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ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

SAFER ST HELENS COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26



FOREWORD

I am pleased to introduce the Safer St Helens Community Safety Partnership Annual Report for 2025/26.

This report sets out our shared commitment, as partners, to work collaboratively to keep St Helens safe, resilient and inclusive. At a time when communities continue to face evolving challenges - from anti-social behaviour and serious violence to vulnerability linked to poverty, health inequalities and exploitation - the importance of strong partnership working has never been greater.

Our priorities for 2025/26 were grounded in a robust understanding of local need. This enabled us to target our efforts where they have had the greatest impact-focusing on prevention, early intervention, and protecting those most at risk of harm. Central to this was our continued focus on reducing anti-social behaviour, tackling serious violence, addressing domestic abuse and safeguarding vulnerable individuals and communities.

This report reflected our commitment to a whole-system approach, balancing prevention, education, support and enforcement to achieve sustainable change recognising that community safety is integral to broader outcomes around wellbeing, inequality and opportunity.



Trisha Long
Chair of Safer St Helens Partnership 2025-2026

As the newly appointed Chair of the Safer St Helens Community Safety Partnership, I am honoured to take on this role for 2026-2027 and to have the opportunity to work alongside colleagues who are committed to making St Helens a safer place for everyone.

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks to Trisha Long for her outstanding leadership, dedication and stewardship of the Partnership. Throughout her tenure, she has helped strengthen our collaborative approach, sharpen our strategic focus and champion the importance of partnership working in addressing the issues that matter most to our communities. Her commitment has left the Partnership in a strong position, and I am grateful for the solid foundations she has established.

Community safety has always been, and will continue to be, a shared responsibility. The challenges we face are becoming increasingly complex, and no single organisation can address them alone. The strength of the Safer St Helens Community Safety Partnership lies in the willingness of our partners to work together, bringing together the expertise and commitment of local authority services, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, the NHS, Probation, housing providers, the voluntary, community and faith sector, and many others. By sharing knowledge, resources and experience, we are able to deliver a more effective response to the needs of our residents.

Our vision is simple: that everyone who lives, works, studies or visits St Helens should feel safe, supported and able to thrive. Achieving that vision means continuing to focus on preventing harm as well as responding to it. We remain committed to tackling anti-social behaviour, reducing serious violence, addressing domestic abuse, protecting vulnerable people, preventing exploitation, and supporting individuals and families through early intervention and effective partnership working.

As Chair, I am committed to ensuring that the Partnership continues to lead with openness, accountability and ambition. We will continue to make decisions based on evidence, listen carefully to the voices and experiences of our communities, and ensure that our work delivers meaningful and measurable improvements in people's lives. Just as importantly, we will continue to learn from one another, celebrate our successes and challenge ourselves to do even better where improvements are needed.

I also want to acknowledge the dedication of those working across our partner organisations and within our local communities. Every day, professionals, volunteers and community leaders go above and beyond to support residents, prevent crime, safeguard vulnerable people and build stronger neighbourhoods. Their commitment often goes unseen, but it is fundamental to creating the safe and resilient borough we all want to see.

Looking ahead, we know there will be new challenges and changing demands, but I am confident that by continuing to work together with trust, respect, and a shared sense of purpose, we can build on the significant progress already made. Our collective ambition remains clear: to create communities where people feel safe, where opportunities can flourish, and where everyone has the confidence that partners are working together in their best interests.

I look forward to working with all our partners over the coming year as we continue to strengthen our relationships, deliver on our shared priorities and make a lasting, positive difference for the people of St Helens.



Councillor Sharon Roughley
Chair, Safer St Helens Community Safety Partnership

A SAFER ST HELENS BOROUGH

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for St Helens - known as the Safer St Helens Executive - has the overarching aim of improving safety in the borough through the prevention of crime and disorder.

The CSP is formed by the five responsible authorities:

- Merseyside Police
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- St Helens Borough Council
- Probation Services
- Integrated Care Board.

Alongside the statutory partners, the Board is supported by representation from education, the voluntary sector, internal council services such as Children's and adults' services, public health and Youth Justice as well as Torus, the largest Registered Social Housing Provider in the borough.

The CSP is supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside, Emily Spurrell, who continues to support the activity of the partnership, aligned to the wider Merseyside Policing Plan.

FOR 2025/26, THE FIVE PRIORITY AREAS AGREED BY THE CSP WERE:

- VIOLENCE REDUCTION: SAFEGUARDING THOSE AT RISK OF VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION
- TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
- TACKLING HATE CRIME, COMMUNITY TENSIONS AND EXTREMISM
- TACKLING DOMESTIC ABUSE
- TACKLING AND COMBATING THE USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS.



STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Overall, 17,931 offences were recorded during 2025-2026, which represents a small decrease in the number of recorded offences in the previous year. The table below provides a comparison of the number of recorded crimes for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Merseyside Police

Table 1 Crime Type	2024/25		2025/26		Crime Count change 2023/24 and 2025/6	% change
	Crime Count	Rate per 1,000 population	Crime Count	Rate per 1,000 population		
Anti-social behaviour	1941	10.28	1608	8.50	-333	17.16%↓
Bicycle theft	80	0.42	106	0.60	26	32.50%↑
Burglary	511	2.71	467	2.50	-44	8.61%↓
Criminal damage and arson	1379	7.30	1541	8.20	162	11.75%↑
Drugs	1270	6.72	1390	7.40	120	9.45%↑
Other crime	501	2.65	418	2.20	-83	16.57%↓
Other theft	1073	5.68	922	4.90	-151	14.07%↓
Possession of weapons	134	0.71	155	0.80	21	15.67%↑
Public order	1828	9.68	1758	9.30	-70	3.83%↓
Robbery	96	0.51	117	0.60	21	21.88%↑
Shoplifting	1035	5.48	1258	6.70	223	21.55%↑
Theft from the person	57	0.30	71	0.40	14	24.56%↑
Vehicle crime	627	3.32	612	3.20	-15	2.39%↓
Violence and sexual offences	7420	39.29	7508	39.80	88	1.19%↑
ALL CRIME	**17952**	**95.05**	**17931**	**94.90**	**-21**	0.12%↓

Source: Police.UK

2025-26 SAW SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN ASB - WITH THE HIGHEST REDUCTION ON MERSEYSIDE, WITH ST HELENS NOW HAVING THE JOINT LOWEST RATE.

