

Overview and findings from the Coventry Strategic Assessment

Document Objective:

The Strategic Assessment is a statutory annual document* produced by the Community Safety Partnership. *(Policing & Crime Act 2009).

The assessment is based on a wide range of data which is analysed in the context of wider social trends and knowledge sought from a range of professionals and agencies.

The document seeks to understand trends within crime and disorder, to prioritise across the breadth of community safety and determine and understand the relationship between Crime and wider social issues that are affecting or impacting upon community safety.

Coventry Background Statistics

Coventry Population

323,100



↑ 1.5%
(since 2011 census)

Coventry Households

126,771



Now 133,800

↑ 4%
(since 2011 census)



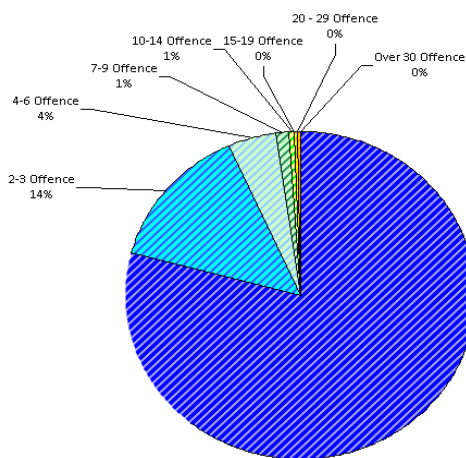
Not including new phases of Bannerbrook Park & Spirit quarters - there are further applications for 657 houses currently being considered.

The Coventry Crime Picture

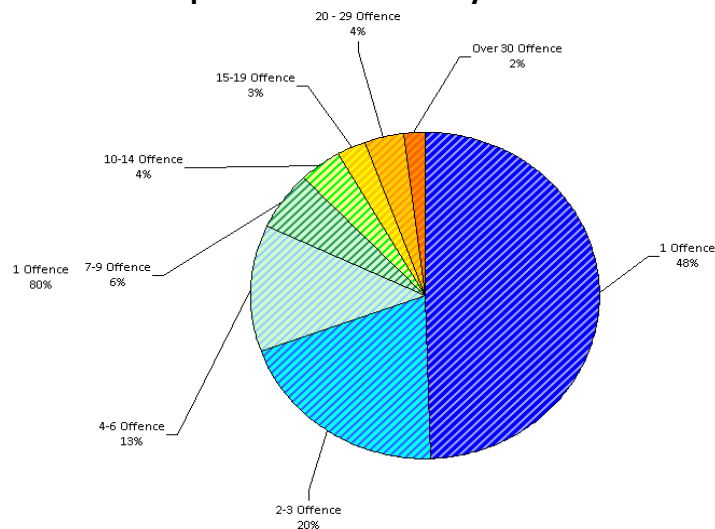
Most crime and disorder incidents do not happen sporadically, whilst ‘opportunistic’ offending often indicates a level of disposition toward crime. To these ends within community safety it is clear that a minority of individuals are driven to offend where others, with similar backgrounds, are not. Working to limit the number of people who move into committing crime is as important a part of the assessment as working with those who offend.

To demonstrate how a few offenders disproportionately affect crime, the charts below shows how ½ of all shoplifting offences have been committed by around 20% of people charged with shoplifting offences. This disproportionate effect is true across acquisitive offences such as burglary and robbery.

Range of offences by volume



Proportion of offences by volume



Police recorded incidents indicate that **66%** of incidents were against property (Burglary, Theft, vehicle crime, Damage, Fraud), **28%** were directly against people (Violence, Sexual Offences, Harrassment, etc) and **6%** other (drugs, breaches etc).

