



STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE

ASSESSMENT 2021

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INTRODUCTION

Safer Crawley Partnership

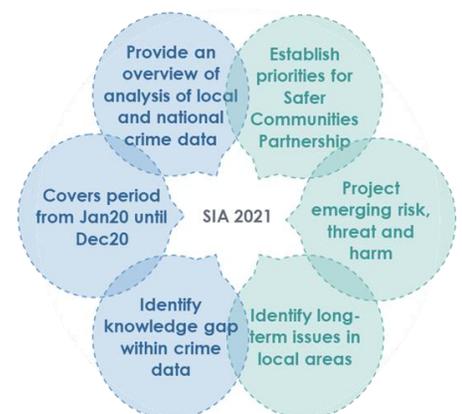
The Safer Crawley Partnership has a statutory duty to reduce crime and disorder and was formed in response to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as a statutory requirement¹. The partnership's vision is to work as one to drive down crime and anti-social behaviour across the borough and build communities that are safer and where people feel safer. The partnership has representatives from Crawley Borough Council, Sussex Police, West Sussex County Council, West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, Probation, Crawley Clinical Commissioning Group. In addition, the Partnership is also supported by the voluntary, community and business sectors.

Purpose

“To tackle crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, alcohol and substance misuse and any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local community and reduce re-offending so that people in Crawley are safer and feel safer.”

Strategic Intelligence Assessment

The purpose of a Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) is to enable the partnership to understand the threat, risk and harm so they can use this evidence to set priorities and direct partnership resources in the short, medium and long-term linking with the strategic priorities set by the Safer West Sussex Partnership and Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner. The following report has been produced using data from multi-agency sources, for the period January until December 2020, with supporting contextual information and comparative data provided by partners wherever possible.

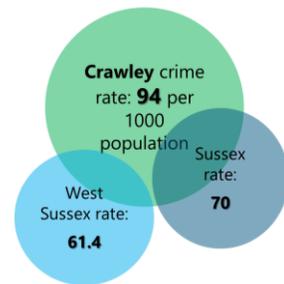


¹ [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

The Safer Crawley Partnership SIA 2021 Data Pack² contains a comprehensive set of data and statistics to complement this report. The main findings from data analysis are:



- The overall crime rate has decreased by 19% in comparison to 2019.
- Crawley had the highest crime rate per 1000 population at 94 offences per 1000 residents.
- While most high-level crime has reduced, risk for the most vulnerable adults and children has increased, including domestic abuse (incidents) and drugs³.
- Police CSP⁴ data shows that over half (54%) of all crimes in Crawley are violent crimes which is comparable to rates across West Sussex.
- The severity of crimes recorded continues to increase across West Sussex. The crime severity score for Crawley last year was calculated at 16.3 which is higher than both Sussex (11.6) and England (13.8)⁵ and the highest out of all West Sussex Districts and Boroughs.
- Drugs trafficking and supply has increased significantly compared to previous year (↑67%).
- Domestic abuse crimes reduced by 3% during 2020, yet the severity of offences increased.
- Reporting of all forms of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) increased, likely due to community tensions exacerbated by 3 national lockdowns within the last year. Environmental ASB has been a particular issue for the locality.
- The youth unemployment rate in Crawley has increased significantly in 2020 (from 4% in 2019 to 13% in 2020) and is currently highest across West Sussex.
- The pandemic fight is not over yet and easing of the restrictions are still uncertain at the time of compiling this report. Therefore, it is a reasonable expectation that the effects of the pandemic will be reflected in crime figures going forward.

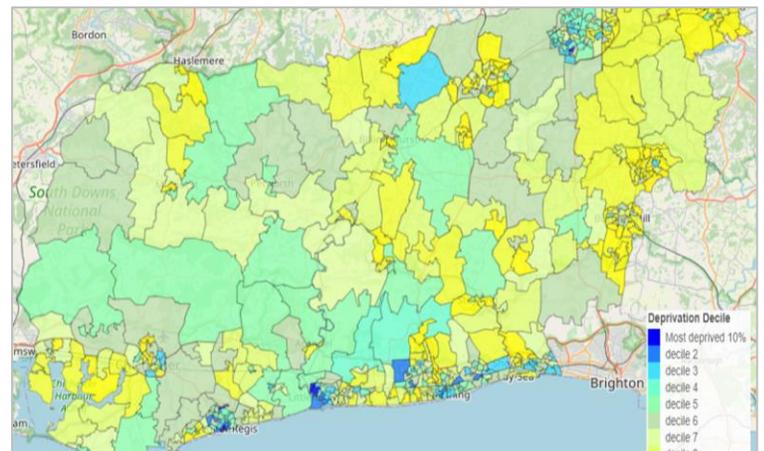
² The Safer Crawley Partnership SIA 2021 Data Pack.

³ The Safer West Sussex Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2021.

⁴ CSP – Community Safety Partnership.

⁵ The Crime Severity Score is calculated as follows: Sum [across all offences] (Weight * Number of offences) / (Area) mid-year population estimate. For more information please check The Safer Crawley Partnership SIA 2021 Data Pack/Crime severity score or visit [ONS website](#).

ABOUT CRAWLEY: KEY FACTS



Crawley covers 45km² (17.4 square miles)

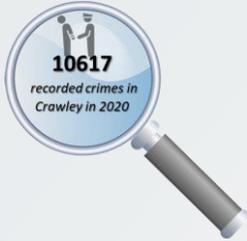
- Crawley borough situated 28 miles south of London, 18 miles north of Brighton and 32 miles north east of Chichester.
- Population (mid 2019 estimates): 112,409.
- Whilst West Sussex, generally has have an older age population profile than many areas, Crawley is an exception, with a younger age profile than England.
- 88% of residents in West Sussex identifying as White British in 2011, Crawley is an exception, where 72% identify as White British⁶.
- Crawley is a major economic and retail centre within the county; with Gatwick Airport, County Mall & out of town retail parks along with Manor Royal industrial/business park.
- The borough has a particular concentration of flats and terraced housing as well as social housing provision.
- The Housing Market benefits from good strategic accessibility, with the international airport at Gatwick, and fast links by road and rail to both London and Brighton/ the South Coast, which is reflected in strong housing demand.

Deprivation & Poverty in Crawley

- Crawley is made up of 14 neighbourhoods. Broadfield, Bewbush and Langley Green wards are ranked amongst the 20% most deprived areas in the UK according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation.
- Almost 16% children in the borough live in poverty (3700).

⁶ West Sussex Substance Misuse, Health Needs Assessment 2021

RECORDED CRIMES



Crawley recorded crime
 ↓ 19% since 2019.

