Only **6%** of boys feel unsafe online sometimes with **2%** stating they never feel safe

Boys would prefer to find information and support via websites (**53%**) TikTok (**40%**) Instagram (**28%**) than visitors to school (**24%**)

INCLUSION AND SAFETY

ONLINE



- 39%** spend 3-6 hrs daily online
- 25%** spend 6+ hrs daily online
- 45%** have seen something online they found upsetting
- 23%** have been asked to say or do something online that they felt uncomfortable with.
- 43%** would not tell anyone at all about what they had seen or experienced
- 33%** find out about relationships and sexual health online or via social media

PERCEPTIONS



- 46%** said that their school cared about them and their wellbeing
- 30%** felt that all people were treated and valued equally
- 31%** said that school teaches them how to deal with their feelings
- 57%** felt that there was an adult in school that they could talk to if they had a problem
- 38%** felt that the school have fair consequences for breaking rules
- 23%** felt that their views and opinions were taken seriously with **53%** feeling included
- When asked how their views and opinions were listened to at school the top positive response was 'through teachers and adults' at **36%**

BEHAVIOURS



- 61%** sometimes/often made fun of
- 34%** sometimes/often ganged up on
- 58%** sometimes/often pushed or hit
- 42%** sometimes/often sent unkind messages by text/call/online
- 34%** sometimes/often feel threatened
- 51%** reported not telling anyone about these types of incidents. When they did **31%** stated that things did not get any better

Drug and alcohol use

Estimated rates of **problem drug use**⁴¹ in Cornwall are **below national** levels, whereas **alcohol dependency** is estimated to be **higher**. Our local treatment system is effective at engaging drug and alcohol users, with **much lower levels of unmet need** than England averages across all drug groups.

46% of people in treatment locally are parents⁴² and this is above the national average (35%).

Parental substance use is a **factor in young people's vulnerability**.

Over 1,000 local parents in treatment live with children under 18, yet only 5–6% receive parenting support—well below national averages.

Estimates suggest **10,990 children in Cornwall live with an adult using substances**, including 3,980 with dependency. **Many remain unidentified** in local systems due to hidden harm and multiple co-existing adversities such as domestic abuse and parental mental ill health.

Parental substance use is the **third most common reason** (after domestic abuse and parental mental ill health) children are **referred to children's social care**. The

experiences of children living with substance using parents are **complex and risk factors are multiple**.⁴³

The research has highlighted the impact of parental substance use on older children with their **increased risk of significant harm** due to criminal exploitation and/or child sexual exploitation.

The challenges experienced are compounded by the **decade-long impact of austerity measures**, which have reduced early intervention services, resulting in practitioners prioritising the needs of younger children to the detriment of older children.

Substance use among young people in Cornwall continues to **shift in complexity** rather than volume.

While **142 young people received structured treatment** in 2025, and overall numbers have stabilised after a 2024 spike, the cohort is now **older** and presenting with **higher levels of vulnerability**.

A further 88 young people received **harm-reduction support**, and 188 were supported as **Affected Others** due to parental substance use.

⁴¹ Treatment and recovery unmet need toolkit, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2025)

⁴² Determined by those with parental responsibility (living with children or not), based on the PARENT, PRNTSTAT, CIRPARENT, and CIRPRTST fields at any point in their treatment journey.

⁴³ Todman H, McLaughlin H, (2024) Understanding the Needs of Children Living with Parental Substance Misuse: Perspectives from Children and Practitioners. The British Journal of Social Work, Volume 54, Issue 7. May 2024

Cannabis remains the most used substance (87% of cases), while **ketamine** use is becoming more common. This is generating some **safeguarding concerns**, particularly linked to exploitation, and presenting **physical health issues** such as chronic urinary problems not always recognised by primary care.

Alcohol use persists, with a notable shift toward **high-strength spirits** acquired via shoplifting or social media, contributing to town-centre **anti-social behaviour**.

Solvent and aerosol misuse has re-emerged, posing acute risks that cannot be mitigated through harm-reduction.

Young people in treatment show **increasing levels of cumulative vulnerability**, often experiencing:

- **School exclusion** or chronic non-attendance
- **Domestic abuse** exposure
- **Mental health** challenges and trauma
- Peer **isolation, bullying**, and unstable relationships
- **Parental substance use** and wider family instability

A significant proportion of the caseload present with internalised disorders (e.g., anxiety and depression). Cannabis is often used by these young people to self-medicate, meaning service goals **focus on safer use**, meaning **reduction rather than immediate abstinence**.

Approximately 80% of young people reported **significant peer difficulties**, and mental health needs increasingly resemble higher-need social care populations.

Looked After Children and care leavers remain at elevated risk due to trauma, instability, peer influence and unmet mental health needs. These **vulnerabilities strongly intersect** with substance use initiation and escalation.

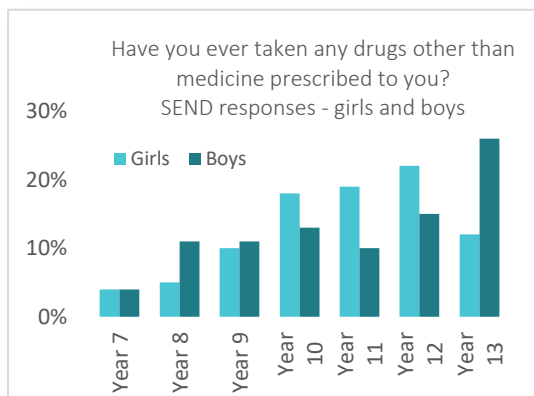
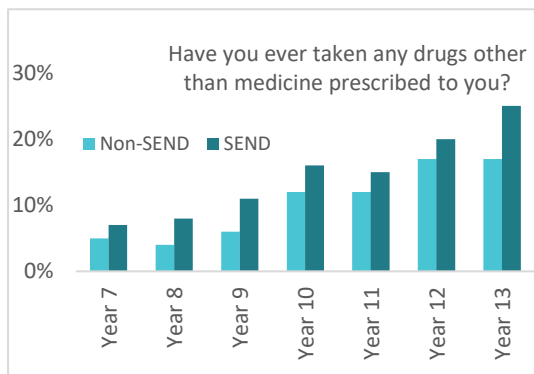
National data shows a decline in drug use among 11–15-year-olds, though vaping is rising—especially among 15-year-old girls. Locally, young people report **higher rates of alcohol experimentation** than national averages.

Cornwall's 2025 Right On Survey shows **nicotine and cannabis use remain significant** but not widespread, with ketamine use emerging among a small minority.

Evidence indicates that **effective prevention requires** whole-school approaches, family programmes, early identification, motivational interviewing, and robust pathways between universal, targeted, and specialist support. Conversely, mass-media campaigns, standalone self-esteem programmes, and generic mentoring show **no proven impact** on reducing drug use.

The Right On Survey saw **young people with SEND** reporting being **offered and taking drugs** other than prescribed medicine at a **higher rate** than their non-SEND peers. Boys are more likely than girls

to have been offered drugs but girls in years 10, 11 and 12 are more likely to have taken them.



The impacts of drug and alcohol use also appeared more marked in those young people with **SEND**, with 14% stating they were **violent after using drugs or alcohol** compared to 9% non-SEND. Over **twice as many** SEND students disclosed getting into **trouble with the police** or an adult unknown to them with **8% identifying drug debt** as a **consequence** of drug taking (albeit very small numbers).

Find out more

- Read: [Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessments](#) updated 2025/26
 - Treatment System
 - Consultation & surveys
 - Young People

Young people in the Youth Justice System

Most children in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly **do not offend**. Children coming to the attention of Youth Justice Services **present with high levels of need** relating to neurodiversity, education, mental health and wellbeing and this cohort has **increasingly complex needs**.

It is now widely recognised that **adverse childhood experiences are highly prevalent** amongst the children who come into contact with Youth Justice Services.

Current issues identified as affecting children include:

- Increase in number of children who are reporting instances of **sexual harm and violence**
- Increasing **fear or lack of understanding from communities** in relation to the issues facing young people.
- **Increasing complexity** of the children requiring support and intervention.
- **Overrepresentation** of particular groups particularly in relation to **neurodiversity**

There has been a shift in the national approach to Youth Justice which **recognises that children who offend are often vulnerable** and in need of support rather than punishment. As a result, the Youth Justice partnership in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly aims to provide **holistic and trauma-informed interventions** that address the underlying causes of offending

behaviour and help children to achieve positive outcomes.

It is recognised that this is **best achieved through early intervention, prevention and interventions to divert children** away from the formal criminal justice system whenever possible, and to use restorative practices that promote accountability and empathy.

The **Out of Court Joint Decision Making Panel**, alongside the introduction of deferred charge in July 2025, has proven to be an effective way of achieving this. Where an outcome has been recorded, **48% were out of court outcomes** with court outcomes accounting for 52%.

Metrics from the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Youth Justice Board⁴⁴ show that **performance for the local Youth Justice Service is strong** across the key performance indicators. This indicates that children who offend in Cornwall receive a good service, tailored to ensure that support provided is focused on improving outcomes.

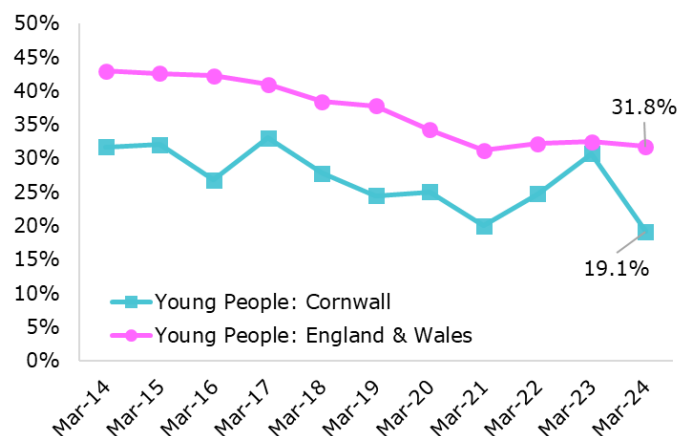
Proven reoffending rates for young people have **consistently tracked below the national rate**, but with some fluctuations in the difference over the ten year time series. The latest reoffending information⁴⁵ for young people in Cornwall shows a **reoffending rate of 19%**. 27 out of 141 young people in the 2023/24

cohort reoffended in the following year. These young people were charged with a further 109 offences.

Rates of **first time entrants into the criminal justice system** were high last year but this year have dropped below the national and regional comparators. Our numbers of **children in custody** remain consistently low.

The **cohort size significantly increased in 2023/24** having dropped incrementally year on year for the preceding 10 years. The cohort **remains comparatively small**, however, at around one third the size it was ten years ago (397 young people).

In the 2023/24 monitoring cohort, **females made up 21%** of the young people who offended. 17% of young females reoffended – 5 out of 29 people (note small numbers).

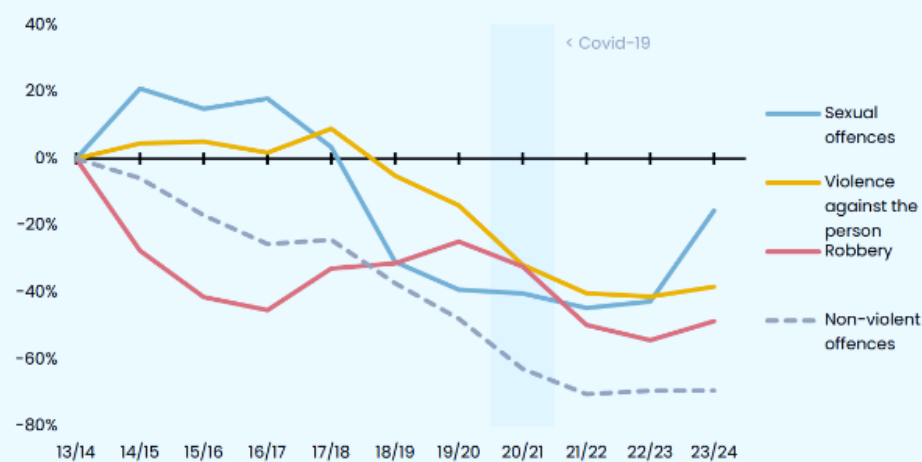


National data showed an **uptick in proven violent offences** by young people in the 2023/24 cohort, particularly sexual violence.

⁴⁴ As reported in Safer Cornwall's Q3 2025/26 Performance Report

⁴⁵ Proven reoffending statistics, Ministry of Justice. Geographic data tool April 2023 to March 2024, published January 2026.

FIGURE 3.2. PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PROVEN VIOLENT OFFENCES BY CHILDREN SINCE 2013/14 (ENGLAND AND WALES)



Latest statistics

Offending data from Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Youth Justice Service for 2025/26 shows **525 reported offences linked to 190 children**. There were 9% fewer offences than the previous year and **81 fewer children** who committed offences in the period.

10 children had 10+ offences in the period, accounting for 26% of offences.

- 32% (167) of offences were categorised as **Violence Against the Person**. 10% (17) of these were **Seriousness 5** or above.
- 11% (56) were **thefts**, predominantly shoplifting
- 7% (38) were **sexual offences**, up by 12 crimes or 46% on last year. The majority were **serious crimes** (includes rape, sexual assault and indecent photographs)

Children in Cornwall tend to be charged with less serious violence, usually common assault or assault (including assault with injury ABH), making up 90% of all violent offences in the past year and an increase of 12% on last year.

Offences related to serious violence accounted for 10% (down from 22% last year). This is made up of Grievous Bodily Harm, possession of weapons as well as threats of violence and intentional strangulation.

Find out more

- Read: Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Youth Justice Service – [Youth Justice Plan 2024-27](#)

Organised Crime, Exploitation and Drug-related Violence

Drugs and County Lines

Nationally drug trafficking is highlighted as a **major driver of serious violence**. Analysis by the National Crime Agency highlights that **violence is endemic within drug trafficking activities**, used for intimidation, coercion and as retribution for drug related debts.

The independent review by Dame Carol Black estimated that **61% of known Organised Crime Groups** involved in drug supply had some violent capability and 29% owned illicit firearms⁴⁶.

The latest Drugs Market Profile highlights that the **Drug Market in Devon and Cornwall has significantly evolved** in the reviewed period.⁴⁷ The emergence of new business models has radically transformed the drug retail landscape and **simplified the route from supplier to customer**: social media platforms, postal supply and home deliveries are now integral to drug supply chains.

Whilst the previous **supply model of County Lines** has changed, with lines now being **controlled locally** and operating within internal force boundaries, County Lines continue to supply crack cocaine and heroin through **exploitative practices**.

A **rapid growth in the cocaine supply market** in Devon and Cornwall is likely linked to the increasing demand from recreational users. It is almost certain that methods of sale such as **social media platforms or postal delivery** have enabled recreational users to access illicit drugs anonymously and independently from a facilitating “middleman”.

Lower wholesale prices have created an opportunity for Serious and Organised Crime threats to leverage their business model from source to supply. This has been evident in **Western Balkan distribution model** whose footprint continue to expand in force.

The emergence of **potent synthetic opioids**, likely driven by shortages in the availability of heroin supplies caused by the Taliban ban of Afghan Opium production, is presenting an increasing risk to the end user and will highly likely be an increasing contributory factor to overdoses and near fatal overdoses.

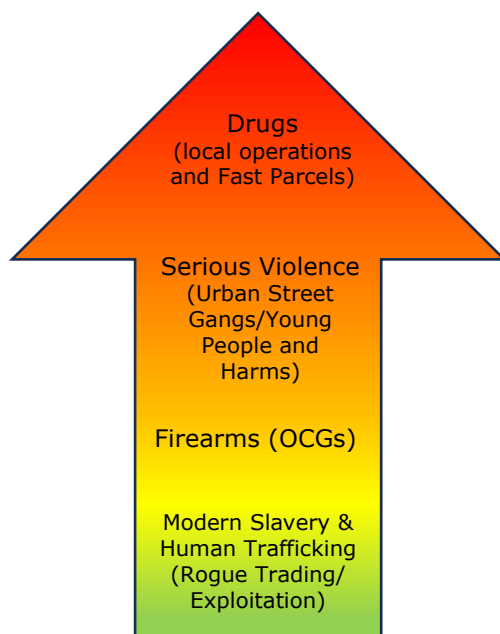
It is likely that changes in distribution models will **lead to increased competition and will drive violence** related to Serious and Organised Crime. Serious violence perpetrated by metropolitan

⁴⁶ Home Office (2023) [No Place to Hide: Serious and Organised Crime Strategy 2023-2028](#)

⁴⁷ Summary from Force Drug Market Profile 2025, period reviewed 01/05/23 - 30/04/25.

drug threats has already influenced the behaviour of low-level local nominals who are looking to emulate similar levels of violence.

Police Serious and Organised Crime profiles⁴⁸ provide a 'threat arrow' for each partnership area, based on the **evidence of the most prevalent threats** within the area. They are established on professional judgement at the time that the profile is written.



Drug trafficking is consistently assessed as the highest threat for Cornwall (and the Peninsula).

Key themes this year were noted as **synthetic opioids, ketamine, cuckooing** and increasing distribution through the **postal system**. Drug-related intelligence is submitted from **all parts of Cornwall** from East to West.

The Drug and Alcohol Team is aware of increasing community intelligence regarding **crack cocaine being aggressively marketed to vulnerable** people, including people who are rough sleeping and/or street drinking in some of our larger towns.

Services working with vulnerable women are reporting **sexual exploitation and abuse linked to crack** and in several cases, this has also come to the attention of the MARAC⁴⁹ as a feature of coercive relationships. Victims are often **manipulated through violence, debt bondage, and threats**.

Drug Supply Routes

Supply networks are **more localised** rather than County Lines. Organised Crime Groups remain an active threat and continue to target vulnerable individuals.

Selling drugs can be seen as a means to make easy money, but there is a **heightened risk of violence and reprisals** if they come to the attention of established networks.

Violence and weapons use, whilst present, were not seen by partners as having escalated amongst young people in this context. Where young people are engaging in violence, it appears to be **territorial and status-related** in order that they are seen not to tolerate 'disrespect'.

⁴⁸ Cornwall and Isle of Scilly – Serious Organised Crime Local Profile Jan-Apr-2025

⁴⁹ Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) involves the active participation of

all of the key statutory and voluntary agencies who are supporting a person(s) experiencing domestic abuse. It is used primarily to manage high risk cases.

Digital drug markets are evolving and facilitating fast, discreet transactions with swift delivery times across Cornwall. **Telegram** is the dominant leader.

There is a proliferation of sites selling a catalogue of drugs, **accessible via QR codes**.

Find out more

- Read: [Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessments](#) updated 2025/26
 - The Drug Market, exploitation and other criminality

Exploitation

Latest figures show that there were **1,227 MARU⁵⁰ referrals** or contacts where experience or risk of **exploitation** was **identified** over the last 4 quarters. **324 children** were referred to the **Missing and Child Exploitation panel** (MACE) for safeguarding and disruption interventions.

The number of individual children referred to MACE has reduced, but more activity is taking place in the **Local Disruption and Support Meetings** (LDSMs).

This reflects **more localised activity in relation to drug networks/County Lines**, requiring a place-based, contextual safeguarding response. The

information/activity is fast paced, appears more complex and requires more immediate responses to reduce the risk of harm.

Where peer groups have been identified and moved into LDSMs, concerns have been raised for **child-on-child exploitation for children similar in age**. Previously we have seen older young people identified as presenting a risk of exploitation to younger children.

There were **63 social care assessments⁵¹** where CSE was **identified as a factor**, representing a 10% reduction.

313 crimes were flagged as **Child Sexual Exploitation** (CSE) a 24% increase on last year. The majority of CSE crimes are recorded as **cyber-crime** (79%) with 73% of these relating to sharing sexual images. **Peer-to-peer taking/sharing of sexual images** is a notable element of this type of crime.

Intelligence has increased regarding **groups of young people and links to drugs threats** and associated violence and other crime. Concerns about **escalating anti-social and aggressive behaviours** amongst our young people are being flagged Cornwall-wide.

Community services working with young people report seeing **younger people getting caught up in challenging behaviour** (aged 10-

⁵⁰ [Multi-Agency Referral Unit](#) in Cornwall providing a multi-disciplinary response to concerns about the welfare or safety of a child or young person

⁵¹ Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse, [Data Insights Hub](#) – local authority data 2024/25.

12). They are vulnerable to being exploited by older young people who are being exploited to deal drugs.

Whilst this involves only a minority of children, it can **increase fear amongst peer groups**. Children involved in crime are also victims, often through abuse and neglect in early childhood, but also within their social networks and relationships with peers.

Exclusion from school is frequently cited as a significant risk factor for these young people.

Local data from Children's Services shows that **two thirds of children** identified as at risk/experiencing child exploitation (note this includes all types of child exploitation) had **4 or more identified vulnerability factors**, including:

- 40% witnessed/experienced **Domestic Abuse** in the household
- 9% were **Children in Care**
- 6% had been the subject of a **Child Protection Plan** in the last 3 years
- 25% has a **Parent(s) that uses Drugs** and or Alcohol
- 10% were **homeless**

A dip sample of **victims of multiple CSE offences** was examined as part of a police problem profile on CSE – this found that over half of the victims had additional vulnerabilities, either through neurodivergence,

sexual or transgender identity or **adverse childhood events**.