However this is not representative of the scope of issues affecting the partnership;



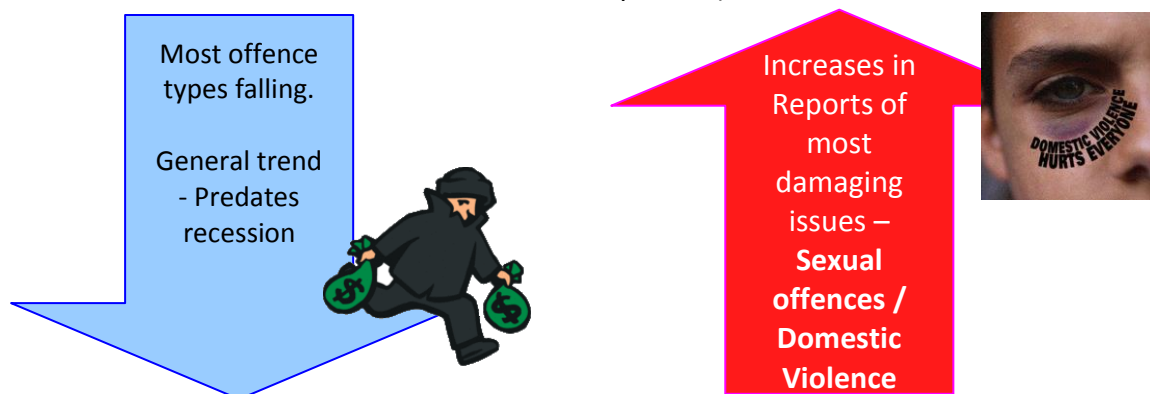
True(r) extent of Community Safety Issues

Calls for Service	Number	Rate per 1000 Popn
Recorded Crime	22,495	69.6
ASB (Police)	8,843	27.4
CRASAC contacts	4,900	15.2
Environmental	3,315	10.3
Social Landlords	2,821	8.7
It's Your Call	2,232	6.9
Child Protection Plans	755	2.3
