

COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

2025-2028





FOREWORD

In Knowsley we are creating strong, safe, and resilient communities in line with our Knowsley Better Together principles. We are proud of our achievements so far however we appreciate we still have work to do.

We know that the past three years have seen significant challenges facing our communities such as the COVID pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis and severe reductions in public sector funding. The impact of these challenges is profound, and it is essential that we work together effectively and flexibly as a partnership in order to meet the changing environment in which we work.

This plan outlines our priorities over the next three years, but we are also wary of the need to be flexible to meet any new challenges should they emerge as well as responding to our changing demographics and more culturally diverse communities.

We will continue to challenge ourselves and develop further as a partnership to continue to build on our successes, but realising there is more work to be done.



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Vice Chair of the Knowsley
Community Safety Partnership
Executive

INTRODUCTION

The Knowsley Community Safety Partnership, in its capacity as the local statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP), brings together key partners that are involved in crime prevention and community safety work.

The Partnership

Our partnership in Knowsley is strong and our commitment to joined up working means that issues of community safety are addressed together and not in isolation and therefore reducing any repeat offences, addressing those responsible and implementing an early intervention and prevention approach.

Our aim is to ensure that Knowsley is a safe place to live, work and visit. Each year we undertake a Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment (SSNA) where we analyse local, regional, and national data as well as listen to feedback from our communities to identify local needs and priorities.

This plan identifies our priorities for 2025-28, what work the partnership is already undertaking and what work is planned. Many of our priorities do not change from year to year as they follow long term trends and whilst our strategic priorities will be established for a three-year period, we recognise that we may need to re-focus our priorities in response to emerging or changing trends in crime.

We may also need to respond to changing demographics and changes to the culturally diverse nature of our communities. Such requirements will be identified via our annual Community Safety Needs Assessment and through an annual review of this plan to ensure that work-plans and outcomes are appropriately delivered.

It is also important to recognise that our three priorities are not mutually exclusive of each other and as such there is significant cross over between all of the priorities.

Support and assistance to residents is available from Community Safety Partners such as the Council's Crime and Communities and Domestic Abuse services, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner, and from the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector organisations such as One Knowsley, The First Step, Listening Ear, Merseyside Youth Association and others.

THE PARTNERSHIP

KNOWSLEY COUNCIL

MERSEYSIDE POLICE

NHS INTEGRATED CARE BOARD

ONE KNOWSLEY



SOCIAL HOUSING PARTNERS

MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE

PROBATION SERVICE

**OFFICE OF POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**



KNOWSLEY 2030 & KNOWSLEY BETTER TOGETHER

The way we work in Knowsley is supported by the borough's 10-year strategy: **Knowsley 2030**.

Through a year-long period of engagement working closely with residents, businesses, community groups and our partners we were able to develop a clearer picture of life in the Knowsley and establish what people's aspirations are for the borough, by 2030.

This allowed us to develop the Knowsley 2030 Strategy which sets out shared aims for our future, two of which relate to this plan:

- A place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need.
- A place where people feel safe and secure and have a sense of pride and belonging.

Strengthening the way that we work is Knowsley **Better Together**, a culture that is focused on the Council, established boards and public bodies working in equal partnership with residents, businesses, partners, and the voluntary sector more than ever before. It involves people coming together to share ideas, skills, and time to achieve a shared goal or vision, improving outcomes for Knowsley.

Seven principles underpin Knowsley working **Better Together** and we believe that four principles align specifically to the Community Safety Partnership's goals regarding the reduction and management of crime within Knowsley.

- Listening to the community when making decisions.
- Use the best way of delivering services that leads to improved outcomes for Knowsley.
- Building better partnerships and work with others to improve Knowsley.
- Preventing problems occurring or stopping them from getting worse.

Our commitment to the Knowsley 2030 outcomes and Better Together approach means that the Knowsley Community Safety Partnership is able to contribute to making the borough an even safer and stronger place.



LET'S TALK
2030



ABOUT KNOWSLEY

The partnership welcomes the continued investment in our borough which includes the creation of new homes, the redevelopment of our town and village centres and businesses creation and therefore an increase in jobs.

