



Test Valley Community Safety Partnership:

Strategic and Serious Violence Assessment 2022/23

June 2023.

This assessment incorporates data from members of the Test Valley Partnership and Community Safety Management Group of incidents in relation to Crime, Anti-Social Behaviours, and Community Safety in the Test Valley district for the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, unless where stated otherwise. This assessment was considered and approved by the Community Safety Management Group in July 2023.

Test Valley District Crime Data (2022/23 vs 2021/22): ¹

Crime Type:	No.	Change: n.	Change: %.
• Homicide	1	(-3)	(-75%)
• Violence with Injury	1,041	(+28)	(-2.6%)
• Violence without Injury	2,625	(+93)	(+3.8%)
• Rape	147	(+17)	(+13.1%)
• Other Sexual Offences	265	(-1)	(-0%)
• Robbery of Business	2	(-4)	(-33%)
• Robbery of Personal Property	44	(-10)	(+18.5%)
• Residential Burglary	365	(-1)	(-0%)
• Burglary (Business and Community)	224	(+25)	(+12.6%)
• Vehicle Offences	548	(-29)	(-5.2%)
• Theft from person	47	(-13)	(+21.7%)
• Bicycle Theft	50	(-12)	(-19.4%)
• Shoplifting	485	(+270)	(+125%)
• Criminal damage	704	(+41)	(+6.1%)
• Arson	22	(+6)	(+72%)
• Trafficking of Drugs	44	(-5)	(-10.2%)
• Possession of Drugs	214	(+24)	(+12.6%)
• Possession of Weapons	86	(+3)	(+3.6%)
• Public Order	1,045	(+63)	(+6.4%)

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• Anti-Social Behaviour	1,079	(-374)	(-25.7%)
• Total Crime	8,793	(+420)	(+5%)

In 2022/23, Total Crime in Test Valley increased by 420. Reporting levels increased in each quarter of the first half of 2022/23 (n= 2,288 +137; 2,356 +299) before falling in the latter half, (n= 2,179 -6; 1,970 – 158) ¹. The highest levels of reported crime took place in July (857, up from 753 in the previous year), and October (796). January (627), and February (646 up from 645) showed the lowest rates. ¹ Within Hampshire there have been 175,728 offences recorded throughout 2022 which is an 8.2% increase (+13,388) compared to 2021, this increase is in line with Police recorded crime nationally. ¹⁴

On a ward levels basis, the highest levels of reports were made in St Mary's (1,358, down 307 / 18.4%); Romans (830) and Winton (830, up 166). In the South of the District the highest levels of raptors were made in Abbey Ward (501, down 31). Where considered on a per population basis, the trend showed that Downland (154.64 / 1,000), St Mary's (136.14 – down from 161.9), Romans (98.4), Abbey (92.62 – down from 113.8), showed the highest rates ¹. Valley Park (18.18) showed the lowest proportionate rates. ¹

1,548 reports had a 'flag' referencing a domestic incident, of which the largest proportion (858) were classed as 'violence without injury'. 95 reports included reference to a bladed weapon, the majority of which were included in the 'possession of a weapon' category. 223 crimes include a reference to hate, of which the majority were listed under 'violence without injury' or 'public order' offence categories. A total of 197 incidents were recorded as 'Hate Crimes', (period 1/7/21 – 30/6/22) up from 14 in 2021/22¹. Of these 108 were classified as 'Race Hate' (up 3), 5 were related to faith or religion (down 1); 10 (+3) were linked to gender, plus 34 sexuality related (Unchanged). Reports of disability related hate crimes fell by 4 to 39. ¹

Anti-Social Behaviour:

Analysis of the available data shows that reports of incidents of ASB made to Police have continued to fall by a further 374 incidents (25.7%) to 1,079 in 2022/23. The number of reports continued to fall year-on-year in each quarter: Qtr. 1: 334 (-29.1%); Qtr. 2: 21 (-28.3%); Qtr. 3: 200 (-30.8%); Qtr. 4: 224 (-17%).

