



SAFER CORNWALL

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St Austell Town Profile 2023










Introduction

This profile provides a **picture of crime and community safety issues** for this area. It compares the St Austell town area with the average for other large towns in Cornwall (towns with a population of 10,000 or more), described within this profile as “urban”.

Safer St Austell was established in 2016 to facilitate and support a **co-ordinated multi-agency approach to community safety** issues to improve feelings of safety and public reassurance, reduce the risk of harm to residents and protect vulnerable groups. The multi-agency group involves local community and voluntary sector agencies in the work of the partnership and encourages social inclusion and participation through inviting all partners to actively be involved in the problem-solving process and sharing a sense of pride in their town.

In November 2022 Devon and Cornwall Police began transitioning to a new record management system (Niche), which will provide enhanced functionality and analytical capability. During the transition period, officers are able to view crime and intelligence records, but a range of process and data issues means that providing strategic information is not currently possible. Therefore, the latest reference data included in this profile relates to the 12 month period ending 31 October 2022.

Key statistics

 <p>People</p>	<p>Current population of St Austell town area is approximately 29,000</p>	<p>17% are aged under 15 17% Cornwall / 27% England</p> <p>25% are aged over 65 25% Cornwall / 18% England</p>
 <p>Vulnerable groups</p>	<p>21% live in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England</p> <p>20% of children are living in poverty (18% in Cornwall and 19% across England)</p>	 <p>18% of people have no qualifications</p> <p>22% in Cornwall 18% across England</p> <p>Education & skills</p>
 <p>Housing</p>	<p>3% of households lack central heating</p> <p>4% in Cornwall 2% across England</p>	 <p>29% of people aged 16-74 are in full-time employment</p> <p>27% in Cornwall 34% across England</p> <p>Economy</p>
 <p>Health & wellbeing</p>	<p>23% of people have a limiting long-term illness</p> <p>21% in Cornwall 17% across England</p>	 <p>17% of households do not have a car</p> <p>15% in Cornwall 24% across England</p> <p>Access & transport</p>

Except where stated this profile provides information for **the geographical area representing the St Austell Network area as defined by Local Insight (communityinsight.org)**; comparisons are drawn with the average for other large towns in Cornwall (with a population of 10k or more, also described as “urban”) and Cornwall as a whole.

Cost of living crisis and impact on crime and community safety

The pandemic left many households and businesses in Cornwall facing financial difficulties, as they struggled to manage increases in the costs of housing, energy, fuel and food. 3 key factors – **energy prices, rising inflation and tax increases** – are now contributing to a **cost-of-living crisis**, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine adding further uncertainty to global oil and gas prices and supplies.

We know from previous recessions, that **financial precarity drives a range of harms related to crime and community safety** and the impacts can be long lasting. How we manage these risks and support the most vulnerable in our communities will feature in the refresh of our Partnership Plan for 2023/24.

Violence (stranger violence is unlikely to be impacted). Wider safeguarding concerns around financial abuse and manipulation, diet and wellbeing issues. People fall through the gaps in **services that are overstretched** and cutting back – increasing demand for crisis support in increasingly complex cases.

Anti-social behaviour may rise, with the increase in rough sleeping playing a small but visible part; visible social disorder drives wider feelings of unrest and community tensions; During a recession, people struggle with jobs and finances – **scams and frauds, shoplifting, personal thefts and robberies increase, black markets and stealing to order escalates**, and these markets are exploited by organised crime.

Drug and alcohol use increases to cope with increased psychological distress, bringing with it all the associated harms to health and family life and the costs to society, and leaving communities **vulnerable to exploitation** by organised crime and violence.

Based on previous recessions, **interpersonal violence is likely to increase**, specifically domestic and acquaintance potential increase in radicalisation, right-wing anti-immigrant narratives and hate crimes; increase in environment crime and nuisance occurrences.

An insecure home is the most significant barrier to any successful or lasting engagement with services that could provide help and support and a key factor in perpetuating reoffending.