Reductions are also recorded in the volume of some acquisitive crime including Burglary, Vehicle crime and Other Theft, but increases in Theft from the Person, Shoplifting and Bicycle Theft are also recorded for the previous year.

Violence and Sexual offences remained the highest volume crime in St Helens as well as the other four Police areas in Merseyside and saw a small increase of 1%, however this was the lowest on Merseyside.

Violence against the person' is the single largest category of all recorded crime in St Helens. During 2025/26, there were 6,834 'violence against the person' offences recorded in St Helens, a reduction of 8 offences compared to the previous year.

St Helens was one of two Merseyside Community Safety Partnership areas, along with Sefton, that saw an actual reduction in the number of 'violence against the person' offences. Despite this, St Helens had second highest volume of offences per 1,000 population.

'Violence without injury' accounted for 44% of all 'violence against the person offences' in St Helens over the course of 2025/26. The number of recorded incidents of violence without Injury in St Helens increased from 2,876 in 2024/25 to 3,022 in 2025/26.

Whilst the 'violence against the person' crime category saw a small reduction in volume between 2024/25 and 2025/26, St Helens saw a small rise in the number of recorded sexual offences, increasing from 626 reported crimes to 635. Over the course of 2025/26 there were 2,148 recorded incidents of 'stalking & harassment' in St Helens, a small reduction on the 2,198 incidents recorded in the previous year.

Drug related crime in St Helens increased by 9% in 2025-26 with an additional 120 incidents recorded - this can be influenced by the level of proactive Police activity and strategies in combatting the sale of drugs rather than actual shifts in community drug use.

There has also been an increase in hate crimes recorded during the previous 12-month period, with race related hate crime accounting for the most significant increase.

The table below provides a more detailed analysis of the trends relating to recorded crime in comparison to other areas in Merseyside and demonstrates the overall reduction in crime in St Helens, with notable reductions in some key crime types:

Crime Type	Crime count percentage change 2024/25 to 2025/6				
	Liverpool	Wirral	Sefton	Knowsley	St Helens
Anti-social behaviour	-14.05	-3.52	-2.26	-4.61	-17.16
Bicycle theft	29.07	8.70	-18.97	22.03	32.50
Burglary	-5.84	9.74	-24.79	-8.28	-8.61
Criminal damage and arson	-4.79	4.07	4.16	1.42	11.75
Drugs	17.29	4.01	-4.44	4.95	9.45
Other crime	2	-6.88	-0.78	-8.85	-16.57
Other theft	-3.95	-5.05	-8.76	-4.10	-14.07
Possession of weapons	13.46	4.35	13.86	33.06	15.67
Public order	-2.62	0.59	2.02	-3.52	-3.83
Robbery	32.48	37.35	28.37	23.75	21.88
Shoplifting	6.35	40.27	3.16	2.60	21.55
Theft from the person	-16.41	-10.00	37.84	8.70	24.56
Vehicle crime	8.89	-5.28	-31.55	-6.22	-2.39
Violence and sexual offences	2.77	4.02	1.37	3.77	1.19
Total	1.40	3.62	-0.78	1.18	-0.12

Source: Police.UK

HOTSPOT POLICING

Three Hot Spots were identified for the Financial Year 2025-2026:

- St Helens Town Centre
- Gaskell Park
- Clock Face

Hot Spot Policing tactics were used in all three areas, with randomised foot patrol being conducted across all three locations, with the aims of reducing both Serious Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour. The impact of this focused activity is demonstrated below:

Serious Violence

Hotspot Area	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	% DIFFERENCE 23/24 v 24/25	FY 25/26	VOL. DIFFERENCE 24/25 v 25/26	% DIFFERENCE 24/25 v 25/26
11 - St Helens Town Centre*	23	15	-34.8%	9	-6	-40%
22 - Gaskell Park	3	14	366.7%	4	-10	-71.4%
25 - Clock Face	5	4	-20.0%	4	0	-0.0%
BAU Total	137	135	-2.2%	132	-3	-2.2%

The activity enabled an overall reduction in serious violence in the three areas, with the most significant reduction in St Helens Town Centre, with the recorded incidents falling from 23 incidents in 2023/24 to 9 incidents in this year.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Hotspot Area	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	% DIFFERENCE 23/24 v 24/25	FY 25/26	VOL. DIFFERENCE 24/25 v 25/26	% DIFFERENCE 24/25 v 25/26
11 - St Helens Town Centre	91	149	63.7%	71	-78	-52.3%
22 - Gaskell Park	57	40	-29.8%	45	5	12.5%
25 - Clock Face	46	57	23.9%	22	-35	-61.4%
BAU Total	1022	1165	14.0%	1183	18	1.5%

Again in relation to antisocial behaviour, the impact of hotspot policing has been very positive, with an overall reduction in incidents in the three areas - with reductions in all three areas compared to the 2023/4 baseline information.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse continues to be a shared concern of the partnership and remains one of the five priorities of the CSP.

From a policing perspective, there has been a small reduction in the number of reported incidents of domestic abuse in the borough. Whilst stability is a positive outcome and suggests that prevention, early intervention, and partnership activity are assisting in preventing the previously recorded growth in this harmful behaviour - the overall aim remains - to end domestic abuse in all of our communities.

St Helens	2024/25	per 1000 pop	2025/26	per 1000 pop	Change	% change
Domestic Abuse	3268	17.84	3262	17.81	-6	-0.2%

Of the offence types linked to domestic abuse, this overall reduction in reporting includes a small increase in the number of cases due to stalking and harassment, with a reduction of the cases recorded as ‘violence with injury’.

	No. of incidents 2025/26	Change	% change from 2024/5
Violence Without Injury	1128	2	0.2%
Stalking and Harassment	925	48	5.5%
Violence With Injury	559	-32	-5.4%
Public Order	189	-25	-11.7%
Criminal Damage excluding Arson	141	2	1.4%

Further analysis of the activity undertaken during 2025/6 is available in the section ‘Tackling Domestic Abuse’ in this report.

Operation Medusa

Project Medusa was launched by Merseyside Police in a bid to proactively target county lines drug dealing and the criminal exploitation of young people and vulnerable adults.