DV 3 rd party Agencies (new 2013)	704	2.2
Looked After Children	649	2.0
Troubled Families	450	1.4
School Exclusions	358	1.1
A&E (Violence related)	298	0.9

47,820 separate incidents

Crime Trends

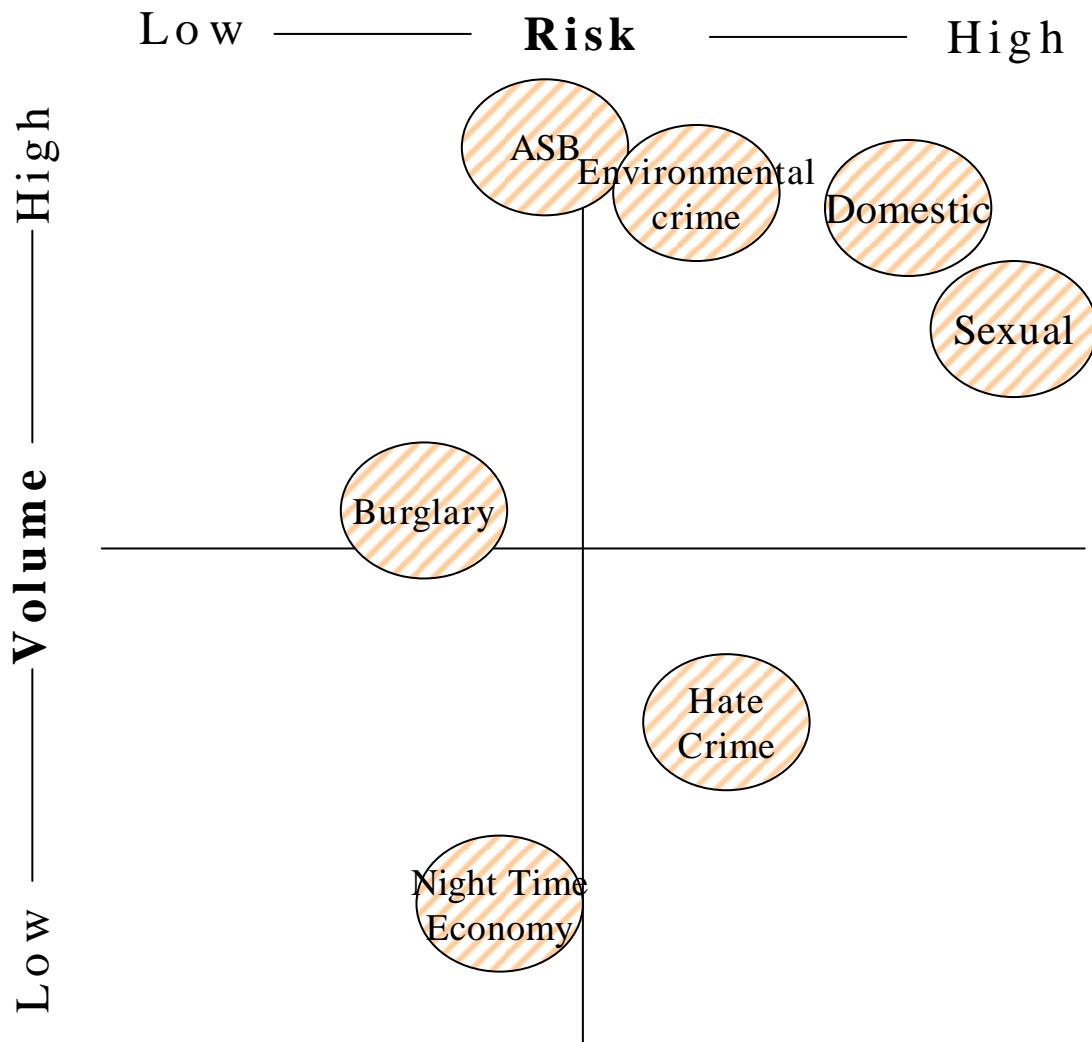
Recorded Crime has been decreasing from a **peak in 1999** to **lowest level across 2013** (down by **40%** between the two periods)