Increase in youth unemployment rates has a long-term impact. Young people who leave school during recessions are significantly more likely to become involved in crime than those who leave school while labour markets are more buoyant. The sense of a lack of future and loss of opportunities **drive risk taking behaviour**, including drug use and involvement in crime.

Cornwall overview

Overall **recorded crime has increased by 11%** with most types of crime having risen over the last 12 months. This was expected further to the lifting of COVID restrictions and local trends are generally in line with the national picture.

Cornwall's crime rate remains comparatively low, and we are ranked 3/15 in our national comparison group (Most Similar Group, MSG). The rate of crime is 53.6 per 1000 population which is 22% lower than the MSG average.

Rates of theft continue to be significantly lower than in other similar places in the UK, despite the increases over the last year as crime levels have re-established.

There were **8,930 incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB)** reported to the police in the 12 months to 31st October 2022, equating to a rate of 15.6 incidents per 1000 population. The volume of reported ASB incidents is **27% lower than the same period last year** and has returned to around the same level as it was pre-COVID.

Reports of ASB to the police have **reduced across Cornwall over the last year** with substantial falls in rowdy nuisance neighbour incidents (down by 45%) and rowdy inconsiderate behaviour (down by 21%).

ASB continues to be a persistent headline issue in some of our larger towns. This requires ongoing multi-agency efforts to manage – ensuring that the people involved, who often have multiple vulnerabilities, receive **the right support, alongside appropriate enforcement action** to provide respite to local businesses and other residents.

There were **700 hate crimes in Cornwall** in the 12 months up to October 2022 which is a **20% increase** on the previous 12 months. Of these crimes **racially motivated hate crime¹** was the most commonly reported in Cornwall.

¹ It is important to note that hate crime can often target more than one characteristic, for example race and sexuality, within one reported crime.

St Austell

What are the key trends for the St Austell town area?

Along with other large towns in Cornwall, St Austell town area is a hotspot for crime, due to the concentration of people and activity there. It has a population of approximately 29,000 people.

The volume of **crime has stayed relatively stable** over the 12 months up until October 2022. This was in contrast with the increase seen across Cornwall and the other Safer Towns.

- Violent crime also **remained relatively stable** in St Austell when compared with the previous year.
- Although the numbers are relatively small the number of **robbery** offences doubled over these 12 months, rising from 11 offences to 21. Rates of robbery offences are greater than the average seen across the other safer towns.
- Other **sexual offences increased** when compared with the previous year but the number of rape offences has remained stable.
- There was an increase in the number of offences where a young person aged under the age of 18 has been a victim of a crime.



Crime overview

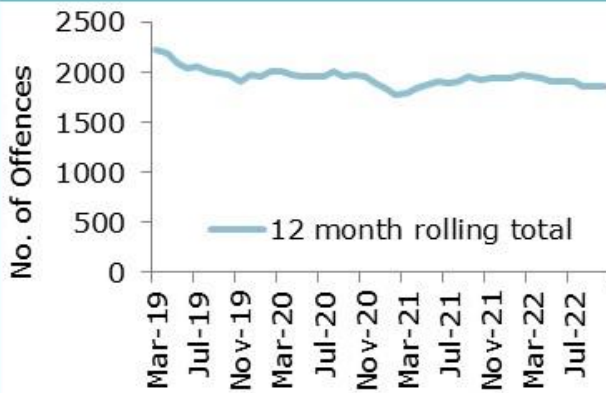
Crime / Incident type	Trend	Rate per 1000	Year ending Oct 22	Year ending Oct 21	Annual Change	Urban areas	Urban areas trend
All crime	▶	64.7	1,859	1,932	-4%	●	▲
Domestic Abuse (total incidents)	▼	19.4	558	611	-9%	●	▲
Domestic Abuse Crimes	▼	13.9	400	423	-5%	●	▲
Rape	▶	1.2	35	36	-3%	●	▶
Other Sexual Offences	▲	2.3	66	46	43%	●	▶
Stalking and Harrassment	▼	8.7	251	268	-6%	●	▲
Alcohol Related Crime	▼	11.3	324	379	-15%	●	▲
Public Order Offences	▶	4.6	133	132	1%	●	▲
Anti-social behaviour incidents	▼	17.3	496	731	-32%	●	▲
Street Drinking/Begging/Drug Litter	▼	1.7	48	68	-29%	●	▶
Hate Crime	▼	1.2	34	44	-23%	●	▶
Homicide	▶	0.0	0	0	0%	●	▶
Violence with Injury	▶	10.9	312	306	2%	●	▲
Violence without Injury	▶	10.9	312	300	4%	●	▲
Under 18 Victims of Crime	▲	43.7	256	223	15%	●	▲
Drug Offences	▼	2.3	66	74	-11%	●	▶
Possession of Weapons	▲	1.2	34	26	31%	●	▶
Dwelling burglary [1]	▶	3.2	40	42	-5%	●	▶
Non-dwelling burglary	▼	1.4	39	50	-22%	●	▶
Robbery	▲	0.7	21	11	91%	●	▶
Vehicle Offences	▼	1.9	55	116	-53%	●	▶
Shoplifting	▼	3.3	95	131	-27%	●	▶
Other Theft	▲	4.8	139	122	14%	●	▲
Criminal Damage	▶	7.7	220	222	-1%	●	▲
Arson	▲	0.3	9	0		●	▶
Other Offences	▼	1.1	32	46	-30%	●	▶