Project Medusa officers provide the daily force response to county lines, using covert and overt tactics to intercept weapons, drugs, and illicit cash, and identify vulnerable individuals exploited by county lines gangs. The operation uses a multi-agency approach to disrupt gangs. The county lines taskforce deploys together with Change Grow Live (CGL) to identify vulnerable people involved in county lines and provide bespoke support to end the cycle of reoffending and drug addiction. Through this partnership working, vulnerable people, often victims of cuckooing and exploitation, have been signposted to safeguarding services and supported on their journey to recovery.

Within St Helens, Operation Medusa delivered the following outcomes:

- 126 arrests resulting in 43 charges
- 32 county lines closed
- 14 knife seizures and the seizure of 7 other weapons
- 8 cuckooing visits

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (MFRS)

MFRS continues to prioritise community safety through strong partnerships - in addition to providing an emergency response to incidents in the borough, engaging in proactive work to prevent fires and associated harms, the service also delivers road and water safety initiatives, educational programmes for young people like Fire Champions, and targeted outreach via the Street Intervention Team. These combined efforts focus on reducing risk, tackling anti-social behaviour, and promoting safer communities across St Helens and the wider Merseyside area.

The table below outlines the overall number of incidents and types recorded by MFRS for St Helens borough – recording an overall fall in the number of incidents recorded to under 2000. Positively, there has been a reduction of accidental and deliberate dwelling fires compared to the previous year, however the number of accidental dwelling fires remains higher than in 2023/4.

There has been an increase in both deliberate non-domestic fires and in both forms of vehicle fires. The service has identified risks such as the growth in e-scooters often linked to poor charging practices, damage, or modification and the growth in Electric Vehicles impacting across the region. Additionally, derelict or unsecured properties are frequently involved in these incidents. The Street Intervention Team and Arson Team continue to operate actively in St Helens, working to reduce these figures.

MERSEYSIDE
FIRE & RESCUE
SERVICE



Incident Type	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Accidental Dwelling Fire	65	87	80
Deliberate Dwelling Fire	14	11	6
Accidental Non Domestic Property Fire	18	9	14
Deliberate Non Domestic Property Fire	3	4	6
Accidental Vehicle Fire	39	32	42
Deliberate Vehicle Fire	30	22	29
Other Property Fire	35	25	25
Accidental Secondary Fire	146	99	223
Deliberate Secondary Fire	462	506	429
Automatic False Alarm - Other	214	245	244
Automatic False Alarm - Non Domestic	60	58	61
False Alarm Good Intent	309	282	248
Malicious False Alarm	7	10	8
Special Service	439	525	459
Special Service - RTC	110	107	107
Grand Total	**1951**	**2022**	**1981**

In addition to responding to incidents, MFRS deliver 'Safe and Well' visits across the borough to vulnerable residents.

During 2025/6 1,288 visits were completed.

Across both Community Fire Stations, Home Safety Checks were also completed as follows:

- St Helens Fire Station: Total visits completed: 3213
  - 1888 of those were for residents aged over 65
- Newton Fire Station: Total visits completed: 2452
  - 1516 of those were for residents aged over 65.

PROBATION SERVICE

During 2025/6, the Probation Service has continued to strengthen public protection and reduce reoffending through a combination of operational delivery and system reform.

Areas of focus have included:

- Community-based interventions - including unpaid work that delivers visible improvements in local areas, alongside evidence-based programmes that address the underlying causes of offending
- Digital technology - supporting more efficient and effective practice, with the rollout of new digital tools to improve efficiency of working, all enabling practitioners to focus more directly on risk management and meaningful engagement
- Transition in response to the Independent Sentencing Review and wider national reform - including the introduction of a new recall framework, the repeal of Post-Sentence Supervision, and the implementation of Early Termination Panels to ensure that supervision is proportionate and resource is focused on those who pose the greatest risk.

Together, these developments represent a shift towards a more targeted, streamlined, and sustainable model of probation that prioritises public safety while enabling practitioners to focus on what matters most.

National Probation Service

VIOLENCE REDUCTION: SAFEGUARDING THOSE AT RISK OF VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

The introduction of the Serious Violence Duty to statutory partners in 2023 underlined the need for partners to work together to prevent and respond to serious violence in communities. The Merseyside partnerships have a strong foundation to build upon in the delivery of this shared responsibility. This section of the report provides an example of how co-ordinated activities across the partnership are identifying and protecting people at risk of exploitation and in bringing perpetrators of violence to account.

MERSEYSIDE VIOLENCE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

This category of recorded crime includes homicide, death or serious injury caused by illegal driving, violence with & without injury and stalking & harassment. The source is the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership have funded several interventions exclusive to St Helens, including several Merseyside wide interventions that have also taken place in St Helens.

Photovoice was a creative research project that used photography to identify and collect the views of communities within a set area and focus. During the reporting period, children and young people participated in a Photovoice project designed to explore perceptions of safety within their local communities. With the support and guidance of trained practitioners, children were supported to safely access their community environments and were provided with disposable cameras to capture images that reflected their views, experiences and feelings in relation to safety, risk and protective factors. As part of the Photovoice project, a strategic showcase event was held to present the work produced by children and young people. This event displayed the photographs taken by participants and provided a platform for children to share their findings directly with strategic partners.

During 2025/26 there have been several interventions funded (in part or wholly) by MVRP which cover the entirety of the Merseyside area, therefore have had a presence in, but not exclusively focussed on St Helens:

Ariel Trust has developed a catalogue of resources and lessons for young people over the primary and secondary school ages, and has expanded in to Key Stages 1 and 3. The key topics addressed by Ariel Trust include:



healthy relationships, preventing radicalisation, involvement in criminality, mental health, consent and communication. Ariel Trust sessions were held across 18 schools in St Helens.

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) - MVP is a programme designed to identify, teach and support pupils in a school setting to become mentors for younger pupils. The programme explores personal responsibilities and develops skills and knowledge including a focus on gender related violence. MVP was delivered directly to two schools in St Helens, with 400 students from De La Salle attending an MVP workshop

Bee Kind Training - Trauma Informed Training designed to improve organisational knowledge on identification and prevention of trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). There were three locations where Bee Kind Training was held in St Helens.

