

Community Safety

Annual Report
2024/2025



**Bolton
Council**

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Community Safety Partnership

Who we are

Bolton's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was established following the introduction of Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It brings together local partners to formulate and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in our communities and make the borough a safer place to live, study, work and visit.

We work on the bases that no single agency can address all drivers of crime and antisocial behaviour, and that effective partnership working is vital to ensuring safer communities.

The responsible authorities that make up Bolton's CSP are:

- Bolton Council
- Greater Manchester Police
- Greater Manchester Fire Rescue Service
- Greater Manchester Probation Service
- Youth Justice
- Housing Providers
- Health Partners
- Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector

What we do

The Be Safe Strategic Partnership Board has overall governance of the CSP. Its purpose is to review the overall performance, agree the partnership plan, set the priorities and review the progress and outcomes to ensure statutory functions are delivered. The CSP undertakes a strategic assessment that considers the reports and impact of crime and antisocial behaviour across the borough. This assessment is used to identify the crime and disorder priorities and informs the development of a delivery plan to address these concerns.

Work is undertaken, in partnership, across Greater Manchester to ensure plans and opportunities to collaborate are strong including a working relationship with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and supporting the delivery of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Plan.

To progress work areas, several subgroups have been established (Appendix). The role of the subgroups are to coordinate the delivery of the partnership plan, progress thematic work areas, identify emerging threats and risks and develop solutions, avoid duplication, remove blockages and support the Local Area Partnerships with problem solving in geographical areas. These subgroups include:

- Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
- Reducing Reoffending Board
- Town Centre Partnership
- Serious and Organised Crime Group
- Serious Youth Violence Working Group
- Prevent Delivery Board
- Hate Crime
- Water Safety Partnership
- Antisocial Behaviour

The Local Area Partnerships are area specific and their role is to coordinate problem solving activity at a tactical level on local crime and disorder issues.

Our Priorities

Community Safety Delivery Plan

The three main priorities included within the Community Safety Delivery Plan (2023 – 2026), that are aligned with the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Plan, are:

1. Keep People Safe

- Ensure there are effective problem-solving approaches to address neighbourhood crime and ASB.
- Develop partnership responses to address crime and antisocial behaviour in Town Centres, covering the daytime and night-time economy (including responses to aggressive and persistent begging and the continuation of a Public Spaces Protection Order)
- Review how the partnership identifies and responds to high risk victims of antisocial behaviour, including the ASBRAC process and the ASB Vulnerable Victims Advocacy project.
- Ensure compliance with the statutory ASB Case Review arrangements and that learning informs local responses.
- Develop a strong partnership disruption model for serious organised crime, including modern slavery aligned with the GM Programme Challenger strategies and plans.
- Implement and deliver a Whole System Domestic Abuse Strategy, aligned with the Domestic Abuse Act, (via the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board) and ensure that learning from statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews is incorporated in workforce development, policy and practice. Ensure strong local representation at the GM structures (GM Gendered Based Violence, GM DA Steering Group, GM DA Coordinators).
- Continue to deliver a robust multi-agency CHANNEL arrangement for those adults and young people identified as vulnerable to radicalisation, ensuring strong alignment with GM via the GM Contest Board / GM Prevent Network.
- Develop a serious violence needs assessment in conjunction with all statutory agencies under the serious violence duty. Develop and implement a whole system strategy for tackling serious violence, working closely with local partners and the GM VRU.

- Identify opportunities for early intervention for young people to prevent their involvement in ASB and crime. Pilot the Youth Prevention, Intervention, Education, Diversion (PIED) project and identify those young people most at risk and intervene early to support them.
- Develop a localised approach to the GM Gendered Based Violence Strategy (Violence Against Women & Girls).
- Develop a coordinated partnership approach to improve road and water safety.

2. Reduce Harm and Offending

- Increase support to offenders with access to housing, training and employment, financial aid, debt recovery and drugs and alcohol service.
- Raise awareness of Community Payback and how communities can identify projects / schemes.
- Support those who misuse drugs and/or alcohol to successfully complete community/facility-based treatment
- Enforce against persistent/prolific offenders who misuse drugs/alcohol
- Reduce drug and alcohol-related harm. This includes a multifaceted approach that prioritises 'early intervention and prevention', 'evidence-based treatment and recovery support', and 'reducing drug and alcohol related crime and antisocial behaviour through enforcement and regulation'.
- Implement the refreshed Integrated Offender Management framework that emphasises a more consistent and evidence-based approach to managing offending behaviour.
- Protect the public from prolific offenders through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements.
- Review opportunities to improve referral rates to drug and alcohol services
- Continue to provide support for young people who are involved in offending, and reduce First Time Entrants to the criminal justice system

3. Strengthen Communities and Places

- Empowering our communities to feel safe via effectively communicating our work to continue to improve public confidence and community cohesion. Work in this area will focus on community resilience and awareness raising.
- Assess opportunities to create an 'active citizen' offer. The concept of "Active citizenship" calls on people within our communities to become actively involved in identifying and tackling problems within their own communities and contributing to a better quality of life e.g. Neighbourhood Watch, Community Speed Watch, Special Constables, etc.
- Support the VCSE sector in developing and building communities, supported by the Bolton Fund and the community safety investment into this fund
- Strengthen and support an Independent Advisory Group (IAG) that supports partnership related activity.

- Implement targeted interventions for hate crime, including raising awareness of reporting, tackling causes of hate crime and prevention
- Develop a Prevent strategy that meets the statutory duties and provides a coordinated response, including a strong tension monitoring model. This is aligned with the GM Contest Board.

Data

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) uses data to inform actions and set priorities that will improve outcomes for all the residents of Bolton, monitored via the performance framework and the police and crime residents survey.