Levels of Sexual offences and Domestic Violence across the same timeframe are relatively static; and making up ever increasing proportions of offences; (**9% of all offences were domestic in 2013**)

Priority Offence Types & Level of Risk

The issues that affect community safety are broad; far broader than those addressed at a **thematic level** within the Strategic Assessment; prioritisation occurs because resources are finite, focusing around these particular areas offers the greatest benefit to the city. As such the issues shown below form the basis of a deeper analysis and consideration within the Strategic Assessment.

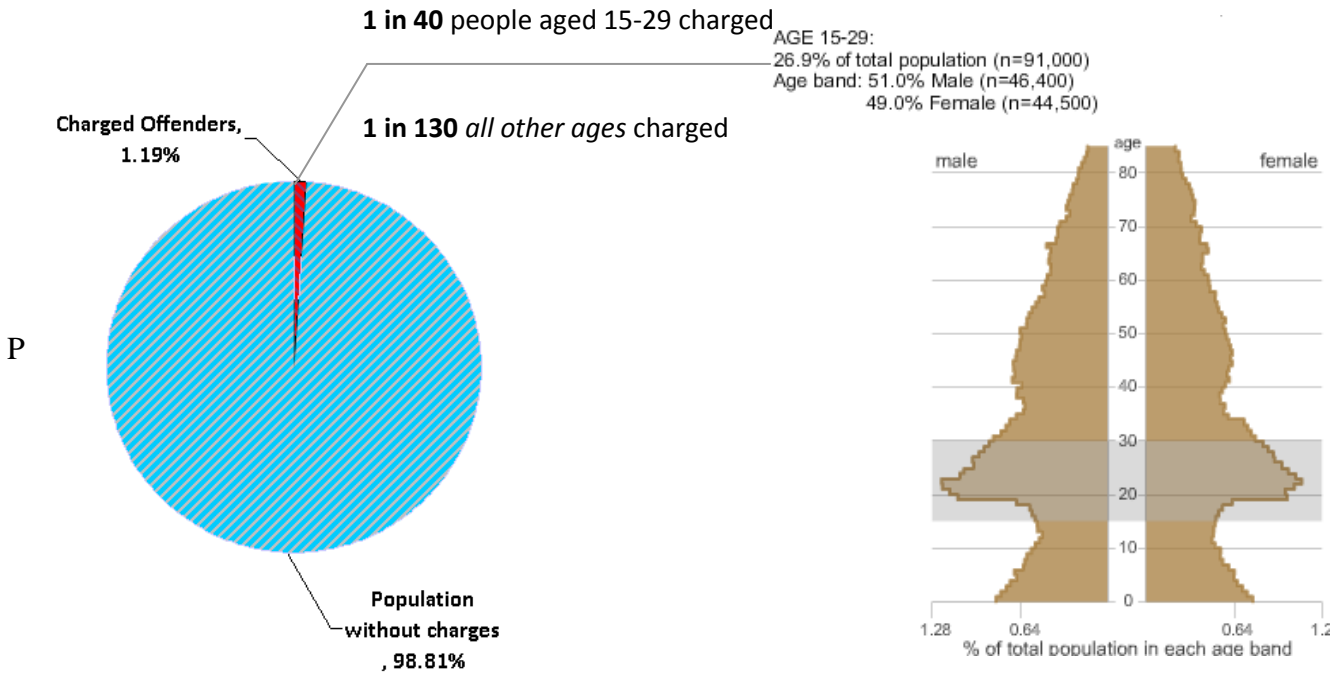


The chart above draws distinction between offences and their impact - issues are shown a context of volume / damage. Events such as ASB / Environmental crime have the greatest volumes but are generally less damaging, the level of domestic offences are also relatively high in volume - and mostly far more damaging, sexual offences despite being less frequent produce greatest harm. Issues such as Hate Crime are considered as they are both damaging and under reported, whilst the Night Time Economy is considered as it reflects a reputational issue which impacts more broadly on the city.

People Offenders

In total **3,855 individuals** were charged with at least one offence in 2013. A quarter of all people charged were charged with more than one offence.

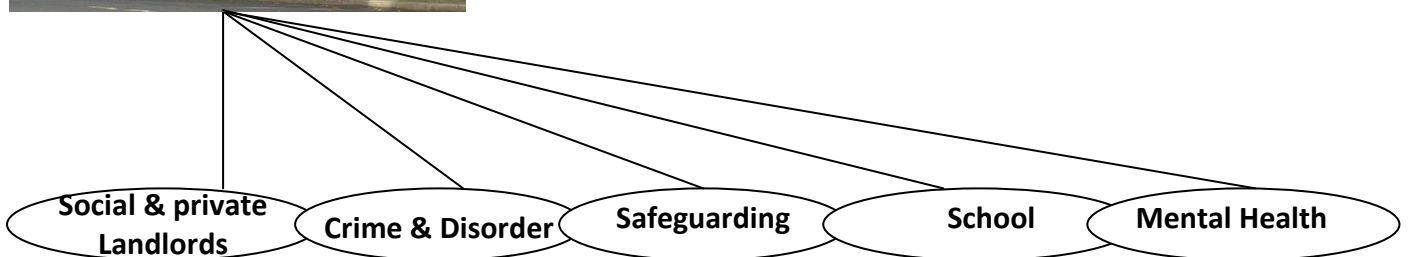
54% of all offenders were aged between 15 and 29 (this age group makes up 27% of the Coventry Population). The majority of offenders were male (Around 80%).



Household issues



Indications are that around 1% of households in the city (circa 1,300) present issues that span several issues or agencies. Analysis of this data is *ongoing* to determine the links between occupants and agencies.



People Victims

Around 15,000 individual victims of crime in 2013 (Further offences involve businesses)

Many issues around property (which victims own) these are sometimes stressful, but generally not damaging in the long term or offences which increase vulnerability issues.