[1] based on rate per 1000 households

Note that caution should be taken when interpreting percentage change relating to small numbers (where there are less than 20 crimes per annum).

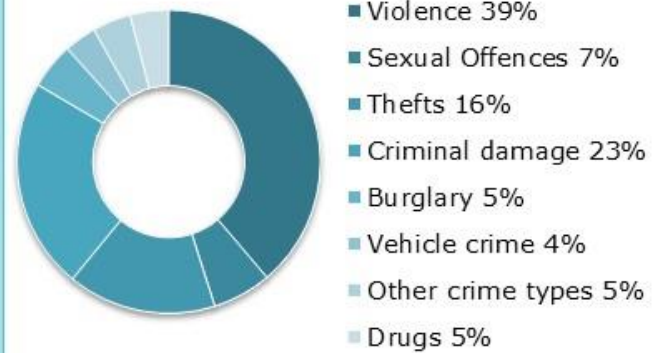
Trends and seasonality

Trend



The volume of crime has remained stable in St Austell in the 12 months ending October 2022.

Offences

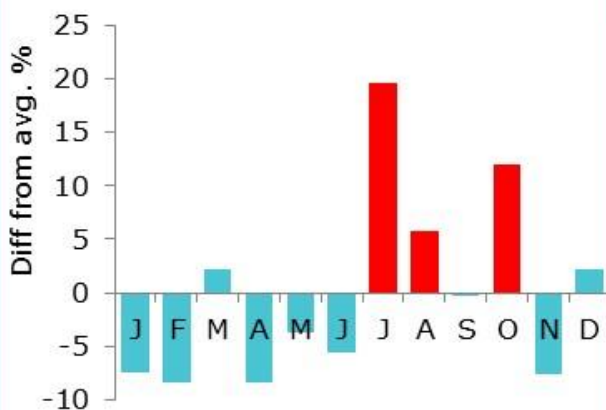


St Austell had higher levels of violent offences than the Cornwall average and higher levels of sexual offences and drug offences.

Thefts in St Austell were lower than across the rest of Cornwall.

Seasonality

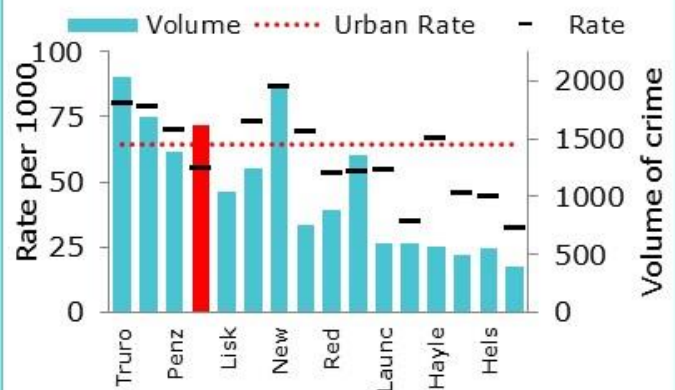
(based on a 3 year average)



There were higher levels of crime in St Austell during July and August with a secondary peak in October.