The performance framework is essential to help deliver the key themes identified on the CSP delivery plan. It helps prioritise and set clear objectives, track and communicate whether or not they are being achieved, take effective, well-informed and timely decisions to ensure continuous improvement and that objectives are being met in line with expectations.

The table below shows the number of crimes recorded by Greater Manchester Police.

In 2024/25, a total of 33,671 of crimes were committed. This is a 6.1 per cent decrease from the previous year. 20,267 of these were classed as violent crimes and these also decreased by 3.1 per cent compared to the previous year. During the same time period, domestic abuse decreased by 12 per cent, stalking and harassment decreased by 11.8 per cent and antisocial behaviour by 7.6 per cent. However, hate crimes increased by 10.5 per cent.

CSP Head line Performance Framework 24/25											
Performance Indicators	22/23	23/24	24/25	% C 23/25	DoT	24/25 Qtr. 1	24/25 Qtr. 2	24/25 Qtr. 3	24/25 Qtr. 4	Change Q3/4	DOT
Keeping People Safe											
1.Total Crime	39,108	35,872	33,671	-6.1%	↓	8,803	8,863	8,253	8,015	-2.8%	↓
2. Violent Crime	22,970	20,805	20,267	-3.1%	↓	5,325	5,195	4,849	4,896	0.9%	→
Hospital Admissions - Sharp object (per100,000)	20.0	21.0		0	→	2.0	8	10			
Hospital Admissions - Violence (per100,000)	92.0	107.0		15.0	↑	28.0	36	24			
The serious violence strategy is in place with various workstreams aimed at reducing violence within the borough											
3. Domestic Abuse	7,316	6,447	6,017	-12%	↓	1,557	1,505	1,531	1,446	-5.5%	↓
Safe Accommodation, Sanctuary Scheme and Targeted hardening											
4. Hate Crime	1,104	826	912	10.5%	↑	243	232	211	226	6.4%	↓
Initiative being developed based on MHCLG Recovery Fund.											
5. Stalking and Harassment	6,193	5,493	4,846	-11.8%	↓	1,285	1,214	1,158	1,200	3.6%	↑
6. Total reported incidents	NA	98,504	95,014	-2.60%	↓	24,592	24,572	22,146	22,283	0.6%	→
7. Anti Social Behaviour	NA	21,930	20,267	-7.60%	↓	4,951	5,109	4,985	4,983	-0.04%	→

The table below shows the number of adult and juvenile offenders.

In 2023/24 there were a total of 22,910 offenders, 19,256 of these were adult offenders and 3,654 were juvenile offenders. Although the number of juvenile offenders has stayed about the same compared to the previous year, the number of adult offenders has increased.

	22/23	23/24	% C	DoT	24/25 Qtr. 1	24/25 Qtr. 2	24/25 Qtr. 3	Change Q1/2	DOT
Reducing Harm and Re Offending									
8. All Offenders	22,031	22,910	3.9%	↑	1,909	1945	1920	1.8%	→
9. Juvenile offenders	3,615	3,654	1.1%	→	305	309	316	1.3%	→
10. Adult Offenders	18,416	19,256	4.50%	↑	1,604	1636	1604	2%	→

GMCA commission a survey of residents in order to understand how safe they feel, their experiences of crime and their satisfaction with services. The Police and Crime Residents Survey helps shape how CSPs and GMP work together to tackle crime and

anti-social behaviour and is an important feature of their decision making and allocation of resources to tackle the problems that matter most to local people.

The table below shows that in 2023/24, 85 per cent of people felt safe. This has stayed consistent with the previous year's data. Over the same time period, 57 per cent of people were confident they would get help from Greater Manchester Police in an emergency, 40.5 percent in a non-emergency and 51.8 per cent of people were happy with the service they received from the police. However, some decreases were evident in people's sense of feeling proud of their local area, having a strong sense of belonging to their local area, and people from different backgrounds getting along.

Safe = Very Safe and Fairly Safe					24/25	24/25	24/25		
Strengthening Communities	22/23	23/24	% C	DoT	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Change Q1/2	DOT
					Wave 20	Wave 21	Wave 22		
11. How safe do you feel	85.2%	85%	-0.2%	→	85%	87%	90%	3%	↑
12. How confident are you that you would get help from GMP in an emergency	57.3%	57%	-0.3%	→	63%	61%	62%	1%	↑
13. How confident are you that you would get help from GMP in a non emergency	39%	40.5%	1.5%	→	45%	41%	47%	4%	↑
14. How satisfied are you with the service you received from GMP	51.2%	51.8%	0.6%	→	56%	56%	56%	0%	→
Cohesion (Agree = Strongly agree/Tend to Agree)									
15. I am proud of my local area	69.5%	67.5%	-2%	↓	68%	71%	70%	-1%	↓
16. My area is a place where people from different background get on well together	72.8%	70.5%	-2.3%	↓	74%	73%	71%	-2%	↓
17. I feel a strong sense of belonging to my local area	70%	65.5%	-5.5%	↓	67%	74%	68%	-6%	↓
18. I have a say about what happens in my local area	34%	0.3	0.0	→	39%	38%	36%	-1.0%	→

Progress Against Our Priorities

Over the last 12 months Bolton's Community Safety Partnership has made the following progress with regards to the plan:

Serious Violence

Violence Prevention Strategy (2024/27)

The CSP has developed a Serious Violence Strategy which is a plan to prevent and reduce serious violence. The partnership has worked together to establish the local Bolton Serious Violent Crime Needs Assessment 2023 which is an evidence-based analysis of information relating to the violent crime types, the drivers of crime within the partnership area and the cohorts most vulnerable. The results of the strategic needs assessment have been used to develop a strategy that defines the issues and formulates and prioritises bespoke actions to prevent and reduce serious violence. Work in this space over the past 12 months has focused on delivering against the priorities within the Bolton-Violence-Prevention-Strategy-2024-27 which was launched in March 2024.