Victims – Hidden Harm

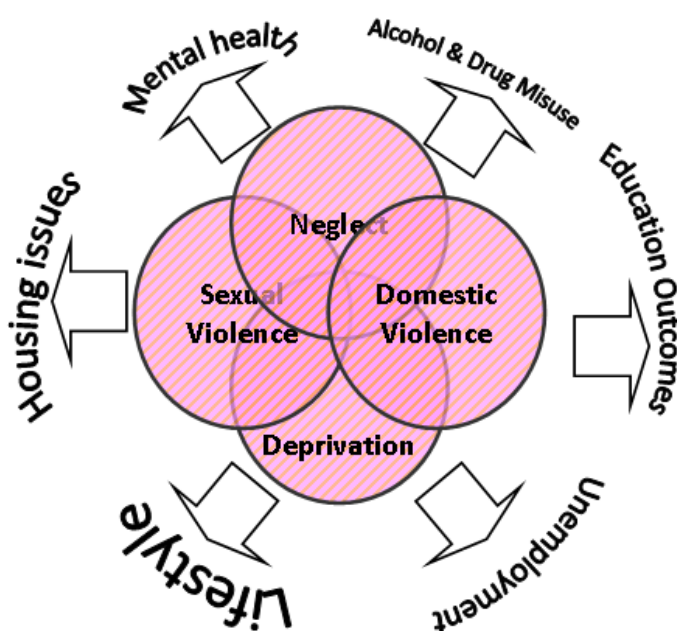
In total there were **1,950** domestic crimes and a further **3,197** domestic non crime incidents; however **estimates** suggest **3,000** victims of Domestic Abuse and around **2,500 – 3,500** victims of sexual offences fail to report issues to authorities each year.

In 2013 there were **755** children on Child Protection Plan's and a further **649** Looked After Children.

The true cost of damage caused during early years presents the biggest cost across a series of agencies as time progresses, the social fallout affects everybody. The effects of poor early life are multiplied and reflected back across a series of agencies.

The graphic below shows how this type of damage impacts widely across a victims lifestyle and future prospects.

Hidden Harms and their impact on prospects & wellbeing



Which results in.....

- Anger and Self Harm
- Low self esteem
- Increased likelihood of victimisation (female) or offending (males)
- Failure to realise potential
- Reliance on services
- Teenage Pregnancy
- Poor Health and higher levels of need - often from an earlier age
- Cyclical patterns (Troubled Families)

There are children involved in **60-70%** of abusive relationships (Domestic); (Sexual) **50%** of police records and **70%** of CRASAC contacts involved victims aged 15 or under.



Every £1 Spent on prevention



Saves up to £4 upstream

Cause or Effect?

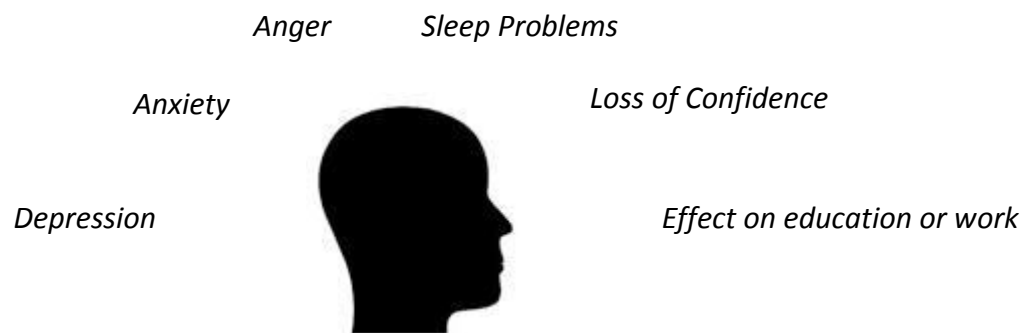
Mental Health

Victims of domestic abuse report increased prevalence of depression (40% of victims) **4x higher** than the 10% noted across the general Coventry population; most victims of sexual violence report **anger, anxiety and depressive** conditions; many go on to receive **counselling & medical treatment** for conditions brought on by abuse.



Domestic victims are **15x** more likely to drink to excess and **9x** more likely to use drugs; this in turn affects social and work functioning and impacts upon children. Children who are then - at best - receiving a lower quality of parenting care than children in households where these issues are not apparent, or, at the other end of the scale this is a common background to **child neglect**.

Victims of **sexual violence** display a range of negative psychological effects resulting in damage that can affect daily functioning - including post traumatic stress disorder.



Multi systemic workers in Coventry indicate that emotional or physical abuse is identified in the background of most young people that they work with.