Nationally **5.7 Million** recorded crimes – **6%** drop.
 (CSEW/ONS – September 2020)

Out of all West Sussex crimes:
20% in Crawley.

46.7% Sussex crimes occurred in West Sussex.

Crawley has the highest crime rate per 1000 population across West Sussex.

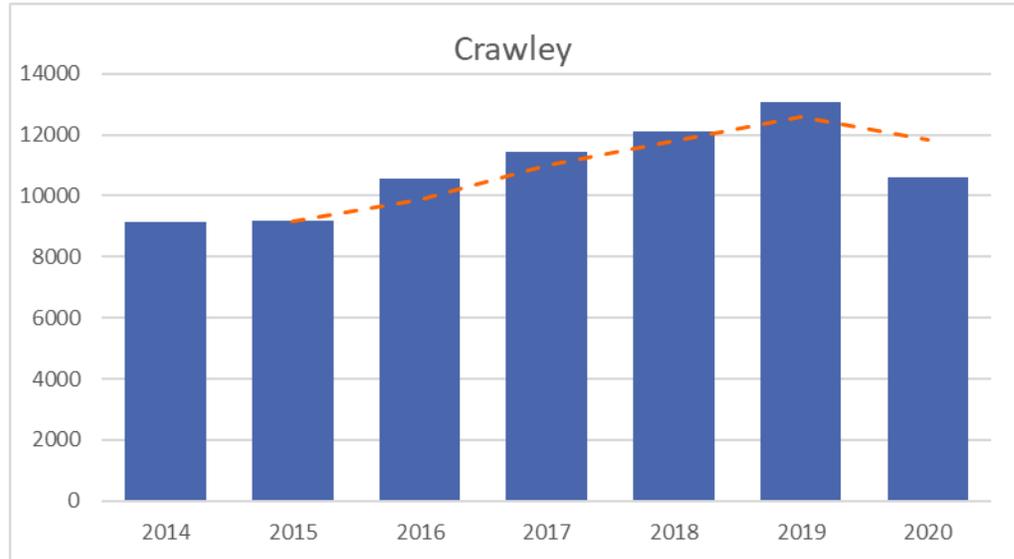
Total crimes by local authority

- Adur: 3984 (↑5.9%)
- Arun: 10511 (↓5.9%)
- Chichester: 6623 (↓10%)
- Crawley: 10617 (↓18.7%)**
- Horsham: 6368 (↓8.7%)
- Mid Sussex: 6789 (↓4.3%)
- Worthing: 8191 (↓10.6%)

54% of all total crime in Crawley was **Violent Crime.**

Time period refers to the 12 months: January – December 2020 compared with the same period in 2019, unless stated otherwise.

Figure 1. Crawley total recorded crimes year on year



National crime trends suggest a decline in offending, with particular decreases recorded crime during 2020, some of which may be attributable to the pandemic. Lockdown restrictions reduced opportunities for many types of crime to be committed, including high volume crimes such as shoplifting, burglaries and night-time economy violence. Overall, recorded crime was just under 20% lower than the previous year but remains the highest rate per 1000 population across the County.

Despite reductions in crime, the risk and severity of some aspects of crime increased, including violent crime, domestic abuse, and drug use along with anti-social behaviour, much of the latter exacerbated by community tensions linked to the pandemic. Action to address violence, exploitation and inequality must remain paramount; with this in mind, the focus of this document will concentrate on these main issues.

Crawley crimes by categories:

- Violent crime: 5713 (↓9.2%)
- Theft & handling: 2335 (↓41.6%)
- Criminal damage: 1014 (↓11.2%)
- Burglary: 410 (↓4.7%)
- Drug offences: 587 (↑5.4%)
- Fraud & forgery: 42 (↓44%)

Crime rate per 1000 population:

- Sussex: 70
- West Sussex: 61.4
- Adur: 62
- Arun: 65
- Crawley: 94**
- Chichester: 55
- Horsham: 44
- Mid Sussex: 45
- Worthing: 74

ASB (↑68%)

- Personal: ↑20%
- Nuisance: ↑68%
- Environmental: ↑214%

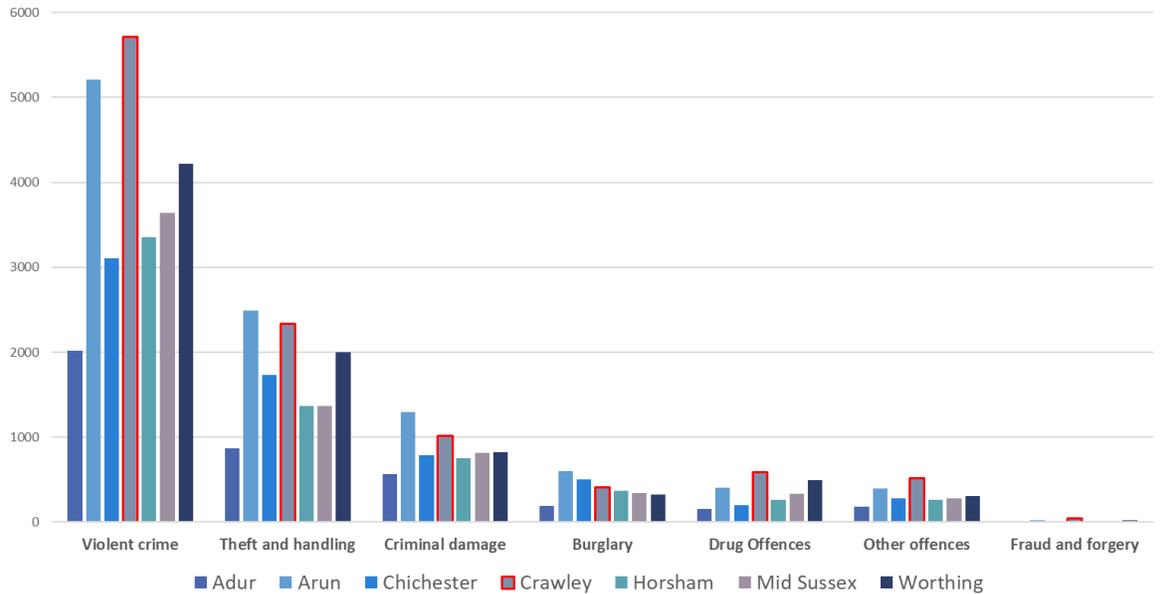
Drugs crimes (↑5.4%):

- Possession: ↓6%
- Possession Cannabis: ↑4%
- Possession Excl. Cannabis: ↓36%
- Trafficking & Supply: ↑67%

Crimes:

- Racist: 249 ↑
- Hate (gender): 3 ↓
- Hate (disablist): 26 (no change)
- Hate (religion): 18 ↓
- Homophobic: 41 ↑
- Domestic abuse: 2016 ↓

For more information
view the Crawley
SIA 2021 data pack



As the graph above shows, the greatest proportion of offences recorded between January and December 2020 related to incidents of violent crime, yet vulnerability to exploitation continues to present a significant risk. Drug offences (possession, trafficking and supply) almost doubled during 2020; from 88 to 147 offences. This is significant owing to an inextricable link between drugs and the exploitation of vulnerable people, therefore, this 67% rise in crime concerns, particularly as this is an area that is likely under-reported, so levels of perpetration could be even higher. The NSPCC reported a 66% increase in calls to their service regarding parental substance misuse over the last year, suggesting vulnerability may be likely to increase further in the year ahead.