The population of Knowsley has increased by over 10,000 people since 2011 and this growth is the highest in the Liverpool City Region, further demonstrating people's positive outlook of Knowsley as a place.

We know Knowsley is a great place to live and work and we have the lowest levels of crime across the Liverpool City Region. However, we know it is not without its issues such as health inequalities, financial hardship, and crime.

We have seen reductions in certain types of crime; however, some key crimes remain a challenge. For example, joint operations in 2022-23 by Merseyside Police and others closed 159 county lines (exploitation of young people) along with disrupting 206 serious organised crime groups, impacting on how criminals have been able to operate within our borough.

We know that our most vulnerable residents are often those who are most likely to be victims of crime and with this in mind the partnership have developed and continues to work on effective practice to support our most vulnerable adults, children, and families. This has been done through the successful use of multi-agency partnership working.



16,624 CRIMES WERE RECORDED IN KNOWSLEY BETWEEN APRIL 2022 AND MARCH 2023



15%

DOMESTIC ABUSE REPORTS HAVE INCREASED BY 15% IN KNOWSLEY OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS SHOWING A HIGHER LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE IN REPORTING THE ISSUE

3987

REPORTS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE WERE MADE IN 2022/23 IN KNOWSLEY

9.6%

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ACCOUNTED FOR 9.6% OF THE CRIME IN KNOWSLEY BETWEEN APRIL 2022 AND MARCH 2023



1592

BETWEEN APRIL 2022 AND MARCH 2023 THERE WERE 1592 INCIDENTS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR RECORDED IN THE BOROUGH

1328

THERE WERE 1328 DRUG OFFENCES RECORDED BETWEEN APRIL 2022 AND MARCH 2023



46

VULNERABLE PEOPLE WERE SAFEGUARDED FROM INDIVIDUALS TAKING OVER THEIR PROPERTY (CUCKOOING) TO DEAL DRUGS AND STORE WEAPONS

OUR PRIORITIES

How are our local priorities chosen?

We know that there are national priorities for tackling crime but these are vast and do not always represent the direct issues and needs of our community.

We have undertaken various consultations with our residents and businesses, and used this information from a number of our partners to develop these priorities.

Using this we can clearly see the areas that we need to focus upon and the services we need to assist us in both addressing those that commit the crime and supporting those who are a victim. We will regularly review our priorities each year, making sure that they meet the needs of our borough.



OUR PRIORITIES



DOMESTIC ABUSE & VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

Working to prevent, confront and support all those involved.



ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Challenging offenders and supporting victims.



SERIOUS & ORGANISED CRIME

Working in partnership to reduce the threat from serious and organised crime within our communities.



PRIORITY 1:

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

We are committed to ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and we are determined to ensure that Knowsley is a place where women and girls are safe and feel safe to pursue their lives free from fear and harassment.

We believe that effective earlier intervention, joint working and a drive to challenge the culture and attitudes that give rise to all forms of abuse, we can make Knowsley a safe place for women and girls to live, work and enjoy their leisure time.

So, what is Domestic Abuse?

There are many ways in which domestic abuse and sexual violence occurs.

Physical or sexual abuse

Economic abuse

Violent or threatening behaviour

Psychological, emotional or other abuse

Controlling or coercive behaviour

How abuse can impact people can differ massively, understanding this and the impacts of it is key to ensuring that individuals receive the right council and partner services. Over recent years there has been a greater acknowledgement in the way this type of behaviour is viewed and understood and the seriousness of it on all who are impacted by it.



Where do we want to be by 2026/2027:

1. The partnership has a fully equipped workforce to understand and respond to Domestic Abuse and coercive control across Knowsley.
2. Strengthen the victim/survivor pathway that ensure that all victims of Domestic Abuse are offered support when referred.
3. To lead the implementation of early intervention and prevention responses with children as victims of domestic abuse.
4. Interventions provided respond to the lived experience of victims of Domestic Abuse, are victim led and trauma informed and include specialist domestic abuse advocacy support.
5. To take significant action through the powers available to the partnership to hold those that cause the harm and perpetrate Domestic Abuse to account.