Beacon Project - Beacon Project is a programme led by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS), the course is an alternative education, early intervention programme, which is designed to engage with children who meet specific criteria. The primary attendees of this course are typically young people with behavioural and attendance concerns, exposed to trauma, socially excluded or experiencing adverse childhood experiences. Fire Champions teaches young people about various aspects of personal safety and community cohesion but also uses sports and team games to educate young people around the risk of criminal exploitation, organised crime, and county lines. There were two schools in St Helens that took part in Fire Champions, equating to approximately 60 young people.

MVRP funded four **YES Fund** bids exclusive to St Helens during 2025/6:

- Digital Arts Box (DAB) CIC
- Powered by Hip Hop CIC
- Maximum Edge CIC
- People Empowered CIC.

ALL OF THE ABOVE PROVIDING UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE INTO ACTIVITIES VIA SPORTS, DIGITAL, DANCE AND OTHER METHODS WITH THE KEY AIMS OF IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT AND DELIVERING KEY MESSAGES REGARDING SAFETY AND WELLBEING TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE BOROUGH WITH THE OVERARCHING AIM OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

THE ST HELENS GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAMME

The St Helens Guardianship Programme reached over 1800 young people as part of a wider multi-approach programme, with several different practical interventions being funded in St Helens. The core approach of this program was mentoring but included a focus on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), teachable moments and social skills.

THE DEPLOYMENT OF MARSHALS WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND REASSURING PRESENCE IN A KEY HOTSPOT OF VIOLENCE, WHICH WERE IDENTIFIED THROUGH ANALYSIS, DIRECT FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS CONSULTATION WITH MERSEYSIDE POLICE AND ST HELENS LICENSING SERVICES.

There was joint work with support agencies such as YMCA, Vibe, CVS to engage in planned, joint responses and intelligence sharing. The aims of this shared working were to deescalate and provide support for town centre-based issues, with specific focus on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). This outreach work featured a variety of youth-based activities including team games and sport, arts and crafts, and games consoles. There was an increase in attempts to develop youth engagement with institutions such as Member of Youth Parliament elections, which helps place young people at the centre of decision making in areas of business that affect them.



TOGETHER AS ONE CAMPAIGN

The Together As One campaign was launched at the Derbyshire Hill Community centre, with the Police and Crime Commissioner unveiling a new mural designed to recognise the importance of working together. The Mural, which was funded by the MVRP, aims to highlight the vital work people, organisations and communities across Merseyside are doing to increase safety and reduce serious violence.

THANKS TO THE WORK OF POLICE AND PARTNERS, INCIDENTS OF ASB IN THE DERBYSHIRE HILL DROPPED BY MORE THAN 75% LAST YEAR.



NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

The impact of the collaboration and shared goals of the Night Time Economy Forum continued to grow during 2025/26. Supported by an allocation of £25,000 from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Forum used this funding for the following activity during this period:

- Photography, advertisement and promotional materials for the “Safe Nights, Great Places” campaign
- Training courses and safety equipment for staff working in the NTE
- Deployment of NTE marshals across the NTE
- Joint enforcement exercise over the Christmas period - premises and licensed vehicles.

The Night Time Economy Marshalls continued to provide reassurance for customers visiting the local pubs and venues. The positive impact was recognised in securing additional funding for the continuation of the Marshalls throughout 2025/6 - supported by the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership.

The Safe Nights, Great Places campaign is a successful example of the benefits of working together across the sectors to promote safety in the night time economy.





ALL OF THIS ACTIVITY ASSISTED THE LOCAL AUTHORITY IN SUBMITTING A SUCCESSFUL BID TO RETAIN ITS PURPLE FLAG STATUS AND WILL ALSO FORM THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR THE FULL REACCREDITATION PROCESS IN JULY 2026.



TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

THE PARTNERSHIP RECOGNISES THE IMPACT THAT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR HAS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES. TACKLING ASB IS AN ACTIVITY THAT OFTEN REQUIRES A MULTI-AGENCY APPROACH - FROM AWARENESS RAISING AND EDUCATION TO THE USE OF TOOLS AND POWERS TO ADDRESS PERSISTENT OFFENDERS OF BEHAVIOURS THAT HARM OUR RESIDENTS AND LOCAL AREAS.

THE ACTIVITY OUTLINED ON THE NEXT PAGE PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO THE ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS ON THIS PRIORITY AREA.



OUTREACH IN OUR COMMUNITIES

During 2025/6, the Community Safety Partnership commissioned three local providers of outreach and engagement services for young people. The local approach has promoted a partnership between Vibe UK, MFRS SIT team and Reach Rainhill to work together to ensure that services are targeted, prevent duplication and share good practice for the benefit of young people and the prevention of anti social behaviour.

MFRS Street Intervention Team

The Street Intervention Team offers uniformed members of MFRS to engage with young people on the streets of Merseyside to contribute to the reduction of ASB / Arson. The team are deployed on Friday and Saturday evenings (6 pm-10 pm) and additional nights during school holidays and Bonfire Period. Deployment of this service is made using intelligence received by partner agencies.

The SIT Team provides reassurance to local communities and local businesses whilst offering support, advice and guidance to young people and encourages young people to engage with positive activities e.g. Kings Trust, YMCA provision.

The team also provides the opportunity to report any wider environmental concerns to the local authority - e.g. fly-tipping, scrambler bikes causing a nuisance.



VIBE UK are now an established partner within the local community of practice -working across Children's Services, supporting the activity of the Young People's Drug and Alcohol Support Service and delivering specific projects commissioned on behalf of the CSP.

Highlights of activity during 2025/6 include:

- **Partnership work with YPDAAT & Merseyside Police**

  577 young people engaged with youth workers through outreach intervention focusing on crime and harm reduction.

- **Parr Youth Club - funded by Youth Justice Service (April - Oct 25)**

  31 young people attending an open access youth club at Derbyshire Hill taking part in activities and personal and social development.

- **Deployment of Youth Workers at Reminisce Festival (September 25)**

  Engagement of 180 young people during two days of the Reminisce Festival at Sherdley Park supporting police and festival organisers to keep young people safe – including ensuring identification of young people under the influence of drugs / alcohol and disruption of ASB in the locality.

- **Outreach and Detached (October - March 26)**

  989 young people engaged with youth workers in known ASB hotspot areas in the Town Centre. Delivery included using the mobile youth facility for young people to play games, sports, use the VR, PlayStation and access support, guidance and signposting from youth workers.