Comparison

(based on combined rate and volume)



St Austell has higher than average volumes of crime. The rate or crimes per 1000 population is below the Cornwall average.

Violence with injury

Cornwall context

The level of violence with injury was around the same level as pre-pandemic - this was predicted and was in line with national trends. Nationally, the trend is now starting to level off and in Cornwall violence with injury has remained fairly stable for the year ending October 2022. Around a third of recorded violence with injury relates to domestic abuse.

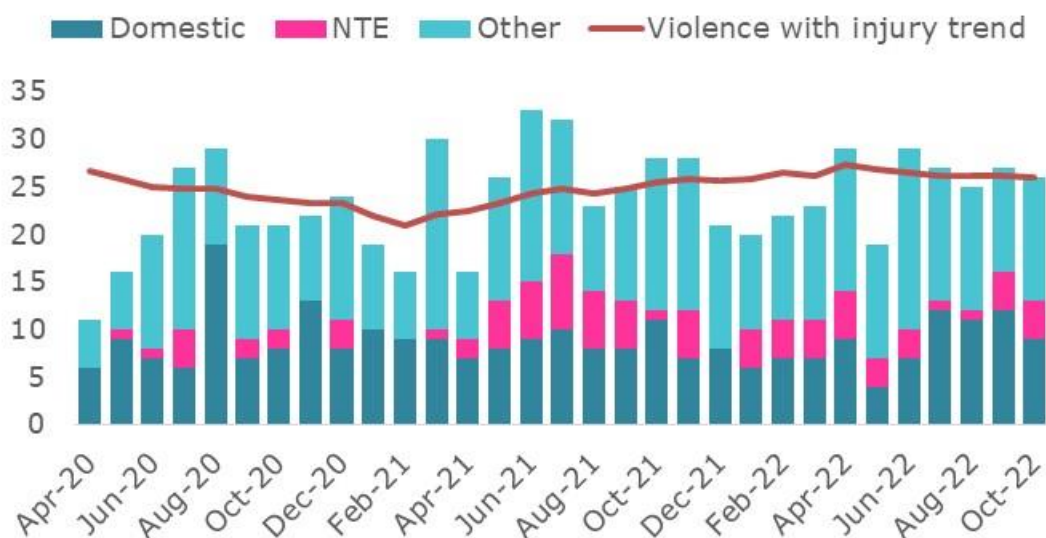
Violent offences remained stable in St Austell in the 12 months leading up to October 2022. There are still, however, a higher proportion of crimes involving violence in St Austell (39%) than across the rest of Cornwall (31%).

There were 624 offences involving violence in St Austell over this 12 month period and half of these involved injury.

- The number of violence with injury offences linked to domestic abuse crimes have reduced by 11 crimes.
- The level of violence with injury linked to the night time economy did not change over this time period.

A third of all violence with injury was linked to **domestic abuse** in St Austell over this time period.

18% of these offences involved a young person under the age of 18 as a victim which is a slight increase on the previous year.