From its peak in 2011 at 1,234 in Quarter 2 of that year, reports have fallen to 224 in Quarter 4 of 2022/23 (latest available figures).¹

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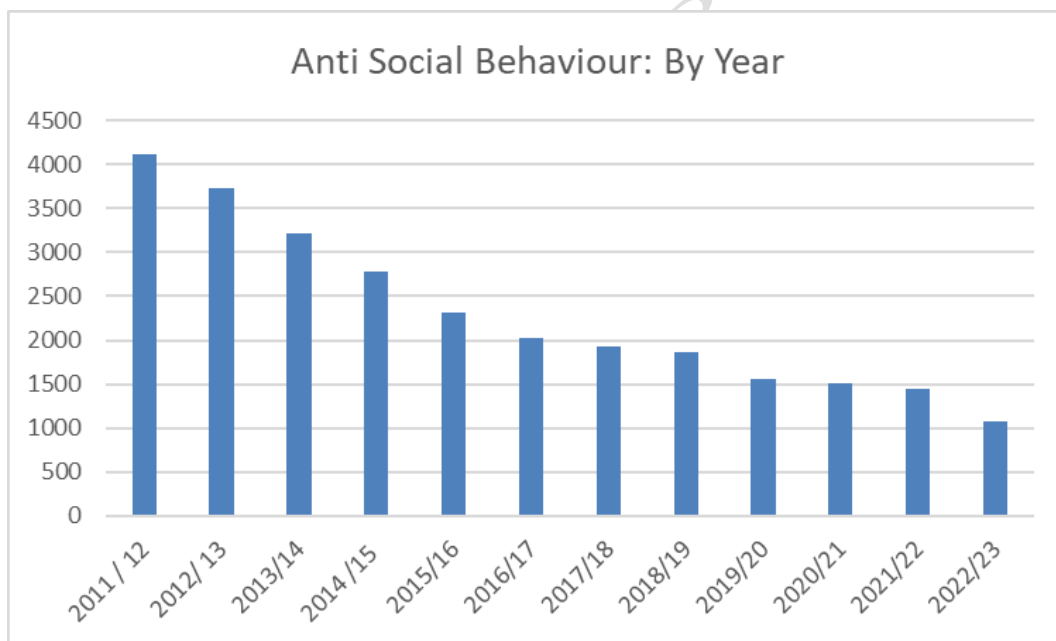
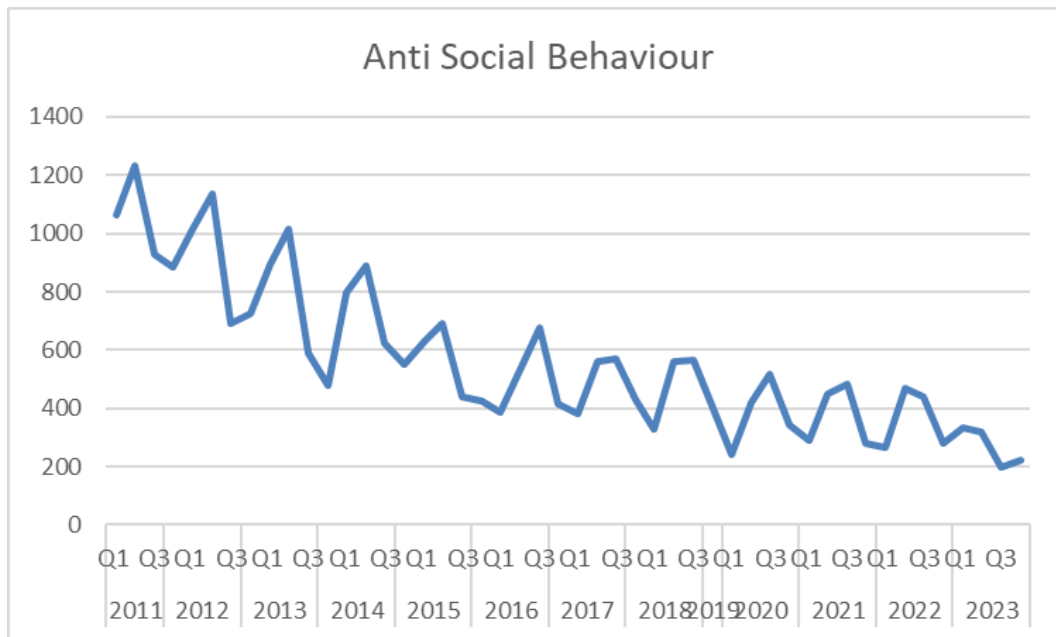
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When considered by Ward, the highest levels of reports of ASB remained noted in St Marys (278: 195 - 83); Harrowway 99; Romans 81, and Abbey (88, down 44) wards ¹. Countywide, Test Valley District recorded the (third) lowest levels of ASB over the year improving from 6th the previous year, without adjustment for population numbers ¹.