  Harm reduction and issue based sessions were also delivered around themes of substance misuse, vaping, alcohol, sex and relationships, crime and ASB.

  Whilst young people have been the beneficiaries of this funding, investment and targeted work, strong relationships with both statutory partners and local businesses have been established.

OPERATION BANGER

One of the key periods in the year for Community Safety Partners is the period between October - November in which partners work together to ensure that residents experience a safe Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night period.

This period, recognised as the 'Operation Banger' has the shared aim of preventing anti-social behaviour and reducing the potential harm of fires and fireworks in the local community.

Overall, the response from partners ensured a successful period this year. During the 2025 bonfire period, 123 deliberate secondary fires were attended by Merseyside Fire & Rescue crews across Merseyside. When compared to the 2024 period, this is a reduction of 234 incidents or -65.5%. The lowest in the recorded history of MFRS.

St Helens saw 18 incidents, a reduction on 2024's performance of 26 incidents - a reduction of 59.1%. This included a reduction in calls for service to bonfires, which fell by 50% in St Helens on 5 November.

From the data provided and performance recorded, it can be seen that bonfire 2025 was successful in protecting communities, reducing incidents and minimising harm, injury or loss.

Examples of the partnership working that supported this success included:

- Tipper trucks - funded by the Community Safety Partnership - collected over **13.52 tonnes of waste** in St Helens during the period.
- Arson Officers and Community Safety teams engaged with approximately **4000 pupils across Merseyside** primary and secondary schools in the county, providing education and safety messages. This included schools in St Helens borough.
- The Street Intervention Team - funded by the Community Safety Partnership - was deployed under Threat/Risk/Harm intelligence to educate young people in key areas.



CASE STUDY:

MULTI-AGENCY APPROACH

In Newton-le-Willows, a multi-agency approach successfully resolved a long-standing case of anti-social behaviour and drug-related activity.

In November 2025, representatives from the Torus Housing team, accompanied by bailiffs and Merseyside Police, completed a possession order at a property that had become a centre of continuous criminal activity. The possession order follows multiple complaints and an investigation into the property being used for illegal drug dealing.

The police and the Torus team worked hard together to build a strong legal case. This action was an important step toward restoring peace to the community, which has endured months of disruption, fear, and instability.



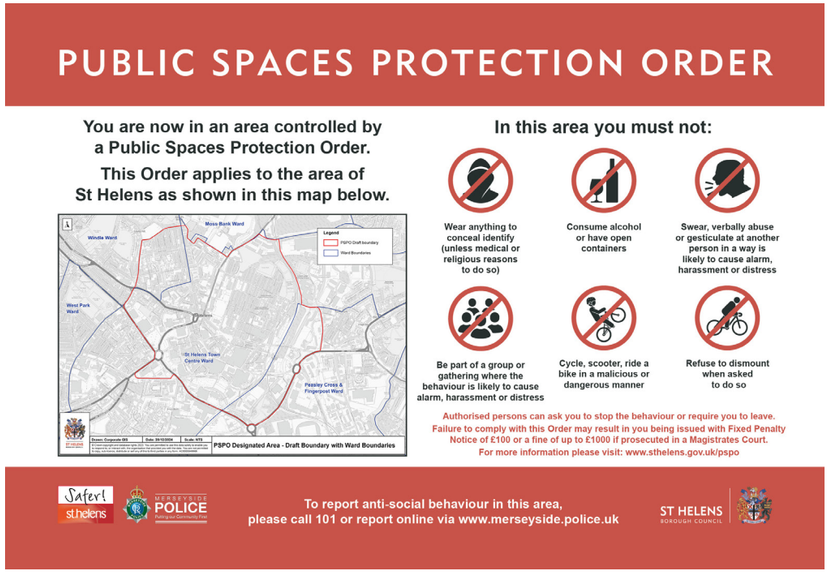
PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

In May 2025, St Helens Borough Council introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order for a designated area in St Helens Town Centre in response to public support for this measure to address increases in ASB and street drinking during 2024/5.

The PSPO, developed in collaboration with Merseyside Police, enabled greater enforcement action to be taken against people causing harm in this specific locality.

In May 2025, St Helens Borough Council introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order for a designated area in St Helens Town Centre in response to public support for this measure to address increases in ASB and street drinking during 2024/5.

The initiative was developed following public consultation and partnership working with Merseyside Police and the Community Safety Partnership. Key actions included the introduction of behavioural restrictions, enhanced enforcement powers, visible signage, community engagement and targeted interventions within identified hotspot locations. **The PSPO aims to reduce anti-social behaviour, improve public confidence and create a safer environment for residents, visitors and businesses.**



TACKLING HATE CRIME, COMMUNITY TENSIONS AND EXTREMISM

Community cohesion within St Helens continues to be shaped by a combination of socio-economic conditions, demographic change, and wider political polarisation both nationally and globally. These factors can contribute to vulnerability, perceptions of inequality, and, in some cases, community tension if not effectively mitigated through partnership activity. The partnership has worked together to monitor tensions and to provide a co-ordinated response when required at the earliest opportunity. The CSP recognises that proactive engagement, early intervention, and strong partnership working are critical in mitigating these risks and supporting cohesive, resilient communities.

During 2025/26, the partnership continued to promote the “No Place for Hate” campaign in all of its activities.

As the data above outlines, sadly the borough experienced a rise in the number of hate crime incidents reported during 2025/26. In response to this, Community Safety partners have promoted the Stop Hate UK online training sessions.

In response to supporting victims of targeted hate crimes, video doorbells and wireless CCTV was issued to eleven properties to support Police Hate Crime Action Plans.

Partnership walkabouts took place in areas of repeat incidents and there was a co-ordinated response to a shocking incident of racist graffiti in the West Park area - with partners ensuring the removal of graffiti, work to support victims and the community impacted by this and wider work with the Anthony Walker Foundation to support local schools.



PREVENT

During 2025/26, the Partnership continued to work in collaboration within the wider aims of the national CONTEST Strategy and in ensuring that the PREVENT duty is met by relevant authorities.

The Prevent Plan continues to develop our focus on three areas - governance and assurance, the partnership in the borough and communications and campaigns.

Good progress was made against the Prevent Partnership Plan, with a new Prevent Development Officer delivering training and awareness raising to over 1000 employees of the local authority.