Key work areas include:

- Gender-Based Violence
- Serious Youth Violence and
- Places and Spaces (a geographical focus on hot spot locations).

Domestic Abuse and Gender Based Violence

The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board have made a firm commitment to strengthen and increase efforts to reduce the levels of domestic abuse and ensure that the right help is available at the right time. The Board wants to enhance their efforts to raise awareness around domestic abuse and at the same time equip front-line professionals and providers of services with the necessary skills and training to offer the most effective level of support for victims, their children and their families.

Key activities and developments over recent months include:

- **16 Days of Activism** - The annual 16 Days of Activism 2024 campaign focused on raising awareness and mobilising the community against domestic abuse. Valuable data was collected from communications efforts throughout the campaign, which will inform strategies moving forward. The insights gained will assist in enhancing the approach for next year's activities, building upon the foundations laid this year.
- **MATAC Implementation** - The Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) group has been operational since December 2024. This initiative, led by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and Bolton Council, in collaboration with the intervention partner 'Bolton at Home', aims to enhance multi-agency work to tackle domestic abuse cases more effectively. The MATAC framework allows for the sharing of information and resources, developing action plans, ensuring a holistic response to domestic abuse incidents across Bolton and holding 'high-risk' individuals to account.
- **Strategic Action Plan Development** - A successful development session was held in December 2024 to inform the creation of a new strategic action plan for domestic abuse in Bolton. This session brought together key stakeholders and experts to discuss current challenges and opportunities for improvement. The 'Safelives' Echo project was in attendance to help stimulate discussions and co-create the DA strategic plan. The insights gained during this session will be instrumental in shaping strategic priorities, ensuring a comprehensive approach to support and prevention.
- **Echo Update: Lived Experience Project** - The Echo project, which focuses on integrating lived experiences into domestic abuse systems, continues to make significant strides. This initiative aims to gather firsthand accounts from those affected by domestic abuse to inform best practices and policy development. By centring on the voices of survivors, there is a commitment to enhance the effectiveness of the domestic abuse response systems.

Scheduled work throughout the year will see Echo participate in everything from comms to strategic planning.

- **Departmental Engagement and Awareness Raising** - In January 2025, departmental engagement sessions were undertaken to raise awareness of domestic abuse in the workplace and beyond. These sessions provided staff with critical information about recognising signs of domestic abuse, taking up training, understanding the support available, and responding appropriately. The goal is to foster a more domestic abuse informed community that can effectively support those affected by domestic abuse, as 'Domestic abuse is everyone's business'.
- **DAHA Accreditation** - Bolton Council is embarking towards achieving the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation. This accreditation process focuses on enhancing the Domestic Abuse response of Bolton Council and housing providers. The team is currently organising initial steps to ensure that Bolton meets DAHA standards and is taking up specialist training, which will strengthen housing support for individuals experiencing domestic abuse.
- **Stalking and Harassment** - Agencies from across the partnership and VCSE Sector came together for the first Stalking and Harassment Summit. Local providers discussed their current approach, challenges and opportunities in addressing Stalking and Harassment in Bolton, with a focus on what needs to happen to improve the leadership and practice in this area. The session generated lots of positive discussion around how agencies can work together more effectively and key themes emerged around timely, appropriate support for victims and offenders, training for practitioners, prevention, early intervention and targeted communications.

A steering group of key partners from across the CSP and VCSE sector will take forward an overarching work plan around stalking and harassment which aligns closely to the work of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and wider Greater Manchester Gender Based Violence Strategy

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is a multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as themselves. Since the 13th of April 2011 there has been a statutory requirement for local areas to conduct a DHR following a domestic homicide that meets the criteria.

Over the last year, the team has managed a number of new referrals for DHRs while continuing work on three ongoing reviews. These reviews are highly intensive, requiring close collaboration with numerous agencies across various services. They are subject to statutory timescales and scrutiny by both the Home Office and, where applicable, the coroner. Despite these pressures, meaningful outcomes and learning have been delivered to improve future responses to domestic abuse.

- DHR/SAR Margaret
This combined Domestic Homicide Review / Safeguarding Adults review benefited from cross-partnership working between Bolton CSP and the Safeguarding Adults board and resulted in six multi-agency recommendations and eight recommendations for individual agencies.

All but one recommendation has been fully implemented, demonstrating strong multi-agency commitment and accountability.

- DHR Andrew
This review concluded with three multi-agency recommendations, all of which have been completed successfully.

- DHR Rebecca
This was an exceptionally large and complex case involving a couple with complex needs who had contact with 22 agencies across three different local areas. The review led to four multi-agency recommendations and 28 recommendations for individual agencies.

Managing such a multi-layered process required significant coordination and perseverance to ensure that valuable lessons were identified and acted upon across a wide range of services.

Serious Youth Violence

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Bolton's Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) are working jointly to focus on the effectiveness of strategic and front-line practice in relation to Serious Youth Violence (SYV). This work is intended to help both partnerships understand where children's needs are being met and therefore further develop the response moving forward. A steering group made up of representatives from across the responsible authorities is leading on driving work under this agenda, with a work plan which includes a focus on early intervention and how we can identify vulnerable children and families earlier, to provide support and reduce the likelihood of them becoming involved in violence.

Lots of good work is already ongoing across the partnership to tackle serious youth violence, providing support and building resilience amongst communities and individuals impacted by violence. The Youth Diversion Support Worker is one such example. Based within the Youth Justice and Complex Safeguarding Team, the role provides targeted bespoke support to young people identified as at risk, or involved in, youth violence:

Case Study

'When 'R' was first referred to me, he was on bail for serious offences and using cannabis daily, which affected his mental health, motivation, and focus. He had previously enjoyed boxing and the gym but stopped due to cost. Although initially reluctant, he began attending our boxing sessions, gradually building confidence and fitness. Within six weeks, he was fully engaged, attending multiple sessions and our weekly gym project. The positive impact on his mental health was significant, and he eventually quit cannabis.

