



# CEREDIGION COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



**Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment 2023**

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# INTRODUCTION

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is responsible for completing a **Strategic Assessment (SA)** and from it implementing a **Community Safety Strategy** for the County. Home Office guidance suggests that the Assessment and Strategy should be reviewed regularly and must include:

- **Analysis:** of the level and patterns of crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending.
- **Changes:** in the levels and patterns of crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending since the last Strategic Assessment.

The purpose of this Assessment is to **identify and examine current issues and potential future threats** that may affect the County in order to provide a strong evidence based, intelligence led foundation to inform a Community Safety Strategy and Delivery Plan for Ceredigion.

The SA will also assist in the effective **allocation of resources** and help serve to identify the **prioritisation of activities**, providing a more comprehensive and holistic Partnership focused approach to tackling Crime and the Fear of Crime.

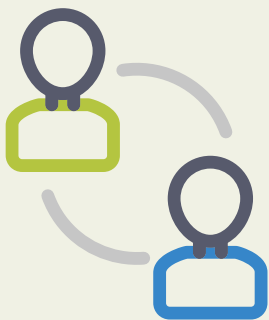
## STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT STUDY PERIOD

The Strategic Assessment considers the period **1st December 2021 up to and including 31st December 2022**, providing a full 12 months of data for analysis. As a consequence of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Brexit, there have been a number of social / economic impacts on crime patterns.

We are still in a period of settlement and recovery regarding activity. This puts even more emphasis on the importance of **regular reviews** of the Community Safety Strategy going forward.

# METHOD: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

To inform and support the next Community Safety Strategy for the period 2023-2024, Ceredigion CSP conducted a comprehensive **public engagement exercise** by way of a bilingual questionnaire.



The questionnaire was widely circulated to a **wide range of stakeholders**, and it was requested that the information was shared widely with staff, colleagues and across their networks. This list included **town and community councils, elected members, 3rd sector groups, disability forum, and mosques and prayer rooms**. An engagement session was also held with the **Youth Council** on the 17th of March 2023.

Alternative formats including **easy read, large print** and **young person** versions of the questionnaire were made available to download online, and **paper copies** along with pre-paid envelopes were available in all Ceredigion libraries and leisure centres.



**Social media posts** went out on Ceredigion County Council's social media channels on 3 occasions, and these were shared further. The engagement was also shared on the Tîm Ceredigion Teams site, as well as via the staff newsletter. A **digital pack of resources** was created and circulated to CSP, SVOC and CONTEST members. The packs included a press release, social media posts and posters for partners to share with the Communications Team and at any upcoming events.

A **call for relevant data** held by partners was also made to provide context to the qualitative data received from the questionnaire.



Following consultation with CSP partners, the categories of crime included in the latest questionnaire were **expanded** to better reflect current trends and societal changes e.g. to include Cyber Crime.

## CATEGORIES ON WHICH FEEDBACK WAS SOUGHT:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Visible Police Presence  
(*Town and Rural*)
- Substance Misuse (*Drugs*)
- Illegal Supply of Drugs
- Substance Misuse (*Alcohol*)
- Road Safety & Reducing  
Road Traffic Fatalities
- Youth Offending: Protecting  
Young People
- Vandalism, Criminal  
Damage & Graffiti
- Violent Crime
- Street Lighting
- Vehicle Crime
- Burglary
- Public Engagement & Media  
Influence
- Fear of Terrorism
- Public Order
- Arson and Deliberate Fires
- Reducing Business Crime
- Rural Crime
- Violence Against Women  
and Girls
- Domestic Abuse (*inc.  
Stalking and Harassment*)
- Sexual Offences
- Hate Crime (*inc. Race,  
Religion, Disability,  
Homophobia, Transphobia*)
- Community Cohesion and  
Engagement, Reducing the  
Fear of Crime
- Reducing Reoffending
- Cyber & Online Crime

# SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

To provide a wider evidence base and support the public questionnaire, data was gathered from **additional sources** which are listed below. This additional data has been considered alongside the questionnaire responses. It provides an opportunity for **comparison between public perceptions and fear of crime and empirical crime data** and service engagement figures.