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic must also be considered with lockdown and social distancing restrictions affecting recorded crime and other agency data along with notable changes in terms of vulnerability, victimisation and general wellbeing over the last year. Pre-pandemic, 1 in 5 jobs in Crawley were associated with the aviation industry. Together, with the Borough’s heavy reliance on retail and hospitality, this means jobs have been heavily affected over the last year with unemployment now 6% higher than last year and around 20% of the workforce (12000) currently being supported by the government job retention scheme (among the highest rate nationally) which is due to end later this year.

VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

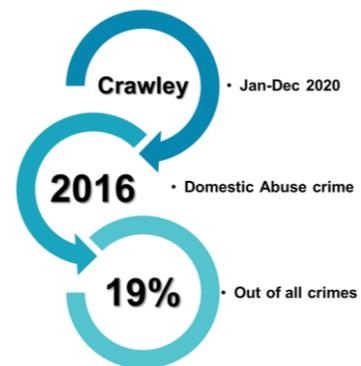
Violence negatively affects health, social and economic outcomes, causing damage to physical and emotional wellbeing. It also increases vulnerability to repeat victimisation and recidivism and impacts educational outcomes, employability, and economic prosperity. The long-term impact of [violence](#) is significant both for those who experience and witness incidents.

Across England, violence causes around 35,000 emergency hospital admissions and over 300,000 emergency department attendances each year⁷. Furthermore, police recorded crime showed a 4% increase nationally in violence against the person offences from 1,721,720 to 1,791,757 offences in the year ending September 2020⁸. In Crawley last year, violent crime⁹ represented the largest proportion of total recorded crime, accounting for over half all recorded offences. The vast majority (91%) of the violence recorded by police was categorised as ‘violence *against the person*’.

Domestic abuse and sexual violence

Nationally there has been an increase in domestic abuse (DA) crimes over the last 12 months. Whilst domestic abuse offences accounted for almost 20% recorded crime in 2020, local police data¹⁰ suggests there has been a 3% decrease in such offences across Crawley. This is against a 3% increase in domestic incident reports, and the severity of domestic abuse increasing across all Districts and Boroughs in 2020. The number of incidents reported however decreased slightly this year; which could be indicative of vulnerable communities finding it harder to report concerns? Whilst support services were open during national lockdowns, school closures and community-based and informal reporting pathways were less accessible for some. Nearly a third of cases identified within the Serious Youth Violence profile¹¹ and 35% of child and family assessments undertaken in the county referenced domestic abuse.¹²

Sexual offences accounted for 3% recorded crime in Crawley in 2020 (reduction of around 14%). 80% of the sexual offences recorded by Sussex Police in the borough last year were serious sexual offences.



⁷ [Protecting people, promoting health - A public health approach to violence prevention for England.](#)

⁸ [Crime in England and Wales: year ending September 2020.](#)

⁹ Crimes recorded by Sussex Police with following Home Office return codes: 1, 2, 3A, 3B, 4/1, 4/2, 4/3, 4/4, 4/6, 4/7, 4/8, 4/9, 4/10, 5D, 5E, 8L, 8M, 8N, 9A, 9B, 10A, 10B, 10C, 10D, 11A, 13, 14, 37/1, 104, 105A, 105B.

¹⁰ Locality provider data (i.e. WORTH) was unavailable at the time of this report being created, therefore only data from the Sussex Police was used for the analysis.

¹¹ VRP, Serious Youth Violence Profile, Sussex Police.

¹² The Safer Crawley Partnership SIA 2021 Data Pack/Domestic Abuse.

Violence against the person

Violence against the Person (VAP)¹³ offences accounted for 49% total recorded crimes (5254) in Crawley during 2020, however it is worth noting that around half of the offences recorded by Police last year were categorised as ‘*assault without injury*’. Ordinarily a proportion of these offences would likely be alcohol-related and linked to the night-time economy, however the effective closure of this sector over the last 12 months suggests a shifting pattern.

Drugs and Alcohol and links to violence

Drugs and alcohol are drivers of violent crime and disorder. Nationally 40% violent crimes (circa 500,000) recorded each year are alcohol related¹⁴. The misuse of drugs and alcohol continues to present a significant risk to local communities. Roughly three quarters of drug-related crime across the county involves cannabis with drug crime more concentrated in Crawley, Worthing and Arun. Recorded Crime data for 2020 shows a slight (5%) increase in drug crime in Crawley from 557 in 2019 to 587; the vast majority of which were possession offences (75%). Whilst the bulk of drug related crime relates to possession, drug trafficking and supply offences almost doubled last year, from 88 offences in 2019 to 147 in 2020. A high proportion of these offences are believed to be associated with county lines activity and organised crimes groups, both those residing in the borough and elsewhere.

Collectively these trends suggest the prevalence of drugs remains high yet demand; and drug choice appear to be changing¹⁵. Availability of street drugs has changed, and we have seen an influx of dangerous counterfeit drugs (which resulted in local and national drug alerts), alongside intensified and diversified Organised Crime Group activity. Recorded crime data from Sussex Police suggests there may have been a shift away from Class A towards Class C drugs last year. This could be the consequence of fewer people choosing recreational drugs such as cocaine, normally associated with the night-time economy and club-culture, instead opting for cannabis consumed at home. It could also be indicative of a shift in models of perpetration to avoid more punitive criminal justice sanctions associated with Class A supply, especially as drugs have been a key area of focus within Policing activity to tackle organised criminality.

¹³ A range of offences from minor offences such as harassment and common assault, to serious offences such as murder, actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm. Source: Met Police Crime type definitions

¹⁴ [Alcohol Policy UK](#)

¹⁵ [Opiate and crack cocaine use: prevalence estimates by local area](#)

Alcohol related hospital admissions¹⁶ data suggests men are more likely to be admitted than females, and whilst total alcohol related admissions¹⁷ are not significantly higher than the national average the rate of admission for under 18's per 100,000 population for Crawley is 18.4 which is significantly lower than West Sussex (34.6) and England (30.7).