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Online reports of incidents of Anti-Social Behaviours to Test Valley Borough Council's Community Team rose by 27 to 151 in the year from 1st May 2022 – 31st May 2023 ⁸. Of these 85 were received from Northern Test Valley, with 56 from Southern Test Valley. ⁸

During 2022/23, the Aster ASB Team managed 177 cases of anti-social behaviour in Test Valley in the last 12 months, 97% of these were resolved successfully through non legal interventions and partnership working. The team also managed 78 domestic abuse cases where they supported victims and survivors with their housing. Aster applied for and were granted 4 injunctions with the power of arrest attached for issues varying from noise, drugs and arson, 2 Suspended Possession Orders granted, and 6 possessions. It is noted that possession in and as of itself is not seen as a success but highlights the work and decisions have had to make to safeguard the community. Aster also donated £5,000 to the Yellow Brick Road Projects to support youth work in the area ⁴.

Sovereign Housing Associations Anti-Social Behaviour team dealt with a total of 26 cases (22 cases in Andover and 4 in Romsey), between April 2022 and May 2023. The majority of cases involved neighbour nuisance and bullying, and they obtained 2 'without notice' injunctions to help address these ¹³. Vivid Housing have dealt with a total of 15 cases in this period (from 25 in 2021/22), plus 13 cases relating to Domestic Abuse cases (previously 12). No evictions or injunctions for ASB were sort, although various early intervention outcomes such as mediation referrals, tenancy warnings, Acceptable behaviour contracts were successfully used over this period ⁶.

The Andover Business Improvement District [BID] operate a team of Rangers who undertake high-visibility patrols of the town centre, who have authorised powers to enforce the Public Space Protection Order in the area. Of the incidents most relevant to this process, their highest levels of reports made during the year were for Begging (41 – down from 146); Young People (109 – up from 69); and Drug Use (38, down from 44).

Within this data the highest levels of reports for Begging took place in Quarter 1 (17, down from 70), with report rates falling quarterly to 5 in Quarter 4 (previously 10). For Youth reports, peaks were noted in April (19, down from 26), July (14), August (16) and September (13), falling to 2 in both December and January.

Rangers also recorded 13 (down from 25 in 2021/22) breaches of the Public Spaces Protection Order, which 5 (down from 17) pertained to antisocial behaviours resulting from the consumption alcohol, 2 requiring dispersal, and 2 (down from 7) of public defecation or urination ¹⁰.

Domestic Abuse:

In Test Valley, a total of 1,531 reports of Domestic Abuse were made to Police, an increase of 37 (2.5%). This represents the 6th lowest rate across Hampshire. In all bar 12 cases the offenders was a male. Reports peaked at 160 in April 2022, followed by July 148 (down by 1 from the same month

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the previous year), and August 140. A smaller peak was noted in December 131 (from 133 in December 2021), and the lowest levels were reported in February (89) ¹.

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, known as 'Clare's Law', allows individuals to ask Police for information about a partner's previous domestic abuse history; and for the Police to proactively disclose information in some circumstances. In 2022 data shows that in Test Valley, there were 35 occasions where these rights were exercised (up from 22), of which 19 (up from 16) were under the 'Right to Ask' category ¹. Between January and May 2023 the figures were 3 / 2 respectively. The 'Right to ask' enables someone to ask the Police about a partners previous history of domestic violence or violent acts, whereas the 'Right to Know; can allow Police to proactively disclose information in some prescribed circumstances ¹.