Domestic abuse and sexual violence

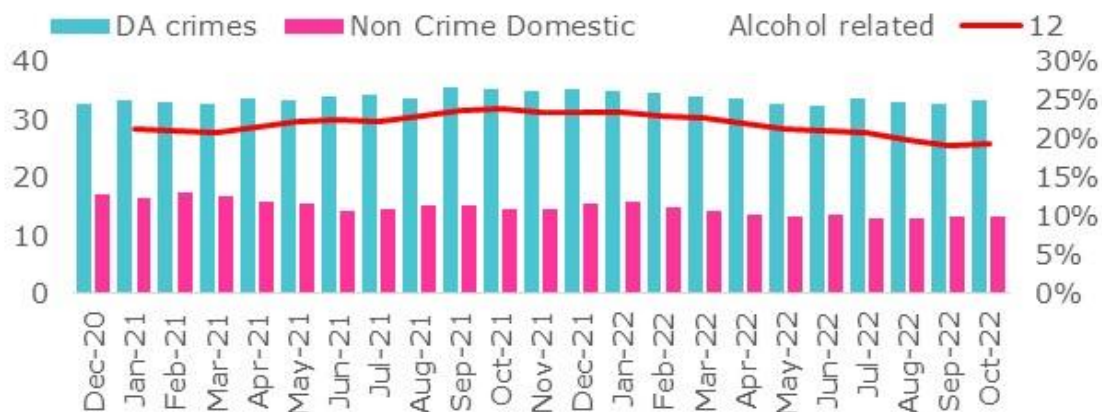
Cornwall context

Reported levels of domestic abuse and sexual violence have increased significantly over the longer term. In the year ending 2022 there was a small increase in the number of incidents and crimes recorded in Cornwall.

Domestic Abuse makes up a high proportion of crimes recorded by Safer Towns Development Cornwall at 22% of the overall figure for 2022 financial year. There was a **9% reduction in domestic abuse incidents** (-53) reported in St Austell over the 12 month period ending in October 2022. This was a greater reduction than seen across the rest of Cornwall and the other Safer Towns. The number of domestic abuse crimes also fell by 5% over this time period.

Crime / Incident type	Trend	Rate per 1000	Year ending Oct 22	Year ending Oct 21	Annual Change	Urban areas	Trend
Domestic Abuse (total incidents)	▼	19.4	558	611	-9%	●	▲
Domestic Abuse Crimes	▼	13.9	400	423	-5%	●	▲
Rape	▶	1.2	35	36	-3%	●	▶
Other Sexual Offences	▲	2.3	66	46	43%	●	▶

- There were 35 rapes in St Austell over this year which is similar to the previous year.
- The number of **'other' sexual offences increased by 43%** (20 crimes) in the year ending October 2022. The level of stalking and harassment reduced slightly (-6%) in the town.



Anti-social behaviour

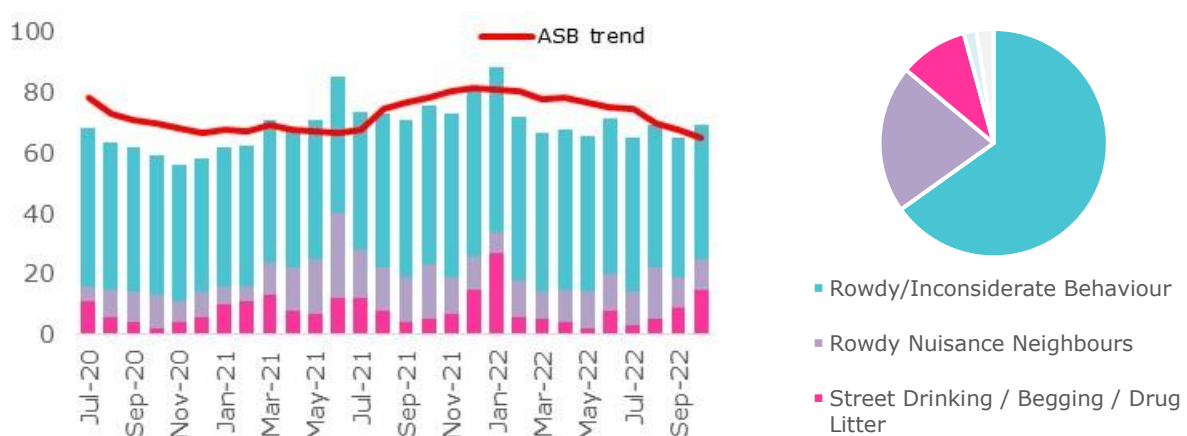
Reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) to the police reduced across Cornwall in the year up to October 2022 with **substantial falls in rowdy nuisance neighbour incidents** (down by 45%) and rowdy inconsiderate behaviour (down by 21%). The volume of reported incidents at this point was 27% lower than the same period the previous year which had returned to its pre-COVID levels.