The local Prevent approach identifies developing community resilience as a key theme and recognises the role of communities, voluntary organisations and partner agencies in preventing radicalisation.

The Prevent Steering Group reports on a regular basis to the Community Safety Partnership on the progress made against the delivery of the Plan. During 2026 a local Situational Risk Assessment was completed, the Council's website was updated, and a Venue Hire Policy was also adopted for the use of Council buildings and assets.

THE ANNUAL ASSURANCE PROCESSES CONDUCTED BY THE HOME OFFICE FOR BOTH THE LOCAL PREVENT AND CHANNEL FUNCTIONS HAVE BOTH BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED FOR 2025/6.



TACKLING DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board led the activity across the partnership, including securing funding for the expansion of Refuge provision in the borough - delivering a further 7 places of safety for families experiencing domestic abuse.

During 2025/26 the partnership also delivered a new Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy for the borough. The Strategy, with the overarching aim of *"working together to prevent and reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse whilst addressing the underlying attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate it"* has five priority areas:

- Community And Culture
- Listening To Victim / Survivors
- Supporting Children as Victims of Abuse
- Strengthening Safe Accommodation
- Improving Services and Support.

One of the first areas of focus within the delivery of the Strategy Action Plan was the collaboration of the Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise, and commissioned services supporting families impacted by Domestic Abuse in the development of the St Helens Domestic Abuse Service Directory which was launched in July 2025.



Merseyside Police, together with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Emily Spurrell also launched a major campaign using the experiences of victim-survivors to raise awareness of the red flags of domestic abuse, specifically coercive and controlling behaviour, as part of an ongoing commitment to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls.

Merseyside Police also continued to successfully pursue perpetrators of domestic abuse - including during Operation Cassia in November 20205, which saw the arrests of 17 alleged perpetrators, including in St Helens.

ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL RECEIVED ACCREDITATION FROM WHITE RIBBON DURING 2025/26 - DEMONSTRATING THE COMMITMENT OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY TO TAKE A STRATEGIC, UNIFIED APPROACH TO CHALLENGING MISOGYNY, PROMOTING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, AND WORKING TOWARDS TRANSFORMATIONAL CULTURE CHANGE.



TACKLING AND COMBATING THE USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS

The Community Safety Partnership continues to provide strategic oversight of the Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP), with sustained progress made in 2025/26 in tackling illegal drug use, addressing drug related deaths and promoting positive recovery in 2025/26.

TACKLING KETAMINE HARM

Ketamine misuse has emerged as a significant public health and safeguarding issue, driven by its low cost, accessibility, and lack of awareness of associated risks. Locally and nationally, data indicates a rising trend in ketamine use among young people, with treatment presentations increasing and anecdotal evidence from services highlighting escalating demand and concern.

In response, St Helens established a dedicated Ketamine Sub-Group, bringing together partners from health, education, police, social care, and community services. The partnership has led a coordinated approach focused on improving intelligence, prevention, early identification of risk, treatment pathways, and enforcement.

THIS WORK HAS POSITIONED ST HELENS AS AN EARLY LEADER IN RECOGNISING AND RESPONDING TO KETAMINE-RELATED HARMS, WITH LEARNING SHARED REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY.

A major strand of activity has been prevention and awareness. Co-produced campaigns with young people have delivered targeted messaging through schools, social media, and community initiatives, reaching tens of thousands of residents. All secondary schools and colleges now receive education on ketamine risks, supported by joint delivery with Merseyside Police and innovative engagement approaches such as youth-led media and drama. Targeted interventions have also focused on identified hotspot areas and vulnerable groups.

Significant progress has been made in developing integrated health and treatment pathways. Strong partnerships between drug services, healthcare providers, and social care have improved referral processes, assessment, and access to support. New protocols ensure that ketamine-related health issues are identified earlier, with dedicated assessments, holistic treatment pathways, and psychosocial interventions in place.

Looking ahead, the partnership will continue to build on this progress, including launching an "Edge of Care" pilot to better understand lived experiences and strengthen early intervention. There is also ongoing scrutiny of the issue locally and support for the reclassification of ketamine to reflect its harms.

In summary, St Helens has implemented a comprehensive, evidence-informed and collaborative response to ketamine use. While challenges remain - particularly around data, national guidance, and the scale of emerging need - the partnership has established a strong foundation to reduce harm, protect vulnerable individuals, and improve outcomes for young people and families.



CHANGE GROW LIVE

CGL have continued to deliver a full drug and alcohol recovery pathway, from early intervention and harm reduction through to structured treatment and sustained recovery support. The relocation to Century House has ensured that CGL remains centrally positioned within St Helens town centre, maintaining accessibility for residents across the borough, supported by improving local transport links. This has enabled the continued delivery of accessible, effective, and responsive drug and alcohol treatment services. Feedback from both service users and staff has been consistently positive, highlighting the improved accessibility, comfort, and suitability of the new setting for delivering and receiving care.

YPDAAT

St Helens Young Person Drug and Alcohol Team outcomes remain strong, with 91% successful completions, above national average. The service continues to demonstrate strong partnership working and high prevention reach.

Ketamine remains a key priority, particularly among young people; however, the borough is now recognised as leading practice both regionally and nationally. This has been supported by significant system developments, enhanced clinical pathways including a community urology clinic, multidisciplinary care, and the development of an innovative children's treatment programme with Alder Hey.



OUR COMMUNITIES

NEW POLICE STATION FOR NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS

During 2025/26 Merseyside Police opened a new Community Police Station in Newton-le-Willows.

The new police station provides a modern base for neighbourhood officers and strengthening policing across the St Helens area. The purpose-built station, located at the junction of Market Street and Peel Street, replaces the outdated building and offers modern, improved working conditions, a welcoming public enquiry office, essential meeting spaces and sustainable, energy efficient technology aligned to Merseyside Police's Net Zero ambitions.



SAINT SAFE

Held at the Mercure Hotel in April 2025, local clubs and groups gathered to pitch their community projects for a share of a £50,000 funding pot seized from criminals under Proceeds Of Crime Funding. There were 19 winners in total with funding going to various groups to support activities for young people, support for victims of crime and groups delivering services into local communities.