More broadly research suggests people with mental health conditions are **5x** more likely to become a **victim** of crime.

15% of new drug users in treatment are given a dual diagnosis (Drugs & Mental health)

Drugs & Alcohol

Drug & Alcohol use are higher amongst people affected by hidden harm issues (Domestic / Sexual / neglect)

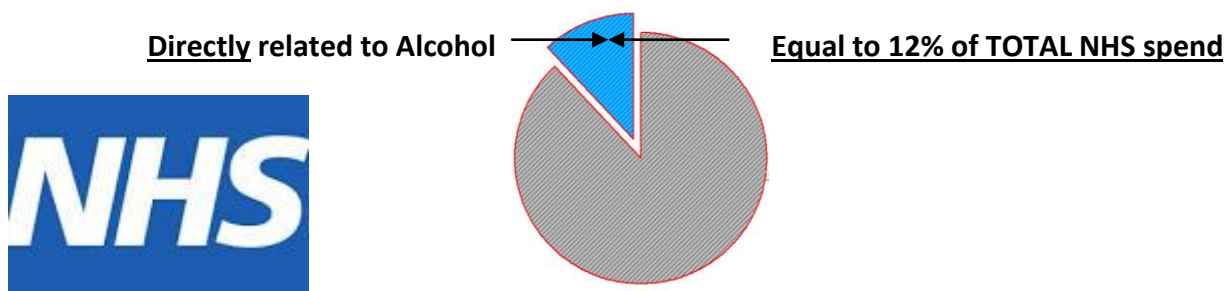
Substances are often used as coping mechanisms to alleviate ongoing problems or as an escape from past issues, can lead to a cycle of dependency and subsequent ill health (mental & physical); likely to increase vulnerability and anger.

There are some positives, drug trends indicating a pattern of improvement (Heroin use in particular is declining); however some of the most challenging individuals in terms of repeat offending have drug or alcohol addiction issues.

There is a trend for increasing proportions of individuals in drug treatment who have used drugs for longer; 60% of those in treatment have been using drugs (often Heroin) for 12 or more years.

Health services spend disproportionate sums on issues connected with drug misuse (mental health, blood borne viruses such as Hep 'B', rehab, etc).

Alcohol



Locally there are higher (than national average) rates of hospital admissions for alcohol related harm.

Estimates place the number of Opiate / Crack users in the city at around **2,050**; there are an estimated **13,738** higher risk drinkers in Coventry; **8 - 9,000** of this cohort are classed as alcohol dependant (higher risk & Dependant drinkers drink in excess of 50 units per week).

Alcohol is a factor in **1 in 5** child protection cases.

Alcohol related admissions to hospital have increased by 16% over the past five years

There is an increasing trend (started by the recession) of **people drinking at home**, this is problematic as costs are less prohibitive and people lose track of measures. From services perspectives household parties have increased dramatically as young people and particularly immigrant communities choose to socialise this way more. Limits on staff numbers serve the entire city and 'moveability' of issues – particularly private rentals makes enforcement difficult.

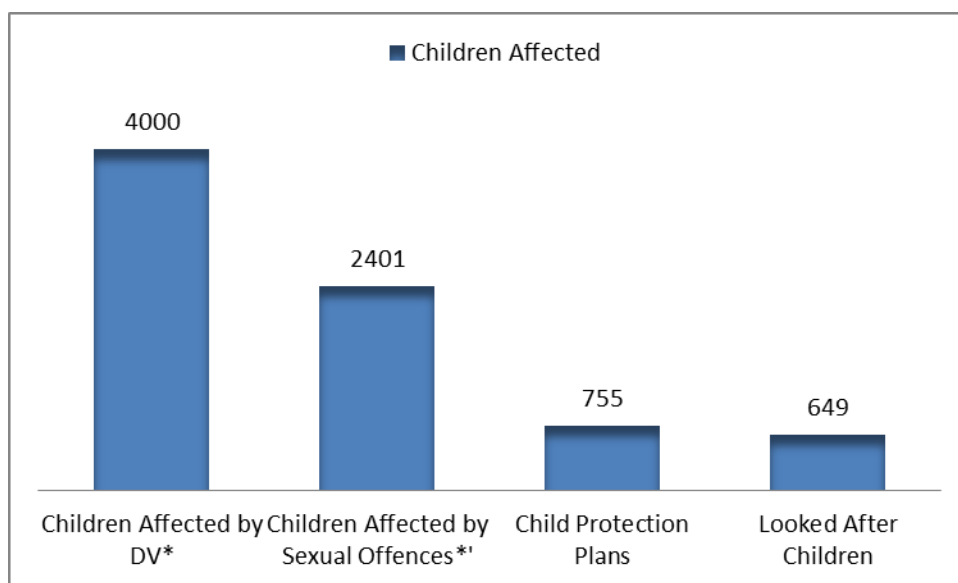
Cannabis use and use of New Psychoactive substances (Legal Highs) means drug misuse is more fragmented and as users mix substances is potentially becoming more dangerous.