## These sources included:



Ceredigion County Council **Assessment of Local Well-being 2022**

Dyfed-Powys Police **Community Profile**

Dyfed-Powys Police **Strategic Assessment 2023-2024**

Hywel Dda University Health Board **Drug Misuse Needs Assessment**

ONS Dyfed-Powys Police **Force Area Data Tables**



Hywel Dda University Health Board **Admissions Data**

Hywel Dda University Health Board **Homeless People Health Needs Assessment**

Hywel Dda University Health Board **Drug Related Deaths**

Hywel Dda University Health Board **Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment**

Dyfed-Powys Police **Crime Data**



Following the completion of the public engagement the data was used to produce a **feedback report** which draws out some headline results reproduced below. A full copy of the report is attached.

# SURVEY REPORT: KEY OUTCOMES

There were **89 responses** received with 167 additional written comments.

**46%**

said that crime had **increased a little** over the past 12 months.

**58%**

said that **alcohol abuse** was a major problem.

**87%**

said that **drug abuse** was a major problem.

The **top 3 issues** that were **perceived** by the public as **improving** over the last 12 months were:



**Visible Police Presence**  
**Road Safety & Reduction of Road Traffic Fatalities**  
**Street Lighting**

The **Top Crime Priority** issues in Ceredigion were identified as:

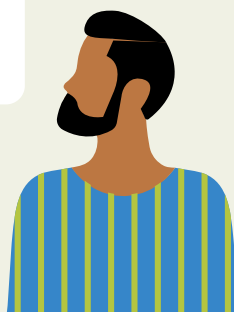
1. Sexual Offences

3. Illegal Supply of Drugs

4. Domestic Abuse inc. Stalking & Harassment

2. Violence Against Women and Girls

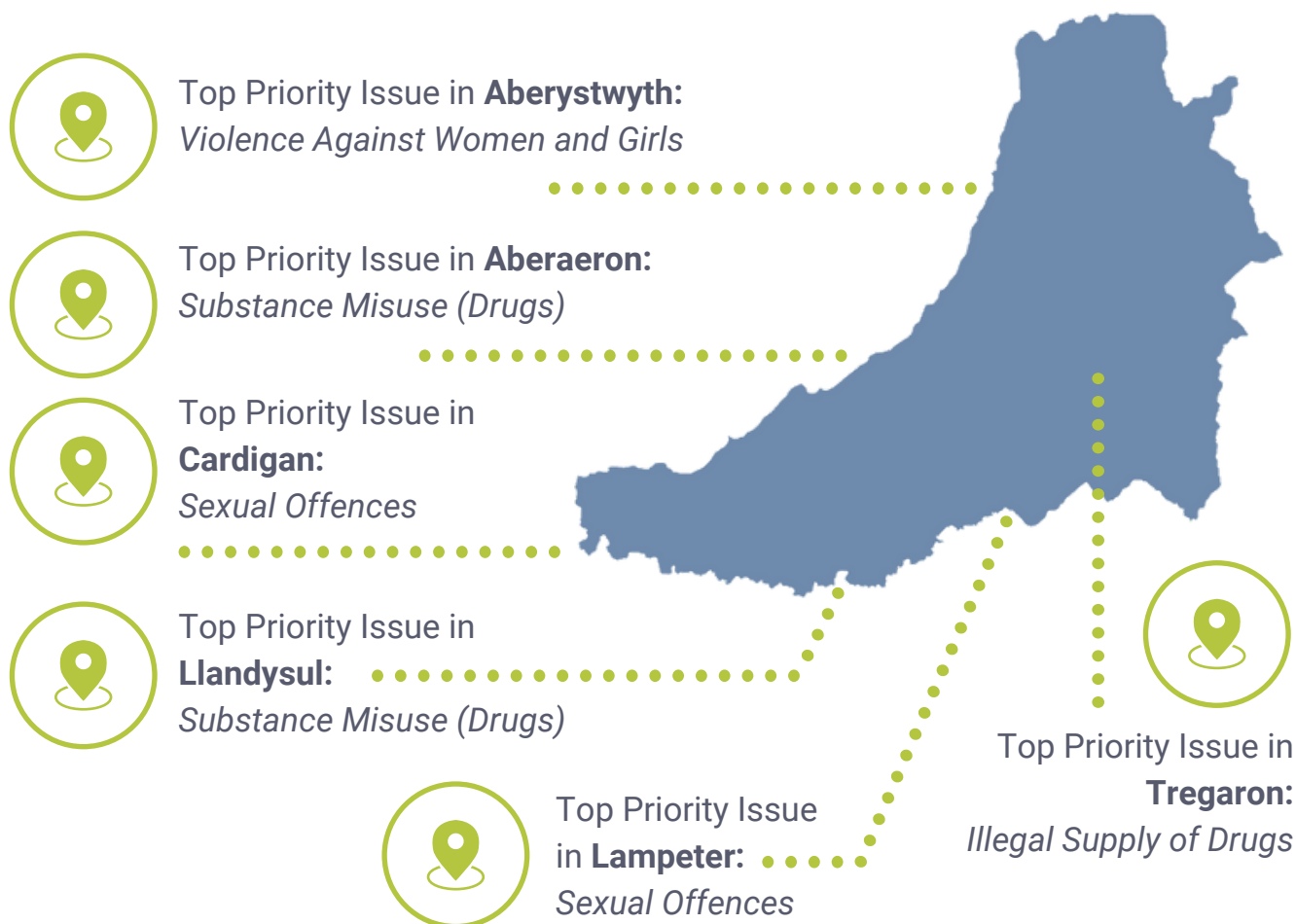
5. Violent Crime



The **Top Issues** that threatened people **Feeling Safe** were identified as:



The feedback report also offers some analysis and profiling of the responses in terms of **locations, gender and age groups**. What is significant is that **substance misuse** and the **illegal supply of drugs** was identified as a **priority in 3 of the six areas** that were represented in the survey response.



The results from the questionnaire were examined against other findings. The data below has been extracted from the Dyfed-Powys Police Thematic Crime Survey recorded over 2 years. The data is mapped with the responses to the **Feeling Safe** and **Priority Issues** categories of the public questionnaire. The Public Engagement Responses column indicates how respondents prioritised the community safety issues listed on page 3 of this Strategic Assessment, as well as the issues raised that affected people feeling safe in their homes in order of prevalence.

There is an indication of trends in actual recorded data so that there can be comparisons to the opinions reported from the survey.

Ceredigion LA Data (DPP)	21-22 Recorded Incidents	Trend	22-23 Recorded Incidents	Public Engagement Responses
Sexual Offences	263	↑ +17%	308	Crime #1 Priority
Violence Against Women & Girls	226	↑ +23%	278	Crime #2 Priority
Drug Crimes ( <i>Trafficking</i> )	62	↓ -3%	60	Crime #3 Priority
Domestic Abuse ( <i>Crimes</i> )	797	↑ +11.5%	888	Crime #4 Priority
Violent Crime ( <i>Against the Person</i> )	1674	↑ +17%	1957	Crime #5 Priority
Drug Crimes ( <i>Possession</i> )	207	↑ +43%	296	Crime #6 Priority
Anti-social Behaviour	1014	↓ -25%	757	Crime #9 Priority
Burglary	194	↓ -9%	175	Feeling Safe #1 Priority
Cyber ( <i>Online Fraud</i> )	685	↓ -6.4%	641	Feeling Safe #2 Priority
Criminal Damage	597	↑ +6.3%	635	Feeling Safe #3 Priority
*Cold Calling	-	-	-	Feeling Safe #4 Priority
Alcohol Related Crime	1130	↑ +15.5%	1305	Feeling Safe #5 Priority

\* **Cold Calling:** There were no data sets available for cross comparison of the Feeling Safe #4 Priority.



Although not exactly matching the assessment period, the crime data provided by Dyfed-Powys Police was as near as we were able to collate, and in the absence of a more recent CSP Strategic Assessment, was sufficient to **demonstrate some trends** in reported crime categories.

It also enabled measurement of **how accurately public opinion aligned with actual changes** in the number of reported incidents, as below.



The 4 categories from the crime data extract that had **actually improved** in terms of reported incidents were:

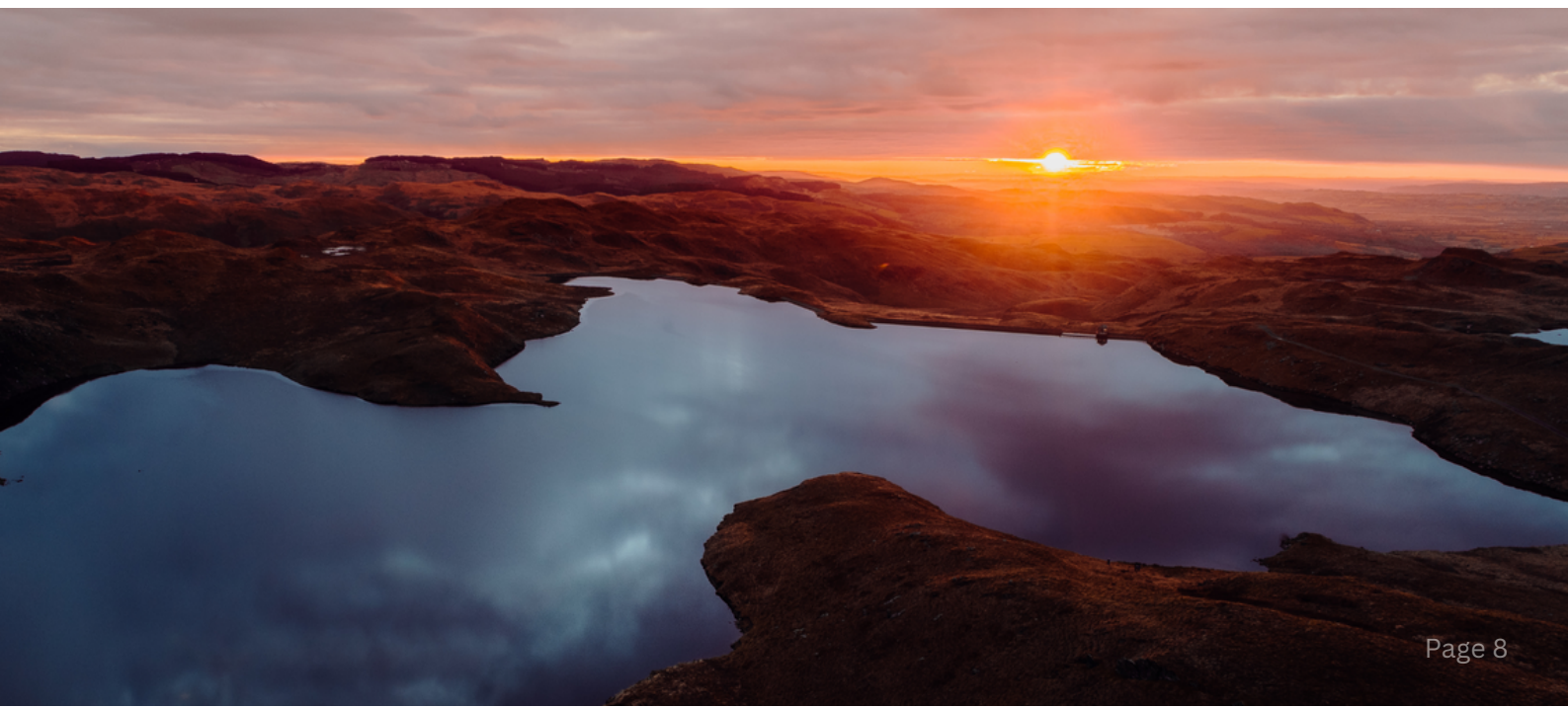
- Burglary
- Drug Crime (*Trafficking*)\*\*
- Cyber Online Crime\*
- Anti-social Behaviour

*\*\*Only Drug Trafficking and Cyber Crime were in the top 10 **perceived** by the public to have improved.*

The 4 categories **thought** to have improved were:

- Visible Police Presence
- Road Safety
- Street Lighting
- Hate Crime

*The only category listed above that had DPP data available was Hate Crime, which had shown a **slight improvement**.*



# AGREED PRIORITIES:

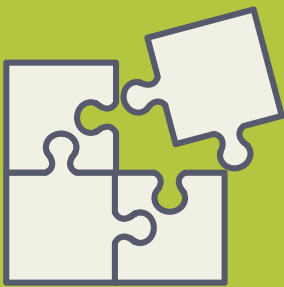
At a meeting of the **Ceredigion CSP held on the 19th of June 2023**, a set of priorities were agreed based on the evidence outlined above. It was agreed that the priorities should be sub-divided into two categories: **Crime Priorities**, and **Feeling Safe Priorities**. This was agreed as the approach for delivering upon tasks set out under these priorities may vary according to whether the CSP are addressing fear of crime and community concerns, or actual threats which may not necessarily be perceived by the community. In order to facilitate delivery, the CSP also agreed to **amalgamate the Illegal Supply of Drugs and Substance Misuse** (Crime Priority #3), and **Online Crime, Fraud and Cold Calling** (Feeling Safe Priority #2).