Serious Violence:

Countywide Context: The Hampshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) has recently restructured to a centralised team hosted by the Police and Crime Commissioner. In January 2023 the Government enacted legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty. This Duty requires a range of specified authorities to work together to share information in order to target their interventions, to collaborate and produce plans to reduce serious violence within their communities. Across Hampshire the OPCCs VRU will act as an agent for the SVRP Board to facilitate actions to meet the Duty. To date a HIPS/Force-wide Strategic Needs Assessment has been drafted and a countywide response strategy is being developed to meet the requirements of this duty ¹⁴.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 sets out specific crimes of concern but does not define Serious Violence. Locally a definition has been adopted by the VRU which focuses on crimes of particular concern as follows: 'Most Serious Violence (MSV): robbery, possession of weapon, violent disorder, riot and any violence with injury where a bladed implement was used'. It has been agreed that a specific focus on Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) will not be included at this time due to there being robust strategic focus and governance on these violent crime types across Hampshire. ¹⁴

In late 2022 Police formed a specific 'High Harm Team' for Test Valley district which is dedicated toward addressing and tackling all forms of serious crime locally, including issues related to serious violence, knife, and drug related crimes including Operation Fortress.

5,049 Serious Violence offences were recorded within Hampshire during 2022, an increase of 9.1% (+421) offences for the same period in 2021. The increase is likely due to the lockdown periods which were still being implemented throughout the first half of 2021. ¹⁴

Serious Violence (including knife enabled and homicide) offences where the victim was aged under 25 years, were recorded at 1,348 in 2022 across the HIPS area an increase of 3% (+38 offences). Seasonal peaks clearly correlate with the school holiday periods in July and August, with the most

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offences recorded in July (143 offences). There has been a 6.2% decrease in offences (-26 offences) when specifically considering non-domestic Serious Violence (including homicides) involving a bladed-instrument where the victim was recorded as under 25 years. ¹⁴

Latest available data for Serious Violence levels in Test Valley show that for the period 1st March 2023 – 31st May 2023, incidents numbers were unchanged for the same period the previous year ¹⁴.

Local Data: Test Valley District shows the 6th lowest levels of reports of Serious Violent crime in 2022, at 209 incidents. This equates to a proportion of 1.5 people per 1,000 residents in the district which is considerably lower than the Hampshire Police Force average of 2.4, and represents the joint sixth lowest rate for the county ¹⁴.

Knife Enabled Most Serious Violence:

Most Serious Violence by age: Gosport, Havant, Rushmoor have consistently had the highest rate per 10,000 population since 2016. However, in 2021/22 Test Valley saw an increase in the number of crimes (20 in 2020/21; 34 in 2021/22), and has the 3rd highest rate in 2021/22 of the 11 districts.

Most Serious Violence (Under 25's): Small area data (MSOA) from 2020/21 and 2021/22 for under 25s MSV shows these crimes occurred across the county, with hotspots of crimes in urban centres. The highest rate of crimes per 10,000 of the population occurred in Andover and Leigh Park. In 2021/22, Test Valley saw an increase of 14 crimes compared to 2020/21. A large proportion of this increase occurred within Andover Town Centre around Bridge Street and London Street, with 12 crimes happening in this area in 2021/22. ¹⁵

Knife Enable MSV and Possession in Under 25's:

Countywide, possession of bladed weapon offence levels in Under 25s have increased by 44% between 2018/19 and 2021/22, with a total of 347 possession offences occurring in 2021/22. Basingstoke & Deane, Gosport, Havant and Rushmoor all have rates per 10,000 higher than the Hampshire average. Test Valley saw a 78% increase in the year (23 in 2020/21 to 41 in 2021/22). ¹⁵

Small area data (MSOA) from 2020/21 and 2021/22 shows hotspots of possession offences occur in urban areas, with the highest rate of crimes per 10,000 population occurring in Basingstoke and Eastleigh town centres. 15 or more possession offences occurred in 6 MSOAs, with Basingstoke, Eastleigh and Andover town centre all having 2 MSOAs with 15 or more possession offences. ¹⁵

Violence Against Women and Girls (VWAG):

Context - Criteria for the VAWG data: Victim is female and at least 11 years old when the crime occurred. The gender of the perpetrator is not a determining factor and the perpetrator can be of any age. The recorded crime categories include: All domestic violence / abuse; Honour based abuse including Forced marriage and FGM; Non domestic Homicide; Rape; Other sexual offences; Violence