Lifestyle

There are significant numbers of people and families where **lifestyle is damaging** and where replication of **intergenerational** problems and **peer pressure** drives people down similar pathways, leading to the same negative outcomes

There are a range of reasons as why this occurs and marking problems as down to deprivation masks wider issues; though it is true that there is more crime in the most deprived priority areas - twice as much as the rest of the city, and twice as many offenders¹.

Early issues involve attitude and upbringing, and there are large numbers of children born into households where neglect, domestic violence and sexual violence are an issue. Then it is not perhaps surprising the range and volume of fallout that agencies deal with; the chart below gives an **indication** of some of the issues;



Parenting plays a part and in addition to apathy other factors such as drugs / alcohol and mental health issues have already been shown to affect children.

Schools are also an important part of the equation in terms of identifying vulnerability and working with others outside their organisation to deal with issues. Increasingly primary schools should play more of a role as health research indicates that attitudes and pathways can be set at an early age.

Youth Offending data shows that over 60% of lower level offenders recognise a lack of education as a placing a significant barrier to their future prospects.

On a more positive note there has been a decrease in the rate of teenage pregnancy locally (**38.6** per 1000 in 12/13 from **49** in 11/12);

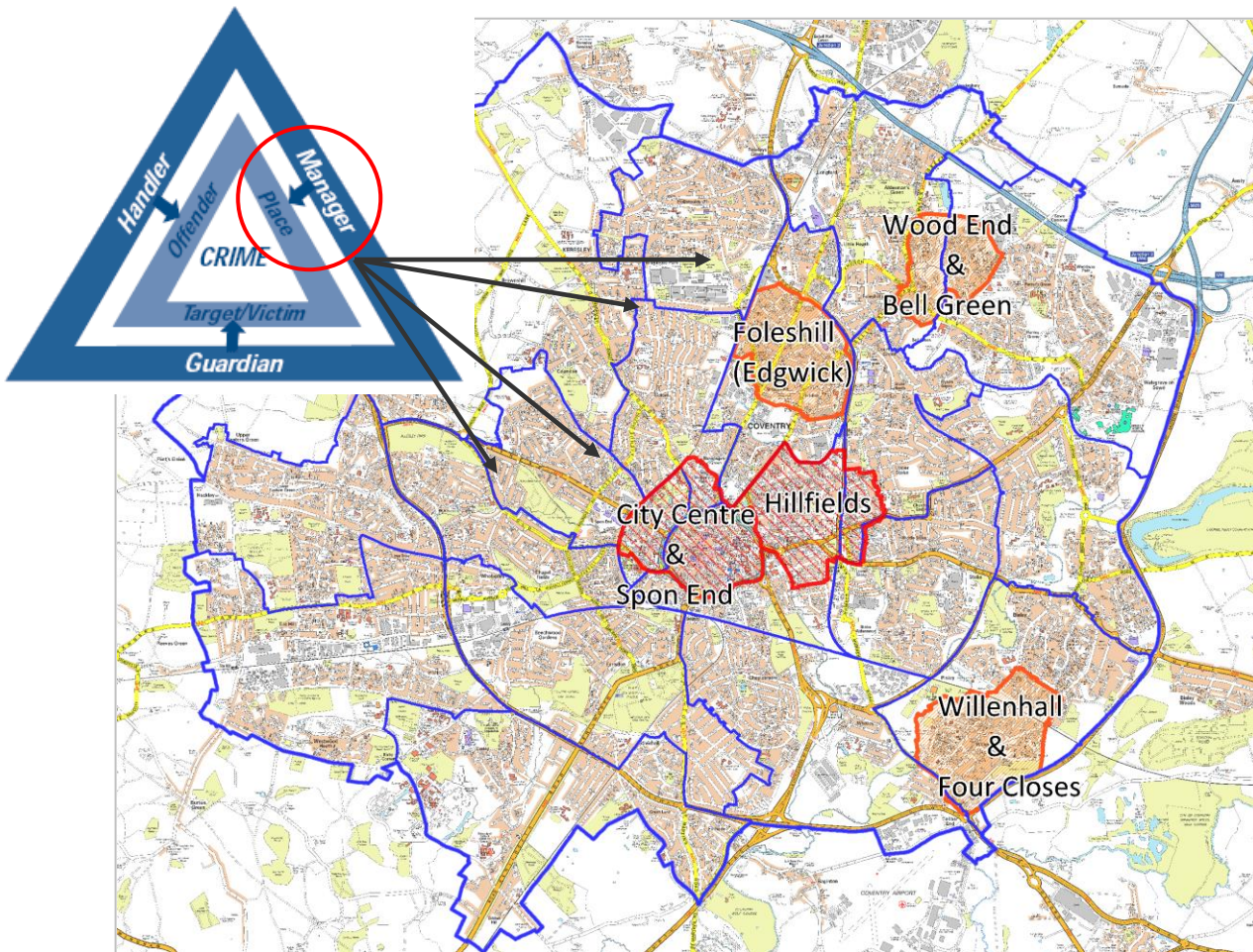
¹ 129.5 crimes per 1000 residents in Priority areas compared to 62.7 in rest of city; 16.7 offenders compared to 8.1

Places

People (Offenders & Victims) are the main constants in offending; however offending takes place at a fixed point and often that location is chosen because features it has facilitate crime and disorder.