With priorities agreed, a **revised Community Safety Strategy** will be produced to inform activity and the CSP's Delivery Plan for the upcoming year. Objectives should address the issues from the findings of this Assessment, and add value to other local priorities e.g. Local Well-being Plan and community needs.

Activities to enhance the communities Feeling of Safety are an important part of the CSP's work. Through partnership working, these would include **public reassurance, information campaigns and events** which should be targeted by reference to the location information in the survey results. **Feeling safe was one of the key findings** of the recent Ceredigion Assessment of Local Well-being.

The Dyfed-Powys Police data combined with the community views obtained via the survey provide a **strong evidence base** for the activities that the Partnership should be bringing its **multi-agency approach** to bear on. The new CSP Delivery Plan will focus on these priorities and will require continued multi-agency involvement to improve safeguarding, reduce vulnerability, reduce crime and address the community safety needs of the people of Ceredigion.



These priorities align closely with the latest **Dyfed-Powys Police Control Strategy 2023-2024** which targets the supply and use of illicit drugs, rape & sexual offences, and the prevention and tackling of domestic abuse. Furthermore, these issues are reflected in national and regional priorities as outlined in the **Dyfed-Powys Police Strategic Assessment 2023-24**.

There are also other initiatives that are emerging e.g. the **Serious Violence Duty** in which the CSP will be playing a key part directing interventions both in Ceredigion and as partners in the region. These activities will form an integrated part of the Partnership's forward work plan and contribute to our work in these priority areas.

## **CURRENT DELIVERY STRUCTURE**

The current delivery structure that is employed by the CSP consists of four thematic reporting elements which individually report back to the CSP meetings.

## THEME

1

### Working in Partnership to Tackle Crime and Support Community Safety

Led by Dyfed Powys Police NPT Inspector this group convenes through a **multi-agency Tactical Meeting** which meets quarterly and oversees **Anti-Social Behaviour, Community and Neighbourhood Policing and Problem Solving Groups** and lower level crime initiatives. In recent years the group has delivered success in projects focused on tackling knife crime, night time economy, drinks spiking, women's safety, road safety campaigns and many other community safety issues.

## THEME

2

### Preventing Terrorism and Violent Extremism (CONTEST)

Led by Ceredigion County Council and delivered through the local **multi-agency CONTEST Board** which is chaired by the Corporate Manager for Partnerships and Performance. This group reports back on its delivery of UK Governments Counter Terrorism strategy under the 4 **P's of Prevent, Protect Prepare and Pursue**. It has links to and also reports into a regional CONTEST Board as part of the **CONTEST CYMRU structure**. Current priorities are the recent review of the Prevent Strategy, Counter Terrorism training for staff and partners and preparation for the incoming Protect Duty (Martyn's Law).

## THEME

3

### Serious Violence & Organised Crime (SVOC)

Led by Dyfed Powys Police's Partnerships Chief Inspector. The **multi-agency SVOC Board** meets quarterly and reports on Serious Violence and Organised crime issues as they affect the county. They have access to a dedicated PCSO intervention team under the **INTACT initiative**, which has specialist officers regionally based who work with partners to target the causes of younger people being drawn into serious or organised crime. The group also report to partners on organised crime investigations and activities in the area, and seek to coordinate a multi-agency approach to prevention and dealing with the fallout and impact of these activities.

This group is led by the National Probation Service. They report on **local, regional and national offender management initiatives**.

### Community Cohesion

As well as the four thematic areas, CSP also receives reports from the Community Cohesion Team which serves the region. The team report back on their very active **small grants work and activities**. As well as this, they maintain a **Tension Monitoring** group in each of the Dyfed Powys Local Authority areas. These are informal weekly gatherings of professionals and serve as an effective means of **monitoring local community tensions**, often picking up on issues before they escalate. The Tension Monitoring meetings and regular Cohesion updates have been very effective in the past. Consideration is being given to formalising the reporting mechanisms.

## DELIVERY STRUCTURE REVIEW

Having agreed on priorities, the Ceredigion CSP will meet on the 18th of September 2023 to **review the current Delivery Structure** and ensure it provides an efficient platform to manage the Forward Work Plan. **Tasks will also be identified** under each Priority, as well as identification of which groups will lead on each element of work.

The Assessment and Strategy will be **reviewed regularly**.



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