'R' also joined a Friday programme focused on nutrition, cooking, and mentoring around exploitation and decision-making, where he excelled and earned a 6-month gym membership. Staying active helped him avoid reoffending. We supported him in finding work, and he has now been employed full-time as a trainee forklift driver for three months. Inspired by his progress, he's applied to join the army with aspirations of becoming a personal trainer. His parents are thrilled with his transformation.'

New Bury Community Alliance

The New Bury Community Alliance is a partnership of VCSE Sectors working in the New Bury area. Bolton Wanderers in the Community, as lead partner, works alongside New Bury Boxing, 1Message, Great Lever and Farnworth Voice to deliver both universal and targeted services for children and their families. Commissioned through the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, the alliance is aligned to the priorities of the Greater Manchester 'Greater than Violence Strategy', and Boltons Violence Prevention Strategy.

The project continues to lead some fantastic work for the whole community but also more targeted work for young people who find themselves needing some additional support:

- Universal diversionary sports activities
- School mentoring offer (Targeted)
- Community mentoring with young people who are at risk of youth violence, crime and/or being involved in the Criminal Justice System.
- Qualifications for young people (8-17 years) incl. Basic football coaching qualification, CSCS Qualifications (Construction Skills Certificate)
- Training to upskill and develop current or up-and-coming coaches/volunteers (17+ years) incl. Boxing level 1, level 2, first aid and safeguarding.
- Community events to engage with communities, young people, families and stakeholders etc. including. community boxing show to showcase successes and seasonal fund days.

A highlight of the 2024 work includes the development of the New Bury and Farnworth Youth Voice, which gives young people in that locality a voice. They help set the priorities for the alliance and have benefited from inputs and workshops around a series of issues such as first aid, hate crime, or online bullying – all issues that they themselves highlighted as important. Aside from supporting local community events and campaigns a big focus for the youth voice group currently is development of a social action project on online safety, aiming to deliver key messages and raise awareness amongst other young people.

Perception Theatre – Knife Crime

Perception Theatre is an award winning, not-for-profit organisation that uses theatre and film to tackle complex social issues. The production CUT is a theatre in education production centred around knife crime and youth violence exploring how a needless dispute at school causes a teenager to be stabbed and lose his life. It also raises awareness around the long-term impact of knife crime, explore how drugs and alcohol can affect someone's ability to make decisions and increase awareness around actions and consequences.

In November 2023, Bolton hosted The National Monument Against Violence and Aggression (Knife Angel), to raise awareness of the negative effects of violent behaviour and as a reminder of the lives that have been lost. The Be Safe Community Safety Partnership, wanted to build on the positive work that was carried out during that month and as part of the legacy work they arranged for Perception Theatre to deliver a total of 20 showings of CUT in education establishments across Bolton to over 4,000 young people in years 7 and above.

Feedback

Wow - The CUT performance was amazing and all the staff and students have said how this is the best they have ever seen. The most challenging of our school, were engaged and focused. Harper Green School

They were in performing to our year 9s and 10s yesterday and it was brilliant, staff and students had tears in their eyes. Rivington and Blackrod Highschool

Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)

Bolton Council is committed to help ensure residents, visitors and those working in Bolton, do not suffer any form of harassment and distress caused by the minority of people who behave in an antisocial manner. Community Safety Services (CSS) works in partnership with other agencies to tackle and prevent ASB, dealing with reports from homeowners and private tenants. These reports may include a nuisance neighbour, youths causing a nuisance or hate crime. Residents who are tenants of a registered housing provider can report antisocial behaviour directly to their housing provider. Antisocial Behaviour is a broad term used to describe incidents of crime, nuisance and disorder. Antisocial behaviour is defined by the "Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014" as "conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person". The CSP is committed to challenging the behaviour of those who spoil the peaceful enjoyment of someone's home or community and holding to account those responsible, so that that they are aware of the consequences of their actions. It is also made clear that all available legislation will be used to stop them from behaving in an antisocial manner. For Bolton, Greater Manchester Police recorded 22,403 incidents of ASB in twelve months during 2023/24. At least a quarter of all recorded police incidents tend to be ASB related.

• ASB Pathway

For young people (10 to 17 years), who are reported and identified as behaving in an antisocial manner that causes harassment, alarm and distress to individuals and communities. Bolton Council will work with its partner agencies to challenge this behaviour by using Bolton's ASB Pathway. The ASB Pathway is an incremental process for tackling juvenile ASB. The process combines both support and enforcement. It is also an early intervention process. Young people involved in ASB are challenged about their behaviour and warned of the consequences at an early stage. Their parents are also notified in writing. This has proved very successful and, in most cases referred, they have not progressed beyond first warning stage. The process involves several stages. Stage 1 is a first warning indicating repeated issues noted by police or other agencies, urging parents to take it seriously to prevent further enforcement actions. Stage 2 is a final warning, where continued or escalated behaviour leads to an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC), with a visit from Bolton Council's Targeted Youth Support Team to discuss positive activities and support. Stage 3 involves the issuance of an ABC, setting clear behavioural boundaries, and includes a panel meeting and support from a Youth Worker. Non-compliance can lead to an application for an Injunction. Stage 4 includes a meeting with all involved professionals to review the child's behaviour and cooperation, deciding if an Injunction application is necessary. Finally, Stage 5 involves the Injunction itself, a court order with conditions that can significantly impact a child's future, including potential custodial sentences for breaches, and monitoring to ensure compliance, with possible community and press publicity. Prior to stage 1, advice letters are given to parents who are unaware that their children are on the edge of ASB.