So, how do we plan to get there?

- Continue to deliver training to staff across the Partnership to understand and identify Domestic Abuse and be able to respond promptly and efficiently.
- Additional "Safe and Together" training to practitioners to respond to domestic abuse where parents remain in a relationship.
- Develop responses for trauma informed longer term & therapeutic support, develop Whole Health Interventions.
- The Partnership will engage with the Family Hubs to support the Domestic Abuse priority and strengthen the offer through co-location of dedicated Domestic Abuse workers within the Multi-Disciplinary Team.
- Review MARAC process especially for those victim/survivors repeatedly targeted by Domestic Abuse perpetrators.
- Training for Teaching and support staff in spotting violence issues (sexual harassment, sexual violence, and online sexual abuse) and delivering anti-misogyny training.
- All responses to VAWG should be victim-led and that further roll out of trauma informed training for front line practitioners and delivering intervention programmes such as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) is critical.

PRIORITY 2:

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

We recognise the corrosive effect of anti-social behaviour on victims' health and wellbeing and the negative impact on the wider community. As a partnership we have strong multi-agency arrangements and interventions which are making a difference.

We know that there are seasonal fluctuations in anti-social behaviour, in particular levels rise in the summer holidays and around Halloween and Bonfire Night and we plan specific operations and events at these times.

We share information between agencies so that we can respond to emerging issues in our communities and deliver local responses, using a problem-solving approach to tailor our responses to the issue at hand, whether this is caused by an individual or by groups of people causing nuisance. Using this problem-solving approach, we are able to respond appropriately with a number of interventions.

So, what is Anti-Social behaviour?

Anti-social behaviour can be seen in many forms. It is intricately linked to how safe we feel and, how happy we are with the local area as a place to live.

Misuse of fireworks

Rowdy or nuisance neighbour

Littering and drugs paraphernalia

Street drinking

Trespassing

Nuisance calls

Nuisance noise

Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour

Vehicle nuisance

Anti-social behaviour can have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of those who experience it.

Where do we want to be by 2026/2027:

1. By the end of 2026/27, we want to have reduced Anti-Social Behaviour by 6% in Knowsley.
2. Between now and the end of 2026/27, we want to have worked with education providers to ensure every young person in Knowsley understands the consequences of ASB for themselves and their communities.
3. Increase our use of the legal powers available to us to tackle ASB in a more initiative-taking way.
4. We want to raise the confidence of those affected by ASB, giving them a stronger voice in their community.



So, how do we plan to get there?

- We will be better at communicating ways to report crime and access the right support needed.
- We will utilise all legal powers available across ALL our partners to tackle the negative behaviours that our communities and individuals experience.
- We will support those thought to be, at risk of, or involved in Anti-Social Behaviour, which includes early intervention and support, prevention, diversion and enforcement. This will be through a range of programmes and interventions.
- We will continue to improve the ways in which we respond to issues within our communities sharing the right information, providing what is needed to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Provide and support the community with the tools to develop their own solutions, using their insight, knowledge, and passion to create safer, stronger communities.
- Increase the number of safe spaces and community connections.



PRIORITY 3: SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

Tackling organised crime groups, particularly serious youth violence and offending associated with the borough's responsibilities to prevent and reduce serious violence under the Serious Violence Duty is a key priority for the partnership. Protecting our residents from the threat of violence is a major long-term priority, particularly for children and young people. Our overall aims are to intervene early, focus on children and young people affected and build upon the effective ways we already work together to reduce the impact of gang-related activity in the borough.

The Serious Violence Duty requires local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence-based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues. There is an emphasis on early intervention with young people to prevent them from becoming either a victim or perpetrator of serious violence.

Our work with the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership has put Knowsley in a strong place to meet its commitments under the Serious Violence Duty. Partners now need to work on the operational embedding of the duty, and it has been agreed that the responsibility of the Serious Violence Duty sits with local Community Safety Partnerships in Knowsley, supported by the

Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership and Office of the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner.