There is a real knowledge gap around online CSE and generative AI and this is likely to be widely underreported.

Child-on-child sexual image offences may not be prioritised in the same way as 'real world' CSE, despite these behaviours being seen as harmful.

Because understanding of the experience of CSE is skewed towards females, we may be less adept at **recognising CSE in boys**.

Boys who come to the attention of services for CSE often do so **via the criminal justice system**, where they have been initially identified as being involved in another type of crime particularly criminal exploitation such as drug running. **Disclosure is less likely** due to gendered perceptions of masculinity, feelings of shame or a sense of weakness and potential exposure.⁵²

Police analysis of child sexual abuse (CSA) offences⁵³ in Devon and Cornwall found that **over half** of all offences for sexual images in the last 12 months **involved a suspect or offender under the age of 18**, which is consistently higher than other CSA types.

⁵² [Boys-and-Young-Men-Toolkit.pdf](#)

⁵³ Strategic Problem Profile: Child Sexual Abuse, Devon and Cornwall Police (November 2024)

Child-on-child exploitation

The complexity of **child-on-child exploitation** is hard to address and can be extremely nuanced due to **considerable overlap between victimisation and offending**, particularly in criminal exploitation.

Many of those children who offend are also at risk of, and have experienced, victimisation and abuse and may have been **coerced into recruiting others** into exploitation. Ways that some children cope with adversity include behaviours which are considered “challenging.”⁵⁴

If a child is **identified as recruiting** others often, they are **no longer seen as victims** despite having experienced or continuing to experience, coercion and abuse.

Nationally the first six months of 2023 saw **child-on-child sexual abuse and exploitation increase to 56%** of cases compared with 40% of cases in the whole of the previous year.⁵⁵

The Hydrant Programme which leads the **Child Sexual Exploitation Taskforce** are responsible for analysing group-based⁵⁶ child sexual exploitation and abuse.⁵⁷ 2023 data submitted to them was split into 4 broad categories – Familial, CSE, Institutional⁵⁸ and Ritualistic – plus

Other and Unknown. The highest percentage is categorised as ‘Other.’

A deep dive analysis into the ‘**Other**’ category highlighted that **55%** of cases under this umbrella **involved abuse and exploitation committed by children**⁵⁹ the significance of which has established a separate reporting category of CSE committed by children for 2024 data.

CSE committed by children is defined as ‘*A child who has not yet reached their 18th birthday who commits an offence upon another child who likewise has not yet reached their 18th birthday.*’

- 15% of CSE group-based crime has an element of abuse and exploitation committed by children.
- 57% of institutional group-based crime had an element of sexual abuse and exploitation committed by children.
- 42% of suspects in CSA/E committed by children were recorded as an ‘acquaintance’ of the victim.
- Locally, the majority of CSE/A crimes related to sharing sexual images are understood to be child-on-child. There is little information on other types of CSE child-on-child crimes (due to the low completion of offender data).

⁵⁴ [CoTN Crime-Justice Report 11.pdf](#)

⁵⁵ [National Policing Statement 2024 For Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) - July 2024 WEBSITE PUBLICATION \(2\).pdf](#)

⁵⁶ [Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#), October 2022.

⁵⁷ [Group-Based Offending Publication](#), Hydrant Programme, November 2024.

⁵⁸ Includes, schools, councils, hospitals, prisons, churches (and other religious institutions), Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Sea Cadets, children’s homes, community centres, leisure centres, youth clubs.

⁵⁹ Data from April to December 2023

The number of children referred to Gweres Kernow⁶⁰ for interventions for **harmful sexual behaviours** fluctuates, but numbers in 2024/25 were higher overall than the previous year.

Exploitation and young adults

Exploitation was a **strong theme** within the recent thematic **tri-partnership Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review**, undertaken to consider the learning from the lives and **deaths of four care-experienced young women** in Cornwall.

This was **undertaken jointly** with Safeguarding Adults, Drug Related Death, Suicide and Domestic Abuse Related Death review leads because they **met the criteria for all of these Review processes** and were totemic of a wider population identified as being at risk and of concern.

All four young women experienced poor mental health, **exploitation, sexual violence**, domestic abuse and drug use, whilst case files noted parental and professional concerns about escalating 'risky' behaviours and 'choices.'

The recommendations centre on the development of a tri-partnership strategy framework that brings together a co-ordinated approach for **integrated support for vulnerable adolescents** and young adults,

supported by a strategic needs assessment.

In particular, it is recommended that this approach includes a structured support offer for:

- Parents who have experienced adversity or are holding complex trauma.
- Adolescents and young adults in need of **accommodation and housing** support.

The review highlights the need to respond to the **underlying causes for behaviour** and the crucial importance of all agencies working together to ensure young people's **psychological and relational safety**, as well as their physical safety – particularly where parents have experienced adversity or are holding complex trauma and the impact that this has in the home.

A **custom report looking at exploitation** risk markers has been developed in the case management system for commissioned services for drugs and alcohol and for domestic abuse and sexual violence.

A snapshot of data in October 2025 indicated that **731 adults** in drug and alcohol treatment in the last year were at risk of or experiencing some form of exploitation (14% of the caseload in the last year). Compared with last year, **more people are being identified with exploitation risk markers** – particularly for sexual exploitation.

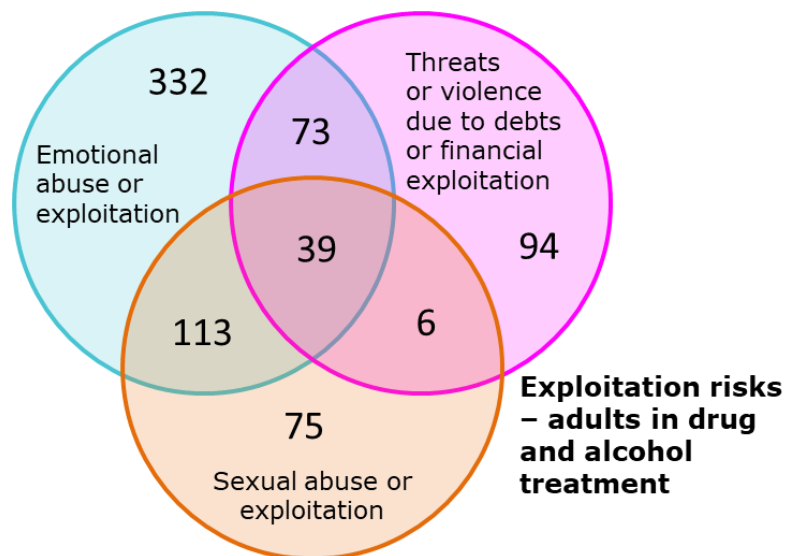
⁶⁰ [Gweres Kernow](#) provides specialist support for children and young people who have

displayed Concerning or Harmful Sexual Behaviour.

Whilst some cases, where appropriate, are **referred to MARAC** for safeguarding and safety planning interventions, further work is needed to understand **what other approaches** are used when exploitation is identified.

The cohort includes **young adults that may have transitioned from children's services** and some are likely to be care/care experienced – this has been identified as an area for further work.

Effective **multi-agency responses to sexual exploitation within a coercive relationship** are in place via the MARAC⁶¹ and vulnerable women's initiatives. We are improving the support available and gaining intelligence.



Significant progress has been made in training the workforce about signs and understanding of exploitation but **support for young adults at risk/experiencing exploitation is inconsistent** and lacks a robust pathway.

⁶¹ Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference, used to manage high risk domestic abuse cases



Focus on Online Harm

Online harm is an **escalating risk for young people**, driven by high screen time, exposure to distressing or extreme content, and the fact that many choose not to disclose harmful experiences.

Gendered patterns are clear: girls face more upsetting content and coercive interactions, while boys are more often drawn into unmoderated spaces influenced by misogynistic creators, AI chatbots, and violent groups such as COM (Community Online) networks.

Local referrals for young people at risk of exploitation feature **multiple types of exploitation** both online and in the community, highlighting the **interconnectedness** of virtual and 'real' worlds. Concerns include image sharing, use of messaging sites such as Omegle and Discord and we are alert to COM Networks.

These **environments normalise aggression**, distort healthy relationships, and **increase vulnerability** to grooming, self-harm, and real-world violence. With algorithms amplifying harmful material and **digital literacy often lacking**, online influences now significantly shape young people's attitudes and behaviours, making them a critical factor in serious violence prevention.

The **Right On Survey**⁶² of schools across Cornwall has incorporated questions around **online consumption** patterns of primary, secondary and college age young people and the **types of harm** they are **exposed to, or commit**, in an online environment.

2025 results demonstrate an **increasing** proportion of **time spent online** with over one in four students in Years 8-9 and one in three Year 10 students spending 6+ hours daily using the internet, social media or playing games. These figures reflect an **upward trajectory in usage**, demonstrating how integral technology is in young people's lives.

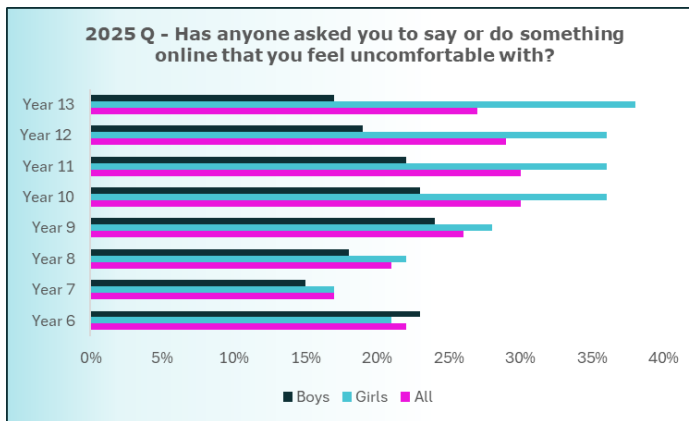
Girls are more likely to report that they have seen **content online** that **upsets them** and the frequency with which this happens also increases by age from 47% in year 6 to **72% by year 12**.

Girls are less likely than boys to report being **unkind** online but are more likely to be on the receiving end of **negative comments**.

The extent to which young people are **asked to say or do something online** that makes them feel uncomfortable is sizeable with more than **twice as many girls** in Years 10 to 13 reporting this than year 7.

⁶² Right On Survey 2025 and 2023 (2025 surveyed 13,500 students)

Male peers, in contrast, are significantly **less likely to report** this to be the case and, beyond year 9, the percentage of those who experience difficult encounters online begins to tail off.



When asked who they would discuss unsettling content or negative interactions with, **a sizeable proportion said 'no-one'** and the likelihood of this response increased with age.

Although 2025 results were notably better than 2023⁶³ in terms of discussing harmful content with others, **1 in 3 year 10 boys would still keep what they had seen online to themselves**, a higher proportion than their female peers.

Due to the evidence, suggesting an **increased frequency** of online use, elevated **exposure to unsettling content** and behaviour and the likelihood of **non-disclosure**, there are **increasing concerns** around the **potential threat** that the online environment poses to young people.

Influencers strongly shape how young people process information and perceive the world. **Content is pushed rather than chosen**, delivered in short, attention-grabbing formats, with **male influencers dominating online spaces**.

These creators excel at capturing and retaining attention, and the subtle gendered nature of content, imperceptible to young people, **influences how they view their environment** and their role in it.

Young people increasingly consume popular culture and news via **social media**, finding traditional media slow and rigid. Influencers like News Daddy dominate with concise clips, far surpassing BBC's TikTok reach.

Local youth services report **rising misinformation** on social platforms, especially around right-wing politics and ideologies. These trends are shaping how young people perceive relationships, news, and identify truth online.

The COM

COM networks are transnational, exploitative online groups where members gain status by **inciting or committing violence**, self-harm, cybercrime, and sharing extreme content, including terrorism material and child sexual abuse.

Reports of **COM activity** in the UK **rose six-fold between 2022 and**

⁶³ Comparative data between 2024 and 2025 is only available for years 6 to 10

2024, with referrals to the National Crime Agency (NCA) jumping from 20 in 2023 to over 100 in 2024, and thousands of users exchanging millions of abusive messages. The NCA warns this is only the “tip of the iceberg,” with over 100 investigations underway.

Operating hierarchically, these groups, **primarily teenage boys**, compete to share increasingly graphic content and incite harm. They **justify violence through extreme ideologies** and span criminality from fraud and cybercrime to serious violence and sexual abuse.

COM groups embolden participants, drawing youth into violent online gangs. **Key threats** include **suicide incitement** and **mobilisation of public violence**.

Predators exploit popular platforms to target vulnerable peers, often girls, moving them to encrypted spaces for grooming, extortion, and coercion into self-harm or sexual abuse.

Victims are **typically 14–17**, but cases involve children as young as nine. Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) is used for status and financial gain. **Grooming blurs victim-perpetrator roles**, reducing reporting. Frequent internet use, exposure to extreme content, and feelings of disenfranchisement heighten engagement risk.

Cryptocurrency and Child Sexual Abuse Material

The emergence of **cryptocurrency** has **afforded new opportunities for commercial CSAM** producers to capitalise on the sexually coerced extortion of minors, shifting the landscape from one where the primary driver for sharing CSAM was a desire to consume, to one **motivated by making money**.

424,047 reports of child sex abuse imagery were assessed by the Internet Watchdog Foundation in 2024 (an 8% increase from 2023) of which 291,273 were found to either contain criminal imagery of child sexual abuse, link to this criminal imagery or were found advertising it (a 6% increase from 2023). **94%** of these 'self-generated' reports **showed only girls**.⁶⁴

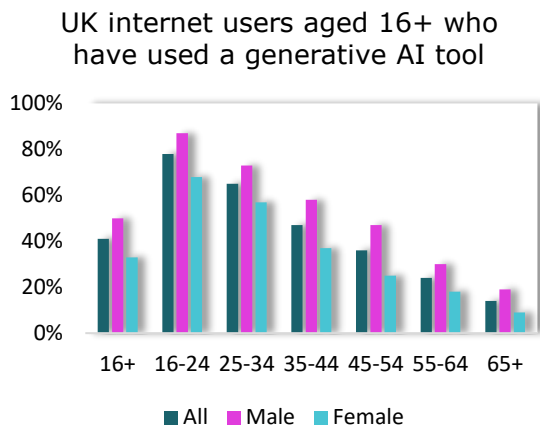
Boys and exposure to harm

AI is increasingly integrated into daily life, with adults using it for efficiency while many young people, especially boys, turn to it for emotional support, friendships, and even romantic interactions.

Nearly **90% of boys** aged 16–24 used a **generative AI model** in the past year, with 78 million messages received by an AI chatbot called Psychologist identifying their **reliance on unmoderated advice** around **mental health**.⁶⁵

⁶⁴ [IWF 2024 Reports Assessment: Combating Online Child Abuse](#)

⁶⁵ [Lost Boys: State of the Nation](#)



The normalisation of platforms like OnlyFans and constant exposure to sexual content has left **boys desensitized** and unable to label content as explicit and talking to chatbots in a romantic capacity can lead to unrealistic interactions that **do not teach healthy** or authentic real-world **relationship skills**.

Due to limited physical spaces which would ordinarily foster a sense of belonging and forge connection, alongside parental concerns about safety, **boys have fewer opportunities for real-world social interaction**.

As a result, they spend **more time online in unmoderated, potentially harmful environments**, lacking the balance of offline friendships and activities with 18% of parents stating they are extremely concerned about the future for their sons⁶⁶.

Despite currently finding both the real world (50.2%) and online world (49.8%) equally engaging⁶⁷, online behaviours are fundamentally an **integral part of young people's**

lives and will continue to grow and evolve at pace.

Boys who are often seeking out information relating to their hobbies can **inadvertently come into contact** with hybrid content from influencers where a mixture of health and fitness information sits alongside **misogynistic, racist or homophobic information**.

79% of boys struggle to define masculinity, often finding information unclear or framed negatively. Media portrayals, such as in dramas like *Adolescence*, have reinforced associations of masculinity with "toxicity," limiting open, non-judgmental discussion.

This scrutiny has led **54% of boys to believe they have it harder than girls**. A gender-focused approach, rather than addressing broader inequalities, reduces boys' willingness to engage in allyship, as it requires challenging male peers' behaviour in favour of girls.

Cornwall data shows 1 in 4 15-year-old boys spend more than 6 hours daily online with **33%** using this medium to **look for relationship and sexual health advice**. More widely they prefer to be given information via websites (53%) TikTok (40%) and Instagram (28%) rather than in person.

45% of boys disclosed that they had seen **something upsetting**

⁶⁶ [Lost Boys: State of the Nation](#)

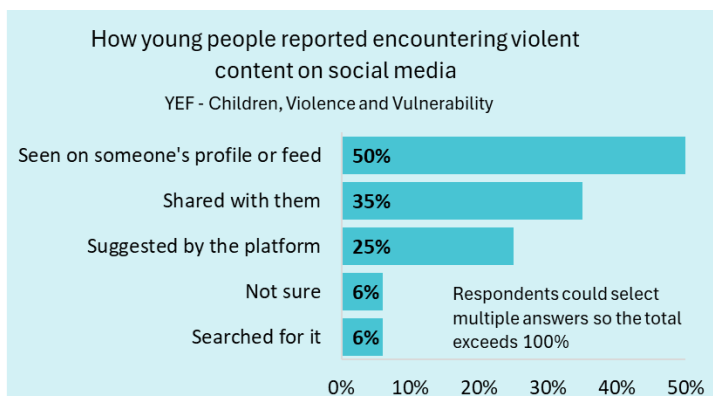
⁶⁷ The Voice of the Boys How boys in secondary school education feel about being a boy today. Male Allies UK October 2025

online. 43% stated that if they were upset with something they saw online, they would **keep it to themselves**, a significantly higher proportion than girls (29%).

This highlights the importance of **internet literacy and healthy relationships education** being embedded in the national curriculum, in order to tackle and offset misinformation and damage associated with early exposure to online harms⁶⁸.

Social Media and Violence

Social media is an **integral part of young people's lives** with Ofcom finding that children as young as 3-5 are increasing accessing social media platforms (25% in 2022 rising to 37% in 2025)⁶⁹. Children **first see violent content** while still at **primary school** with the content described by older children being markedly more violent.⁷⁰



Young people report that safety measures implemented by social media platforms are not fit for purpose because **violent content is still readily available** for them to view and share.

Proliferation of this type of content is **driven** by sophisticated **algorithms** predicting it to be the **most engaging**. In a rapidly evolving competitive market, social media designers are creating features that facilitate and drive up engagement of children on their platforms.

Undoubtedly the consequence of this, irrespective of intention, is **increased exposure of young people to harmful content**.⁷¹

Evidencing a causal link between exposure to, and real life enactment of, violence is difficult, and it sits within a **wider context of considerations** such as poverty, a lack of understanding and support for young people with neurodivergence, and family and cultural attitudes towards safeguarding.

Research from the Children's Commissioner concluded that routine online consumption of **violent content** can have a **desensitising aggressive behaviour** and can, potentially, lead to violent retaliation.⁷²

⁶⁸ Laura Bates, The New Age of Sexism – How the AI revolution is reinventing misogyny

⁶⁹ [Children's Media Literacy Report 2025](#) OFCOM

⁷⁰ [Understanding Pathways to Online Violent Content Among Children](#) OFCOM 2024

⁷¹ [Youth Violence and Social Media](#) – House of Commons Youth Select Committee Report 2025

⁷² [I've seen horrible things Online Safety Report-October-2024.pdf](#)

Absence from school: through a violence lens

Schools and other education settings aim to provide a **safe and positive place for learning** and to help children realise their potential. **Absence** from school (missed attendance, suspension and permanent exclusion) affects students’ attainment but also **links to involvement in violence**.

The National Crime Agency found that **100% of children involved in County Lines had been excluded** from school and that school exclusion was a contributing factor for child criminal exploitation.

Being excluded from school increases the risks of going missing, being exploited or involved in violence; it leads to a feeling of being outside of the system and a **loss of a sense of belonging** from their school or community.

Loss of contact with professionals who can identify them as being at risk of harm means that **targeted work could come too late** and increase the risk.

The impacts of children being out of school **span a range of harms** – from anecdotal reports in one area about involvement in **shoplifting** to more serious concerns about **violence and County Lines**, with regular access to a vehicle, and mixing with older peers.