Substance misuse is causally linked to physical and mental ill health and wellbeing, for those misusing substances, their families, and the wider community. For children, harm is not only long lasting but can also cause neurological damage. Inextricably linked to other forms of crime, disorder and vulnerability, substance misuse affects educational outcomes, employability and training opportunities, increases risk of accommodation instability and negatively impacts both physical and emotional wellbeing, alongside risk of abuse and coercion and an increased propensity to commit crime. The West Sussex Substance Misuse Health Needs Assessment highlights how the county performs poorly compared to the South East region in engaging prison-leavers in drug treatment within three weeks (roughly 20% compared to 34%, respectively). Whilst alcohol-related public order has reduced over the last year in line with national lockdowns and the effective shut-down of the night-time economy, vulnerable individuals and groups such as the street community remain significantly at risk, despite measures taken by authorities to offer temporary accommodation. Lockdown restrictions also heightened risks for people with a drug or alcohol dependency, due to changes in access to services including key worker support, needle exchange and pharmacy services for prescriptions. This has been particularly challenging for those not in secure accommodation. Research suggests that there has also been an increased prevalence of police intervention due to substance misuse linked to mental health.

Serious violence and serious youth violence

Last year, serious violence offences accounted for 1% of crime in Crawley and whilst figures appear very low, serious violence has been recognised as a high priority due to the links with serious organised criminality and vulnerability to exploitation.

According to the Serious violent crime problem profile¹⁸, Crawley had the second highest number of serious violence offences; accounting for 21% of the county total. However, when considering serious

¹⁶ [Public Health England Local Alcohol Profiles](#)

¹⁷ For both – alcohol-related and alcohol specific conditions

¹⁸ "Serious Violent Crime Problem Profile", Claire Rivers – Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership Analyst

violence per 10,000 population, Crawley recorded the highest rate across West Sussex (11.4 per 10,000 population). The same report indicated offences reduced by 10% last year, to 128 offences between November 2019 – October 2020, from 143 in the 12 months prior.¹⁹ Wounding or other acts endangering life represented the highest offence category with 43% occurring in Crawley alone. Whilst serious violence affects people across the ages, youth violence continues to pose a threat locally. Any child can be drawn into serious violence, however those with vulnerabilities are at a heightened risk of being recruited. Children’s Services case data suggests Crawley had the highest number of children open to Social Care as a ‘Child in Need’ (*indicating complex needs*) and also has the highest proportion of Children Looked After, including those placed in the locality from outside Sussex. Whilst school exclusion rates are relatively low (5.29% fixed and 0.09% permanent exclusion rates) in the borough, research shows that children in gangs are 37% more likely to go missing/absent from school²⁰ and those permanently excluded from school face even greater risks of extra familial harm, with victims and perpetrators of serious violence getting younger nationally²¹. Over the last year, the coronavirus Pandemic, and associated lockdown measures, have exacerbated risks of vulnerability in ways never expected. With school closures across the country, many young people have lost an important protective factor as teachers are often the first line in reporting safeguarding concerns and escalating risk. As such, it is plausible to suggest further issues may come to light over the coming months.

Knife and gun crime

Weapon related crime is often under-reported, making prevalence counts difficult. Home Office data suggests those involved in knife crime are typically male, often under 25 years old. Victims and offenders are interchangeable, particularly within drug supply networks and domestic violence situations, and those with mental health concerns are also more vulnerable.

In the period between January and December 2020 there were 90 recorded knife crime offences in Crawley²². Collectively these offences were attributable for over a fifth of the county total and a 17% decrease from the 12 months prior (from 109 offences in 2019 to 90 in 2020)²³. 73% of knife crime offences were violence against the person involved the use of weapons. Gun related crime statistics remain very low, with 4 offences recorded across Crawley in 2020, a reduction from 9 the previous year.

¹⁹ Please refer to Safer Crawley Partnership SIA 2021 data pack/serious violence for more information.

²⁰ Children’s Commissioner Report: Keeping kids safe

²¹ Parliament publications; Safeguarding children and young people who may be affected by gang activity

²² There is no specific offence of knife crime, so the Home Office defined a special group of offences within the Annual Data Return (ADR) to count weapon related offences.

²³ Please refer to the Safer Crawley Partnership SIA 2021 data pack for more information, tables, and graphs.

Gun related crime statistics remain very low, with 4 offences recorded across Crawley in 2020, a reduction from 9 the previous year.

Serious organised crime

Young people continue to be at risk of serious and organised crime both as victims and perpetrators. Currently, Police data suggest there are some Organised Crime Group's (OCGs) operating within Crawley borough involved in cultivating cannabis, supply of Class A&B drugs and money laundering. The reach of these groups extends beyond West Sussex into London, Hampshire, West Midlands and into Europe. The impact of violence and exploitation on those who experience it, along with their families and local communities is significant and is known to increase vulnerability to other forms of crime, disorder, and safeguarding issues. Children and young people who experience violence and exploitation are especially vulnerable as these adverse experiences can have lasting impacts into adulthood; including effects on adolescent cognitive development, poor mental health and wellbeing, further victimisation and/or offending, as well as raising the likelihood of intergeneration cycles of vulnerability. This will be addressed in further detail in the following section of this report.

EXPLOITATION

Exploitation refers to a collection of offences, therefore, it is not possible to give exact prevalence figures; however, statutory data from social care (captured in the data pack²⁴) provides an outline of known risk.

Child Exploitation

Despite sustained periods of national lockdown and social restrictions, Child Exploitation continues to be a significant threat in West Sussex. This includes the sexual and criminal exploitation of children and young people both in terms of contact and non-contact abuse. Our most vulnerable children and young people continue to go missing²⁵, and their risk levels remain substantial, exacerbated by an increasing threat of cyber-enabled exploitation linked to online platforms²⁶.

Across Crawley, a small number of children have been identified as experiencing or at significant risk of exploitation; half of whom (mostly young males) are involved in criminal exploitation including groomed into drug running²⁷.

Perpetrators have become more sophisticated in their modus operandi, with Interpol reporting increased sharing of child exploitation material through peer-to-peer networks over the last 12 months. Exposure to potential offenders through online gaming, the use of chat groups in apps, phishing attempts via email, unsolicited contact in social media and through less secure online educational applications²⁸ are all threats to children and young people. As with more traditional exploitation methods, grooming tends to take place in open forums, with abuse much more likely to occur in private platforms, servers or through the use of photo and video sharing or live streaming services, however there is some evidence of peer recruitment. The impact of the grooming and exploitative behaviour will continue to emerge over the next few months and potentially years as those affected during the pandemic disclose their experiences.



in England and Wales experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 16.



Only **ONE IN EIGHT** children who've experienced child sexual abuse come to the attention of any protection agencies during their childhood.