Anti-social behaviour incidents reduced by 32% (235 incidents) over the year ending to October 2022. Although many areas saw a reduction, this decrease is more pronounced than in the other Safer Towns which reduced by 20%.

The most substantial reduction was in **rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour** in St Austell although there was also less rowdy/nuisance neighbours and street drinking/ begging/drug litter incidents reported.

Crime / Incident type	Trend	Rate per 1000	Year ending Oct 22	Year ending Oct 21	Annual Change	Urban areas	Trend	Cornwall Comparison	Trend
Total ASB incidents	▼	17.3	496	731	-32%	●	▲	●	▼
Rowdy/Inconsiderate Behaviour	▼	11.2	323	495	-35%	●	▲	●	▼
Rowdy Nuisance Neighbours	▼	3.6	104	127	-18%	●	▶	●	▼
Street Drinking / Begging / Drug Litter	▼	1.7	48	68	-29%	●	▶	●	▼
Vehicle	▼	0.3	9	26	-65%	●	▶	●	▼
Other	▶	0.4	12	14	-14%	●	▶	●	▼

Anti-social behaviour in St Austell saw a greater decrease than the rest of Cornwall.



Problem use of drugs and alcohol

Cornwall context

Drug related deaths are at an all-time peak and this has impacted on crime and health related harms. Socio economic factors such as high youth unemployment combined with cuts to social and other services under austerity have been cited nationally as contributing to this trend. There has been a rise in the numbers of people receiving treatment for drugs and alcohol in Cornwall.

Within Cornwall there was a **21% increase in alcohol related crime** during the 12 months up to October 2022 while the number of drug offences remained stable.

Alcohol related crime reduced by 15% in St Austell over the 12 month period ending October 2022. This reduction is in contrast to the rest of Cornwall and other urban areas which saw an increase of 21%.

Drug offences reduced by 8 crimes (-11%) over this time period and possession of drugs offences stayed stable with 53 crimes over these 12 months.

Crime / Incident type	Trend	Rate per 1000	Year ending Oct 22	Year ending Oct 21	Annual Change	Urban areas	Trend	Cornwall Comparison
Possession of Drugs	▶	1.8	53	52	2%	●	▶	●
Dwelling burglary [1]	▶	3.2	40	42	-5%	●	▶	●
Shoplifting	▼	3.3	95	131	-27%	●	▶	●

There was also a 27% (36 offences) **reduction in shoplifting** which is in contrast with the rest of Cornwall, which saw a 34% increase. Dwelling burglary remained static with 40 crimes over this time period.

There were 173 people engaged in structured drug treatment in St Austell over these 12 months and 66 people receiving treatment for problematic alcohol use.

There were three requests to clean up drugs paraphernalia during 2022 in the St Austell town area.

Young people and crime

Cornwall context

In Cornwall there has been an **escalation of concerns about young people** being involved in **anti-social behaviour and more serious issues**, including **violence, knife carrying and sexual offences**. As normal life has re-established after the pandemic, we have seen increases in public space violence linked to the night-time economy, alcohol related violence and violence amongst young people.

Services in Cornwall are reporting that, post pandemic, many **young people are presenting with higher levels of complexity** and show signs of a lower developmental age with less cognitive awareness. This is believed to be contributing to a worrying **increase in risk-taking behaviour** with an apparent lack of awareness of the consequences of harm (to themselves and others).

In the 12 months leading up to October 2022 the number of crimes involving a person under 18s as a victim of crime in Cornwall **rose by 24%**.

The number of crimes involving a **victim under 18 increased by 15%** (33 offences) over the year ending October 2022. This rise is not as high as the increase experienced across the rest of Cornwall and other urban areas.