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with injury, Public Order; Non domestic Exploitation of prostitution; Stalking and harassment; Public fear, alarm, distress; Modern slavery - There were 224 different crime types recorded for VAWG offences. ¹⁶

Countywide the number of VAWG crimes has increased in the past calendar year. 48,815 VAWG crimes were recorded in 2022, 9.7% more crimes than the previous year. In both 2021 and 2022, VAWG crime made up 28% of overall crime. In Test Valley the rate is also 28%, the joint 6th lowest in the county. ¹⁶

The majority of incidents recorded countywide pertain to Actual Bodily Harm and Public Order causing Harassment, Alarm or Distress. In Test Valley these rates are 19% and 15% respectively in 2022. ¹⁶

Incidents of VWAG by 'spiking' are low, with 8 reports in Test Valley in 2022, down from 9 in 2021.

Fire Data:

In the year to 31st March 2022, HF&RS completed a total of 476 'safe and well' safeguarding visits to residents in Andover. Officers attended 758 fire incidents, of which 515 were in Andover, 56 from Stockbridge station and 187 from Romsey ¹⁷.

Other Data:

Fraud and Online Exploitation – Across Test Valley District, a total of 411 reports of Fraud were made in 2022. The majority of these, where recorded, were linked to online shopping and auction based frauds and scams, followed by Advance Fee frauds ¹.

Public Perceptions - A YouGov survey for the Police and Crime Commissioner showed that residents of Test Valley registered high rates of 'feeling safe in my community' of between 79% (Oct 22) peaking at 91% in March 2023. These rates are broadly similar to the previous year for both the district (72% - 91%) and county average (70 - 90%) ¹. The responses to the question of 'Trust in my local police' ranged from 63.84% (Feb 23) to 73.96% (March 22).

Community Safety Priorities: 2023/24

The Community Safety Partnership priorities were a topic of discussion and agreement at the Test Valley Partnership meeting in October 2023. It was decided that the CSP priority areas for 2023/24 were to be:

- Violence Against Women and Girls - support/advice for victims to improve ease of reporting; develop prevention via educational messaging on positive behaviours / relationships.
- Serious Violence - Sharing info and intelligence, in particular on raising awareness of how organisations can do this.

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- Anti-Social Behaviours - Focus on engagement, on the positive narrative to address public perceptions, Developing/enabling positive activities for young people. Utilise education and relationship with schools and families and developing rapport and links between young people and police/PCSOs/etc.
- Fire - Education and risk, data sharing; Awareness of support and resources available (i.e. S&W Visits)
- Fraud – Awareness and barriers to reporting.
- Drugs – to co-operate to reduce the impact of drug related harm.

A partnership action plan for these priorities covering the period Oct 2023 – Sept 2024 will be drawn up and monitored by the Community Safety Management Group, and its sub-groups, subject to their approval by the Test Valley Partnership. ³

Project Updates: ³

‘Op Mazi’: Due to a significant reduction in reports of begging and street attached individuals in the area of Andover town centre following recent years of Op Mazi patrols and engagement, plus the pandemic during which many street attached individual were rehomed, Op Mazi was scaled back and later ceased during 2022/23. The lower levels of reports have been sustained over this period. Partners remain monitoring the situation and will resume the joint operation should the issues resume. ³

‘Op Solar’ ⁵ – Op Solar was a joint operation launched by Police to address increasing Youth crime and ASB issues which were being reported in Andover Town Centre in early spring 2022. The operation was a district priority and combined increased co-ordinated patrols with additional partnership diversionary and engagement activities for young people, including an increased use of ABC’s, parental home visits, community beat surgeries, out court disposals and other enforcement action as appropriate.

Whilst the Op Solar has formally ceased its term, The project has continued with TVBC, BID, Police, Rangers and Cllrs working to address issues of youth ASB and trespass, in particular on the roofs of several buildings in Andover High Street and the Chantry Centre. As a result, several attempts have been made to engage with the owners and agents of these building, with varying success. Where engagement has been possible (i.e. Marks and Spencer’s, Chantry Centre), these sites have been target hardened to prevent illegal access and issues significantly reduced. However these issues continue on some other sites. Attempts to engage the building owners and agent are ongoing to help reduce these issues and risks over the upcoming summer.