SUPPORTING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

The CSP recognises the needs of children and young people and uses opportunities to engage within schools and community settings to ensure that they are advised and informed and that their voices are heard too.





ST HELENS COLLEGE COMMUNITY DAY

A Day of Action promoting community safety and raising awareness about the risks of substance misuse took place in St Helens College Town Centre Campus. The day supported the colleges, Alcohol And Drugs Awareness Day and allowed officers and partners to engage with students about the serious risks associated with ketamine and other substances. The local police officers, dogs and mounted and partner agencies provided advice and support to agencies, including YPDAAT, Community Safety Team and Vibe UK.



FUZZ FEST AND CRUCIAL CREW

Fuzz Fest continues to be a local success during the calendar year for our children and young people - offering free diversionary activities throughout the summer holidays, when many alternative options are unaffordable for local families. The initiative provides multi-sports, board games, arts and crafts, and refreshments for children aged 4 to 16 and their families.

Contributions included YPDAAT discussing ketamine-related concerns, the Youth Justice Service providing knife-crime VR headsets, and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service delivering water-safety advice.

Young people and families expressed their gratitude for the engaging, enjoyable sessions being provided free of charge, and many requested that the initiative run annually and be extended into other school holiday periods.

Merseyside Police PCSO's along with partner agencies also attended the week long Crucial Crew event to teach primary school children a variety of safety messages to help keep them safe. During the event police and partners engaged with over 1300 Year Five students from across the borough.



OPEN WATER SAFETY AND ROAD SAFETY

Two key areas in which advice and guidance is provided by the partnership are Open Water Safety and Road Safety.

MFRS leads the Merseyside Water Safety Forum (MWSF) with the aim of improving water safety across Merseyside, working towards a future without drowning. The forum brings together organisations across Merseyside including the Coastguard, RNLI, Canal Rivers Trust, and other local partners with an interest in water safety and drowning prevention.

The Community Safety Team and operational crews across Merseyside took part in local water safety campaigns as part of the National Fire Chiefs Councils 'Be Water Aware' week. This involved working alongside partner agencies to engage with members of the public and local schools within the area to pass on key water safety messages. The Operational Fire Crew at St Helens attended Car Mill Dam to carry out engagement.

MFRS is an active member of both the Merseyside Road Safety Partnership (MRSP) and the Merseyside Road Safety Officer Group (MERSOG) and work collaboratively with partner agencies to deliver road safety initiatives across the Merseyside area. The Road Safety team deliver sessions including Virtual Reality - Car Crash 360 putting individuals in the passenger seat and our Fatal Four-Young Drivers package. This provides young drivers, new drivers, pre-drivers and those who may be starting to travel as passengers in their friends' vehicles with road safety guidance to keep them and other road users safe.


ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

DANGER:
NO SWIMMING

In the event of a life-threatening emergency dial 999

Please read the safety signs so that you are aware of all the hazards

NO SWIMMING | WARNING Quicksand, mud or silt | DANGER Deep water | DANGER Cold water

In the event of an urgent issue, please contact the Council on the following numbers:

- **01744 676789 - During office hours (Mon - Fri 8.00am to 5.15pm)**
- **01744 676728 - Outside office hours**

DAYS OF ACTION

FINGERPOST AREA

Representatives from Merseyside Police, St Helens Council, Torus housing, Catch 22, Neighbourhood Watch and Trading Standards co-ordinated responses in this area due to reports of crime and ASB. Community Surveys and a Community Clean Up also took place at this time.



CLOCK FACE

In July 2025 approximately 35 Police - including Proactive, Community Engagement Unit, Mounted, and Roads Policing joined the St Helens Neighbourhood Team and partners to promote and celebrate the fantastic community provisions and partnerships in the Clock Face area.

Partnership activities included bike marking, youth engagement at the library, arson reduction activity, crime prevention and information stalls from local services alongside enforcement activity through roads policing operations, deployment of mounted officers and the execution of a warrant whereby a problematic address was targeted and a suspected stolen Surron e-bike was seized.

Local schools attended to engage in axe throwing, story time at the library, and to also visit the police horses.



FINGERPOST AREA

During the year, Torus Neighbourhood Teams organised six Community Impact Days across the borough. The days provided a visible presence from partners and also the opportunity to undertake small but impactful activities, such as community skips, litter picking and removal of unwanted items



"IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT TORUS COLLEAGUES AND PARTNER AGENCIES ARE VISIBLE IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS. AS A PROUD COMMUNITY ANCHOR ORGANISATION AND A MEMBER OF THE ST HELENS COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP, WE KNOW HOW MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE IT MAKES WHEN LOCAL SERVICES WORK TOGETHER. BY DOING THAT, WE CAN UNDERSTAND LOCAL CONCERNS, IDENTIFY WHERE PEOPLE MAY NEED EXTRA HELP, AND MAKE SURE THEY ARE SIGNPOSTED TO THE RIGHT SUPPORT."

DEAN WALL, DIRECTOR OF HOUSING SERVICES - TORUS

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

There are established and strong partnership arrangement regarding the safeguarding of young people in the borough. During 2025-26 we have worked together to build on these arrangements through collaborative work with the wider Safeguarding Children Partnership. This collaboration has enabled the Safer St Helens Community Safety Partnership and the St Helens Safeguarding Children Partnership to maximise resources to target key issues that impact the lives of children and families in St Helens.

These arrangements enabled an in-depth analysis of our multi-agency response to children and young people impacted by domestic abuse. We learnt that there are strong foundations that we can build on throughout 2026-2027 to embed a fully child-centred approach, strengthen early intervention and prevention, and ensure consistent, high-quality support across all agencies.



SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS

The St Helens Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) continues to ensure that safeguarding arrangements across the borough are effective, coordinated, and focused on enabling adults at risk to live free from abuse and neglect. The Board also plays a key role in promoting awareness of safeguarding among practitioners, service users, and the wider community.

During 2025-2026, the SAB continued to deliver its strategic priorities, including:

- a multi-agency learning event regarding mental health
- delivery of a session at a national conference on domestic abuse in older people, facilitated by Age UK
- development of the Harmful Practices Protocol and a Domestic Abuse and Dementia Toolkit
- production of 7-minute briefings on safeguarding and informal carers, and on suicide ideation
- delivery of domestic abuse and DHR-related training to adult social care staff

- Completion of SAB guidance on suicide risk management and promotion of Zero Suicide Alliance training
- strengthened partnership engagement, including Public Health involvement in suicide-prevention activity.