²⁴ The Safer Crawley Partnership SIA 2021 Data Pack

²⁵ To all local authority Council Leaders, Chief Executives, and Directors of Children's Services

²⁶ Such as Snapchat, WhatsApp, Instagram, Telegram, Wickr, Omegle, and various gaming platforms

²⁷ West Sussex County Council Children's Services data

²⁸ Europol: COVID-19: CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Organised criminality and links to exploitation

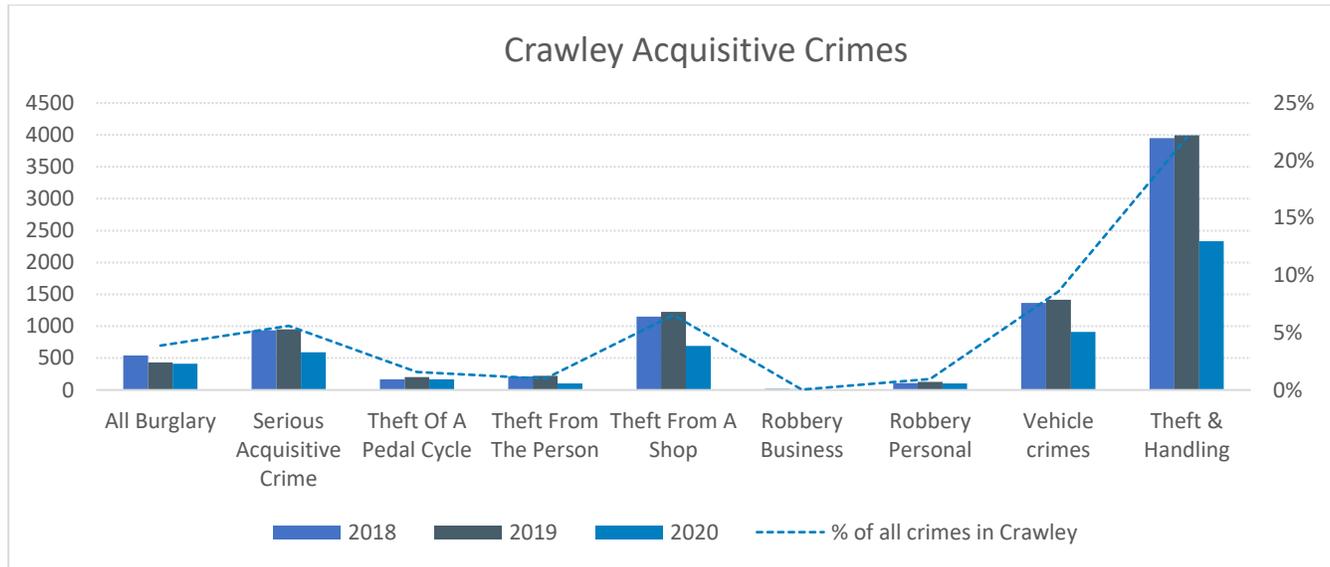
The exploitation of young and vulnerable people is a common feature in County Lines, whether for the storage or supply of drugs, money muling, or to secure the dwellings from which the drugs are sold. Crimestoppers suggest children may also be traded as payment between organised crime groups. Perpetrators are now known to be targeting children not known to Statutory Services (referred to as “clean skins” or “tinies”). As highlighted above, criminal exploitation continues to be a threat in Crawley. Over half of the young people arrested in Sussex for drug supply offences live outside the force area, reinforcing the extent to which County Lines is an issue locally. Whilst coastal areas of West Sussex including Bognor Regis and Littlehampton tend to have higher rates of county lines activity, vulnerable people in Crawley are also affected, facilitated by established travel links associated with the coast to capital strategic road and rail network. Alongside drug related exploitation, organised crime groups can also groom and recruit vulnerable people into modern slavery, trafficking and organised immigration crime. Sussex ranked 6th nationally for modern slavery referrals last year, following a 132% increase in modern slavery offences recorded since 2019 (377 to 663 offences). UK Nationals are mostly likely to be enslaved. Recorded modern slavery offences recorded by Police in 2020 continue to be low.²⁹ Mostly males; 16% relating to children under 18, however this should be looked at with caution as in some instances antislavery legislation is used to disrupt child exploitation. During the same period, a small preparation of incidents resulted in NRM³⁰ referrals in Crawley. Whilst figures are low; this is another area of significant under reporting. People recruited into low or unpaid work such as domestic servitude, farming, nail bars, the sex trade and car washing are all susceptible to exploitation and often live in overcrowded or unsuitable accommodation. Some people are inadvertently enslaved, either due to language barriers or cultural expectations whereas others acknowledge the situation but feel their treatment or low rates of pay in this country are preferable to their experiences elsewhere.

²⁹ Police offences with 106 Home Office Code (Modern Slavery).

³⁰ National Referral Mechanism

AQUISITIVE CRIMES

Acquisitive crimes overview



In Crawley, there has been a decrease in acquisitive crime³¹ offences since 2019. Whilst shoplifting offences have reduced over the last year (↓ 44%), shop theft may become a greater threat with sustained mask wearing. The BBC reported an emerging national trend of offences believed linked to people wearing masks, thereby making it harder for CCTV and police to identify perpetrators. Such offenders have been targeting items that are easy to re-sell such as alcohol, meat and confectionary. Larger supermarkets have security cameras installed on checkouts including self-service machines, however smaller retailers often do not have the funds to install similar devices. There is insufficient information available yet to determine the threat of this locally; however increased economic hardship and drug-fueled opportunist offending could push up acquisitive crime in the future with perpetrators adopting new/modified modus operandi accordingly. In recent years, catalytic converter theft has also been a threat; some of which is believed to be linked to organised crime groups. Organised acquisitive crime remains a strategic priority for Sussex Police and is addressed through their Force control strategy.

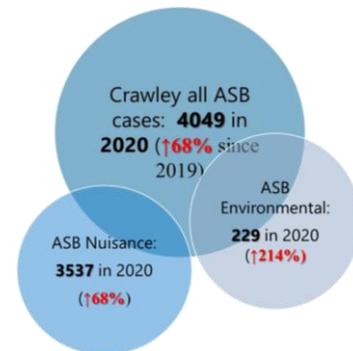
³¹ including burglary, vehicle crimes, robbery, and serious acquisitive crime

SOCIAL DRIVERS OF CRIME

Whilst inequality doesn't necessarily cause crime, it can cause those who are vulnerable to feel marginalised or increase risk of victimisation and perpetration. The ramifications of the pandemic, whilst still not fully realised, are also likely to be far-reaching and must be considered in the context of vulnerability and a potential driver of crime and disorder.