ABC Figures Jan 2023 – Jan 2024

The figures below show that from January 2023 to January 2024, 26 advice letters were sent to parents or carers, 125 first warnings, 20 final warnings and 4 young people were issued with an Acceptable Behaviour Contract.

	Advice	1stwarning	finalwarning	ABC
North	10	19	6	2
South	0	49	1	0
West	16	37	10	2
Town Centre	0	20	3	0

- **ASB Awareness week**

ASB Awareness Week aimed to raise awareness of antisocial behaviour (ASB) and its impact on communities, with the theme 'Making Communities Safer'.

Bolton Council, social landlords, neighbourhood police, street-based teams, the 5-19 service, Youth Outreach Team, Targeted Youth Support, Neighbourhood Watch, and community groups like Bolton Lads and Girls Club partnered together to tackle ASB through resource sharing, strategic planning, and coordinated responses.

A key priority was capturing the voice of the child. By engaging young people through questionnaires, focus groups, and interactive sessions, insights were gathered to inform strategies and interventions. These ASB awareness questionnaires helped to understand young people's perceptions and experiences, identify common concerns, and shape effective strategies to address and prevent ASB, ensuring they feel informed, supported, and empowered.

Activities and events during ASB Awareness Week promoted awareness, education, and built positive relationships between young people, community members, and partner agencies.

- **Safe 4 Summer**

Safe 4 Summer is an annual partnership campaign that is co-ordinated by the CSP and additional services such as the Youth Outreach Team (YOT), the 5-19s Service, Neighbourhood Services and Environmental Services. The aim of the campaign is to:

- reduce the number of ASB incidents by types reported and to provide a visible, robust, intelligence led policing operation that seeks to reassure members of our communities and to improve public confidence.
- reduce the number of ASB incidents in order to improve the quality of life for local communities, residents and visitors to those areas affected and to protect our vulnerable people.
- deter those responsible for causing ASB and sign post them to diversionary activities or take appropriate enforcement action.
- Work with partners in order to effectively problem solve ASB issues.

Data analysis was carried out to determine the top ten repeat streets and the top five repeat cluster locations for Bolton, based on incident locations from the previous three years. These were identified as Bradshaw, Brightmet, Crompton and Great Lever. Further analysis was undertaken to identify schools within these areas and they were prioritised for school visits. Through the campaign, services were able to directly engage with young people and provide information to parents and carers about ASB, the consequences and alternative activities for young people to participate in. The campaign also promotes and puts emphasis on social responsibility.

- **Op Treacle**

The Bonfire and Halloween campaign, Op Treacle, is a partnership-based approach aimed at preventing, tackling and protecting against bonfire and firework injuries, antisocial behaviour and criminal damage during the Halloween and bonfire period.

The Op Treacle campaign is the overarching approach adopted by Bolton and supports existing local initiatives during the period to address issues of ASB.

Community Safety leads on the local co-ordination and builds on the existing partnership operations that has been undertaken in recent years by aiming to achieve the following:

- Phase 1 – Prevention and risk reduction where agencies such as Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS), Trading Standards, and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) work collaboratively to minimise the illegal and irresponsible sale of fireworks during September and October.
- Phase 2 – Prevention, risk reduction, enforcement and reassurance activity where GMFRS, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and local authority community safety / ASB teams deal with the consequences of fire related ASB and provide a reassurance to communities during the days between Halloween and bonfire night.
- Phase 3 – Prevention, risk reduction and evaluation where agencies work to safely store and destroy illegal fireworks.

This year's activity included:

Partner	Actions
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service	Provided up to date data of hotspots.
Greater Manchester Police School Engagement Officers	Delivered school inputs.
Greater Manchester Police	Neighbourhood teams and Police Community Support Officers attended and patrolled hotspots
Youth Outreach Team	Attended hotspots where persistent issues occur and engaged with young people
Bolton at Home	Dealt with illegal bonfires on their land and arranged for some awareness raising campaigns through the Urban Care and Neighbourhood centres
Community Safety Officers	Sent out advise letters within 24 hours of receiving referrals and linked in with Youth Outreach Team in regard to these.
Marketing & Comms	A marketing and communications plan was undertaken to share all key messaging. This included a social media post from the council about bonfires not being permitted on council or Bolton at Home and information around wheelie bin fires.
Trading Standards & Community Protection	Sent out fireworks safety letters to the current list of registered firework premises and also conducting test purchasing.
Youth Outreach Team	Had a themed week and sessions with each child at Youth Outreach Team. They also accepted referrals to Targeted Youth Support team for any children identified by partner agencies.
Safer Schools	Sent out minimum standards to schools so that they are able to do a session around awareness themselves and additional information around Op Treacle for Year's 6, 7 and 8
Environment	Removed any materials being gathered on council land for bonfires and treated it as fly tipping. Applied any fixed penalty fines where necessary.

PSPO's

The Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced several new tools and powers for use by councils and their partners to address antisocial behaviour (ASB) in their local areas. PSPOs are one of the tools available and have wide-ranging and flexible powers for local authorities. PSPO's are drafted and implemented in response to particular issues affecting the communities provided certain criteria and legal tests are met. They can be used to prohibit specified activities, and/or require certain things to be done by people engaged in particular activities, such as alcohol bans or putting up gates (since 2014 PSPOs have replaced Alley Gating Orders), within a defined public area. Breach of a PSPO may be a criminal offence punishable by fixed penalty notice or prosecution.

PSPOs can only be introduced by a council after a necessary consultation, notification and publicity. A PSPO can last a maximum of three years, although it can be extended or varied (or discharged) during the course of its life.

A single PSPO can cover multiple restrictions, such as drinking alcohol on the street, begging and antisocial parking.

Community safety have renewed 53 new PSPOs running to 2026. These can be viewed here [Public Spaces Protection Orders \(PSPOs\) – Bolton Council](#)

- **Tackling Serious Organised Crime - Crompton Lodge**

Crompton Lodge has been a permanent site for travellers and gypsies for decades. Over the last few years, the site had become a haven for serious organised crime including recovery of large amounts of drugs, stolen property particularly high value items (plant and vehicles), and weapons.