Longer-term, **excluded children are 4 times more likely to go to prison** as an adult. This is commonly referred to as the “PEX to prison pathway”. **Keeping children in education to protect them** from violence is one of the core recommendations by the Youth Endowment Fund.⁷³

Exclusions and suspensions

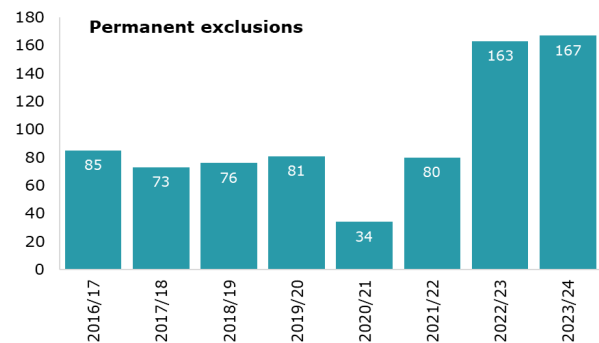
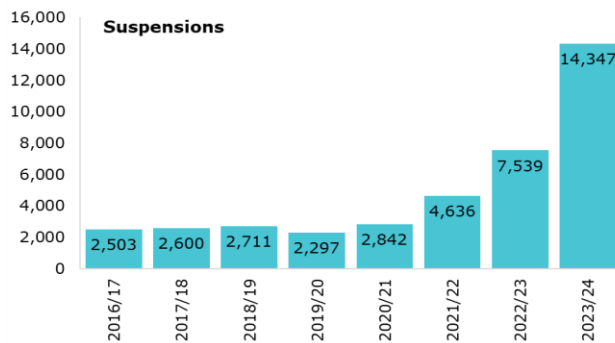
Suspensions 14,347 Up from 7,539 in 2022/23 (+90%)	Suspension (rate) 19.5 per 100 pupils Up from 10.2 in 2022/23 (+90%) National rate 11.3
Permanent exclusions 167 Up from 163 in 2022/23 (+2%)	Permanent exclusion (rate) 0.23 per 100 pupils Up from 0.22 in 2022/23 (+2%) National rate 0.13

The 2023/24 academic year is most up-to-date full year of published data.

In the 2023/24 academic year, rates of permanent exclusions and suspensions in Cornwall were **well above national rates**.

- Cornwall saw a **record high of 14,347 suspensions**, up 90% from the previous year.
- **Permanent exclusions** in Cornwall have seen a **rise of nearly 5x** over the last 7 years.

⁷³ [Education, Children and Violence](#), Youth Endowment Fund, May 2024



Nationally, numbers of suspensions and permanent exclusions increased rapidly after the pandemic but **local rises for both were much greater**. The latest data for the Autumn Term 2024/25 indicates that the gap between local and national rates have widened further.

There are some **significant geographic clusters** – Camborne schools account for 20% of suspensions and 16% of exclusions; other areas include Launceston with 7% of suspensions, Falmouth 6%, Pool and Illogan 5%.

It is recognised that exclusions **disproportionately affect vulnerable groups**, including students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, ethnic minorities and children with SEND.⁷⁴

Nationally **The characteristics most associated with suspensions and exclusions are:**

- **Sex** - 90% of suspensions and exclusions are for males

- **Eligible for Free School Meals (FSM)** - pupils are 4 times more likely to be suspended and 6 times more likely to be excluded than non-FSM eligible peers
- **SEND** - pupils are 3.5 times more likely to be suspended and 5 times more likely to be excluded.
- **Geography** – significant regional variations
- **Ethnicity** – highest rates of suspensions and exclusions are concentrated in Roma and Traveller pupils.⁷⁵

The **drivers of exclusion can be numerous and layered**. This includes societal issues around stereotyping and discrimination, coupled with the **financial and capability challenges** faced by schools and staff in identifying and meeting the needs of children.

The **2026 SEND Inspection**⁷⁶ in Cornwall found that some children and young people with SEND experience **unnecessary escalation into Alternative Provision**, including following

⁷⁴ [School exclusion: a literature review on the continued disproportionate exclusion of certain children](#), Department for Education (2019)

⁷⁵ Department for Education: school suspension/exclusion roundtable, Professor Alex Sutherland, University of Oxford (2025)

⁷⁶ Cornwall Council [Area SEND full inspection](#), Ofsted May 2026

exclusion, because their needs are **not identified and addressed early enough**, particularly in mainstream schools. They are also **over-represented in the local youth justice system**, highlighting that some do not get the right support, at the right time.

Reasons for exclusion

Nationally approximately 90% of suspensions and exclusions are for 'externalising behaviour' with 50% of these being **persistent disruption**. The **peak is in Years 9 and 10** (age 13-15); however, 2023/24 data showed the highest increase amongst all year groups was in Years 8 and 9 (age 12-14).⁷⁷

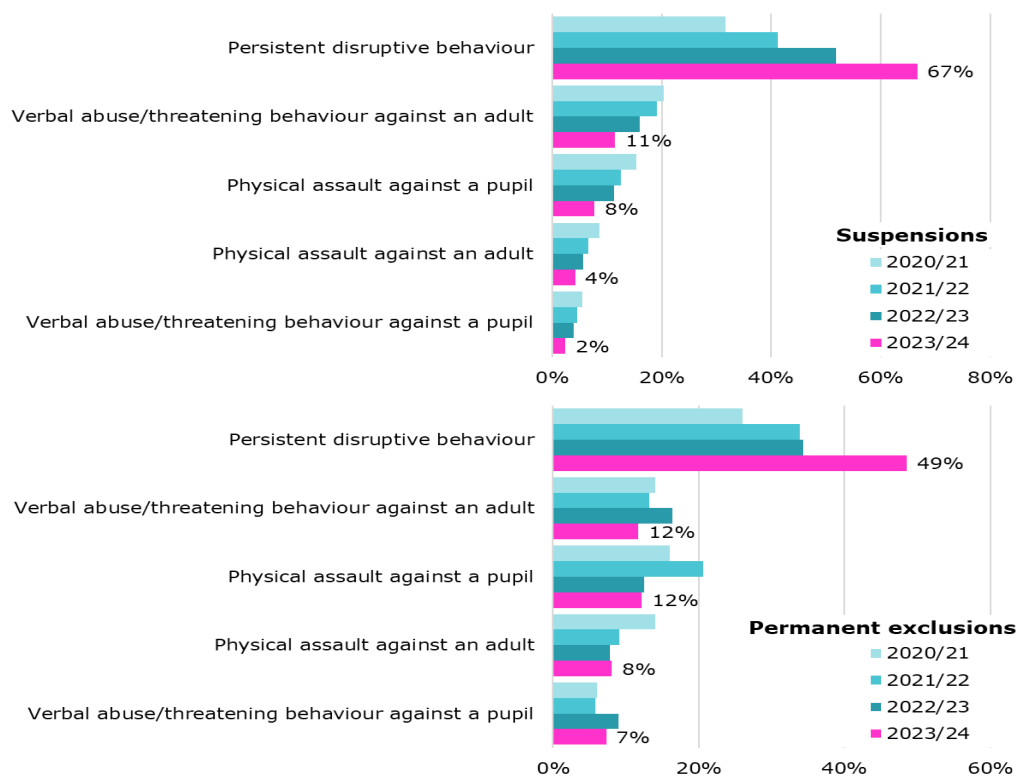
The **most common reason** for suspensions and permanent exclusions in Cornwall was

persistent disruptive behaviour (PDB) reflecting the national trend.

PDB was recorded for **67% of all reasons given for suspension** and **49% of reasons for permanent exclusions**. The rises in both suspensions and permanent exclusions is primarily in this type.

PDB can include violent acts, but there are other **specific reasons relating to violence** – including physical and verbal assaults against adults and against other pupils.

There is **no set criteria for PDB** and school policies vary. One agency gave examples of **how quickly behaviour can escalate** from a minor infraction. In some cases, PDB has been recorded for violent behaviour.



⁷⁷ Department for Education: school suspension/exclusion roundtable, Professor Alex Sutherland, University of Oxford (2025)

Although the number of suspensions for **violence-specific reasons** has risen, the proportion attributed to these reasons has reduced year on year. The number and proportion of permanent exclusions for violence-specific reasons has stayed relatively stable (physical assault) or reduced (verbal assault) in 2023/24.

Violence is an **increasing factor** in school exclusions at **primary school** level. It is felt that more training is needed in trauma informed approaches to understand why a child of that **age is feeling misunderstood and hitting out**.

A child's behaviour is heavily influenced by what they experience at home – for example, a child may hit out if **violent reactions are normalised** at home. Practitioners in Cornwall discussed the need to **avoid criminalising unwanted behaviours**, instead focusing on what extra support may be needed.

The latest national survey of teachers asked which **pupil behaviour** problems caused the most concern on a daily basis. 30% of respondents cited **violence between pupils**, 23% threatening behaviour, 18% physical assault on teachers and **5% bringing weapons** into school.

61% disclosed that they had experienced **verbal abuse by a**

parent or carer in the last 12 months. Only 31% felt that their leaders had adequate guidance to complete risk assessments for violent pupils and **70% ranked pupil behaviour and indiscipline as one of the top 5 concerns**.⁷⁸

The proportion of teachers reporting being 'very confident' in managing misbehaviour has also notably decreased from 41% to 31%⁷⁹

The 2025 school census highlighted that **child safety online was a priority concern** for school leaders. Although both primary and secondary provision are putting mechanisms in place, such as **mobile phone restrictions**, to try and reduce the impact, they are unable to manage behaviour issues or harmful content brought into school from the online world.⁸⁰

The Department of Education (DfE) National Behaviour Survey reported a **decrease in students feeling safe** in school, 39% in May 2023 to 32% 12 months later.⁸¹

Exclusion and suspension linked to increased police involvement and exposure to harm

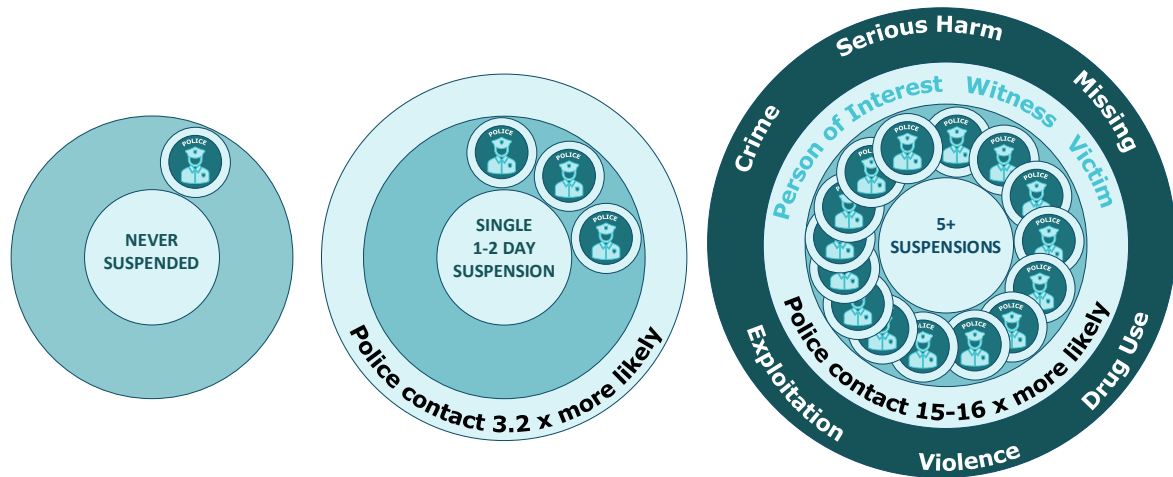
A recent large study conducted in New South Wales highlighted **out-of-school suspension in primary school as a major risk factor for early police contact**.

⁷⁸ [NASUWT | Big Question Survey](#)

⁷⁹ the proportion of teachers reporting being 'very confident' in managing misbehaviour (31%) has statistically significantly decreased from 41% in March 2024 and has decreased from 35% in May 2023.

⁸⁰ [cc-the-childrens-plan-the-childrens-commissioners-school-census.pdf](#)

⁸¹ [National Behaviour Survey: findings from academic year 2023 to 2024](#) -

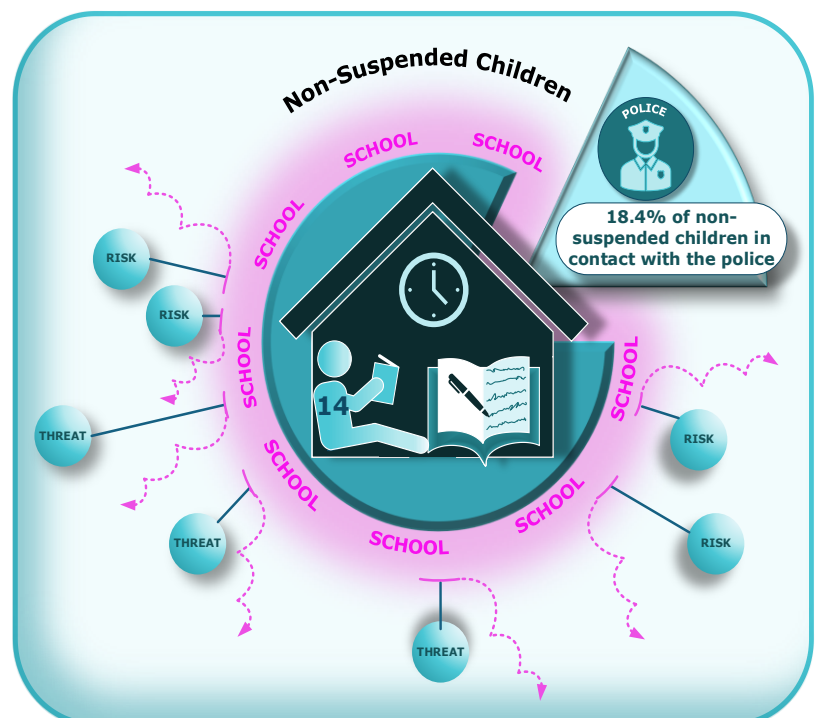


By age 14, 62.5% of suspended children had police contact, compared with 18.4% of non-suspended children and, taking into consideration key risk factors, the study evidenced that suspended children were **3.5 times** more likely to have **any police contact** and were **6 times** more likely to be recorded by police as a **person of interest**.

What was also clear was that **involvement with the criminal justice system increases** with **suspension severity** (dose-response effect).⁸²

The odds of police contact as a person of interest rose from **3.2 times after a single 1–2 day suspension** to **15–16 times for children suspended five or more times or for 16+ total days**. The evidence highlighted how impactful even a single suspension can be, tripling the odds of police contact.

⁸²A framework for understanding how each school suspension incrementally increases a young person's likelihood of later criminal justice involvement through cumulative educational disruption, social labelling, and intensified system contact.



Suspended children are also more likely to experience **broader system exposure** with over 50% having some form of contact with the police as a victim, witness and/or person of interest, highlighting **risk of cumulative harm** and prolonged experience of the criminal justice system.⁸³

⁸³ Laurens, K. R., Piltz, L. M., Graham, L. J., Carpendale, E. J., Tzoumakis, S., Harris, F., Whitten, T., Carr, V. J., Dean, K., & Green, M. J. (2026). *Out-of-school suspension from primary school and early contact with police. Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal*

Evidence from national **Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews** shows a significant link between suspensions and exclusions and children's **exposure to serious harm** and crime.

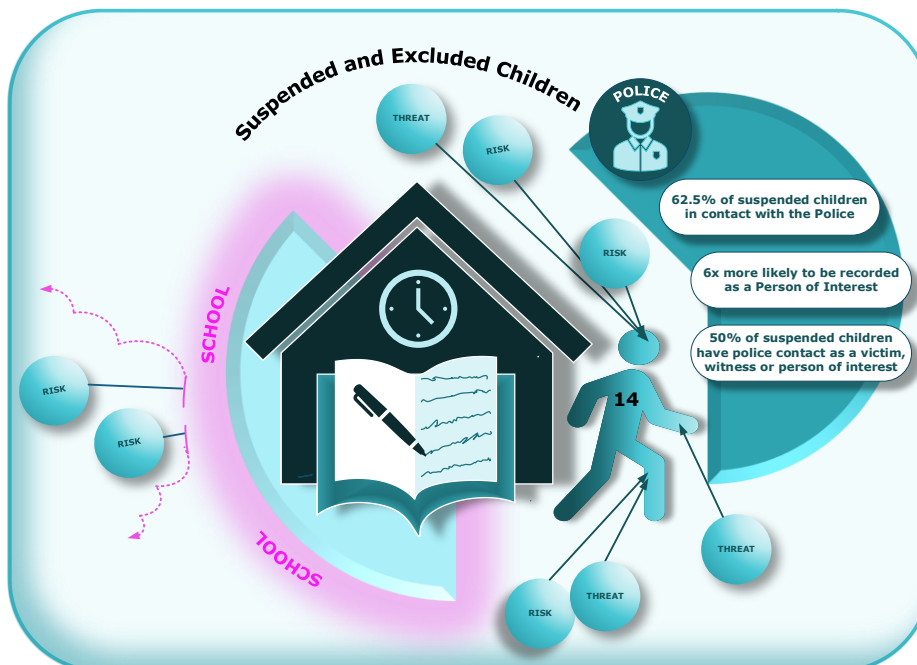
Excluded children are **far more likely to go missing** from home or care, often repeatedly and can also be linked to exploitation. Over half of excluded children in serious harm cases were also missing, exploited, or both.

Exclusions often occurred **because of behaviours that were later understood to be indicators of exploitation** (including violence, weapons, drug use, deteriorating behaviour, and absences linked to missing episodes).

In the context of wider harm

school therefore **can remove protective supervision** and significantly increase exposure to harm.

Exclusions **compounded by repeated absence and missing episodes** are highlighted as one of the highest risk profiles for exploitation and violent harm with **SEND children being disproportionately represented**. Many reviews described exclusions as a pivotal point beyond which risk rapidly escalated.⁸⁴

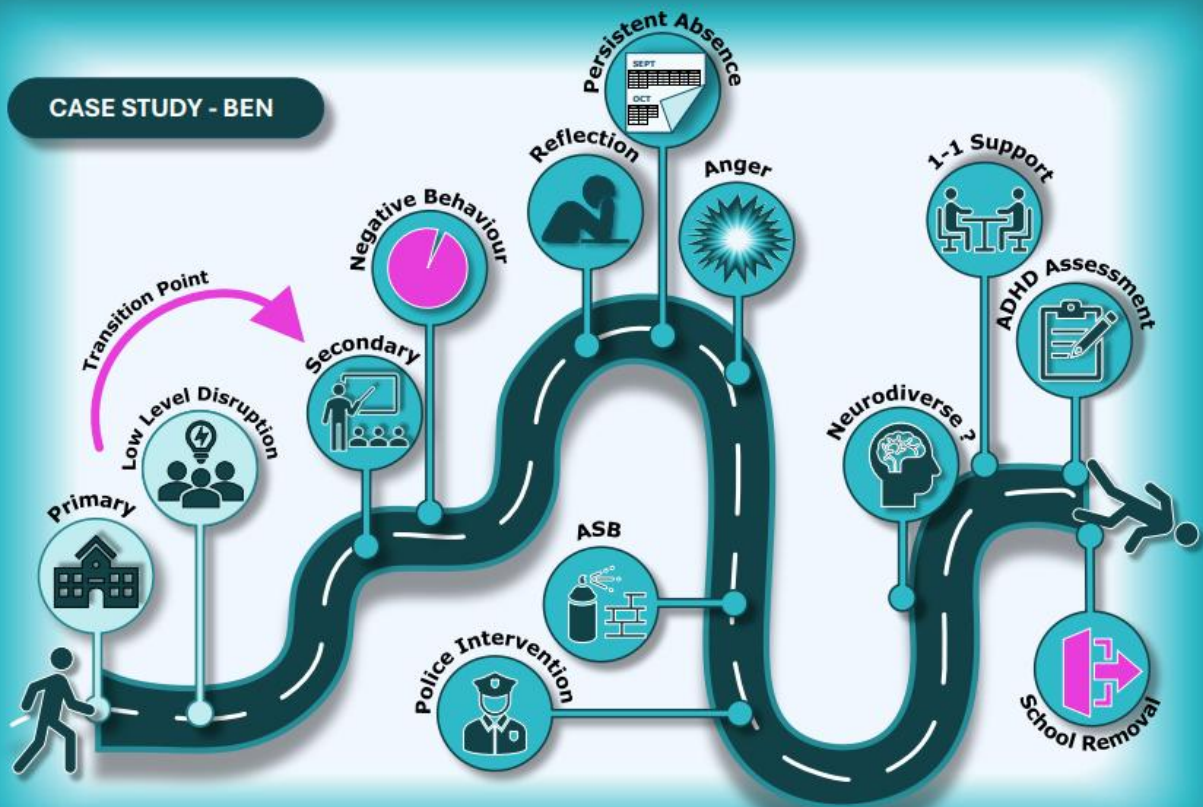


disciplinary responses imposed by

Justice, No. 728. Australian Institute of Criminology.
<https://doi.org/10.52922/ti78182> (2026)

⁸⁴ Fox, N. School exclusion, missing children and serious harm: Disentangling the interlinking factors. (2026)

CASE STUDY - BEN



Primary Education

- Ben was sometimes in trouble in school for not sitting still/fidgeting but not to the extent to warrant intervention – no evidence of poor behaviour outside of school

Secondary Education

- He had a difficult transition from primary, class chart almost exclusively red denoting poor behaviour which was largely attributed to lack of focus, lack of equipment and appropriate uniform
- Routinely sent to reflection either lesson by lesson or for the whole day as a result of behavioural issues
- From September – Jan Ben only managed to engage in 1 full lesson
- Referred into service for support in school to assist with reintegration into lessons
- Ben presented as angry and couldn't see the point in trying as would be punished anyway.
- Practitioner identified ADHD traits and school concurred there were indicators but a referral for assessment had not been progressed.
- Ben's escalating behaviour resulted in ASB in the community and police involvement – he was remorseful for his behaviour but explained he engaged in ASB with peers to release the anger and disrespect he felt in school.
- Ben's parents decided to progress an ADHD assessment privately, the practitioner commenced work on coping strategies but due to only attending 4 lessons in two terms Ben's parents made the decision to remove him from school.