Antisocial behaviour

Across Crawley, there was a notable increase in the number of all anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents recorded by the Police in the last 12 months by \uparrow 68%, from 2416 in 2019 to 4049 in 2020. Crawley had the highest number of the antisocial behaviour incidents recorded by the Police out of all West Sussex Districts and



Boroughs. The West Sussex Antisocial Behaviour Strategic Intelligence Assessment created by Sussex Police indicates ASB was disproportionately high in Crawley with ASB linked to the youth antisocial behaviour mainly in recreational open spaces, some also experienced groups congregating, drug and alcohol use and vehicle ASB. Crawley also had specific incidents of ASB within the town centre and more residential areas which involved fighting and youth violence.

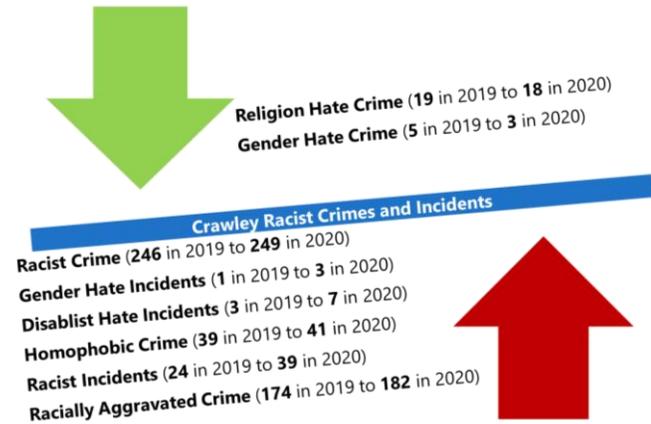
Crawley had the lowest number of repeat victims and perpetrators of ASB during 2020. According to the same report, Environmental ASB saw a significant increase in reports, up by almost 214%. Crawley had the highest levels of both Environmental and Nuisance ASB last year.

Environmental issues (such as fly-tipping) have been exacerbated by the closure of waste recycling centres due to national lockdowns. Whilst these are sometimes viewed as minor offences, they feature high on quality of life surveys raised by residents and are costly to clear up, not to mention the impact they can have on community perceptions of safety and wellbeing.

Youth related community tensions and breaches of lockdown rules have also been exacerbated by national lockdowns, social distancing restrictions and school closures. Locally attempts were made last year to mitigate these, with outreach targeting known hotspot locations as far as possible. However, it is plausible to suggest tolerance levels and deteriorations in emotional wellbeing may have led to increases in reporting of ASB which ordinarily may have either been unnoticed or unreported prior to the pandemic. No threat of eviction (withdrawn during lockdown) compounded this, making it harder for statutory services to address some forms of ongoing anti-social behaviour and breach of tenancies.

Hate Crime

Hate Crime accounts for a very small number of offences in Crawley which can skew percentage changes. In 2020, there were 249 racist crimes recorded, a fractional reduction from 246 in 2019. Although crime numbers are low, the impact of hate crime is significant, exacerbating social isolation and may also be an accelerant for radicalisation. Locally homophobia and racially aggravated crimes increased by around 5% each; potentially indicative of escalating concerns over the impact of the pandemic as well as “Brexit” on community tensions and tolerance. The issues are also used to promote hatred against certain minority groups. During the first lockdown, Covid-19 propaganda was used by extremists to advocate hatred towards the Chinese community. Most incidents related to verbal abuse, or publication of hate crime materials.



Cyber crime

Cyber-enabled crime continues to be an issue of concern, often involving the exploitation of vulnerable people and is chronically under-reported. The internet has been increasingly utilised by criminals during the pandemic; from grooming of children, dating fraud/sexploitation and Coronavirus related scams all emerging. Regional analysis³² points to a 400% increase in online scams.³³ According to Sussex Police³⁴ levels of reported fraud were highest in Crawley; with at least 41% fraud offences recorded in the borough last year perpetuated online. Dating scams and sextortion accounted for 22% fraud offences and 13% Online Shopping related, including Amazon and the purchasing of PPE or vaccines and 6% software service. Reported figures are likely to be an under-representation as some victims are unaware, they have been targeted, whereas others may be ashamed to report or not know how to flag concerns, especially if the activity took place outside UK jurisdictions. The use of unregulated online spaces is becoming more prevalent, which along with the increase in time spent online due to Covid-19, has led to increased risk.

³² [Covid-19 – Fraud & Cybercrime](#)

³³ Cyber-enabled crimes – for example crimes which included “online”, “social media” or “computer” in the NFIB class wording meaning Action Fraud related reports deemed as cyber account for 555 (1% of all West Sussex crimes).

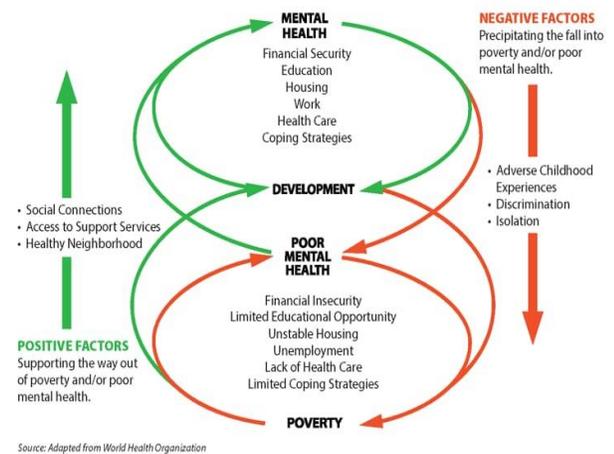
³⁴ Sussex Police West Sussex Fraud Report November 2020 – January 2021

Health and Wellbeing

Physical and emotional health, inequality and risk of harm are causally linked. A significant proportion of those victimised have mental health concerns; likewise, being a victim of crime can lead to mental ill health and increased vulnerability.

According to the prison reform trust, 26% women and 15% men surveyed had received treatment for a mental health problem in the year before custody³⁵. Children who end up in custody are three times more likely to have mental health problems than those who do not³⁶.

Children Looked After, together with those affected by exploitation, often disclose mental health concerns including anxiety, depression, and self-harm/suicidal thoughts. Correspondingly, those with mental health concerns or who have lived in a chaotic household are more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse³⁷. Adults with mental health concerns are similarly at a greater risk of exploitation, particularly cuckooing, labour exploitation and trafficking. The negative impact of the pandemic on mental health is already clear yet is likely to worsen still³⁸. Girlguiding UK suggest 75% of 15-18-year-olds surveyed believed the pandemic and latest lockdown had negatively affected their mental health³⁹.



Social Inequality

Social and economic inequality can have profound effects on the welfare, quality of life and opportunities for individuals, families, communities, and society as a whole, including experiences of criminal justice with poverty and social deprivation both impacting victimisation and perpetration.