There were 33 young people suspected of committing 44 offences in St Austell during 2022.

Affected others

Research shows that experiencing trauma as a child, described as **Adverse Childhood Experiences**, impacts not only on outcomes for children, but also longer term on the health, wellbeing and mortality of the wider population. ACEs include witnessing or experiencing violence, abuse or neglect and coping with parental mental health issues or drug/alcohol dependency. Impacts on children include **behavioural problems, mental health issues** and **risk-taking behaviour** (running away, crime, use of alcohol and other drugs).

In St Austell there are **34 young people aged under 18** who are currently living with a parent who is engaged with substance use treatment services for drug or alcohol dependency.

We also know that young people known to drug and alcohol services in Cornwall are more likely to have experienced **experience and witness domestic abuse** in the home.²

² Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Commissioning Support Pack 2023/24

What residents think

As part of the update of our new Partnership Plan, we invited local people to “Have Your Say” about the **community safety issues that matter** on a day-to-day basis in the local area and what could be done to improve things.

Our **on-line survey** was available in July and August 2022. We also held some **face-to-face engagement events** in the summer at community engagement events, such as community safety pop-ups and drop-ins and Pride.

- Across Cornwall 83% of people said they feel safe during the day in their local area; a significant improvement on last year’s 61%.

In St Austell **32 people responded to the survey**. Due to the small number of respondents, it is not possible to draw robust conclusions and findings are indicative only.

- **72% of respondents said that they felt safe outside during the day** in their local area which is slightly below the Cornwall average.
- At night, the **feeling of being unsafe increases to 41%** with 13 people feeling unsafe.
- 81% said they had seen or **experienced crime or anti-social behaviour** in their local area in the last 12 months.
- Respondents felt that a **greater Police presence** and involvement of agencies such as social workers, housing providers would have the biggest impact on these issues.

Vulnerability index

The Vulnerability Index is a **small area risk model**, that looks at the cumulative impact of a range of community safety issues at town and small area (Lower Super Output Area³) level. The model uses rates of incidence per 1000 resident population compared with the Cornwall average.

The model takes into account **violence and domestic abuse**, based on crimes reported to the police, and the number of people in treatment for **drug and/or alcohol dependency** and the number of people being supported in **domestic abuse and sexual violence** services.

Overall, areas within **St Austell Town tend to score above average on the Vulnerability Index**. The town is fairly deprived with approximately 25% of the population living in areas that rank in the 20% most deprived LSOAs in the country⁴. This indicates that there is likely to be a higher level of need, especially in the domains of Employments, Health and Living Environment.⁵

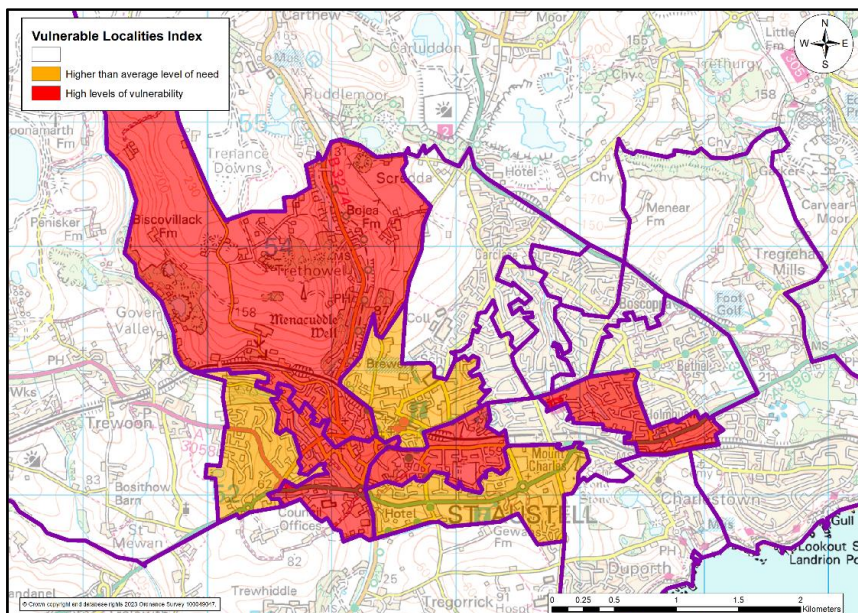
³³ Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. The average population for these areas is approximately 1500 people.