Priority areas have been identified by looking across a series of indicators to assess the level and extent throughout the city; the boundaries of these areas were drawn in accordance with the findings.

Coventry Priority Areas



Why Priority Areas?

Area	Crimes (2013)	Population	Rate per 1000 pop
Priority Areas	7456	59,998	124.3
Rest Of City	15046	261302	57.6
Coventry	22502	321,300	70.0

In 2013 Coventry had an overall crime rate of **70** offences per 1000 population; the spread of offending is not uniform. In priority areas this rate rises to **124**; and with these excluded from city calculations falls to **57**.

The number of **troubled families** in priority areas is three times the rate of the rest of the city.

Ongoing work in priority areas suggest that there is an obvious correlation between offending and a series of issues that are more prominent in these areas;

- *Higher rates of resident offenders*
- *Deprivation issues such as unemployment, low income*
- *Younger populations*
- *Lower levels of educational attainment*
- *Lower physical health (Around 1 in 3 adults in Willenhall smoke - compared to 1 in 13 in Wainbody)*
- *Mental Health*
- *Fewer positive peers and role models/ More negative peers*
- *Lower levels of home ownership and higher rates of transience*
- *A range of Lifestyle factors*

The Priority Area group has taken these issues into consideration, but has found that the wider social determinants that are the foundation of many issues are not easy to target. At this stage more emphasis has been placed on environmental features which facilitate problems.

- Lighting
- CCTV coverage
- Specific locations suffering repeat issues
 - Edgwick Park
 - Broad Park Road
- Specific issues within locations
 - Street Drinking in the City Centre
 - Sale of high strength alcohol in nearby off licences
 - Repeat offenders
 - ASBO's / CRASBO's
 - Begging in the City Centre
 - Links to alcohol
 - Genuine beggars V 'Career' beggars