Collectively, these achievements demonstrate the Board's continued commitment to strengthening safeguarding arrangements, improving outcomes for adults at risk, and promoting a culture of partnership, learning, and continuous improvement across St Helens.

ST.HELENS
SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS

CHESHIRE & MERSEYSIDE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (ICB)

St Helens is part of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB), along with the 8 other boroughs across the Cheshire and Merseyside region. The ICB is a statutory organisation bringing the NHS together locally to improve population health and establish shared strategic priorities within the NHS. The ICB, also has a statutory duty in which it is identified as a key partner, to collaborate with local authorities and services to prevent and reduce serious violence. The ICB is represented on the Community Safety Partnership Board supporting partnership working to tackle the key priority areas that affect children, adults and communities locally, including domestic abuse and combatting the use of illegal drugs.

In addition, the ICB ensures that provider organisations deliver a comprehensive service to safeguard both children and adults at risk, including advice, training, and supervision. It also ensures commissioned health providers have up to date, comprehensive policies, and procedures in place, to raise awareness and to share knowledge of how to respond to safeguarding concerns.

SUPPORT FROM OUR POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

I'm proud to continue supporting the Safer St Helens Community Safety Partnership and to see the tangible difference our collective efforts are making for residents, businesses and communities across the borough.

This year's report highlights the strength of partnership working in St Helens, with agencies coming together to deliver a coordinated, preventative approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. From targeted neighbourhood policing and enforcement activity to early intervention and community-led programmes, the partnership continues to focus on what matters most to local people.

It is particularly encouraging to see sustained reductions across key crime types. Overall recorded crime has fallen by more than 11%, representing over 2,000 fewer offences and 1,600 fewer victims. Serious violence has reduced by 6.7%, while knife crime has also fallen significantly, reflecting the impact of sustained partnership efforts and early intervention activity.

There have also been notable improvements in offences that most affect people's sense of safety, particularly domestic abuse down by more than 13%, public order offences reduced by nearly 23%, and significant decreases in burglary and robbery.

I'm pleased to have supported this work through targeted investment, helping St Helens Council and partners deliver practical activity and achieve real impact across the borough. Over the past year, I have provided £175,000 through my annual Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant for activity aligned to our shared priorities. This has included funding for the Youth Justice Service, targeted anti-social behaviour prevention initiatives, and work to strengthen safety across the borough's night-time economy.

I was also pleased to support the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order in St Helens town centre, helping partners respond to concerns around anti-social behaviour linked to street drinking and ensuring our public spaces remain safe and welcoming for all.

In addition, I invested nearly £60,000 in youth diversionary activity across the borough, supporting programmes delivered during peak periods of demand, including the summer months and Halloween. These initiatives are vital in providing positive opportunities for young people, reducing the risk of involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.

Supporting victims remains a key priority. This year, I have also invested more than £230,000 into domestic abuse services across St Helens, helping to deliver the borough's Domestic Abuse Strategy and ensuring that victims and survivors can access specialist support when they need it most.

Through my Community Cashback initiative, I have also supported projects that reinvest money recovered from criminal activity back into St Helens communities. These initiatives play an important role in promoting tolerance, strengthening community cohesion and supporting inclusive, safer neighbourhoods.

While these achievements are significant, we know there is more to do. Crime and vulnerability continue to evolve, and it remains vital that we maintain momentum, strengthen collaboration and ensure resources are targeted where they are needed most.

I would like to thank all partners, frontline staff, volunteers and community members for their dedication and commitment. Together, we are making St Helens a safer, stronger and more resilient place to live, work and visit."



EMILY SPURRELL
MERSEYSIDE POLICE
& CRIME COMMISSIONER



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2026/27

The Community Safety Partnership will continue to be data led in the development of future shared priorities for the borough and as the Partnership moves forward in 2026/27, the performance data within this report will be used to tailor future activities.

The increase in recorded crime during the reporting period 2025/26 should be considered within the context of enhanced reporting, increased public confidence in reporting incidents, proactive enforcement activity by partner agencies, and changes in crime demand across the borough.

Rises have been observed across several crime categories, including Robbery, Shoplifting and Theft. This reflects a rise in similar offences nationally and reflects the wider social and economic challenges, including cost of living pressures.

In 2026/27 the Community Safety Partnership will work with businesses raising awareness and encouraging reporting, whilst police colleagues will ensure a robust detection and enforcement approach is sustained and delivered throughout the year. The voluntary sector will also continue to ensure that support is available to residents across the borough to meet the challenges of cost-of-living increases.

Criminal damage, drugs and weapons offences have also seen an increase. These increases can reflect increased detection and enforcement, intelligence gathering and reporting.

Partners continue to undertake targeted problem-solving activity in identified hotspot locations to prevent further incidents and protect community spaces.

The data reported for 2025/26 highlights that when resources are targeted at hotspot areas, the outcome results in decreases in crime and anti-social behaviour.

Increases in possession of weapons offences can often be attributed to proactive policing activity and targeted operations designed to identify and disrupt individuals carrying weapons. Whilst the increase may indicate heightened enforcement and detection, it also highlights the continued importance of partnership work to address the causes of weapon carrying, particularly among vulnerable young people and those at risk of exploitation.

The rise in drug offences is likely to reflect proactive enforcement and disruption activity undertaken by Merseyside Police and partner agencies. Intelligence-led operations targeting drug supply, organised criminality and county lines activity have led to increased detection and enforcement outcomes. While recorded offences have increased, this demonstrates continued efforts to identify offenders, disrupt criminal networks and reduce the harm drugs cause within local communities.

The Community Safety Partnership remains committed to understanding the drivers behind the increase in crime and ensuring a coordinated response. Throughout 2026/27 the Partnership will continue to monitor trends, target resources towards priority areas and work collaboratively to reduce harm and improve community safety.



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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MERSEYSIDE
FIRE & RESCUE
SERVICE

Halton & St Helens
Voluntary and Community Action

National
Probation
Service

EMILY SPURRELL
MERSEYSIDE POLICE
& CRIME COMMISSIONER

Cheshire and
Merseyside
Health and Care Partnership

protecting people • preventing crime • pursuing offenders
Community
first

with you
for you