So, what is serious and organised crime?

It can be any criminal activity that is planned and driven by individuals or by people working in groups, gangs, or networks with the focus on making money. It is mostly seen as:

- Exploiting vulnerable people**
- Cyber crime**
- Money laundering**
- Human trafficking**
- Use of weapons and violence**
- Child criminal exploitation**
- Class A drug dealing**

Partnerships with other local authorities and neighbouring Policing areas have identified what are known as County lines. This is where crime operates across different counties. These drug networks running through our area are a massive part of organised crime and often fund much larger operations.



Where do we want to be by 2026/2027:

1. Make Serious and Organised crime 'Everybody's Business' building strong information sharing channels to develop rounded offender and crime profiles, enabling us to directly target crime.
2. By the end of 2026/27 we want to have further developed robust ways of working with our partners; maximising ways to disrupt serious and organised crime locally.
3. Over the next 3 years we will work to increase the amount of data we feed into the partnership allowing us to develop actions to Prevent, Protect, Prepare and Pursue those involved in organised crime.



So, how do we plan to get there?

- Working with all partners through targeted high-visibility activity and operations with input from residents to protect our communities from organised crime.
- Assisting Merseyside Police to provide early intervention and prevention approaches for those identified at risk of engaging in serious and organised crime.
- Working with our partners to signpost both victims and offenders to preventative and targeted support like STEPS for Young offenders and the Combatting Drugs Partnership.
- Enhancing preventative and trauma informed approaches, to adverse childhood events to divert people away from further victimisation and criminality.
- Utilising the Knowsley security team, to tackle Serious and Organised Crime through our use of CCTV and local knowledge.
- Continue to work with local communities to gain an understanding of their main issues and fears, working with them to challenge behaviours and reduce crime in local areas.
- Plan and support the next Safer Streets initiative, building on our successes, taking lessons learned and utilising them to keep our communities protected and safe.
- Further support local operations that are Merseyside-led initiatives set up to tackle cross county drug dealing and child criminal exploitation.
- Implement the Serious Violence Duty and localised action plan to reduce incidents our communities.

STRATEGIC COORDINATION

The Knowsley Community Safety Partnership does not and cannot operate in isolation from other strategies, plans and other strategic boards. How this strategy links into these other strategies and boards is integral in its delivery. Strategies and boards that we work alongside include:

- Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board & Knowsley's Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Knowsley's Safeguarding Children's Partnership
- Knowsley's Safeguarding Adults Partnership
- Knowsley's Health and Wellbeing Board
- Knowsley's Combatting Drugs Partnership Board
- Knowsley Contextual Safeguarding sub-group
- Knowsley Youth Justice Management Board
- Knowsley Children and Young People Partnership Board
- Knowsley Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Knowsley Multi Agency Threat Assessment Conference (MATAC)
- Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership Steering Group
- Merseyside Strategic Domestic Violence and Abuse Group
- Merseyside Criminal Justice Board
- Merseyside Policing and Partnership Strategic Board
- Merseyside Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
- Liverpool City Region Serious and Organised Crime

*This list is just a sample of who we interact with.

SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

Tackling and reducing crime and the fear of crime is a long-term aspiration and will not be achieved overnight and it is important that the Knowsley Community Safety Partnership work strategically across other partners and with our communities in order to achieve long term, sustainable, positive behaviour change. Our action plan is ambitious yet realistic to meet the challenges we face. We still have a lot to learn and must be flexible enough to respond to opportunities and challenges as they emerge.

The Knowsley Community Safety Partnership will be responsible for the monitoring of the plan and will provide strategic oversight of any action plans that set out how we will achieve our outcomes. The Partnership will also review the strategy on an annual basis and will consider:

- Progress made against the plan outcomes.
- The overall impact and effectiveness of the plan. .
- New legislation or government directives for incorporation in the strategy.
- Local need and any other emerging priorities.

Most importantly we will work together through our Knowsley Better Together principles now more than ever in order to make Knowsley a safer and stronger place to live, work or visit.