Working with Greater Manchester Police and wider partners, under Operation Verse, a cross-functional Local Authority (LA) team including Community Safety, Community Housing and Legal Services came together to problem solve using innovative methods to bring a resolution to these long-standing issues.

This culminated in the use of a civil power (the first of its kind used in these circumstances across the UK) that was led by the LA and approved by the courts. The Closure Order provided immediate respite for the site so staff and contractors could carry out necessary works. In parallel, possession proceedings have begun, some secured and some pending, linked to breaches of tenancy. Throughout this approach a robust Equality Impact Assessment has been in place and support packages available to mitigate any negative impact.

So far, this approach has led to a significant reduction in ASB and wider issues for the local community. Extensions of the order have been secured which has resulted in high-value vehicle crime significantly reducing in Bolton, especially at this location, with serious organised crime severely disrupted at the site.

Bolton Town Centre Strategic Community Safety Group

Bolton Town Centre Strategic Community Safety Group was established to deliver a more cohesive approach to problem solving across the partnership, using all tools available to get the best result and reduce demand both during the daytime and nighttime economy. The group, chaired by Greater Manchester Police, focuses on key areas that have the biggest impact across the Town Centre Town. These include:

- Begging
- ASB
- Retail Crime
- Nighttime Economy and Violence Against Women and Girls

The meetings take place every 8 weeks and those who have ownership of a theme attend each meeting with a plan to target the relevant issues, identify interventions that are to be delivered and what the outcomes are. Some of these interventions were funded through the Safer Streets Fund.

Safer Streets Fund

The Safer Streets Fund (SSF) is a Home Office fund that allows police forces and local authorities to invest in crime prevention initiatives. The funding is awarded directly to Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and ran from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2025. The fund was used to address Town Centre issues identified through Town Centre Strategic Partnership Group. These included:

- **Policing Intervention** - 2 x plain clothes officers on duty for 8 hrs on 5 evening a week. Focusing on areas of vulnerability for VAWG, back streets/poorly lit areas.
- **Streetbased Youth Outreach Team** - The team worked with the community safety team and neighbourhood policing team to attend known and reported hotspots where there is youth ASB. The team signpost the young people (YP) into diversionary activities and consult with the YP about what they want to do and explain the potential consequences of repeated ASB from them. Where opportunities arise, YP are offered alternative diversionary activities.

- **Community Engagement & Reassurance Officers** - provide a high visible uniformed public guardianship initiative that link in with Town Centre CCTV, Policing Teams, and patrol areas of high demand where ASB and crime has been highlighted as a continuing problem.
- **Travel Ambassadors** - provide a visible presence in Bolton Town Centre, working alongside statutory services such as GMP and Bolton Council Licensing Team. Their main role is to control taxi queues preventing disorder, protect vulnerable people and ensure their safety, observe any criminal activity including street crime by acting as the eyes and ears to support GMP and our CCTV operators especially when using body-worn surveillance equipment and to prevent illegal private hire activity.
- **Safe Haven** - working closely with key agencies every weekend to provide a mobile place for people that find themselves in potentially vulnerable situations. This intervention will help bar and door staff to direct people that are vulnerable through drink or drugs to a place where initial first aid can be administered before they are guided to either a taxi to get them home or to other services if needed. This initiative will reduce the number of sexual offences, sexual assaults and improving feelings of safety from VAWG in Bolton Town Centre.
- **Training & Marketing Strategy** - a marketing strategy developed to promote campaigns and schemes to help with the vulnerability people can find themselves in when on a night out. Materials also provided to licenced premises to assist in the reduction of violent crimes and safeguarding of visitors. In addition, a training programme was developed to ensure licensed premises staff have the relevant awareness of campaigns, understand any issues, or concerns they need to flag or challenge safely and ensure relevant and safe signposting to other services.
- **Enhanced target hardening** - extended CCTV monitoring hours to assist with Operation Shelter (GMP's Nighttime Operation). Work with key partners to review measure that can be implemented where there are high violent crimes taking place, this will include the introduction of Alley Gates and enhanced lighting.

Reducing Reoffending Board

The aim of the Bolton Reducing Reoffending Board is to lead on work on behalf of the CSP and implement the Greater Manchester Reducing Reoffending Plan to change and prevent adult offending behaviour. This is achieved through developing and reviewing practice and tackling the key drivers of crime for people on probation by collaborating across agencies and strengthening partnerships.

The delivery plan for Bolton focuses on:

- Integrated Offender Management (IOM)
- Partnership Working including, Education, Training and Employment, GMIRS Bolton Community Welfare Hub and Support with Mental Health.
- Accommodation and homelessness
- Substance misuse
- Young Adults and Transitions (18-25 year olds)
- Reducing inequalities including gender, health and race.
- Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
- Delivery of Community Payback
- Serious violence

The Reducing Re-offending Board reports to the Bolton CSP, providing details of progress, challenges, and performance.

Water Safety Partnership

Greater Manchester Water Safety Strategic Partnership (GMWSSP) was established in 2023 following a Water Safety Summit hosted by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) in recognition of the increase in deaths due to drowning across Greater Manchester (GM).

From this, a local Water Safety Partnership was established with key partner agencies which meets quarterly. Priorities for the partnership include

1. Information – Research and engagement to better understand the risks and help drive the water safety agenda.
2. Education – Education and campaigns to share our understanding with our communities.
3. Protection – Practical initiatives to make our communities safer in and around water.

Over 70 water sites have been visited across Bolton and a risk assessment undertaken. These have been categorised into very high risk, high risk, medium risk and low risk sites. Work is underway to see how the risks can be minimised.