Locally, Crawley ranks as the most deprived district in West Sussex with Broadfield South ward amongst the five LSOA⁴⁰ within the 10% most deprived areas nationally. Out of 16,700 children living in poverty in West Sussex, 3700 are resided in Crawley. Nevertheless, the Borough performs better than other localities located close to the M25 (geographical and contextual neighbours).

³⁵ [Prison Reform Trust 2020 Care Not Custody](#)

³⁶ [Centre for Mental Health](#)

³⁷ [Childhood vulnerability to victimisation England & Wales: year ending March 2017 to year ending March 2019](#)

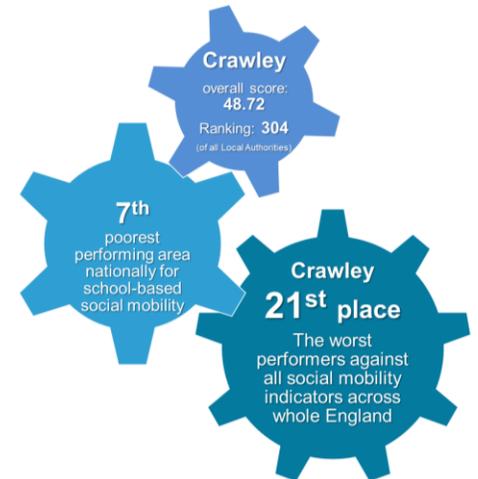
³⁸ [Covid-19 mental health & wellbeing surveillance report](#)

³⁹ [GirlGuiding UK 2021 Back in Lockdown: Girls and young people's hopes and fears for the future](#)

⁴⁰ LSOA - lower layer super output areas. LSOAs have an average population of 1500 people or 650 households.

The Social Mobility in Great Britain 2017⁴¹ report ranked Crawley among the poorest 25% localities across England for social mobility. Calculated using 16 indicators, the Social Mobility Index assesses education, employability and housing prospects of people living in each of England's 324 local authority areas; highlighting how some parts of the country are far more conducive to social mobility than others and the extent to which

people from disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to make *social progress*. Places that offer good opportunities for social progress were called social mobility "hotspots" – and those that do not – the "cold spots".



High-quality teaching is one of the most influential factors on a child's educational attainment (and opportunities for social mobility) however, there have been long-standing inequalities in the way funding is distributed across the country. It is recognised that school funding and capital investment have had a positive impact on standards and attainment in schools, yet West Sussex schools remain chronically underfunded.

As the long-term impact of the pandemic becomes apparent social inequality may become even greater issue locally. The Centre for Cities think tank estimates Crawley has been the most economically affected place in the UK, with almost 60% jobs vulnerable to redundancy or furlough, owing to large number of jobs in aviation, transportation, retail, hospitality and leisure sectors locally. Unemployment is up 6% in a year with 8.9% population currently unemployed, however the town has some of the highest rates of workers on furlough (approx. 20% /12,000). Only Slough and Luton have had higher increases, and both areas are also economically reliant on airports. Locally in the Borough, almost 10,000 new universal credit claims have been made over the previous 12 months. However, this could rise further once the government's job retention scheme (furlough) is expected to end later this year. Aviation experts anticipate passenger numbers at Gatwick Airport won't return to pre pandemic levels until around 2025; meaning job losses are likely to continue. Given a fifth of jobs in Crawley are linked to the aviation sector and associated hospitality, the economic impact of the pandemic is likely to be far reaching and sustained.

⁴¹ [State of the Nation 2017: Social Mobility in Great Britain](#)

SAFER CRAWLEY PARTNERSHIP SURVEY

Community Survey 2020-2021



128 responses

17th March 2021, Crawley

Main causes of crime

79%
Lack of respect for others and their property



77%
believed it was because of drug abuse



68%
Young people with nothing to do



60%
believed it was because of alcohol use



70%
because there were not enough police

Fear of crime



Experience of crime



What sort of crime was it?



Reported it (100% to the Police)



Not Reported it



Not reported because they didn't think anything would be done about it or thought it wasn't important enough.

Feeling safe

felt unsafe in neighbourhood at any time in the last 12 months



Other concerns:

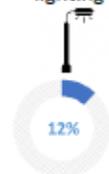
- "Petty crimes (drug dealing, drug use, theft, robbery, selling stolen goods) due to unemployment of young people".
- "Loss of jobs through Covid-19: people haven't got money so they take".
- "Broken economy due to Brexit and Covid-19 so people having to resort to crime for money".
- "Poverty".
- "Not enough provisions for the homeless".

Feeling safer

felt a visible police presence would make them feel safer



Better street lighting



80%
find out about crime from social media

30%
find out about crime from local newspapers

Top three things CBC should focus on:



67%
Antisocial behaviour (ASB)

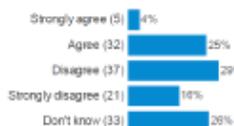


55%
dealing with drug use

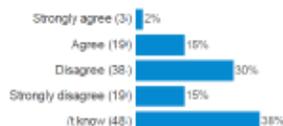


48%
Serious acquisitive crime

(The Police seek people's views about anti-social behaviour and crime in your area)



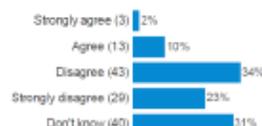
(The Police are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues in your area)



(The Council seek people's views about anti-social behaviour and crime in your area)



(The Council are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues in your area)



ASB Police

ASB Crawley Borough Council

SUMMARY

Social and economic inequality can have profound effects on the welfare, quality of life and opportunities for individuals, families, communities, and society as a whole. The misuse (or excessive use) of drugs and alcohol have also been linked to a range of negative health and social impacts including reduced economic opportunities and exacerbated social issues, including homelessness, violence and exploitation. Inequality is also linked to experiences of criminal justice with poverty and social deprivation both impacting victimisation and perpetration. Around 17,000 children in West Sussex are living in poverty; of which 16% reside in Crawley. In Sussex, the rate of hospital admission as the result of an assault by sharp object is eight times higher for persons from the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived⁴².

Therefore, the partnership must take these factors into consideration alongside recorded crime statistics and data trends, to contextualise the needs of the local community and understand social drivers of crime now and going forward.