PSPOs: The current Public Spaces Protection Order is due to expire in June 2023. Public and Partner consultation has been undertaken to renew these orders unchanged, subject to the outcomes of which the TVBC cabinet will make a decision later this year ¹. Some partner representation has been

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received to extend the terms of these orders but at this time there remains insufficient evidence to allow this, although discussions are ongoing as to options to address the issues raised.¹

Saddlers Mills PACT [Partners and Communities Together]: Historically issues have arisen in the summer months with young people gathering at and using the river and surrounds at Saddlers Mills and Town Mills Park, causing noise and distress to some of the local people. A PACT has been established in recent years to allow residents and partners (including Police, TVBC, Schools, Fire & Rescue Service) to discuss the issues and understand the impact, responsibilities and limitations of all parties. From this some successes have been noted in reduced but partially displaced issues in 2022. Plans have been agreed to target police and partner presence at key times and dates this summer, such as end of school exams and terms, on site to act as a deterrent, and engagement via school and fire services on the risks, impact and dangers of cold water swimming and 'tombstoning'. The PACT meets twice per year to discuss and evaluate the summer events.

Community-MARAC⁸ – In 2021/2 the Community-MARACs had 49 cases referred and reviewed across the district, which represented an increase of 16 cases from the previous year.

The Legacy Project¹¹: The Legacy Project is an early intervention programme tackling the risk of criminal exploitation of young people, including serious violence, gang life, county lines and modern slavery, by positive engagement with mentors with similar life experiences. Since its launch as a pilot in Andover in 2020, the project was successful in receiving funding to expand to the whole of Test Valley from April 2021.

In 2022/23 56 nominations were received for The Legacy Project – these were for young people aged 9 – 17 who are living in and/or educated in Test Valley (2021/22: 71). Mentors worked with 68 young people over the year through 1/2/1 mentoring sessions. We also offered group work opportunities through The Gold Project (partnership work such as kayaking with Andover Baptist Church D of E and Police Officers, and Youth Bowl nights with Riverside Bowl supported by YBRP, Valley Leisure, and local PCSOs, and Conservation Work on The Southdowns in partnership with Clarion Housing and the South Downs Ranger service).

A case study: In November 2021 a young individual was referred by their school to get additional support around key areas of their life, specifically their susceptibility to being groomed for county lines drug dealing pathways and their behavioural reactions in the school environment. Mentoring support was provided via The Legacy Project until July 2022 when the mentee and mentor parted ways after navigating many challenges and bringing into sharper focus the many contributing factors that was influencing the boy's behaviour in school and in the community. An unsettled family life coupled with the loss of a potential sporting pathway culminated in this child being swayed to try and earn status the 'street way' by getting involved in low level drug taking and dealing. Over time we managed to open the boy's mind to understand how he had been shaped by his past experiences and environment and coupled our work with participation opportunity sessions at a local gym.

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In January 2023 the mentee requested a catch-up session with his mentor. In this meeting facilitated by his school he explained how every margin in his life had gradually improved since our work together. When the work began in 2021 the boy was going through isolations, suspensions and exclusions on a regular basis at school. Now he said “That doesn’t really happen anymore”, he has continued his return to physical activity and attends the gym regularly. The mentee has adapted and narrowed his friendship group recognising that this is an important area to be on top of moving forward. The movement and progress of this mentee was validated and respected, he has turned things around in many areas of previous concern in his life. He has been empowered by the work of The Legacy Project through a difficult stage in his young life and now has a reference point of inner success to take forward into his brighter future.

The work of the scheme has continued into 2023/24, and YBR are currently actively working with 10 young people. In April we worked with 7 young people as part of a HAF consultation funded by HCC. These young people (6 of whom have accessed Legacy or are still to be matched to a Mentor) worked as a team to put research and create a proposal for how HCC could better engage teenagers in the Holiday Activity and Food Programme. In May two young men from the group gave a presentation to the HAF board. One of their mum’s said ‘S has come home full of his day. I can’t tell you how wonderful it is for him to have some success and be smiling. We are so grateful to you and YBRP for giving him this opportunity.’