⁴ Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Community Profiles <https://cornwall.communityinsight.org/>

⁵ Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 at LSOA level

- Areas with the greatest combined vulnerability across the selected indicators are:
 - St Austell Penwinnick and Town Centre
 - St Austell Trennance
 - St Austell Alexandria Road and East Hill
 - St Austell Poltair
- **St Austell Penwinnick and Town Centre** has higher rates of violence with injury as well higher rates of people known to drug and alcohol treatment services and domestic abuse support services.
- **St Austell Trennance and St Austell Alexandria Road and East Hill** have higher rates of domestic abuse and residents engaged with the drug and alcohol treatment service.

Taking into account all of these indicators, the following map shows the areas within St Austell that have high levels of vulnerability (highlighted red) and higher than average levels of need (highlighted orange).



Town area	Population	Average	Violence with injury	Domestic Abuse	DASV	Drugs	Alcohol
St Austell Buckler Village	2087						
St Austell Bethel North	1509						
St Austell Park Way and St Pirans Close	1357						
St Austell Boscoppa	1848						
St Austell Gover and Edgcumbe	1450						
St Austell Penwinnick and Town Centre	1601						
St Austell Trennance	1574						
St Austell Alexandria Road and East Hill	1895						
St Austell Mount Charles and Penrice	1743						
St Austell Southbourne Bypass	1977						
St Austell Bethel Holmbush and Sandy Hill	1490						
St Austell Carclaze	2707						
St Austell Slades Road	1334						
St Austell Poltair	1528						
Trewoon and Lanjeth	1588						
Carlyon Bay and Tregrehan	1578						
Duporth and Charlestown	1224						

Safer St Austell delivery 2022/23

Safer St Austell facilitates and supports a coordinated multi-agency approach to community safety to **improve feelings of safety and public reassurance**, reduce the risk of harm to the community and protect vulnerable groups.

Safer St Austell involves community members in the work of the partnership and encourages social inclusion and community participation through being part of the problem-solving process and having a sense of pride in St Austell.

This group is now in its 6th year and has developed a comprehensive work plan based on the evidence presented in the previous St Austell Town Profile and feedback from the Residents Survey. Safer St Austell has identified the following community safety priorities for the town:

- Public Confidence/Perception
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Young People and youth crime
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and violence against women and girls
- Homelessness

In the past 12 months we have continued to work together to tackle pockets of Anti-Social behaviour with a **balance of support and enforcement** measures.

- We have worked collaboratively with civil enforcement partners to focus on hotspot locations as well as target empty properties with Environmental Protection and Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service. We have **responded dynamically** to local demands, moving mobile cameras to aid prevention and detection of crime, and increase feelings of safety.
- We have rolled out Bystander training to licensed premises, security and taxi drivers. The **active bystander approach** aims to prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence, sexual harassment, bullying and hate crime.

So far during 2023, Safer St Austell have taken part in the St Austell Community Fire Station engagement day, St Mewan School Community Fair, Ocean Housing Community Action Days and are looking forward to further **community engagement events**. Safer St Austell plans an **environmental visual audit** in several areas in the town. This audit will involve partners from a range of different agencies, coming together to assess the physical space and agree actions to improve the area in line with situational crime prevention strategies. We are continuing to work with partners, such as Young People Cornwall and Action for Children, to **support young people**, address any concerns and **target specific areas** with outreach work.

Working with the Community Payback (Probation) team we have cleared a significant area of foliage in an area of St Austell which is an ASB hotspot and a Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) concern. A number of volunteers from Harbour, Advance and Ocean Housing as well as Community Safety Officer and local Police officer came along to clear the green waste and litter pick.

SAFER CORNWALL

Kernow Salwa