*Magdalena Steel, Partnership Analyst,
Community Safety & Wellbeing,
West Sussex County Council*

⁴² ISTV Data Report, Sussex Police, Andy Smith

APPENDIX

Glossary & Acronyms

Exploitation	The mistreatment of people through the use of manipulation, coercion or force. Those who are exploited often do not recognise their abuse and may believe they have consented or been a willing participant in the exploitative behaviour.
Sexual Exploitation	A form of sexual abuse whereby an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive someone into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. Can also include non-contact abuse through the use of technology, such as encouraging people to self-produce and share indecent sexual imagery, which is then used to manipulate the person to comply with further demands.
County Lines	Term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more area within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal or drug line”. Lines are operated by [mobile] phone often from larger metropolitan areas sending dealers to sell in smaller towns, rural and coastal localities. Many gangs form a secure base in the homes of vulnerable people and force assistance by using violence or exploiting an addiction to drugs.
Criminal Exploitation	Perpetrators are forced to commit a range of crimes, such as counterfeit DVD selling, bag snatching, ATM theft, pickpocketing, forced begging, forced sham marriage and cannabis cultivation. Often linked to County Lines' activity.
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.’ – World Health Organisation (WHO)
Domestic Abuse	Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass (but is not limited to): psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional”. UK Government.
Modern Slavery	An umbrella term for activities that involve one or more person keeping another/others in compelled service. This includes forced labour; forced criminality; sexual exploitation; forced marriage; domestic servitude.
Labour Exploitation / Slavery	Workers are forced to work through mental or physical threat, owned or controlled by an “employer”- usually through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse, often with perceptions of “debt bondage”, dehumanised, treated like a commodity or bought and sold as “property” and/or physically constrained or has restrictions placed on their freedom.
Human Trafficking	Individuals are placed or maintained in an exploitative situation for economic gain. A form of modern-day slavery; relates to the recruitment, harbouring and transporting of people into situations of exploitation through the use of violence, deception or coercion. People can be trafficked internally (within and between buildings, towns & areas of the country) and externally (cross border).
Cuckooing	This involves a drug dealer or other criminal befriending a vulnerable individual who lives on their own. Like a cuckoo, the offender moves in, takes over the property, and turns it into a drug den or other criminal base.
Ideological Exploitation	Also known as <i>Radicalisation</i> , this refers to the ‘grooming’ or recruitment process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism that may lead to terrorism. This can happen online as well as through face to face contact,
Financial Exploitation	The unauthorised and improper use of funds, property or any resources of a vulnerable person, and/or theft, coercion or fraud to obtain or try to obtain money, possessions or property. Financial exploitation also includes unregulated money lending (referred to as illegal money lending).
Fraud & Scams	Predominantly, involves money or transactions that involve financial loss to the victim performed by a dishonest individual, group, or company.
Domestic Servitude	People (regardless of age or background) are forced to work in private households performing tasks such as childcare and housekeeping for little or no pay and often in abusive conditions.
Forced Marriage	Where one or both parties do not wish to get married but are manipulated, coerced or forced to marry by others, usually their families. People forced into marriage may be tricked into going abroad, physically threatened and/or emotionally blackmailed to do so.
National referral Mechanism (NRM)	Framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. An individual could have been a victim of human trafficking and/or slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Victims may not be aware that they are being trafficked or exploited, and may have consented to elements of their exploitation, or accepted their situation.
Section47 Children’s Act 1989	Dictates that where a Local Authority suspects a child who lives, or is found in their area, is suffering (or is likely to suffer) significant harm, it must take action to safeguard or promote that child’s welfare. These duties are similarly enshrined within Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) guidance.
Serious Violence Strategy	Set out the government’s County Lines Action Plan which has been replicated across West Sussex to tackle criminal exploitation. Likewise, recent criminal justice legislation regarding the transmission of indecent imagery has helped strengthen the policing response to sexual exploitation.

Acronym	Detail
A&E	Accident & Emergency
ADC	Arun District Council
AFRS	Adolescent Family Resource Service
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
ASBRAC	Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference
AWC	Adur and Worthing Councils
BAME	Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic
CAMHS	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service
CBC	Crawley Borough Council
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDC	Chichester Borough Council
CE	Child Exploitation
CF	Children First
CGL	<i>Change Grow Live, Substance Misuse Service commissioned by the West Sussex DAWN</i>
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CSC	Children's Social Care
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSN	<i>Contextual Safeguarding Network: Practitioner forum containing information, best practice and guidance regarding implementation of Contextual Safeguarding</i>
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
D&B	Districts & Boroughs
DA	Domestic Abuse
DAAT	Drug & Alcohol Action Team
DAWN	Drug & Alcohol Wellbeing Network
E4SG	<i>Education for Safeguarding New Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) curriculum developed for West Sussex schools</i>
EH	Early Help
GDPR	Government Data Protection Regulations
HWB	Health & Wellbeing Board
IPEH	<i>Integrated Prevention & Earliest Help. Now called Early Help (EH)</i>
ISVA	Independent Sexual Violence Advocate
LA	Local Authority
LSCP	Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership
MACE	Multi Agency Child Exploitation
MAPS	Multi Agency Problem Solving Meeting
MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
MEOG	Multi Agency Exploitation Operations Group
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training

NHS	National Health Service
NICHE	Police crime & intelligence records management system
OCG	Organised Crime Group
Op Staple	Police Operation addressing Child Sexual Exploitation in Wick Parade, Littlehampton
OSPCC	Office of Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner
PCC	Police & Crime Commissioner: <i>Katy Bourne</i>
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PFIM	Partnership Family Intervention Meeting
PNC	Police National Computer
PTTCG	Partnership Tactical Tasking & Coordination Group
PYO	Prevention Youth Officers <i>Sussex Police resource (formerly Schools Liason Officers)</i>
REBOOT	Personalised, strength-based project for young people aged 11-17 who may be at risk of serious youth violence, gang behaviour and criminal exploitation.
RiP	Research In Practice
ROCU	Regional Organised Crime Unit
SAB	Safeguarding Adults Board
SARC	Sexual Assault Referral Centre. In Sussex also referred to as <i>The Saturn Centre</i>
SCJB	Sussex Criminal Justice Board
SCR Key	Serious case review addressing Child Sexual Exploitation in Wick Parade, Littlehampton
SECAMB	South East Coast Ambulance Service
SiE	WSCC Safeguarding In Education Team
SIU	Special Investigations Unit. <i>Sussex Police team</i>
SOC	Serious Organised Crime
SPFT	Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust
SWSP	Safer West Sussex Partnership
SWSP Exec	Safer West Sussex Partnership Executive
TTCG	Tactical Tasking & Coordination Group
UoB	University of Bedfordshire <i>Academic centre leading the development of Contextual Safeguarding nationally</i>
WORTH	Ways Of Responding Through Health <i>West Sussex Domestic Abuse Service</i>
WSCC	West Sussex County Council
YMCA Downslink	<i>Registered charity working to transform communities across Sussex and Surrey so that all young people and families can belong, contribute and thrive</i>
YOS	Youth Offending Service