Alternative Provision Academies

Wave is the current provision in Cornwall for children who have been permanently excluded from mainstream placements. At the peak in 2025, **60 students were waiting** for APA places.

At the start of the 2025/26 academic year this had dropped back to just 3 children but will climb again as the school year progresses.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, the number of students needing an APA place each year was around 20-30. This **rose to 200 post-pandemic**.

Insufficient Alternative Provision places means that not all excluded young people are being educated in an APA, which puts them at **increased risk of criminality and exploitation**.

APAs can facilitate **young people with similar vulnerabilities forming alliances** who may then go on to commit anti-social and criminal behaviours.

Being oversubscribed, APAs have been **less able to fulfil their secondary role** to provide support in a short-term placement and help prepare the child to reintegrate into mainstream school.

Education have established **Inclusion Working Party** meetings that aim to identify and resolve issues for children and young people who have been suspended or excluded. Meetings are themed and have included **SEND and trauma**.

Persistent absence

National data demonstrates that children with **absence rates of 15%** or over are more likely to remain **persistently absent** over time, with over 80% of secondary school pupils falling in this bracket remaining persistently absent the following year.

Older children are more likely to be absent than those in primary school with average Year 1 absence nationally being 6.6% compared to 10.7% for Year 11 students.

Transition from primary to secondary school therefore is a critical point at which targeted interventions could positively influence rates of absenteeism.⁸⁵

Children who miss school **more than 20%** of the time are more than **twice as likely to report later violent behaviour**.⁸⁶

Overall absence rate
6.8%

In autumn term 2024/25,
down from 7.4% in 2023/24
National rate 6.4%

Persistent absentees
18.9%

10% or more missed
In autumn term 2024/25,
down from 19.4% in 2023/24
National rate 17.8%

Severe absentees
2.17%

50% or more missed
In autumn term 2024/25,
similar to 2.24% in 2023/24
National rate 1.97%

⁸⁵ [Year-on-year change in pupil attendance](#) – Department of Education 2025

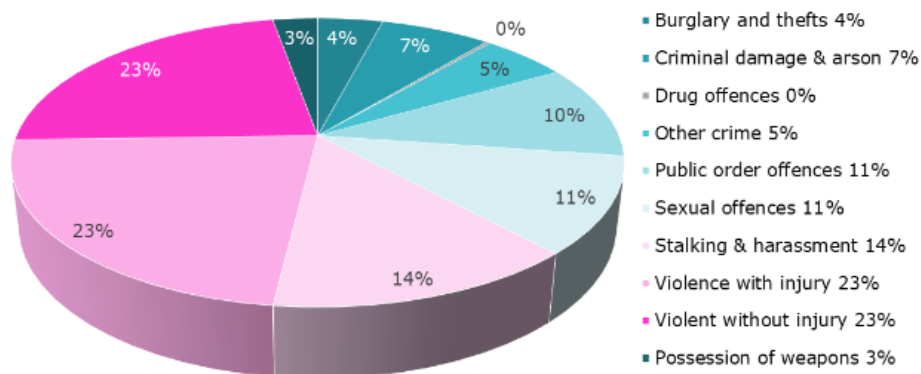
⁸⁶ [YEF.-Education-Systems-Guidance.-May-2025.pdf](#)

Concerns were shared that **students with SEND needs are more likely to experience periods out of school** due to absence, suspensions and exclusions, and more vulnerable to involvement in violence when they are out of school.

Young people as victims of crime in school

Young people who have **experienced violence in school**, including sexual assaults, may **self-exclude to protect themselves** and perceive a lack of consequences for the person committing the abusive behaviour (if they remain in school).

The latest police data (to December 2025) shows that **389 crimes** were recorded as taking place on school premises in the last year, slightly **down by 5%** from last year.



Just under half of all crimes on school premises related to **violence** (46%), split equally into violence with and without injury.

Violence with injury offences on school premises reduced over the last 12 months, whereas recorded incidents of violence without injury substantially increased.

Stalking and harassment offences make up 14% of crimes and have seen a rise of 16% over the last year; 1 in 3 crimes took place on-line. 12% of crimes were **sexual offences** and the trend has continued to indicate more sexual assaults and fewer rape offences.

5% of crimes relate to **the sharing of sexual images** (recorded as Other Crime), and this is around the same level as last year.

National figures⁸⁷ show that in 2023, **20% of children said they had missed school due to feeling unsafe**, while 18% said they found it harder to concentrate at school due to violence or the fear of violence.

27% of all secondary pupils responding to Cornwall's Right On⁸⁸ survey in 2025, said that they 'sometimes' or 'never' **felt safe at school**, with reported feelings of safety **much**

lower for girls (30% overall rising to its highest for 13 year old girls at 33%) than for boys (22%).

⁸⁷ Quoted in [Education, Children and Violence](#), Youth Endowment Fund, May 2024

⁸⁸ The Right-On Survey was delivered by commissioned provider DDM Health on behalf of Cornwall Council. It includes responses

from 4,070 primary pupils and 9,278 secondary/P16 pupils across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

National studies show that children who are victims of crime and those drawn into offending behaviours are **amongst the most vulnerable** in society. Multiple factors at individual, family, community and wider societal context **work together to compound the level of risk**.⁸⁹

Anti-social behaviour, drug use, **persistent absence** from school or care, aggressive behaviour, and association with gangs all appear as **significant in terms of who is most vulnerable**.

Risks may be more hidden from statutory services, particularly amongst children and young adults who are **not in school**.

Electively Home Educated children are often flagged as a particular concern. **2,333 children** were recorded as Electively Home Educated in the last year (4% of the children on roll).

Reports from Cornwall's Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE) Panel have increasingly highlighted **low attendance and/or exclusion from school** as a contributing risk factor for young people (see [exploitation section](#)).

School absence in a wider vulnerability context

Local analysis⁹⁰ shows that incidence of violence is strongly correlated with the presence of **multiple deprivation factors**. This is **also true for children missing from school** through absence, suspension and permanent exclusion, with the strongest correlation for persistent absence.

Safer Cornwall's [Vulnerability Index](#) shows the following when rates of absence, suspensions and permanent exclusions were mapped against other vulnerabilities.

- All types of absence, suspensions and permanent exclusions showed **moderate correlation with domestic abuse** variables, with higher rates in areas where there are higher concentrations of people in domestic abuse services and higher rates of police-reported domestic abuse.
- Only **persistent absence** showed a **strong correlation** with the **Vulnerability Index overall**. Persistent absence also showed a moderate correlation with people in drug treatment.

Free School Meals

62% of permanent school exclusions in Cornwall were pupils eligible for free school meals (2023/24).⁹¹

⁸⁹ [A country that works for children and young people](#): an evidence-based plan for addressing childhood vulnerability, crime and justice, Child of the North/Centre for Young Lives, Nov 2024

⁹⁰ [Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment](#), Safer Cornwall 2024

⁹¹ [Public Health Annual Report](#)

Although uptake of free school meals (FSM) in itself does not lead to exclusions, recent research suggests that **children** registered for **FSM fare worst** throughout their primary and secondary educational careers across different aspects of their schooling experiences.

This includes:

- **Feelings and experiences** about/within school
- **Self-esteem**, ability and potential
- **Unfavourable judgement** from teachers including lower expectations around progress

The study highlighted that **73%** of the sample registered for FSM were **not able to meet the key threshold of 5 subjects** including Maths and English at grade 4 or above. These negative factors are coined the '**FSM penalty**'

When children have **multiple periods missing** from education, of non-enrolment, they are **less likely to be FSM-registered** in the periods that they do attend school.

Less stability and continuity of contact with the education system means that absent children are less likely to access the services and

provisions to which they are entitled, further **exacerbating inequalities** they are already experiencing.⁹²

The relationship between eligibility for free school meals—as an indicator of socio-economic disadvantage—and poorer educational outcomes requires deeper examination to **enable and embed more responsive and adaptive support systems** for these pupils.

Children in receipt of **pupil premium in more affluent areas** are more **negatively impacted** than those in receipt of pupil premium in more deprived areas.

In one of the most deprived areas, a Pupil Premium student is 2.1 times more likely to have poor attendance than a classmate not on Pupil Premium. Whereas, in one of the most **affluent areas**, this **risks to 2.7 times** more likely to have poor attendance.

This suggests **schools in areas with low deprivation should be particularly mindful** of the challenges faced by their students from less advantaged backgrounds.⁹³

⁹² [Education Policy Institute - Free School Meals \(FSM\): issues and implications for research, policymaking, practice and access 2025](#)

⁹³ [Insights Update - Understanding Attendance October 25.pdf](#)

Understanding risk and vulnerability

Research by the **Wave Trust**⁹⁴ shows that early **childhood experiences from 0-3 years** impact significantly on the likelihood of fostering violent tendencies. These **personal factors can establish a propensity to be violent** and then social factors can trigger violent behaviour if a propensity to be violent is present.

Personal factors:

- **Harmful parenting**, neglect, insecure attachment and abuse during infancy shape brain development and emotional regulation
- **Harsh, inconsistent, or coercive discipline** teaches children that violence is acceptable
- **High cortisol levels triggered by stress and fear** can lead to hypervigilance and impulsivity
- **Lack of parental attunement and empathy** inhibits the development of empathy in children, a major protective factor against violence
- **Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)** from early abuse or trauma perpetuates cycles of violence.

Social factors:

- **Adverse socio-economic conditions** such as poverty, unemployment, poor or overcrowded housing
- **Rise of access to violence** through social media and changing social norms
- Correlation between **drug and alcohol use** and increased likelihood of violence
- Ever changing and **evolving family dynamics** can create instability
- Young males from disadvantaged backgrounds may adopt violence as a means of **asserting identity and dominance** in the absence of traditional social roles.
- **Reduced social control** may enable violence to manifest unchecked

Recommendations for violence prevention centre on early intervention, reducing Adverse Childhood Experiences, improving parental attunement, and systemic prevention-first strategies.

Organisations deliver these by embedding **trauma-informed practice**, scaling evidence-based early-years programmes, **working cross-sector**, and adopting **proactive** rather than reactive approaches.

⁹⁴ The [WAVE Report 2005: Violence and what to do about it](#), George Hocking and Ita Walsh, Wave Trust, 2005

The **ACE Pyramid** aims to show how early adversity creates a developmental pathway that increases the risk of serious violence across the life course. A **higher number** of ACEs is associated with an **increased risk** of children engaging in **violence**⁹⁵.

Having **two or more** ACEs compared to none increased the risk of **assault perpetration by 19%**, weapon involvement by 57% and

gang involvement by 61%. Having six or more ACEs increased the risk of assault perpetration by 45%, weapon involvement by 150% and gang involvement by 154%.

The combination of ACEs associated with the **highest risk** included **parental drug use**, single parenthood, domestic violence, physical abuse and long-term parental disability or illness.

The ACEs Pyramid & Serious Violence

Exposure to multiple ACEs creates toxic stress that **disrupts healthy development** and increases the risk of chronic disease and early death. Long-term stress overload affects the body, making people more vulnerable to serious, life-shortening health problems. Higher ACEs also raise the likelihood of involvement in serious violence, as **trauma and unstable environments reinforce harmful behaviours**.

Persistent trauma contributes to **mental-health conditions, unstable housing, school exclusion, and social withdrawal**, all of which increases risk of exploitation and violent offending.

Youth affected by multiple ACEs are more likely to adopt **high-risk coping behaviours**, including substance use, carrying weapons (due to **fear, lack of safety, and the need for protection**, rooted in earlier adversity), and affiliating with gangs. YEF findings show that **cumulative ACEs significantly increase the likelihood of weapon involvement and violence**.

ACE-affected children often struggle with **trust, emotional regulation, and identity formation** with evidence of **impaired emotional reasoning**. Exposure to domestic abuse trauma can manifest as **hypervigilance and reactive aggression**, heightening **vulnerability to violence**.

Children involved in **serious violence** commonly experience multiple ACEs with **disproportionately high number of ACEs** seen in those young people in the Youth Justice Service

Use ACE-informed **early-intervention frameworks** to prevent escalation into lethal violence.

Target interventions in communities with the **highest exposure to poverty, violence, and instability**.

Trauma symptoms such as mistrust and emotional detachment create **additional barriers to engagement**, emphasising the need for effective support to **reduce risk trajectories**.

Improve access to youth mental-health services

Reduce school exclusions and embed alternative provision with therapeutic support.

Multi-agency approaches (schools, police, NHS, youth services) for high-risk young people.

Provide **non-punitive interventions for weapon-carrying** that address underlying trauma, not just behaviour.

Expand youth mentoring, pro-social group activities, and community safety initiatives.

Early substance use interventions for at-risk adolescents.

Embed **trauma-informed practice** in schools, policing, and youth justice.

Provide **therapeutic support and trusted-adult relationships** to rebuild emotional safety.

Use **relational approaches** rather than punitive responses, especially for children displaying aggression.

Prioritise **early-years family support**, including domestic-abuse reduction and parental mental-health services.

Strengthen **early-help and safeguarding pathways** to identify children exposed to adversity.

Early
Death

Disease,
Disability
& Social
Problems

Adoption
of Health Risk
Behaviours

Social, Emotional &
Cognitive Impairment

Adverse Childhood Experiences
(ACEs)



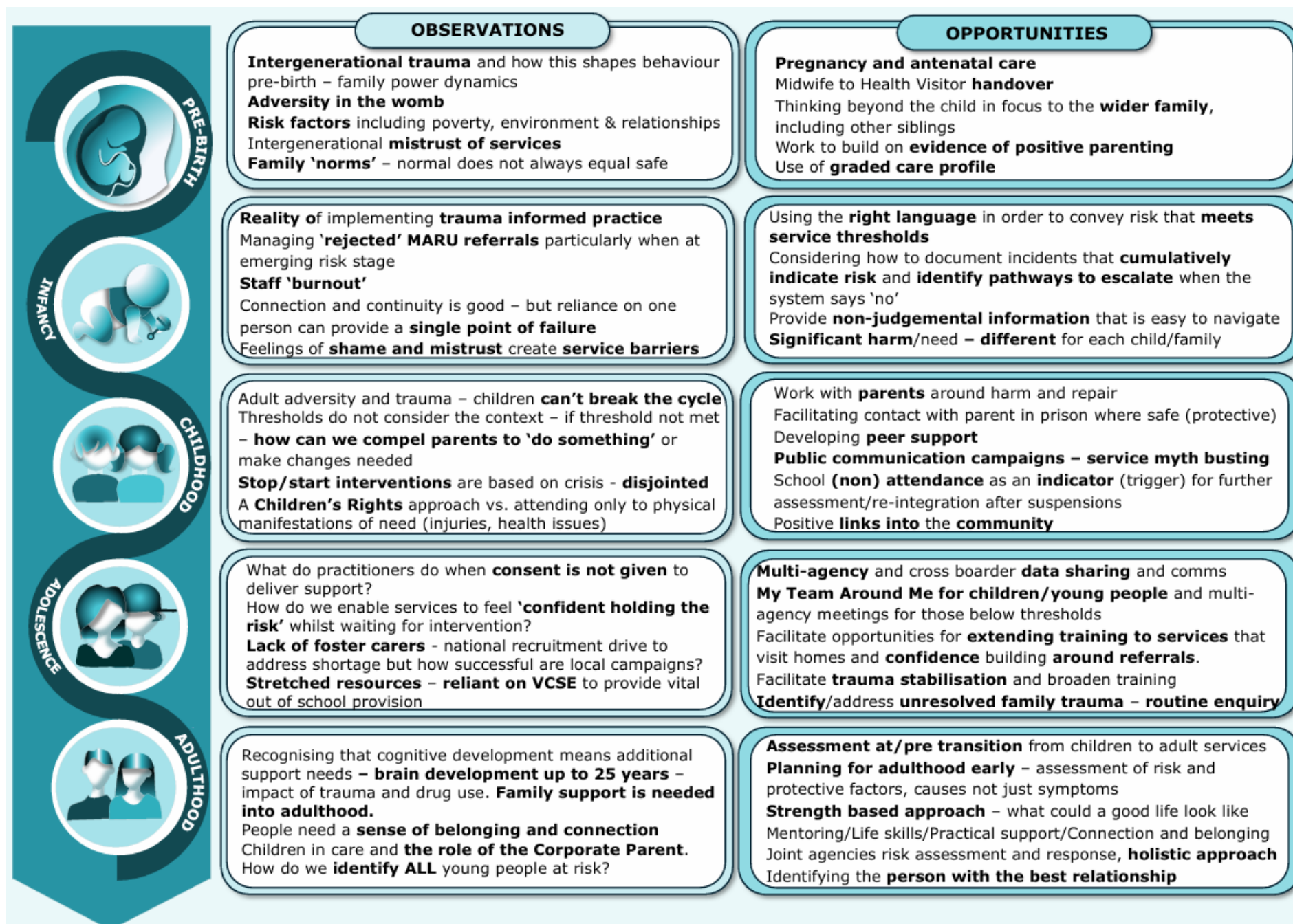
'Bill's Story'

A multi-agency workshop undertaken by the Serious Violence Prevention Programme Steering Group examined **risk and vulnerability and our system response** in Cornwall through one person's story.

The group reviewed a **vignette of a young person 'Bill'** who was convicted of a violent offence at the age of 18, reflecting on the challenges and opportunities for violence prevention from early years through to transition to a young adulthood.

⁹⁵ [YEF-Adverse and positive childhood experiences and their associations with children's involvement in violence: analyses](#)

[of data from the Millennium Cohort Study](#) Dr Aase Villadsen, Dr Nicolás Libuy, Professor Emla Fitzsimons 2025



Mapping multiple vulnerabilities

Poverty and deprivation

The **Index of Multiple Deprivation** (IMD) is a **national statistical measure** of deprivation across England, with the most recent dataset released in October 2025.⁹⁶

Cornwall Council has also produced a [headline analysis pack for the IMD](#).

The **Index measures relative deprivation** across small geographical areas or neighbourhoods that are called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). There are 33,755 LSOAs across England, with 336 of these in Cornwall.

Neighbourhoods (LSOAs) are ranked across the following **seven categories** or domains: income; employment; health and disability; education, skills and training; barriers to housing and services; crime; and the living environment.

Each neighbourhood also receives an **overall IMD** rank from 1 (the most deprived area) to 33,755 (the least deprived area).

It is common to describe how **relatively deprived** an area is by saying whether it falls amongst the most or least deprived **10% of areas** in England.

Cornwall's IMD ranking for 2025 is **86 out of 296 local authorities** (where 1=the highest level of deprivation).

Cornwall is shown to have a **highly polarised level of deprivation** across neighbourhoods, meaning **significant disparities** in living conditions, access to services, income and overall quality of life.

In 2025, **3% of Cornwall's neighbourhoods fall within the top 10% most deprived** in England. Cornwall has **10** neighbourhoods ranked in the top **20% least deprived** areas in England.

Cornwall is most deprived for Barriers to Housing and Services (ranked 31) and **least deprived for Crime** (ranked 259).

Cornwall has 11 neighbourhoods in the top 10% most deprived areas in England. **7 neighbourhoods** have featured in the 10% most deprived areas in Cornwall and England since 2015 despite changes to methodology and measures.

These areas are shown to be **persistently deprived and likely need more targeted interventions**.

⁹⁶ [English Indices of Deprivation 2025](#), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local

Government, October 2025. The previous releases were in 2019 and 2015.

Decile											Income	Employment	Education, Skills and Training	Health and Disability	Crime	Barriers to Housing and Services	Living Environment
Most deprived										Least deprived							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10								
Cornwall Rank (out of 336 in 2025)				National Rank (out of 33,755 in 2025)													
201520192025				201520192025													
Penzance Treneere	1	2	1	414	884	1,146	1	1	1	1	3	6	7				
Camborne Pengegon	4	1	2	1,133	577	1,352	1	1	1	2	3	3	10				
Kinsman Estate and Monument Way	11	7	3	2,415	1,821	1,591	1	1	1	2	2	3	5				
St Blazey West	12	13	4	2,497	2,985	2,116	1	1	1	2	4	1	7				
Camborne College Street and the Glebe	3	4	5	964	1,119	2,439	1	1	1	1	3	7	6				
Penzance St Clare and Town	8	9	6	2,147	2,447	2,727	2	1	2	2	2	7	2				
Liskeard St Cleer Road and Bodgara Way	9	17	7	2,375	3,275	2,759	1	1	1	1	2	3	8				
Redruth North, Close Hill, Strawberry Fields and Treleigh	2	3	8	606	1,072	2,919	1	1	1	2	5	4	9				
St Dennis South	29	22	9	4,480	4,214	2,999	2	2	1	2	6	1	1				
Camborne Town Centre	6	5	10	1,512	1,661	3,269	2	1	2	2	1	6	2				
St Austell Alexandra Road and East Hill	14	11	11	2,755	2,675	3,340	1	1	2	2	2	4	4				

The **neighbourhoods that are crime deprived** are generally characterised by **higher rates of violence**.