Standing Together

The Standing Together Fund is provided to all CSP's across Greater Manchester, by the Deputy Mayor, to invest in communities, shaping and delivering initiatives and projects to improve community safety. This is distributed to voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) groups via Bolton CVS and this year the fund has been made available to groups willing to work in partnership with other organisations delivering collaborative projects aimed at tackling one of the following themes:

- Serious Youth Violence – Youth Diversion
- Domestic Abuse and Gender Based Violence
- Stalking and Harassment

This grant program is an opportunity for VCSE groups to join forces and create a lasting, positive impact on the Bolton community. By working together, these partnerships can address some of the most pressing issues and better align the delivery to the current CSP priorities. Each partnership will need to identify one lead organisation, who will be responsible for collating and submitting the monitoring and evaluation of this project.

The successful applicants and project details are as follows

Urban Outreach - Eve Space - providing a trauma-response service and strategies to help women exit prostitution and address issues such as domestic abuse, substance misuse, homelessness, poor emotional wellbeing or mental health, debt and other factors that underpin female offending.

Fortalice and Bolton Lads and Girls Club – providing early-intervention activities for children and young people which addresses domestic abuse and gender-based violence. Including delivery in secondary schools of the 'Respect Me Respect You' programme, co designed by Youth Voice to address street harassment, consent, misogyny, domestic abuse and gender-based violence.

Bolton Together – Youth Against Violence -

prevention of serious youth violence and related antisocial behaviour in Bolton through a place-based offer for young people aged 12 – 17 years through diversionary activities, mentoring/nurturing and youth voice led work.

Endeavour – Stalking and Harassment Project

– providing early intervention and prevention through training professionals, inputs in education establishments, young ambassadors scheme and one to one support for victims. Raising awareness of stalking and harassment in non-domestic relationships, bystander workshops, safety planning workshops and identifying support.

Prevent

Prevent is part of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy known as CONTEST. Its main objective is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. CONTEST has 4 work strands known as the 4Ps:

- Pursue:** to stop terrorism attacks happening,
- Protect:** to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack,
- Prepare:** to mitigate the impact of a terrorist incident if it occurs,
- Prevent:** to safeguard people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

Prevent responds to the 'ideological challenge' that we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, as well as the threats that we face from those who promote these views. Extremism and radicalisation can have a devastating effect on individuals, families and communities. Helping to protect them from extremist influences is an important part of our overall safeguarding role.

An important aspect of the Prevent Programme is Channel. Channel can help people to make positive choices about their lives. It is an early intervention multi-agency safeguarding scheme that supports people who are at risk of radicalisation and provides practical support tailored to individual needs. Channel can help stop the progression of radicalisation and safeguard people by providing fact-based information, discussion and wider opportunities. It can stop people from being drawn into harmful extremist ideologies before they become involved in illegal activity.

In December 2023 a new updated Prevent Duty Guidance came into force that sought to implement the recommendations of the Independent Prevent Review of January 2023. Alongside the Prevent Duty guidance a new Channel Duty Guidance was released. The Prevent Duty outlined in the importance of:

- Partnership working
- Training
- Communication

It also introduced new requirements of risk assessments and reducing permissive environments in which extremists' ideas are allowed to spread.

Over the last year the Prevent Delivery Board has implemented the new requirements of the Prevent Duty in Bolton and ensured that the work around Prevent makes use of and is aligned with other opportunities and work areas, especially those connected with the Recovery Fund work. As part of this implementation the council has worked with the Home Office and undertook an annual a self-assessment in which all aspects of the Prevent Duty are being reviewed.

To meet the Prevent duty, a new risk assessment informed by the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) and other local data sources has been created. The risk assessment is linked to evidenced risks in Bolton which are reflected in the Partnership Plan on a continual basis.

During the Prevent Delivery Board meetings risks are identified, discussed and appropriate actions agreed. This work will further be enhanced by the new Sentiment Monitoring Process that is currently being developed as part of the Recovery Fund work.

A key element of Prevent is the training of professionals and raising awareness about Prevent in the community. During summer Community Safety staff were trained on the new Home Office Face to Face training which has been live since November 2024 and this will be offered to professionals across the Bolton CSP. In addition, Community Safety facilitated and shared other specialised training opportunities through the Greater Manchester Prevent Network and Greater Manchester practitioner's network. These included training on the connection of Extremism and Domestic Abuse, the role of artificial intelligence and the online space in the radicalisation process, and on Extreme Right-Wing ideologies as well as workshops on how communities can stand up to hateful extremism and creating safe spaces for challenging conversations.

Furthermore, the Community Safety Team has updated the Council's website and training handbook found here [Safeguarding Against Harmful Radicalisation – Bolton Council](#). The team also produces monthly Prevent Newsletters that are shared with Prevent Delivery Board to keep members informed about the latest developments in the Prevent and Counter Extremism space as well as other themed training opportunities as part the GM training offer.

Recovery Fund

Following the violent disorder experienced in Bolton Town Centre during August 2024 Bolton established a multi-agency Recovery Coordination Group (RCG). The purpose of the group is to work to mitigate future risks of further disorder and the short and long-term impact on communities, planning the transition from recovery to mainstreamed activity. The Ministry for Housing, Communities, & Local Government (MHCLG) confirmed Community Recovery Funding totalling £600k for Bolton which was received on 23rd October 2024. The Fund has been designed to offer maximum flexibility, allowing local places to design a package that responds to their circumstances, empowering localities to deliver support into those areas most affected.

The funding is designed to:

- provide immediate action to safeguard people and property.
- prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.
- reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.
- rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.

During October and November 2024, the RCG undertook a community impact assessment (CIA) to establish the impact on communities across Bolton. Based on the learning from the CIA, the RCG has developed the following work programme:

Safety & Security - enhanced CCTV provision for the town centre is being costed which will strengthen the provision and support improvements in civil contingency and night-time economy responses based on a comprehensive risk assessment and audit.