In May we also worked in partnership with the High Harm Team as part of Op Sceptre to offer assemblies to 380 young people across two schools (Winton and JHS). Warren King was our guest speaker who shared his experiences of adversity, drug use and dealing, knife crime, prison, mental health and the coping mechanisms he now employs – sport and education. We were fortunate also to work with a small group of vulnerable young people attending Genesis at Winton – these young people were outstanding and engaged very well in the session.

In June we worked in partnership with ABC D of E project to offer 4 young women (2 of whom are working with Mentors and one is still to be matched) a kayaking session as part of The Gold Project (providing positive activities for young people and supporting them to make links with other trusted adults in their community).

Big Band Buffet: The Big Band Buffet resumed in 2022/3 and was again fully subscribed. 97 % of those attending described the event as ‘good’ or excellent’, and all agencies who attend to speak or to provide stands also ranked this event in these terms. To date the event has hosted over 1,000 elderly or vulnerable residents and was recognised as a finalist in the Resolve ASB national awards for ‘Best Project’ in 2023, being highly commended for its innovative approach and impact ³.

‘Projex’: A new 3-month pilot twice-weekly drop-in session for young people at 2 neutral café locations in Andover was trailed in January 2023, allowing a safe and warm space for young people only to meet as an alternative to gathering elsewhere in inappropriate places increasing the risk to

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themselves and causing concern to others. Feedback from partners was positive with many of the target young people using the project after school hours, and not getting into or causing issues locally. However overall numbers were lower than anticipated and the project will be evaluated prior to any decision on its future. ¹

Op Tallheart: Op Tallheart was a joint Police and TVBC operation initiated to provide increased high viability patrols of the areas around the Smannel Road Skate Park and help enforce the PSPO in the area, providing an increased presence in the area and help to deter issue of ASB and crime. The operation was time limited, and the area continues to be patrolled and sustained reduced reports have been noted in the area subsequently. ¹

Drug Related Harm: Test Valley Borough Council and Police continue to co-ordinate a regular drug related harm meeting under the auspices of Op Fortress, across Andover. This multi-agency group aims to reduce the harm posed by the supply of controlled drugs; through sharing information and co-operating to target those who are the greatest threat to vulnerable individuals and communities. Working in partnership with service providers it aims to increase community confidence, reducing the supply and demand for controlled drugs, and the threat and incidence of drug related violence within Andover ¹.

'Being You and Bouncing Back': BYBB is a new project which commenced on 7th February 2023. It aims to support victims of domestic abuse, and help them develop the confidence to being to interact with local communities and partners. The project is a collaboration of Test Valley Borough Council, Places Leisure, Finding Freedom From Abuse and the PCN. The free scheme allows women in the local refuge access to dedicated weekly exercise session at the leisure centre, allowing them to meet and discuss their issues over coffee, work out, and engage with public health and other agencies to help support them, for example in health advice and to register for GP services. It has also raised funds to provide equipment to encourage participation and engagement. To date 25 people have taken up the pilot project. ³

CCTV: in the year to June 2023, a total of 71 requests for CCTV footage from Test Valley Borough Councils overt cameras in the Andover and Romsey town centres were received from Police colleagues for evidential purposes as part of their investigations, and were processed in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding ¹.

Statutory Reporting Items: ³

Community Trigger: In 2022/23 no Community Trigger review requests were received.

Domestic Homicide Reviews: During 2022/23. No new referrals to request to consider a Domestic Homicide Review were received. Currently one DHR remains with the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel prior to permission to publish the report being received.

1: 'Interact'; Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire & IOW.

2: Hampshire CC (Prevent Partnership Board)

4: Aster Housing

6. Vivid Housing

8. Test Valley Borough Council.

10. Andover BID.

12. Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership

14. Hampshire Violence Reduction Unit Strategic Needs Assessment March 2023 / Tactical Violence Reduction Partnership June 2023.

15. Hampshire County Council VRU Problem Profile Nov. 2022

16. Hampshire Police VWAG Taskforce May 2023.

3: Test Valley Community Safety Management Group

5. Hampshire Police

7. Abri Group

9. West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group

11. Yellow Brick Road

13. Sovereign Housing Assn.

17. Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service.

Prevent /Channel: Three referrals were made to the Channel Panel in this period, each of which were considered and adopted by the panel for further investigation and support².

DRAFT: CONFIDENTIAL

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