- **15% of areas** in Cornwall are ranked within the **highest 20% nationally** for violence with injury crimes.
- **82% of areas** are ranked within the **lowest 20% nationally** for burglary and 70% for theft. Note that the theft indicator does not include shoplifting.
- **13% of areas** in Cornwall are ranked within the **highest 20% nationally** for criminal damage.

58,608 people⁹⁷ live in areas experiencing **multiple deprivation** factors.

21% of children and young people (0-24yrs) live in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods. Children in these areas are **4 times** more likely to have **serious mental health difficulties** by age 11 and

9% of pupils in these areas receive **Education Health Care Plan** support compared with 3.8% in our least deprived areas.⁹⁸

A recent **deep dive into the impacts of poverty**⁹⁹ on young people in Cornwall has highlighted that safeguarding concerns are growing, with some children exposed to unsafe home environments, neglect, or harmful behaviours.

There is also increasing concern about **exploitation**, as financial hardship can leave young people vulnerable to the risk of being **drawn into criminal activity or risky behaviours**.

Practitioners also spoke about the **strain poverty places on parents**, and the impact this has on mental health and family relationships.

Practitioners describe a **growing number of families in poverty** with more **specific or complex**

⁹⁷ Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025

⁹⁸ [Public Health Annual Report](#) 2025

⁹⁹ [Public Health Annual Report](#) 2025

needs, such as poor mental health, relationship breakdowns and domestic abuse, which require more time and support.¹⁰⁰

Vulnerability Index

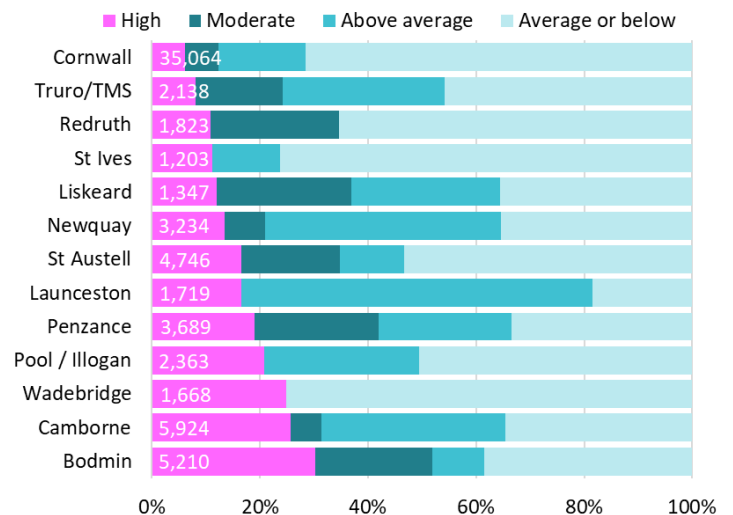
The Community Safety Intelligence Team designed the Vulnerability Index as a **small area risk model**, to assess the **cumulative impact** of a range of vulnerabilities at town and small area (Lower Super Output Area¹⁰¹) level.

The model uses measures from police recorded crime and anti-social behaviour to understand **place-based** vulnerabilities and community services data to for **people-based** vulnerabilities. An index is calculated for each measure, created from rates of incidence per 1000 resident population relative to the Cornwall average.

Outputs are presented alongside the national measure of **multiple deprivation**.

6% of people in Cornwall live in areas with a high level of combined vulnerabilities. These areas are spread over 12 towns, with the largest clusters in **Bodmin and Camborne** where more than a quarter of people live in areas with a high prevalence of vulnerabilities.

The small areas with the **highest vulnerabilities** across the selected indicators are shown in the next



table, with the index for each measure showing which **risk factors are most prevalent** (a higher number means higher prevalence).

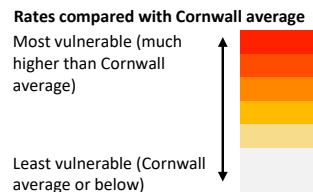
The data has been sorted by the average index score for **people-based vulnerabilities**, presented alongside the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 and a calculated index for school suspensions and exclusions (based on rate per 100 pupils on school roll).

The Vulnerabilities Index is a developing tool and there is **scope to add other measures** into the model. A weighting methodology is being explored. It has been used primarily as a **descriptive measure for community profiles** so far, but we are also testing its application in **targeting schools** for healthy relationships education.

¹⁰⁰ [DPH Child Poverty Report 2025-2026 FINAL.pdf](#)

¹⁰¹ Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) are a geographic hierarchy designed to

improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. The average population for these areas is approximately 1500 people.



Most vulnerable areas - People Index 180+

Area name	Residents accessing support				Police recorded crime and anti-social behaviour								Other factors	
	People average	DASV	Alcohol	Drugs	Place average	Violence with injury	Domestic Abuse	Sexual offences (ex. DA)	ASB incidents	Shoplifting	Burglary	Hate crime	IMD 2025 decile	Suspensions + exclusions
Liskeard Town Centre East, Sungirt, Plymouth Rd	379	323	351	462	384	452	322	258	458	760	430	354	2	53
Truro Health Park and River Street	357	234	517	322	689	920	377	317	1,411	2,204	422	783	3	20
Newquay Town Centre	301	140	281	482	479	941	240	369	568	1,077	276	568	2	119
Penzance Wharfside and Town	288	151	407	306	414	551	226	190	818	1,394	285	587	2	106
Camborne Tuckingmill Valley and Roskear Parc	288	165	247	451	165	132	160	118	139	28	277	125	3	290
Newquay Narrowcliff	280	158	243	440	280	331	292	274	317	252	186	552	2	84
Kinsman Estate and Monument Way	277	361	180	290	267	302	377	344	203	180	110	61	1	96
Penzance St Clare and Town	273	157	229	432	285	267	193	281	401	232	280	231	1	122
Pool West and Tregajorran	265	170	300	325	281	266	142	196	456	479	343	363	3	200
Camborne Town Centre	264	231	279	282	347	371	281	183	490	1,133	411	395	1	649
Liskeard Town Centre West, Dean Street, Lanchard	254	160	178	423	104	129	109	146	136	0	0	72	2	150
Bodmin Town Centre and Berryfields	251	226	172	355	325	444	303	181	336	282	360	198	2	141
Carlyon Bay and Tregrehan	243	164	145	420	181	210	152	71	187	120	284	59	7	15
Bederkesa Court, Elizabeth Close	231	281	194	219	245	212	233	272	270	217	237	335	2	28
St Austell Slades Road	229	76	226	383	82	117	81	79	91	0	40	131	2	24
Redruth Tolgus Hill and Plain-an-Gwarry	228	177	337	171	289	345	221	191	373	418	318	523	2	99
Penzance Promenade	217	83	257	310	140	116	140	105	260	15	79	194	3	45
Camborne College Street and the Glebe	203	178	322	110	128	144	133	88	101	0	176	289	1	907
Penryn town, Saracen Way and Glasney	202	151	186	268	105	128	102	43	185	625	65	54	3	128
Launceston Lanstephen	199	253	168	177	94	162	106	110	50	0	41	135	2	628
Liskeard St Cleer Road and Bodgara Way	198	249	192	154	179	167	189	157	264	29	117	129	1	399
Newquay Trelawney and Chynance Drive	197	130	209	253	123	95	177	107	74	0	160	106	3	122
Penzance Treneere	197	178	94	317	198	127	285	309	156	14	115	0	1	119
St Ives Town Centre and Island	196	56	275	259	312	396	107	257	559	362	241	317	4	0
Truro Malpas Road, Trennick and Trelander South	195	233	264	87	160	66	173	108	169	0	283	133	3	243
St Ives Higher Stennack Nanjivey	195	192	283	109	96	57	190	145	88	65	0	143	2	119
Redruth North, Close Hill, Strawberry Fields,Treleigh	192	219	133	223	139	62	273	163	88	194	108	268	1	131
Saltash Warfelton	191	112	356	104	108	96	95	162	92	0	97	160	4	120
Falmouth The Beacon and Grenville Road	189	174	147	246	106	107	129	72	112	27	108	0	3	232
Addington and High Wood	189	110	156	301	101	163	133	102	67	0	38	126	4	208
Launceston Town Centre	188	221	137	205	239	244	156	225	164	228	404	278	3	297
Launceston St Stephens	186	144	261	153	88	93	149	24	105	53	71	59	4	289
Wadebridge Town	185	120	198	236	234	274	211	232	211	222	243	400	3	70

Isles of Scilly

Our people: key statistics for the Isles of Scilly

Age and sex

2,366 people, 50% women, 50% men
projected to **reduce by 8%** to 2,177 by 2036 –
increase of 5% across England

13% are aged **0-15** - England 18%

25% are aged **over 65** - England 19%

(Office for National Statistics, mid-2024 estimates)



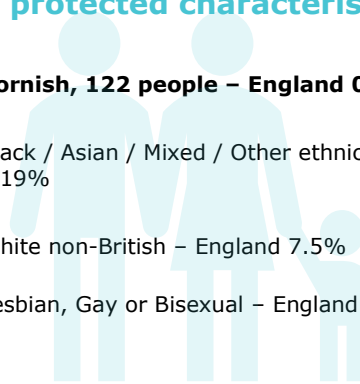
Other protected characteristics

5.9% Cornish, 122 people – England 0.2%

2.5% Black / Asian / Mixed / Other ethnic groups -
England 19%

3.8% White non-British – England 7.5%

2.9% Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual – England 3.2%



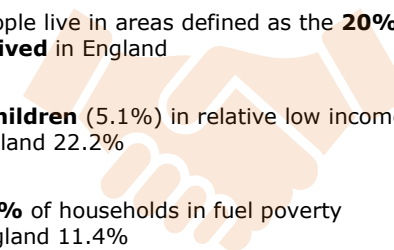
Vulnerable groups

0 people live in areas defined as the **20% most deprived** in England

41 children (5.1%) in relative low income families
- England 22.2%

17.1% of households in fuel poverty
- England 11.4%

17.2% one-person households aged 66+
- England 12.8%

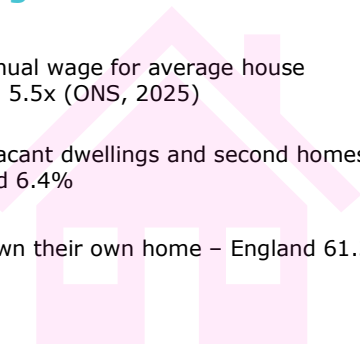


Housing

7.65x annual wage for average house
- England 5.5x (ONS, 2025)

38.2% vacant dwellings and second homes
- England 6.4%

44.4% own their own home – England 61.3%



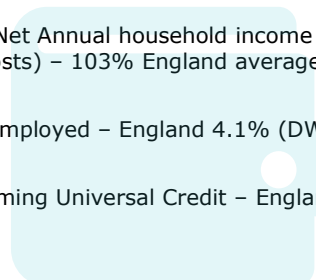
Economy

£35,734 Net Annual household income (after
housing costs) – 103% England average (ONS)

1.4% unemployed – England 4.1% (DWP)

5.7% claiming Universal Credit – England 19.7%
(DWP)

34.8% economically inactive - England 39.1%



Health and wellbeing

2.9% claiming Personal Independence Payment
(PIP) – England 9.9% (DWP)

14.3% of people have a **disability (Equality Act)**
- England 17.3%



All figures from the latest Census (2021) unless otherwise stated. Download Cornwall's [Local Insights](#) for more key statistics.

Reported crime and risk factors on the islands

The **resident population** on the Isles of Scilly is **fairly stable at around 2,400 people** and around three quarters of the population live on St Mary's. Tresco is the next most populated island with 10% of the total population, St Agnes and Bryer together have 10% of the islands' population and St Martin's has 7% of the total population.

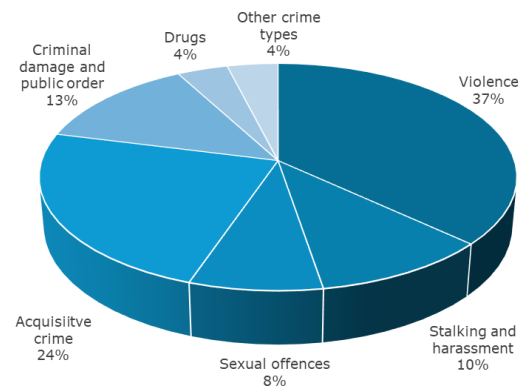
During the spring and summer months there is a significant rise in population due to the **influx of seasonal workers and visitors**.

Overall, the Isles of Scilly has a very low crime rate with 32.1 crimes per 1000 population. **76 recorded crimes** were reported to police in the calendar year 2025.

Recorded crime increased by 19 crimes (33%) compared with the previous year. The increase can mainly be attributed to a rise in violent offences reported and small increases in thefts and stalking and harassment offences.

- Crime and incident rates on the Isles of Scilly are generally **much lower than the average** for similar areas¹⁰² nationally.
- **Violence accounts for 37% of all crimes** recorded on the islands. Violence with injury makes up two thirds of all violence but the **majority of offences relate to less serious violence**.

- Half of all reported violence occurs in the **night time hours** (after 9pm).



- **25% of all violence** reported on the islands in 2025 was recorded as **domestic abuse related**. There is perceived under-reporting of domestic abuse and sexual violence due to **fear of lack of anonymity**.
- There were 8 offences for **stalking and harassment** on the Isles of Scilly last year, which is 5 more in 2024. Half of the offences were recorded as cyber-crime. These offence types are often hidden.

Although reported incidence of **most crime types** on the Isles of Scilly is generally low compared with similar areas nationally, **violence with injury** is the exception, currently 27% above the most 'similar group' average, noting that this equates to 18 crimes.

Alcohol is a recognised risk factor in community safety on the

¹⁰² Due to its unique nature as an area, the Isles of Scilly is in a 'most similar group' of only 4 CSP areas – the others are South

Cambridgeshire, South Lakeland and Winchester.

islands, particularly in the busy summer periods, but the harm is mostly low level and **there is little associated violence.**

Problem drinking in the population is a more hidden issue and ongoing focus is recommended to reduce alcohol-related harms – safe drinking messages, opportunities for early identification and help and pathways into specialist services.

A survey of school children confirmed **drug and alcohol use on the islands' beaches** amongst young people. The main drug highlighted was cannabis but other drugs mentioned included magic mushrooms and ketamine. These are thought to be purchased from the mainland and brought back. Concerns were raised around risks related to drugs and alcohol and the

potential for exploitation for **young people leaving the islands for post-16 education.** More work is required to understand what the potential harms may be for this cohort and what positive actions are being taken to reduce the risks.

Because the islands are relatively isolated there is a **higher reliance on accessing information and services online**, particularly for young people and this is an added risk factor in the likelihood of exposure to harm.

There is little information on the **vulnerability of seasonal workers** and isolation risks that they may face.

Our Response

The **Serious Violence Strategic Framework** for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly sets out our local response to preventing and reducing serious violence, bringing together a range of strategies that contribute to this agenda alongside our local **Serious Violence Prevention Programme** (SVPP). The Programme is about to enter its fifth year of delivery.

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly were provided with funding (OPCC, Police and Home Office) to develop and deliver a local programme of work to support Peninsula efforts collectively to tackle serious violence, **focused on young people under 25**.

This was initially supported by Crest Advisory¹⁰³ who developed a high level needs assessment and identified priorities and outcomes based on a Theory of Change.

The first two years of the programme delivery 2022-2024 were **independently evaluated** and the [report](#) is published on the Safer Cornwall website.

Following the 'go live' of the Serious Violence Duty in January 2023, the programme advanced into a second phase, with a needs assessment and strategy focused specifically on the needs of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

We identified **priority themes**:

- Domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Violence against women and girls
- Drugs and alcohol
- Complex needs, multiple vulnerabilities
- Exploitation
- Youth justice
- Reducing reoffending

And priority people and places:

- Pre-birth and children aged 0-5
- Children at risk of suspension/exclusion
- Families at risk of going into temporary housing
- Geographical areas of deprivation / disadvantage

We recognise that we have **well-established thematic strategies** that address the **different contexts of violence** as critical issues in their own right, each drawing on their own evidence and needs assessments and providing a **prevention focus through a specific thematic lens**.

This includes Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, Drugs and Alcohol, Exploitation and Reoffending.

In addition, there are many strategies and delivery models in place that aim to address the **underlying risk factors** for of violent behaviours, **reduce health**

¹⁰³ A crime and justice consultancy www.crestadvisory.com. Crest have since been appointed as the Home Office's support

partner to help local areas prepare and implement the Duty

inequalities and **build resilience** in communities.

The **Serious Violence Prevention Programme** sits across these themes and focuses on what we need to do collectively to **add value** and lead a more effective system response.

Delivery is overseen by a multi-agency **Steering Group**, with representation from all the specified authorities and a wide range of other partners, including voluntary and community sector organisations.

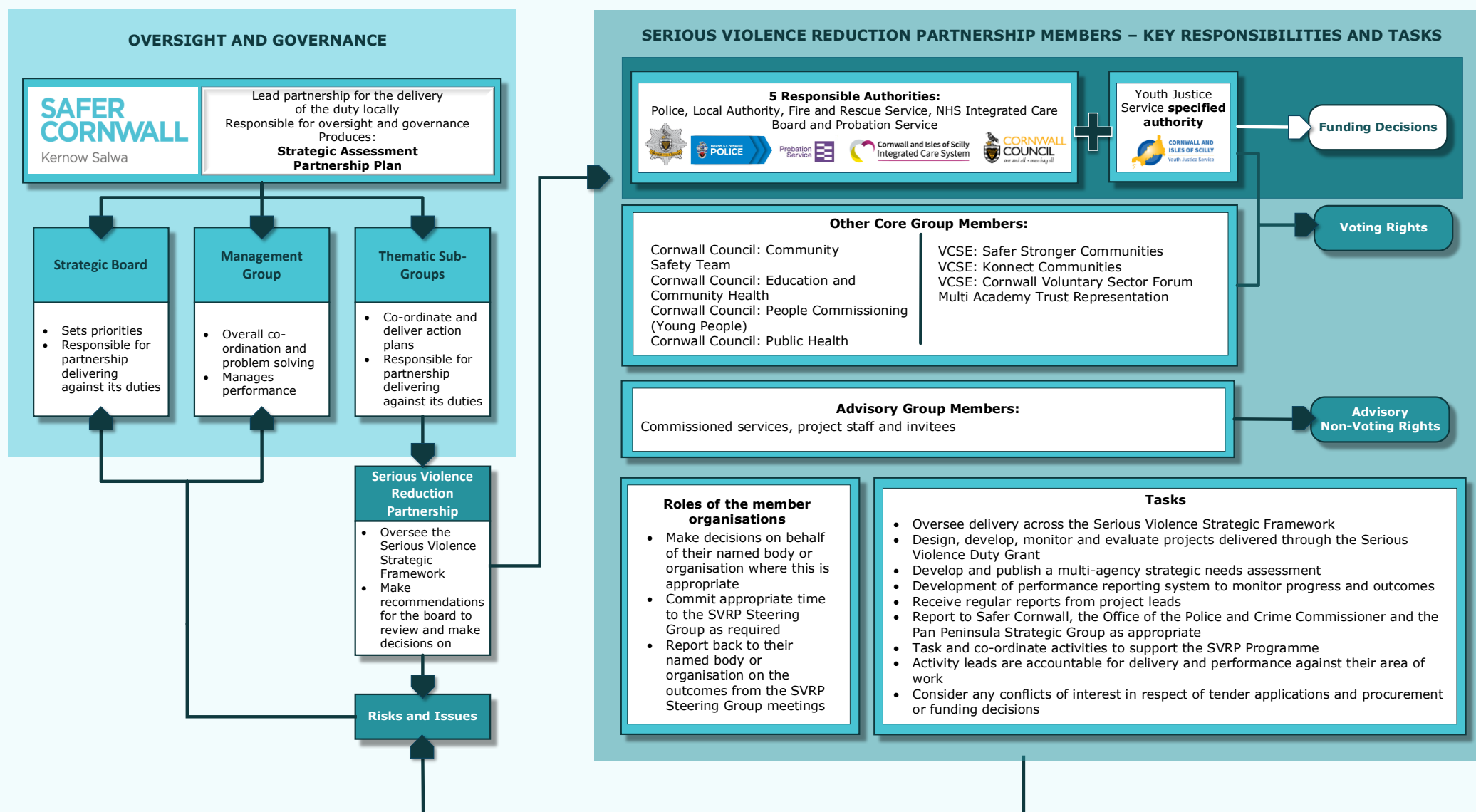
Local governance

When the Duty was announced, Safer Cornwall had an existing, **well-established governance structure** through which to deliver the new duty.