Sentiment Monitoring & Cohesion Reset

- support the reintroduction of sentiment monitoring/tracking within Bolton and the forming of a multi-agency Monitoring Group with the responsibility to assess tensions and instigate appropriate responses as required

Responding to mis/disinformation (Young People, Communities and Professionals)

- a programme of interventions delivered within education/youth and communities-based settings that cover interconnected themes of; riots, protests, and peace, disinformation/fake news, hate, extremism.

Young People (at risk of offending) - 1-to-1 youth mentoring support programmes for those at the greatest risk of violence/disorder/criminality. Aimed at young people who need additional support in developing resilience to exploitative relationships and making positive decisions.

Intracommunity Relations - support and/or promote intracommunity relations, e.g. Great Get Together / Bolton's Fund / VCFSE / grassroots groups
Housing & Migration - Develop interventions to reduce migration pressures that have an impact on cohesion within the borough.

Hate Crime - to support the delivery of the local Hate crime plan building on the new GM Hate Crime Plan.

MHCLG, in addition to the CRF, has offered Bolton Council a total of £55k from the Community Cohesion & Resilience Fund (CC&RF) to support community cohesion work. The funding aims to provide support to local areas to deliver projects that build community relationships and work to prevent and counter harmful narratives. The funding must be used towards voluntary and community sector organisations, including faith organisations, to deliver projects that align with at least one of the below themes:

- Brings communities together to improve cohesion and reduce divisions in places facing the worst extremism challenges.
- Improves the capability of places to tackle the extremist narratives and ideologies that are driving our communities apart.
- Improves local partnership approaches to supporting community resilience by funding projects to strengthen 'bridging' social capital in at-risk places.
- Improves the capability of places to respond to periods of community tensions through initiatives that strengthen community connections, promote unity and shared values.

The fund will be distributed to community groups via the Bolton Fund.

Hate Crime

Hate crime is defined as ‘any criminal offences perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility, prejudice, towards someone based on a personal characteristic’. In Greater Manchester hate crime is monitored across six strands: race, religion, sexual orientation, trans identity, disability and alternative subcultures. In October 2024, Greater Manchester launched a new Hate Crime Plan that focuses on education and raising awareness of hate crime, its consequences and how to report it, while also improving support for victims. All hate crime work in Bolton is aligned to the plan and its following six priorities:

- Improve education around hate crime.
- Prevention and early intervention towards hate crime.
- Bring communities together to tackle hate crime.
- Increase communication and awareness of hate crime and its consequences.
- Increase the confidence to report hate crime.
- Improve support for victims of hate crime.

Hate Crime Awareness grants totalling £10,000 were made available to support projects across the Borough that promote understanding and awareness of hate crime and how to report them.

Successfully funded projects had to achieve one of the following:

- Improve people’s understanding of what Hate Crime is and why it is important to report it.
- Improve people’s confidence to report Hate Crime.
- Increase awareness of the different ways you can report Hate Crime, including the use of third-party reporting centres.

9 community groups received the funding enabling them to deliver a range of activities that raised awareness of what is a hate crime and the ways these crimes can be reported as part of Greater Manchester Hate Crime Week February 3rd to 9th 2025. The activities were publicised as part of our internal and external communications plan.

1. **Be The Change Youth Project - Amplifying Youth Voices Against Hate Crime** - to empower young people aged 10-17 by engaging them in a series of creative and educational activities focused on raising awareness about hate crime and encouraging reporting.
2. **Bolton Wanderers Community Trust - Bolton Wanderers Against Hate** - Educational workshop on hate crimes followed by matchday experience for at-risk teenagers.
3. **The Flowhession Foundation - Bolton Hate Crime Reporting Centre Awareness** - Working with 10 DofE children who want to make a magazine to promote our hate crime centre and to hold a workshop on how to report such crime.
4. **Harmony Youth Project - Kindness Through Creativity** - an after-school art workshop empowering children to promote kindness, inclusivity, and awareness of hate crimes through creative expression and interactive learning.
5. **KHIDMA - Safe Haven** – teaching women from all backgrounds valuable skills for understanding and reporting hate crime.
6. **Moral & Nurturing Initiative Youth Club** - Hate Crime Awareness Workshop for Youth - A workshop aimed at educating South Asian youth under 14 on hate crime awareness, reporting, and Islamophobia.
7. **Response Bolton - Hate stops Here** - workshop that empowers adults to identify, report, and challenge hate crimes.
8. **Newbury Boxing Club** - Hate Crime Creative Workshops - workshops for young people which they will create a hate crime play and perform it to their parents to help raise awareness
9. **Bolton Lads and Girls and Bolton Solidarity Community Association - Youth Cohesion Pilot** - using positive youth-led activities to bring young people from different communities together and promote unity, using trusted youth work resources focused on themes of cohesion, conflict resolution, wellbeing, and understanding and appreciation of difference in our communities.

3rd Party Reporting Centre Refresh

This year saw the completion of the first phase of the 'refresh of 3rd Party Reporting Centres'. Following a period of training sessions delivered and supported by GMP staff the list of centres has been updated on the council's website to reflect the organisations providing support across the Borough. The updated list can be found via [Hate crime – Bolton Council](#)

Looking Forward

Over the next 12 months, continued progress will be made on the above priorities including:

- Op Chenille – Clear Hold Build in Halliwell
- True for Us exercise for Serious Youth Violence to benchmark and measure success (good practice) and develop next steps
- Refresh of the Hate Crime Steering Group and phase two of the Third Party Hate Crime Refresh,
- Stalking and Harassment work plan to be operational.

In addition, work will be undertaken in preparation for the refresh of the CSP delivery plan.

Community Safety Partnership Delivery Structure