Safer Cornwall's partnership governance operates through a **three-tier structure** in which the Strategic Board sets priorities and holds overall accountability, supported by the Management Group which co-ordinates delivery and performance across thematic sub-groups. The **Serious Violence Prevention Partnership** (SVPP) is a subgroup reporting into this structure.

Decision-making for the SVPP is undertaken by the **voting members** drawn from the specified authorities, with quoracy rules ensuring that formal decisions (especially those involving funding) are taken with appropriate partner representation.

PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE



We have invested in developing a **strong partnership base** on which to operate from and facilitating **system improvements and learning** with the aim of embedding the benefits into business as usual, providing sustainability beyond the funding provided through the Serious Violence Duty Grant.

This has included strengthening **multi-agency collaboration**, enhancing knowledge and information sharing and empowering

the **voluntary and community sector** through inclusion and workforce development.

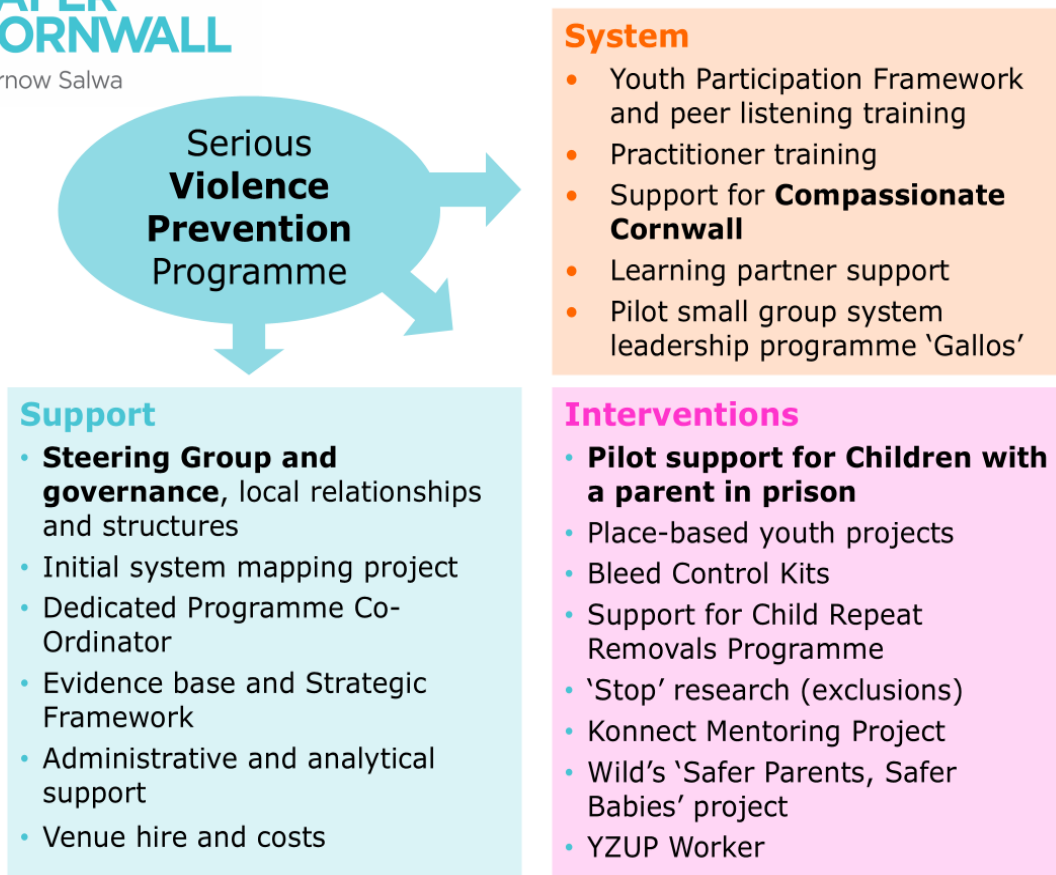
A range of interventions were also delivered under the programme:

- Tailored support for **children affected by parental imprisonment**¹⁰⁴
- Co-designed **youth interventions and engagement** projects
- Support for **young parents**

**SAFER
CORNWALL**

Kernow Salwa

Serious
**Violence
Prevention
Programme**



System

- Youth Participation Framework and peer listening training
- Practitioner training
- Support for **Compassionate Cornwall**
- Learning partner support
- Pilot small group system leadership programme 'Gallos'

Support

- **Steering Group and governance**, local relationships and structures
- Initial system mapping project
- Dedicated Programme Co-Ordinator
- Evidence base and Strategic Framework
- Administrative and analytical support
- Venue hire and costs

Interventions

- **Pilot support for Children with a parent in prison**
- Place-based youth projects
- Bleed Control Kits
- Support for Child Repeat Removals Programme
- 'Stop' research (exclusions)
- Konnect Mentoring Project
- Wild's 'Safer Parents, Safer Babies' project
- YZUP Worker

¹⁰⁴ This was a three year pilot and independently evaluated – a summary report is published on the Safer Cornwall website.

A workshop was held in January 2026 and brought together members of the current **SVPP Steering Group** and wider stakeholders and partners to review our strategy and local response.

This was an opportunity to reflect on what had been achieved in the first four years and **agree priorities to take forward** into the next phase, ensuring that local **specified authorities** continue to meet the requirements of the **Serious Violence Duty moving forward**.

This provided some clear areas of focus for next phase of delivery:

- Maintain **cross-sector commitment** to collaborating on and delivering the Framework as a **shared partnership endeavour**
- Build **joint approaches to sharing, analysing and interpreting data** on risks; ensure we embed lived-experience insights
- Ensure **prevention frameworks** are reflected in commissioning, frontline practice and workforce development
- Keep 'hidden harms' such as **parental imprisonment and domestic abuse** central to prevention planning
- Roadmap system-wide implementation of the [Compassionate Cornwall All-Age Framework](#)
- **Review barriers** to service engagement; **redesign pathways** to better support individuals with complex needs;

implement **screening tools and training**

- Bring **other partners** more fully into partnership work – including probation, education, housing, services for children and young people, and lived-experience voices (including promoting the [Youth Participation Framework](#) more widely).

The requirements for the new Serious Violence Duty Grant include a stronger focus on '**high impact' changes evidenced through the Youth Endowment Fund toolkit** and we have reviewed our delivery so far against the recommendations.

This has underpinned thinking around future initiatives.

More information about our commissioned interventions is also provided in the **What Works** section.

- [WILD Safer Parents, Safer Babies](#)
- [ACTing with Children](#) support for Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment
- ['Tevyans' Konnect](#) Mentoring Project

1	Target support where violence risk is highest Why? Support should follow need. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: A. Identify vulnerable children and young people and high-risk contexts. B. Work with local partners to identify gaps. C. Commission in partnership with children and young people.
2	Close the most urgent gaps in youth club access Why? Youth club deserts can make children and young people less safe. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: A. Map existing youth clubs and identify deserts. B. Open new youth clubs to improve access for the most vulnerable. C. Increase funding for existing youth clubs. D. Actively publicise the full local youth offer.
3	Raise the standard and reach of mentoring Why? Vulnerable children and young people need trained adults who stay long enough to earn their trust. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: A. Map mentoring provision and identify gaps. B. Offer vulnerable children and young people at least six months of weekly, one-to-one mentoring by safe, trained adults.
4	Maximise the protective power of positive activities Why? The best activities do not just keep vulnerable children and young people busy – they build skills and relationships. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: A. Fund a range of structured positive activities, including sports. B. Offer vulnerable children and young people at least six months of weekly positive activity sessions by safe, trained adults. C. Fund provision that builds social and emotional skills and trusting relationships.
5	Embed sustained support in high-need A&E departments Why? Vulnerable children and young people need ongoing follow-up support, not brief signposting. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: A. Target support to the children and young people who need it most. B. Make caseworkers available in the right places and times. C. Combine sustained direct support with access to evidence-based interventions. D. Equip caseworkers for the demands of the role.
6	Make multi-year core funding the default Why? Short-term, restricted funding can weaken the quality of youth provision. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: A. Offer funding that lasts 3–5 years. B. Fund everyday core operating costs. C. Fund providers to collect and use data to improve quality and inclusion.
7	Equip youth workers to safeguard children and young people Why? Youth workers already safeguard vulnerable children and young people from violence – often without the necessary support. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: A. Fund regular supervision and specialist training for youth workers. B. Involve youth workers in local safeguarding and/or community safety systems.
8	Prioritise evidence-based strategies and avoid harmful approaches Why? Limited resources are best spent on violence prevention strategies that are supported by evidence. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: A. Use robust evidence to inform decision-making. B. Be aware that many violence prevention strategies have limited evidence. C. Avoid approaches that have been proven to cause harm.

1	ACTing with Children - Supports children affected by parental imprisonment, a cohort with elevated risk of exclusion, emotional harm and later offending. Children are supported in the school setting where possible with wider benefits evidenced for schools including reduced absenteeism and less demand for pastoral support and education welfare input. Improved identification and referral pathways, ensuring support starts “as soon as they need it.” 106 young people, plus 37 wider family members under 25 & 9 wider family members over 25 supported WILD Safer Parents, Safer Babies (WILD Young Parents) - Works with families experiencing domestic abuse, trauma, SUDI risk, exploitation, safeguarding concerns, and intergenerational violence. Over-representation of young parents in MARAC, signifying high-risk safeguarding environment. 780 people under 25 and 112 over 25 supported through the project. YZUP Youth Outreach Worker - Supports young people experiencing substance misuse, poverty-related harms, daily exclusions, unhealthy relationships and mental health decline. Reaches high-need communities in Truro, Camborne, Redruth, Pool. 562 young people under 25 supported and 1 person 25+ Re:Route Detached Outreach - Provides support in geographical ASB hotspots - Truro, Bugle, Liskeard, Bodmin. 291 young people were supported, of which 81 were identified as high-risk by police and community safety teams. Sessions include a programme of detached, street-based youth work, focused on building trusted relationships with young people in their own spaces and communities. Bleed Control Kits – Installed in identified communities. Youth Participation Framework - Young People Cornwall were commissioned to research and co-design strategies for effectively integrating young people's voices and feedback into violence prevention services providing a toolkit to facilitate this. 300+ young people.
2	ACTing with Children - Young people are supported into a range of sustainable community-based activities. Including: sports, wellbeing sessions, creative programmes, peer groups, angling and outdoor pursuits that can offer ongoing stability and positive engagement. Roadshows helped young people form new friendships, supporting long-term social development. YZUP Youth Outreach Worker - Provides group sessions, drop-ins and outreach. Re:Route Detached Outreach - Explicitly addresses gaps in open-access provision, connecting young people to youth centres. Increased awareness and access in Truro and Liskeard
3	ACTing with Children - Provides intensive, tailored 1:1 mentoring with staged transitions (Intensive → Transitional → Community). Includes emotional regulation, advocacy, consistency and long-term relationships. WILD Safer Parents, Safer Babies - Offers personalised 1:1 trauma-informed support, attachment-focused parenting help, and resilience-building. Staff develop strong, trust-based relationships with high-risk parents. YZUP Youth Outreach Worker - Sustained 1:1 sessions for emotional regulation, advocacy, safety planning and navigating services. Particularly effective for young people with multiple vulnerabilities. Re:Route Detached Outreach - Builds trusted relationships, but these are not structured as formal long-term mentoring programmes.
4	ACTing with Children - Provides structured activities including: sports, creative sessions, wellbeing programmes, peer activities, and group trips - activities are tailored and designed to build confidence, routine and social connection. Results: improved attendance, confidence, wellbeing and sense of belonging for the individual and support for the wider family both siblings and parents. WILD Safer Parents, Safer Babies - Offers group-based attachment work, musical rituals, wellbeing events, seasonal celebrations, supporting emotional development and resilience. The project has maintained consistent engagement, strengthened community relationships, and supported families to feel safer, more connected and better equipped to care for their children. YZUP Youth Outreach Worker - Delivers structured programmes focused on substance awareness, coping strategies, wellbeing. Community outreach engages young people in safe, structured activity. Several young people presented with multiple vulnerabilities, and consistent 1:1 contact increased trust and improved engagement with wider support networks. Impact has also extended to family and whole school support. Re:Route Detached Outreach - Provides extensive diversionary activities: boxing, DJing, street games, football, creative workshops, trips. Sessions include a programme of detached, street-based youth work, focused on building trusted relationships with young people in their own spaces and communities. Youth-led and co-designed activities build skills and encourage safe behaviours.
5	WILD Safer Parents, Safer Babies Integrates with frontline safeguarding settings, such as MARAC, Safer Futures and midwifery; not A&E specifically.
6	Multi-year core funding discussed in ‘gaps and opportunities’ section
7	ACTing with Children - Strong multi-agency working: schools, social care, family support. Trauma-informed practice guided by staff with lived experience. 36 partners and 20 practitioners have undergone training. WILD Safer Parents, Safer Babies - Workers trained in domestic abuse responses, and contribute to multi-agency safeguarding structures. 24 professionals have participated in, or started, training. 10 WILD workers have completed ICON training helping people who care for babies to cope with crying. Safer Futures, the domestic abuse and sexual violence service commissioned by Safer Cornwall, is providing additional support around domestic abuse and healthy relationships, having identified specific needs for support amongst their new young mums and pregnant young women. YZUP Youth Outreach Worker - Supports young people facing high-risk vulnerabilities; coordinates with parents and schools. Alongside group work, the key worker participated in joint outreach with Young People Cornwall, engaging 103 young people in community settings. This provided opportunities for brief interventions, harm- reduction advice and early identification of young people who may benefit from further support. Visibility in the community has also strengthened multi-agency relationships and enabled a more coordinated response to emerging concerns. Re:Route Detached Outreach - Youth workers respond to trauma, county lines, substance use, exclusions and ASB. 11 young people were referred for further support, including mental health, youth justice and trauma services and workers responded to challenging behaviour by offering increased outreach sessions involving detached youth work. Clear evidence of safeguarding awareness and appropriate referral pathways. Trained 222 practitioners in areas including introduction to parental imprisonment and knife and weapons carrying, improving confidence and trauma-informed practice across sectors.
8	ACTing with Children - Independent evaluation showing £8 Social Return on Investment (SROI) per £1 spent. Clear outcome monitoring: attendance, wellbeing, confidence, school re-engagement. Children demonstrated strong outcomes: 89% of children attended school regularly, 88% showed improved confidence, 86% reported increased self esteem and 70% experienced better mental wellbeing. WILD Safer Parents, Safer Babies - Uses evidence-based tools, contributes to research and multi-agency thematic reviews. Co-designed and evaluated with young parents. The service also played a central role in a HDRC Infant Voice research project and contributed to multi-agency thematic reviews aimed at preventing serious harm to babies. They also co-produced the newly published CIOS Child’s Voice and Domestic Abuse Toolkit adding wider value beyond the scope of the project. YZUP Youth Outreach Worker - Tracks trends in presenting needs and delivers structured group interventions. Re:Route Detached Outreach – Focus is on co-design and responsive delivery with less formal evaluation.

1	- Use the Youth Participation Framework as a cornerstone for project design and delivery. Sustain youth voice: Embed co-produced tools and approaches into everyday practice across services, to ensure young people’s perspectives shape safer communities. - Services are designed by the people that use them; barriers to support are identified and removed. - Support medium-risk young people: Use service mapping insights to commission services for young people who fall below statutory thresholds but remain at increased risk of serious violence. - Support initiatives that have a place-based focus which leave a physical legacy and strengthen community ties. - Increase focus on the impact / influence of the “virtual world” on violence (e.g. social media, sharing of photos/videos). The digital environment can be a determinant of health (both positive and negative). - Explore options to promote and improve the support offer for schools, focused on children at risk of exclusion and their families. - Explore more journey mapping, including using the person’s voice. - Universal application of child assessments that routinely ask about parental trauma and adversity in order to facilitate a whole family approach as the ‘norm’. Families are offered easy access, non-judgemental support at the earliest opportunity Collaboration between statutory and voluntary sectors is critical to ensure the best impact on outcomes is achieved. Broker close connections with the VCSE forums. - Working with the Best Start in Life team and early years practitioners in children’s services. Reexamine ‘non engagement’ –explore how can services support those most hard to reach.
2	Stakeholders including police, schools, youth workers, and councillors have raised concerns around youth club provision to divert young people from antisocial behaviour and vulnerability to exploitation. Although pop-up style provision has delivered some success young people highlighted their desire for “a safe space of their own” – a youth club-style provision with informal social opportunities and trusted adults. - Lack of permanent, fit-for-purpose youth centres remains a major barrier.
3	- Support a Human Learning System approach: Enabling adaptive, person-centred development by integrating lived experience, responding to emerging needs and driving continuous improvement in service design and delivery. Mentorship is a cornerstone of successful engagement across multiple projects and needs to form the basis or successful reach in new project delivery. - Ensure resource is invested / prioritised to enable the earliest possible intervention / support. - Amplify infant/child voice. - Development of peer volunteer teams within services that enables response to need without being subject to funding restrictions in order that no-one is turned away.
4	- Pilot a multi-agency panel and evidence based interventions in an area(s) of Cornwall with significant deprivation, high levels of multiple disadvantage and very high levels of suspensions and exclusions. - Core aim is to engage young people at risk of violence, anti-social behaviour, involvement with the criminal justice system, or social exclusion through a range of diversionary activities.
6	- Secure longer-term funding: Advocate for multi-year funding models to reduce fragmentation and allow partners, especially VCSE organisations, to plan and deliver with confidence and minimise risk. Without long-term funding and capacity for outreach and community-based provision, ambitions to reduce risk in priority contexts may be undermined. - Delivery partners stress the importance of building capacity within local systems, not just funding temporary projects.
7	- Invest in trusted adults: Prioritise funding for Participation Workers and Mentors who can build long-term, meaningful relationships with vulnerable young people. - Continue and expand practitioner training, tailoring it to Cornwall’s rural and coastal contexts. Include parents and community leaders in trauma informed training to broaden impact. - Support contextual safeguarding: This approach addresses environmental risk factors and supports place-based prevention. - Ensuring projects have the staffing and infrastructure support needed to adapt quickly to local needs and feedback. - System-wide support to implement the Compassionate Cornwall All-Age Framework in a way that supports differing needs across multiple agencies with successes captured and cascaded. Outcomes embedded into commissioning and service design thereafter. - Facilitate creative problem solving on the ground between agencies. ‘My Team Around Me’ - Ensure training supports community-level awareness including challenges faced in more rural communities and practical interventions where young people face the highest risks. - Champion trauma informed / adversity aware practice. Embed All Age Framework.
8	- Replicate widely the in-kind support and partnership contributions existing projects and activities have effectively leveraged. - Pilot work based on effective models in other areas of the country that will effectively map against local need and nuance, whilst also embedding national good practice. - Sharing collective responsibility. - Engaging all statutory and non-statutory organisations who have connections with young people to develop holistic responses. - Strengthened partnership intelligence and data that informs opportunities for prevention and targeted interventions. Supporting commissioning strategy that helps to mainstream and further embed successes and evidence based practice. - The ability to collaborate across the system/challenge organisational barriers. - Continued focus on the Trauma Informed Network Cornwall (TINC) as a collaborative space linking strategy, operations, training and lived experience.

Compassionate Cornwall All-Age Framework

The All-Age Framework was established as a **strategic extension of the Compassionate Cornwall initiative**, aligning with wider county priorities relating to trauma, complex needs and violence prevention.

It was **developed collaboratively** with strategic leaders, practitioners, community partners and people with lived experience incorporating existing strategies and extensive community input to build a shared understanding of trauma and **embed trauma-informed principles** across organisations. The result is a **unified, system-wide vision** for a **trauma-informed Cornwall**.

The approach aims to **embed trauma-informed, compassionate practice** across all services and communities, ensuring every interaction supports safety, dignity and healing. It focuses on creating safe environments, building trusted relationships, and using trauma-informed, strengths-based language, grounded in the **core principles** of:

- Safety
- Choice
- Collaboration
- Trustworthiness
- Empowerment
- Inclusivity

This way of working delivers **clearer pathways** of support, **earlier identification** of need and more effective, **person-centred**

outcomes by responding to individuals with empathy, curiosity and flexibility.

Work is currently underway to support **practical, system-wide application of the All Age Framework** which will extend beyond just practitioners (e.g. application in schools will need to incorporate training for all school staff irrespective of role). It will re-design pathways through appropriate screening, particularly for individuals with complex needs, and will incorporate the Whole Family Assessment and Youth Participation Frameworks.

Youth Participation Framework

The Youth Participation Framework is a **co-designed model created** with 293 young people across Cornwall to **embed genuine youth voice in serious-violence prevention work**.

It aims to ensure organisations not only listen to, but actively act on, the lived experiences and practical ideas of young people—**particularly those most affected by or involved in violence**. The framework emphasises multi-level participation, trusted relationships, trauma-aware practice, and accessible opportunities for young people to shape services.

Effective delivery hinges on **trusted relationships**, meaning engagement should occur through workers who already know young people—particularly skilled youth workers. Participation must happen

in **safe, calm, trauma-informed spaces** and be flexible, offering options for **anonymous reporting**, varied communication styles, and both informal and structured participation routes. Young people stressed that feeling heard, believed, and taken seriously, and seeing **visible action** on their input, is more motivating than incentives—though rewards (food, vouchers) do help with initial engagement.

Long-term commitment is essential, supported by **dedicated staff time**, consistent **communication**, and **feedback loops** to avoid the common experience of “nothing changing.” Implementing the framework requires **significant resources**, especially skilled staff time, to build trust with young people who may be labelled “hard to reach.”

Many young people have deep-rooted mistrust in statutory services due to past experiences of not being believed, slow responses, or additional trauma caused by systems. This means participation structures must be **carefully designed to feel safe**, protect anonymity, and not expose young people to peer repercussions.



Preventing repeat child removals

This pilot project is a **multi-agency, collaborative approach** to supporting parents in Cornwall who have experienced, or are at risk of, having a child removed from their care. It focuses on **breaking the cycle of**

repeated child removal by providing a safe, trauma-informed space where parents can build **trusting relationships**, reflect on their experiences, and access **practical and emotional support**.

Each parent involved in the pilot of the FERN project (approximately 20 families) will be supported by a **dedicated practitioner** who has the best relationship with that parent, who helps them address trauma, improve wellbeing, and navigate services, while also encouraging **positive change and future planning**.

The project is voluntary and **works alongside existing systems** by strengthening collaboration between professionals to deliver more holistic, person-centred support.

Place-based approaches

Expertise around public space and Night Time Economy violence is well-established, with limited but generally adequate resources in place across a range of agencies to provide a response, targeted according to risk and vulnerability.

Ten towns across Cornwall are included within our **Safer Towns Programme** – Penzance, Camborne and Redruth, Falmouth, Truro, Newquay, St Austell, Bodmin, Saltash and Liskeard. These towns were chosen because they experience the **highest levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, alongside complex issues** around

drugs, alcohol, rough sleeping and safeguarding vulnerable people.

The Safer Towns Programme was developed by Safer Cornwall to respond to local needs and priorities and **focus resources on the people and places that need it most**. Each local partnership brings together the public sector and local services, elected members, voluntary and community organisations and businesses. Led by Community Safety Officers, partners work together to deliver creative and locally-led solutions.

Six of the Safer Towns have also been identified as **Hotspot Policing Action Areas**. Hotspot policing is a data-driven, high-visibility patrol strategy targeting locations with persistent anti-social behaviour (ASB) and serious violence, using crime data to identify where uniformed presence will have the greatest impact.

£1 million in Home Office funding was secured by the Police and Crime Commissioner for delivery of **hotspot policing across Devon and Cornwall**.

This has funded targeted **high-visibility street marshal and police patrols** that provide a positive presence in the towns to reduce anti-social behaviour and violent disorder, engage with the public and improve opportunities to safeguard vulnerable people on the streets. Bodmin was added in 2025/26 alongside the 5 original hotspot areas in Truro, Camborne, Penzance, St Austell and Newquay.

The latest data from the police shows that hotspot policing in these areas has delivered:

- **19,500** additional patrol hours
- **64,000** public interactions
- **1,387** ASB incidents attended
- **157** arrests.
- **204** Stop and Searches.
- **£130k** Problem Solving initiatives

Over the last year there has been a **9.9% reduction in ASB and street violence** across **all hotspot areas** in Cornwall and, most significantly in **Camborne** where a **40% decrease** was recorded.

High-visibility street marshal patrols will continue for a **further six months** following a £150,000 funding boost from the OPCC in 2026/27.

As part of the Safer Summer Plan in 2025, the Serious Violence Prevention Programme funded extra **youth outreach in the Truro and Bugle, Liskeard and Saltash**. This provided more targeted help and positive youth-led activities in areas identified as experiencing increased anti-social behaviour.

Young people

Schools are a **critical component** in any prevention strategy, providing an important context in which to deliver **universal preventative** interventions, and acting as a **protective factor** to reduce risk.

The support offer to schools has improved in relation to violence, including the introduction of a

Weapons and Violence Protocol, School Safeguarding Reviews specific to violence and the redesign of the Education Welfare Service.

The **Exploitation Strategy** includes the outcome “Children are **safe in school** and feel like they belong.”

Healthy Relationships Education is available to all schools (although not all schools take up the offer). In the last year more than 5000 children have received Healthy Relationships Education, with 300 teachers trained and over 500 parents receiving information.

This supports a **whole school approach** to relationship education and safeguarding.

Revised materials were rolled out in secondary schools which engendered wider participation and meaningful discussion. Subjects covered here and in college included:

- Gender stereotypes and misogyny
- Consent and boundaries
- Online safety and sexting

Challenges and gaps

The strategic assessment included a **multi-agency review of the effectiveness** of our specific responses to violence in its various forms – this took place within our series of **thematic workshops** over the summer. Note that the broader context of primary prevention approaches, however, was outside the scope for this piece of work.

The impact of **multiple vulnerabilities** was a cross-cutting theme, with services across the system talking about people seeking help facing complex, overlapping challenges. They need longer, more resource intensive interventions, co-ordinated across multiple services.

- **Unresolved trauma**, especially sexual abuse, is a common thread in adult vulnerability.
- Children in services show **high needs** across neurodiversity, education, and mental health alongside adverse childhood experiences.

Voices of **lived experiences and peoples’ stories** are critical to our understanding of risk and harm, and the effectiveness of our response. The need to support **safe and meaningful sharing** of these particularly in relation to young people, was a common thread.

A preventative approach should identify and **focus on potential areas of increased risk** – for example, places where we have **clusters of young people with multiple vulnerabilities** (such as in certain housing provision).

A ‘whole system’ approach which facilitates the **sharing of data to work in a more dynamic way** would support earlier and more effective prevention efforts across all agencies.

Online challenges

Risks in the online space are a growing threat, both in **enabling**

crime and **changing behaviours**. Use of **AI is a recognised risk factor** and has been linked to blackmail, bullying and exploitation.

- **Social media misinformation and disinformation** is a powerful force in shaping perceptions and behaviours.
- Practitioners are also flagging that they need **stronger digital awareness**, especially supporting young people, and this needs expertise to address effectively.

Online harms can be as impactful as those in the real world, it is important to understand that **for young people their world is primarily online orientated** and that there is no clear demarcation between the two.

Education and schools

More support and training are needed for staff in **education settings** to enable them to support young people more effectively around sexually abusive behaviours.

The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership highlighted an urgent need for wider education—both within schools and across the general public—to raise awareness of the **risks associated with strangulation**, challenge harmful behaviours, and support **safer, informed relationships**.

Behaviour policies in schools across Cornwall vary and would benefit from some consistency of approach, for example, recognising

drug use as a sign of exploitation and **delaying/stopping exclusion** whilst finding the right pathway.

Schools may not also have **separate safe spaces and suitable support** for children who are repeatedly removed from class.

Previous and often undiagnosed trauma within the family of children and young people who are repeatedly excluded was highlighted as being an important area for development among professionals.

Workshop members reflected on the **difficulty of engaging** young people and families who already feel **a lack of belonging** and that they have been **failed by professionals** and processes in the past.

Ofsted's 2026 SEND inspection highlighted **inconsistent experiences** and outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Cornwall. "Too many children and young people receiving SEN support have **low rates of attendance** in school or are **suspended or excluded** from some secondary schools."

"Inconsistent early identification and support for these children and young people, gaps in provision and **unsuitable placements** contribute to poor educational, social and emotional outcomes at the end of Year 11. This results in too many young people with SEND **not being in education, employment or training**. A small number become known to the **youth justice service**."

Police & Criminal Justice System

Reduced visibility of the police is a recurrent concern from community engagement and has a strong impact on feelings of safety.

More rural areas within our Police Force Area are starting to experience **knife crime, knife possession and knife harm** where there may be less oversight and support.

Intelligence gaps remain in relation to the extent that violence, ASB, acquisitive crimes and firearms are **driven by the drugs trade** and which groups represent the greatest risk. Although **formal routes**¹⁰⁵ to **share intelligence** have been improved and promoted widely, these are still **under-utilised**.

Details of an **offender's ethnicity** are often absent/inconsistent in police data, which may reflect a lack of confidence to ask. **Accurate recording is important** to challenge assumptions and pinpoint the focus for preventative work.

Recording practice should **avoid criminalising or labelling children** unnecessarily. For example, a child witnessing violence in the home may act out the same behaviours at school, signalling a need for support.

Much of the work undertaken by the **Youth Justice Service is statutory**. The service also has a **strong prevention and diversion offer** but this is more at risk due to limited resources to deliver.

Challenges around **wait times and processing cases through the courts** are an ongoing concern. Lack of legal advisors, court capacity, time associated with investigations (e.g. digital forensic queues) and CPS backlogs result in long delays, making it difficult to keep victims of crime engaged in the process.

Health

Rising **complexity in victim presentations** places a significant strain on services. Healthcare and social care teams report **longer engagement times** and increased demand, with younger adults requiring more advocacy to access support.

Sustained support is hindered by limited resources. Practitioners highlight the need to invest in more **wraparound, multi-agency approaches** to mitigate long-term harm, particularly for families.

Waiting times for children with SEND to access the **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service** have improved. Some children still wait too long for **speech and language therapy**, but those waiting are reviewed regularly.

There are still **very long waits for neuro-development assessments**, however, which results in some children and young people not being able to access support when they most need it.

¹⁰⁵ Including the police partner agency portal and Local Drug Information System

Violence prevention: what works

As part of the Peninsula strategic needs assessment, Crest Advisory developed their **best practice guide** for local partnerships in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, to support the priorities identified in the Peninsula strategy.

The best practice guide provided the findings of a **rapid review of the evidence base of interventions** that address domestic abuse, violence against women and girls (VAWG) and youth violence. Then the evidence review was linked with a **map of local service provision** and **recommendations** made for improvement. A summary of the most effective interventions is provided here.

Domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

Overall, according to the evidence review, **secondary/tertiary prevention strategies appear to have a more promising impact** on both attitudinal change towards VAWG and domestic abuse but also on long-term violence reduction.

Primary prevention

- **Bystander programmes are effective** in changing attitudes towards VAWG and domestic abuse. They are also promising regarding their effectiveness in reducing both types of violence.
- **Interventions promoting equal relationships are effective** in changing attitudes towards VAWG and domestic

abuse and they also seemed promising regarding their effectiveness in reducing both types of violence.

- Interventions **modifying unsafe physical school environments have shown significant potential** for reducing sexual harassment and peer sexual violence – such as US-based [‘Shifting Boundaries’](#) programmes (primarily implemented in the US context so far).

Secondary/Tertiary prevention

- **Police responses to domestic abuse have shown effects** in reducing offending and victimisation through various interventions. Yet, it has a more **reactive nature** and effectiveness is likely to be greater once integrated with proactive interventions offered by other partners.
- **Early intervention with couples at risk** of domestic abuse are particularly promising in both changing attitudes, as well as in reducing domestic abuse. There are some promising UK initiatives, which yet require further monitoring and evaluation.
- **Early intervention with young people known to be at risk** of intimate partner violence had promising effects, but only in relation to changing attitudes towards VAWG and domestic abuse.
- **Victim-focused interventions** (primarily clinically focused and

co-located IDVAs within health settings) and **domestic violence perpetrator programmes** appear to be the **most effective interventions** for reducing VAWG and domestic abuse.

Recommendations

- Expand the coverage of **bystander interventions**.
- Incorporate **group-based interventions with couples** at risk of domestic abuse within existing services.
- Explore addressing peer sexual violence through the **principles of the US-based 'Shifting Boundaries' programme**.
- Ensure that victim-focused interventions include **health-based IDVAs** and **clinically-focused interventions**, such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

Youth violence

Parenting and early childhood programmes

All parenting and early childhood programmes reviewed are effective in addressing the risk factors for youth violence and achieving long-term reduction in youth violence.

- Parenting programmes are associated with a **reduction in child maltreatment and problematic child behaviour**.
- Multi-component early childhood programmes have been shown to **improve children's cognitive skills and pro-social behaviour**.
- Home visiting programmes have been linked to significant reductions of child maltreatment and improvement in **children's emotional and intellectual** development.

Locally, **Wild Young Parents** puts the relationship between babies and young parents at the centre of their approach. Group and 1:1 sessions are available to support young parents and their families. This helps to address research findings of young parents and their children having poorer outcomes than older parents.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.wildproject.org.uk/national-young-parent-family-network>



The **WILD Safer Parents, Safer Babies** project was funded over 2 years through the Serious Violence Prevention Programme, **supporting pre-birth and children aged 0-5 and their families**. Their primary focus was to deliver personalised 1:1 trauma-informed support,

attachment-focused parenting help, and resilience-building for families experiencing domestic abuse, trauma, Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI), exploitation, safeguarding concerns, and intergenerational violence.

The project aimed to **increase safety and wellbeing for infants** by working with young parents to reduce the impact of conflict, stress and domestic abuse on babies using **infant-led, trauma-informed and evidence-based approaches**.

Primary Beneficiaries



Babies and infants (including pre-verbal children) living in households where there is conflict, stress or risk of domestic abuse



Secondary Beneficiaries

Young parents, many of whom have experienced trauma, unsafe caregiving, or normalisation of violence

Practitioners delivering frontline family support

Throughout the project **780 people under 25** and **112 over 25** were supported and **29 people over the age of 25** engaged with the programme. **96 wider community members** were also involved and **25 professionals** received training.

The impact of the programme on 109 families who experience **much higher risk of serious violence** was significant

Key benefits

- **Improved infant safety:** Observable reductions in conflict, improved emotional regulation, and safer caregiving practices within the home.
- **Change in parental understanding:** Parents developed insight into how stress, fear and violence affect babies physiologically and emotionally.
- **Earlier intervention:** Conversations about domestic abuse, safety, masculinity and relationships were opened earlier through the parent-infant relationship.
- **Stronger practitioner confidence and skill:** Staff reported increased confidence in addressing difficult topics and influencing safety outcomes for very young children.
- **Infant Voice has become embedded** in the culture and practice of the organisation and WILD has co-produced the newly published Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (CIOS) Child's Voice and Domestic Abuse Toolkit.

- **66%** have improved coping strategies for stressful or crisis situations
- **64%** have reduced violent or harmful behaviours
- **62%** make decisions now based more on their child's safety
- **59%** better notice their baby's moods and cues

Knife Crime

What is seen to work in reducing knife crime:

- **Universal Prevention** – through non age specific or targeted education
- **Early Prevention** – supporting vulnerable young people **focusing on unmet need** prior to an offence being committed
- **Targeted Prevention** – for those young people who have **come to the attention of services** but have not been supported through diversion, out of court disposal or a statutory order
- **Diversion** – finding **alternative solutions to a conviction** criminal record thus reducing the stigma associated with labelling.

The majority of these approaches focus on **tackling the root cause** of knife crime by **addressing unmet need** in young people.

Through the use of **deferred prosecution schemes** such as outcome 22¹⁰⁷, youth conditional cautions and court disposals (where a referral order is imposed instead), a criminal record, and all the associated stigma that sits alongside it, is avoided.

Knife amnesty schemes have been implemented widely. They have been deployed as a violence

prevention measure based on assumptions that they reduce the number of weapons available for use in violent incidents. They enable people to drop off weapons anonymously and guarantee that there will be no immediate repercussions at the point of handover.¹⁰⁸

There is currently **insufficient evidence to calculate an impact rating of such schemes**, particularly as they are often run in parallel with other interventions and media campaigns and, where rates have been recorded, some evidence suggests that following a relatively short term reduction in knife-related offences, numbers of knife related incidents soon return to pre-implementation levels¹⁰⁹.

Critics suggest that these schemes do not:

- **Reduce the number of knives** available as they are easy to purchase and replace
- **Address the underlying causes** for carrying a weapon in the first instance
- **Allay fears around knife crime** but in fact could exacerbate them and encourage greater use¹¹⁰

In an effort to reduce the number of knife-related crimes the Police Chiefs' Council are harnessing

¹⁰⁷ Outcome 22 is a Home Office code to be used by police officers when diversionary activity has led to them taking No Further Action in a case. Crucially, this outcome can be used without an admission of guilt.

¹⁰⁸ [Knife surrender schemes | YEF Toolkit](#)

¹⁰⁹ Analysis of police-recorded crime data in London found that knife-related offences declined for five weeks following the scheme, but the rate returned to pre-scheme levels after eight weeks.

¹¹⁰ [YEF Weapon-Amnesties Technical-Report August-2022.pdf](#)

technology to **interrupt online importation supply and resale channels**, focusing specifically on tightening legislation in relation to general knife sales alongside identifying and tackling unlawful and 'grey market' sales.¹¹¹

Schools-based programmes

Life and social skills development programmes (both universal and targeted) and **bullying prevention programmes** were evidenced to be **most effective** in both short and long term outcomes.

- School-based programmes that seek to develop young people's social, emotional and life skills have a **positive impact on violence perpetration and victimisation**.
- Anti-bullying programmes **improve bystander responses** (or attitudes and beliefs about bullying), as well as **reducing bullying perpetration and victimisation**.
- **Policy options** rather than being 'one size fits all' and uniformly applied, require **agile application targeting interventions** and approaches that can be short, medium or long term. They need to work at an individual, group or school level utilising multiple approaches, potentially both support and sanction focused, in

order that they are relevant and most effective.

- Focus needs to be on **targeting schools and their pupils where there is clear evidence of increased suspensions and exclusions**. Similarly reviewing schools where patterns show a downward trajectory may highlight examples of best practice.
- Looking at **persistent absence and truancy as early risk factors** is important as they are possible precursors to increased risk of suspensions, exclusions.¹¹²

Over the last 4 years, the **ACTing with Children project** has supported over **120 children** in Cornwall **with a parent in prison**, providing tailored, child-centred interventions and community-based support. The programme has provided strong evidence of **positive outcomes**, including **zero exclusions** across the cohort of children in mainstream education engaged with programme.

Children are supported in the school setting where possible with wider benefits evidenced for schools including reduced absenteeism and less demand for pastoral support and education welfare input. The **model used is transferable** to support children at risk of exclusion affected by other risk factors.

¹¹¹ [National Police Chief's Council Knife Crime Strategy - Overview and 4 P Plan 2024](#)

¹¹² Department for Education: school suspension/exclusion roundtable, Professor Alex Sutherland, University of Oxford (2025)



**ARGYLE
COMMUNITY
TRUST**

Argyle Community Trust were commissioned through the **Serious Violence Prevention Programme** to respond to an area of **unmet need**, namely developing and piloting a **dedicated child-centred support service** for children affected by parental imprisonment (CAPI). The service supported children from 0-18 years of age affected by parental imprisonment, a cohort with **elevated risk of exclusion, emotional harm and later offending**.

One-to-one intensive, tailored mentoring was provided integrating staged transitions (**Intensive → Transitional → Community**). Children were supported in a school setting where possible with wider benefits evidenced for schools including **reduced absenteeism** (60% of referrals were identified as being at risk of prolonged absenteeism) and less demand for pastoral support and education welfare input.

Young people were supported into a **range of sustainable community-based activities** tailored and designed to build confidence, routine and social connection. Roadshows helped young people form new friendships, supporting **long-term social development**.

An independent evaluation of the project was undertaken and indicated a contribution to **long-term savings for health and criminal justice services**. Delivered at an **average cost of £982.50** per child, the project was estimated to have nearly covered costs within Year 1, with a **projected social return of £8 for every £1 invested**.

Project Impacts

Educational & Social Impact

- **Reduction in educational disruptions and exclusions.**
- **Improved school engagement** through emotional support for young people. **78% increase** in the last academic year.
- Lower exclusion rates **reduce financial burdens** on schools and local authorities.

Reduction in Criminal Justice Costs

- Supports young people in **avoiding anti-social behaviour**, low-level crime, and problem **drug and alcohol use**.
- Helps **mitigate future costs** in the criminal justice system – including costs relating to policing, legal aid, and custodial supervision.

Additional Social Value

- **Reduces stigma** associated with parental imprisonment for CAPI.
- Creates a **sense of community** and **reduces isolation** through shared experiences.
- Improved confidence, self-esteem, and educational outcomes, leading to better **academic performance**.

Mental Health & Well-being

- Improved **mental health**, reduced **anger** issues, and increased **self-esteem** and confidence.
- Potential **long-term savings** for health services in addressing mental health needs.

Impact on Re-offending

- **Increased family contact** through prison visits helps lower re-offending rates among incarcerated parents. **Post intervention visits increased from 18 to 82**
- Research suggests this could **reduce parental re-offending by 39-50%**.

Scalability & Replicability

- The model has **strong potential for expansion** to other regions and contexts.
- Offers a **replicable approach** to addressing similar challenges nationwide.

Headlines

- **132** referrals
- **64** not previously known to services
- **110** young people directly supported
- **37** wider family members under 25 supported
- Significant rise in educational inclusion from **48%** pre-mentoring to **87%** post
- **95%** increased their self-esteem and self-efficacy
- **98%** reported improved resilience, confidence and mental wellbeing
- **3000+** hours of delivery
- **408** hours of staff training delivered

Community level programmes

The strongest evidence base for violence reduction amongst community and society level programmes is associated with **hotspot policing and community/problem-oriented policing**.

We have seen the positive impact of a Hotspot Policing approach through its ongoing deployment across Devon and Cornwall.

The most effective policing strategies will encompass **information sharing** between the police and other partner agencies, **suppression of violent crime** in hotspots and **proactive engagement** with communities.

A wide variety of **planning, design and infrastructure interventions** (such as improved lighting) that change the physical and environmental conditions seem to be promising in terms of preventing youth violence.

Drugs interventions, in particular **schools drugs programmes** that adopt a health-orientated approach, are effective in tackling drug use, which is a key risk factor for youth violence and particularly relevant for Cornwall's profile (early onset drug use). Their **impact on youth violence seems promising**, yet few programmes have measured this.

Secondary/Tertiary prevention: young people at risk of or involved in violence

The most effective programmes for young people either at higher risk of or already involved in violence are **therapeutic interventions**.

More specifically, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Multi-systemic Therapy have a positive effect in both short-term outcomes, such as **reducing conduct problems and aggressive or anti-social behaviours**, and long-term impact on reducing reoffending.

The YEF Toolkit describes **mentoring programmes** as having a **moderate impact** on violence. *Mentoring is effective in both reducing crime and the behaviours associated with crime and violence. The research suggests that, on average, mentoring reduces violence by 21%, all offending by 14%, and reoffending by 19%.*

Locally mentoring programmes have delivered positive results for young people with varying complexity of needs.

Sports programmes which engage children in organised sports or physical activity are described as a **high impact intervention**. The research suggests sports programmes could have a relatively large impact on keeping children safe from involvement in crime and violence. It emphasizes the **relationship between the coach and the children** involved as an important driver of the impact of these programmes.



Following a successful pilot, SVPP funding enabled the Tevyans Extension Project to deliver **targeted one-to-one, trauma informed mentoring through Konnect Communities** for 3 young people at risk of serious violence and criminal justice involvement referred to the project via Cornwall Council's Youth Justice Service. The programme was funded for 3 months from SVPP and went on to secure an additional 3 years funding from Children in Need, supporting an additional 15 young people to date.

This intensive approach provided **personalised, goal-led support** for 2 boys and 1 girl aged 15-17 and focused on building confidence, self-esteem and resilience, re-engaging them with education, equipping them with tools to address a wide range of emotions such as conflict resolution and aimed to **reduce risk by addressing individual needs and vulnerabilities**. Although the project worked with only a small number of children, this approach provides promising **evidence of positive outcomes** for the **most complex** young people.

Participants engaged in, and sustained, **positive, pro-social activities** tailored to their own interest such as boxing, basketball, green woodworking, outdoor learning, and creative programmes with the **core aims of supporting their wellbeing**, developing skills and making safer use of their time.

In a short space of time this intensive person-centred approach demonstrated clear positive benefits. Outcomes Star data showed **improvement across all life domains**, including increased ability to make positive choices, improved emotional awareness, stronger supportive relationships, greater engagement in healthy activities and a clearer sense of identity.

"Change the way I resolve problems and manage my anger feelings"

Those involved reduced negative peer associations and demonstrated improved anger management and problem-solving. All of the young people **remained engaged and motivated** at the end of the project, seeking out new opportunities for positive growth.

Key Outcomes Achieved

Trusted Adult Relationships

Consistent mentoring relationships increased trust, reduced isolation, and enabled young people to share challenges openly with a reliable adult.

Positive Use of Time

Engagement in structured, meaningful activities that supported confidence, motivation, and healthier day-to-day routines.

Healthier Peer Relationships

Improved understanding of positive and negative influences, supporting more constructive social connections and informed relationship choices.

Improved Emotional Awareness and Control

Greater insight into emotional triggers and development of practical strategies for managing emotions and responses.

Improved Engagement with Learning Pathways

Renewed interest in education, aligned with individual strengths, interests, and future aspirations.

Safe Space for Reflection and Decision-Making

Access to non-judgemental support enabling young people to explore challenges, consider options, and make informed choices.

The key takeaways for [successful implementation](#) are:

- Fund **regular, organised activities** delivered by knowledgeable, **trained staff** in well-equipped, **safe and accessible** venues. **Timings** should match when young people are at most risk (such as the end of the school day).
- Put strategies in place to reach young people from **racially minoritised communities**.
- Ensure staff have the right 'soft skills' to develop a **good relationship** with young people based on **trust and respect**.
- Consider **adding a mentoring component** to your sports programme for young people who would particularly benefit from building a **relationship with a trusted adult** outside the family.
- Provide **training and resources** so staff know how to refer or connect young people to local services.

Recommendations from the national Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Evaluation

The 2025 evaluation of VRUs identified **key risk factors** across all force areas which were **consistent** with those identified through **Cornwall's CSP** namely:

- **Education-related vulnerability** School exclusions, absenteeism, low attainment, and bullying
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma

- **Deprivation:** Wider structural disadvantage—poverty, unstable environments, and community-level deprivation
- **Unemployment:** Lack of employment opportunities and related economic pressures
- Use of **drugs and alcohol**
- **Mental health needs:** Both individual young people's mental health issues and family mental health challenges
- Prior involvement in violence or crime.¹¹³

The VRU evaluation also identified **recommendations for future focus** namely:

- Make the most pressing **risk and protective factors** explicit in Strategic Needs Assessments, Response Strategies and partner engagement to support prioritisation and system focus.
- Engage key partners (e.g., health, education) on the specific **risk factors most relevant to their role**, such as improving mental-health access or reducing exclusions.
- Continue convening partners, young people and communities to strengthen the **whole-system approach**, including data sharing, referral pathways, workforce upskilling and partnership relationships.
- Treat young people and community representatives as **equal partners** in shaping violence-reduction responses.
- Work closely with Local Authorities and CSPs to

¹¹³ [Violence Reduction Units year ending March 2024 evaluation report - GOV.UK](#)

coordinate and operationalise local approaches.

- Improve the **quality and use of key data sources**, focusing on enhancing existing data-sharing arrangements where direct access is difficult.
- Ensure all interventions have at least a **basic Theory of Change** and proportionate monitoring (including baseline data), to align activity to priority risk factors and strengthen the evidence base.

Trauma Recovery Model

The **Trauma Recovery Model** is a trauma informed approach which effectively seeks to facilitate change in the trajectory of a young person's

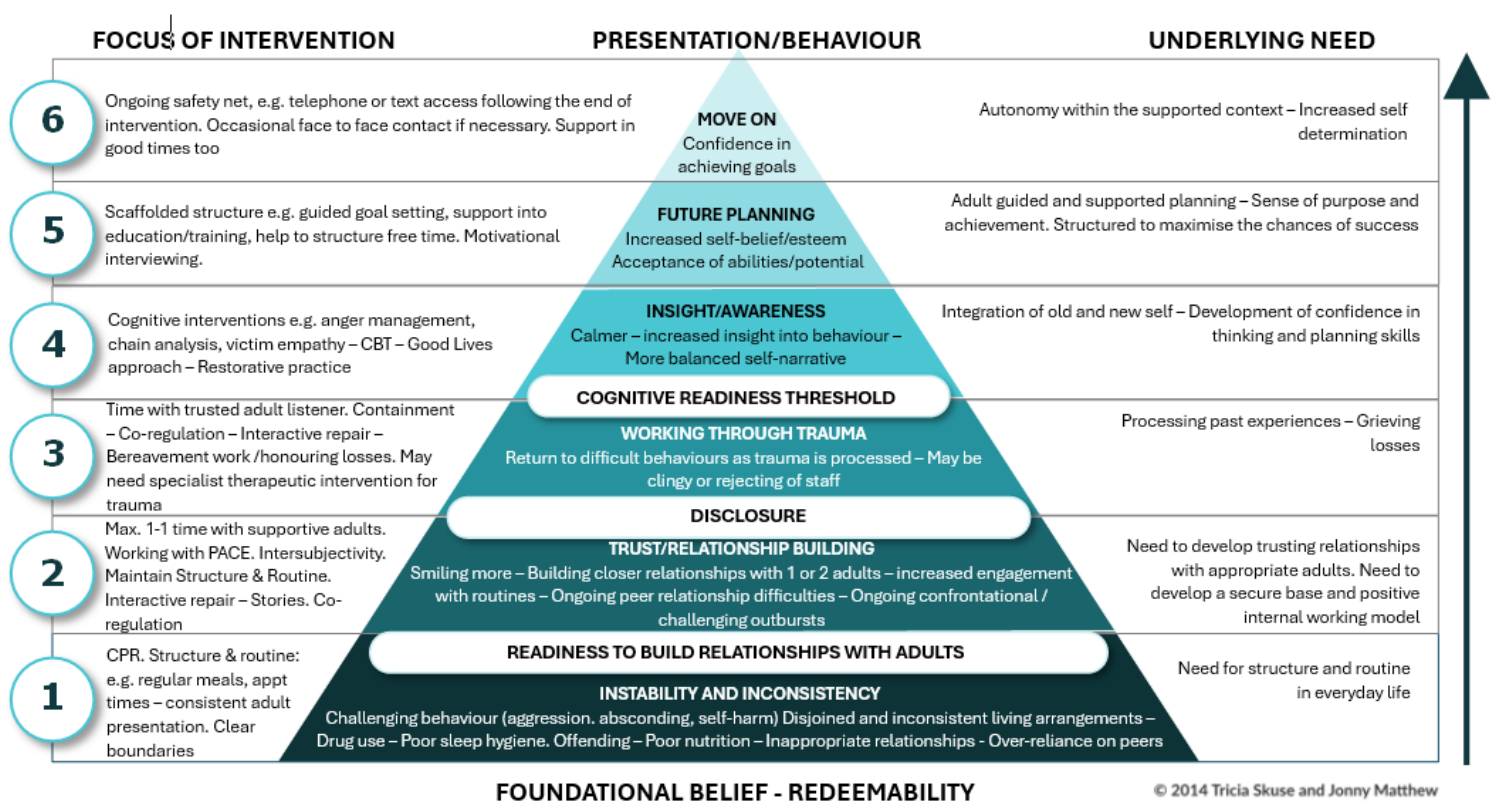
life through a tiered process based on relationship building and client centred therapeutic interactions.

It was primarily designed to support young people aged 16 to 21 who had experience of care and/or custody, and those at risk of entering custody, who had complex histories.

It aims to give practitioners the tools to understand the trauma that sits behind presenting behaviours and suggests possible interventions that can be approached in a structured, empathetic way to address underlying trauma and complex need.¹¹⁴

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TRAUMA RECOVERY MODEL



¹¹⁴ [Informing Futures - Trauma Informed Working](#)

¹¹⁵ [TRM Academy - Trauma Informed Practice](#)

Wave Trust Core Violence Prevention Recommendations

Prioritise early-years intervention (ages 0–3)

the propensity for violence is largely formed in the first three years of life; improving infant care is the most effective long-term strategy.

Reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) – by

developing a UK-wide ACE-prevention strategy to build emotionally healthy, well-attuned children who are less likely to develop violent behaviours.

Improve parental attunement and empathy development -

fostering parental sensitivity and secure attachment, which reduces future violence by supporting healthy emotional development.

Address root causes rather than symptoms - by identifying and resolving underlying developmental, psychological and social causes of violence instead of focusing solely on punitive or reactive measures.

Strengthen infant and family support systems - effective interventions such as early parenting programmes and these offer strong economic returns and violence-reduction benefits.

Adopt a prevention-first policy approach – by embedding prevention into national and local policy and organisational practice to stop violence before it occurs

Recommendations for specific organisations

Local Authorities & Public Agencies:

- Embed **ACE-awareness and prevention frameworks** across social services, policing, education and health.

- Commission and scale **evidence-based early family support** (e.g., home visiting, attachment-based programmes).
- Integrate **multi-agency working** to identify at-risk families early and intervene proactively.

Health Services & Early-Years Providers:

- **Train practitioners** in infant brain development, trauma informed practice, and parental attunement. Provide universal access to **perinatal and early-years support**, especially for vulnerable families.

Schools & Youth Services:

- Implement programmes teaching empathy, emotion regulation and healthy relationship skills.
- Identify ACE-related difficulties early and refer families to specialist support.

Police & Criminal Justice:

- Shift focus from crisis response to **upstream prevention**
- Partner with community agencies to reduce triggers (stressors, dysregulation) that escalate violence.

National Government & Policymakers:

- Adopt national prevention targets—e.g., WAVE's **70% reduction in child maltreatment/ACEs by 2030**.
- Invest in early-years support.

The costs to society of serious violence

A **prevention-first** approach **delivers the strongest overall value** because it reduces the frequency and severity of serious violence *before* high-cost harms occur, generating far greater returns than reactive enforcement alone.

Prevention not only saves money but also **strengthens communities, reduces victimisation, and improves life chances**—benefits that reactive responses cannot achieve once harm has already occurred. Adopting this approach not only reduces the number of victims but also lessens the impact of serious violence on vulnerable individuals and family networks.

Prevention delivers significant economic savings

Home Office analysis highlighted that **every £1 invested in serious violence prevention yields £4.10 in savings to society**¹¹⁶, reflecting reduced spending on policing, criminal justice processes, emergency healthcare and long-term social costs.

The **2023/24 VRU evaluation** also pointed out **consistent reductions in hospital admissions for violent injury**, including knife-related harm, and the subsequent decrease in healthcare expenditure and demand on acute services as a result.

Prevention strengthens public safety and community wellbeing

The national VRU evaluation provides evidence of **declines in violent injury among under-25s**, particularly in assaults involving sharp objects, demonstrating safer communities and reduced pressure on emergency response and safeguarding systems.

Meanwhile, analysis of victims' services shows that well-resourced support improves community stability by keeping individuals engaged in the justice process and reducing the wider social disruption caused by serious violence, with returns of **up to £10.80 for every £1 invested** in victim support provision¹¹⁷.

Prevention improves life chances and reduces victims/harm

VRU subgroup analysis shows **significant reductions in violent injuries among young people**, improving their long-term wellbeing, safety, education and employment outcomes by interrupting cycles of harm linked to serious violence.

Early, trauma-informed interventions help people recover more effectively, reducing repeat victimisation and the severity of long-term harm, and improving their ability to cope and thrive.

¹¹⁶ [Violent offences reduced in areas with multi-agency partnerships - GOV.UK](#) 2023

¹¹⁷ [Support-That-Saves.pdf](#) – Victim Support 2025

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly - breakdown of crime types and estimated costs¹¹⁸		
<i>Crime Type</i>	<i>Unit cost £</i>	<i>Est total cost £</i>
Homicide	£3,217,740	£12,870,960
Violence with injury	£14,050	£171,620,750
Violence without injury	£5,930	£58,724,790
Stalking and harassment	£5,930	£52,373,760
Violence against the person		£295,590,260
Rape	£39,360	£91,393,920
Other sexual offences	£6,520	£137,702,400
Sexual violence		£229,096,320
Total		£524,686,580

NB: The costs of crime presented in the table are based on the numbers of violent crimes recorded in Cornwall in the year March 2025-Feb 2026 and are calculated using the last available rates provided by the Home Office (2018), uprated for inflation.

¹¹⁸ Costs are based on the [The economic and social costs of crime](#) Matthew Heeks, Sasha Reed, Mariam Tafsiri and Stuart Prince July 2018.

Appendices

- A: [Assessing threat, risk and harm with MoRiLE](#)
- B: [Developing a definition of serious violence](#)
- C: [Further reading](#)

A: Assessing threat, risk and harm with MoRiLE

The **Management of Risk in Law Enforcement** (MoRiLE) programme was created in 2014 through the National Police Chiefs Council's Intelligence Innovation Group.

The programme developed a process for all law enforcement agencies that provides a **common framework and language** for understanding risk, involving more than 300 UK and international agencies.

In October 2016, MoRiLE became a **nationally accredited**¹¹⁹ way of working for all police Forces and other law enforcement agencies such as National Crime Agency, to inform their Strategic Assessments.

Safer Cornwall was the lead on the national programme for developing the process to work for CSPs and now advises other CSPs in implementing it successfully.

How it works

The process is **easy to use and understand** and allows a range of different issues to be compared fairly against each other.

The process uses a **simple scoring tool** to combine a range of individual scores given in the following areas:

- **Impacts** on the victim, the local community, and the environment
- **Likelihood** – how often the issue happens, how much and whether it is getting better or worse
- **Organisational position** – risks to the partnership's reputation if the problem isn't addressed well, any political pressure (locally or nationally), and how effective the local response is (costs, the right number of people with the right skills).

The list of **community safety issues** assessed includes specific **crime groups** and offence types, local **priorities** and wider **community safety issues** such as problem use of drugs and alcohol-related hospital admissions.

The process is delivered by **community safety analysts** in collaboration with a broad cross-section of specialists and community safety practitioners to provide **balance and insight**.

The resulting scores are grouped into **High, Moderate, Standard** and **Low** level risks.

This identifies a **specific list of high risk issues** for the Partnership to focus on. It also to identify cross-cutting themes around which our **priority outcomes** can be developed to impact positively across all of the highest risk areas.

The full matrix is available on request from Amethyst.

¹¹⁹ Police Authorised Professional Practice

B: Developing a definition of serious violence

To meet the requirements of the Duty in January 2024, **a strategic needs assessment and strategy was published for each of the four upper-tier authority areas** – Cornwall (which included the Isles of Scilly), Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.

Each CSP area had its own definition, albeit with a lot of commonality between them. All of them **included domestic abuse and sexual violence**, reflecting our local violence profile.

All areas considered the following crime types within their needs assessments: homicide, violence with injury, possession of weapons, robbery, stalking and harassment, sexual violence and drug offences. Also included are cross-cutting issues linked to knife and gun crime, and alcohol related violence.

In 2024, Devon and Cornwall Police started work on **new technical definitions** of Serious Violence and Near-miss Homicide, noting that the two significantly overlap.

This provided the **current iteration** of the definition in use, and the one that is **used within this assessment**. It incorporates: homicide, violence with injury, death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving, robbery and knife and gun crime. Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse crimes and intrafamilial offending against children were **excluded from the general definition** because these

issues have separate and well-defined strategic governance.

A further review in 2025 identified an opportunity to **incorporate a wider view** of Serious Violence in line with the SV Duty, OPCC, and CSPs, and a **preventative approach** to reduce harm and risk at the earliest opportunity.

As well as directing the Force's response to serious violence, this approach will identify **joint priorities across the Peninsula** and opportunities to pool resources. It will also enable the Force to **better support CSPs with meaningful analytical products** based on identified priorities.

The updated definition states that *"Serious Violence is defined as any act or credible threat of violence that causes, or is likely to cause, significant physical or psychological harm, including life-changing injury, trauma, death, or fear of harm, with substantial impact on individuals or communities"*

The **wider context** includes the use of force, power, or coercion, and encompasses both the **intent** to cause harm and the **creation** of fear of harm. Violence may be **experienced directly or indirectly** and includes **behaviours** such as domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, knife enabled offences, serious assault, near-miss homicide, homicide, and wider violence linked to exploitation, substance misuse, or organised criminality.

C: Further reading

Home Office

- [Serious Violence Strategy](#) (2018)
- [Serious Violence Duty: strategic needs assessment guidance](#) (2021)
- [Serious Violence Duty: statutory guidance for responsible authorities](#) (2022)
- [Violence Reduction Units year ending March 2024 evaluation report - GOV.UK](#)
- [Serious Violence Duty evaluation - GOV.UK](#) (2026)

Cornwall

- [Serious Violence collection](#) of published documents, including the current Strategic Framework and evaluation reports
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Needs Assessment and Strategies [DASV Strategy - Safer Cornwall](#)
- [Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessments](#), including the Young People's Substance Use Needs Assessment
- Safer Cornwall [Strategic Assessment](#) 2025/26 key themes
- [Youth Justice Plan](#) 2024-2027
- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly [Exploitation Strategy](#)
- Director of Public Health Annual Report [Growing up in poverty \(2025\)](#)
- [Compassionate Cornwall All Age Framework](#) (2025)

Peninsula

- Safer Devon [Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2029](#)
- Safer Torbay [Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2029](#)
- Safer Plymouth [Serious Violence Prevention Strategy and Model 2024-2028](#)
- Best practice in violence prevention: an accessible guide to support the Board's Strategic Priorities, Crest 2021 (circulated to Safer Cornwall partners)

National

- Youth Endowment Fund –YEF [What Works Report FINAL.pdf](#) (youthendowmentfund.org.uk) and Toolkit [Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit](#)
- [Children, violence and vulnerability](#) – Annual Youth Endowment Fund report into young people's experience of violence (2025)
- Crest Advisory Insights –
 - [Youth Vulnerability and Violence: Reviewing the lived experiences of vulnerable young people](#) (Insights Report, 2023)
 - [Under the influence: how harmful is social media to children and young people?](#) (Insights Perspective, 2023)
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation – [Serious youth violence and its relationship with adverse childhood experiences](#) (Gray et al, 2021)
- [A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention – a resource for local system leaders in England](#) (2019)



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