



**AVON &  
SOMERSET**  
POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER

# Performance Report

Quarter ending June 2023 (Q1 2023/24)

**Action Fraud** – is the UK’s national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where victims should report fraud if they have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

**Active citizenship** – this is measured through the local police and crime survey and is when people have done/taken part in the following activities: volunteered for the police, taken part in Watch schemes (e.g. Neighbourhood Watch) or they have taken part in police webchats or other police or council Neighbourhood Meetings or forums.

**ASP** – Avon and Somerset Police

**Charge** – the formal accusation of an offence, put to a suspect after an initial investigation; this is the start of the prosecution and they will then have to appear at court. [The police can make the decision to charge in less serious offences where the case would be dealt with at Magistrates Court.](#)

**Cyber dependent crime** – these are offences that can only be committed using a computer, computer networks or other form of information communications technology.

**CPS** – [Crown Prosecution Service.](#)

**Domestic abuse** – [is where a person is abusive towards another, they are personally connected and are 16 years of age or older.](#)

**HMCTS** – His Majesty’s Courts and Tribunals Service

**ISVAs** – Independent Sexual Violence Advisers

**MSG** – [Most similar groups.](#) These are groups of police forces that have been found to be the most similar to each other based on an analysis of demographic, social and economic characteristics which relate to crime. They are designated by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS). The forces ‘most similar’ to Avon & Somerset are Derbyshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Staffordshire and Sussex.

**Neighbourhood Crime** – defined in the national [Beating Crime Plan 2021](#) as vehicle-related theft, domestic burglary, theft from the person and robbery of personal property.

**Patrol** – the department of Avon and Somerset Police which has most uniformed officers; these officers attend more incidents than any other department.

**Project Bluestone** – is the Avon and Somerset Police response to Rape and Serious Sexual Offences. A transformative pathfinder approach being rolled out nationally as part of the cross-governmental improvement plan Operation Soteria.

**Serious violence** – defined nationally these are offences that result in the death of a person, “endanger life” or “wounding offences”.

# **National Police and Crime Measures**

**(Priorities for Policing)**

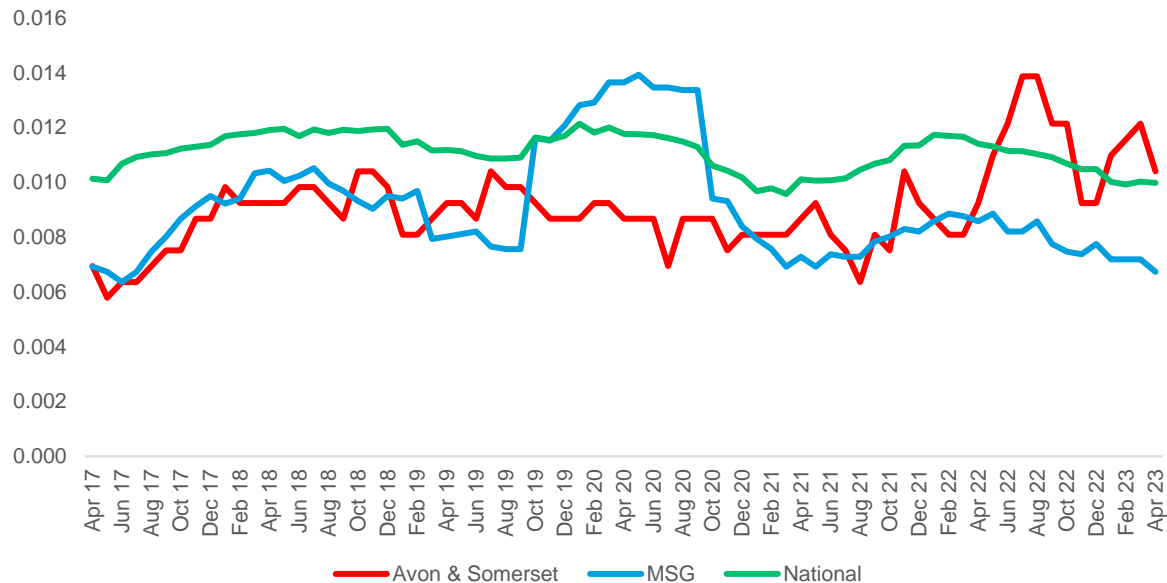
## **Contribution of Avon and Somerset Police**

# Reduce Murder and Other Homicide

## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Police recorded Homicide offences	Stable	8th/8 MSG (above MSG average rates)

Homicide - 12 Month Rolling Rates per 1000 Residents



## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Implementation of homicide suppression plan, to minimise the risk of serious violence and homicide in Avon and Somerset.
2. Ongoing communication with other forces and partners to scope and identify good practice in the prevention and reduction of homicide offences.
3. Ongoing delivery of stalking training and awareness inputs, that will include an input on Stalking Protection Orders, to be delivered to call handlers throughout 2023.
4. Development of refreshed sudden death procedural guidance, ensuring the thorough completion of investigative actions at the scene of every sudden death, and the early identification of any associated criminality.
5. Ongoing review of the force's Risk to Life or Threats of Serious Harm procedure to ensure the force responds adequately to protect those at risk of serious harm or death.
6. Funding from the Proceeds of Crime Act to be used to support an anti-knife crime campaign run by a local community group in St Pauls, Bristol.

## Comments

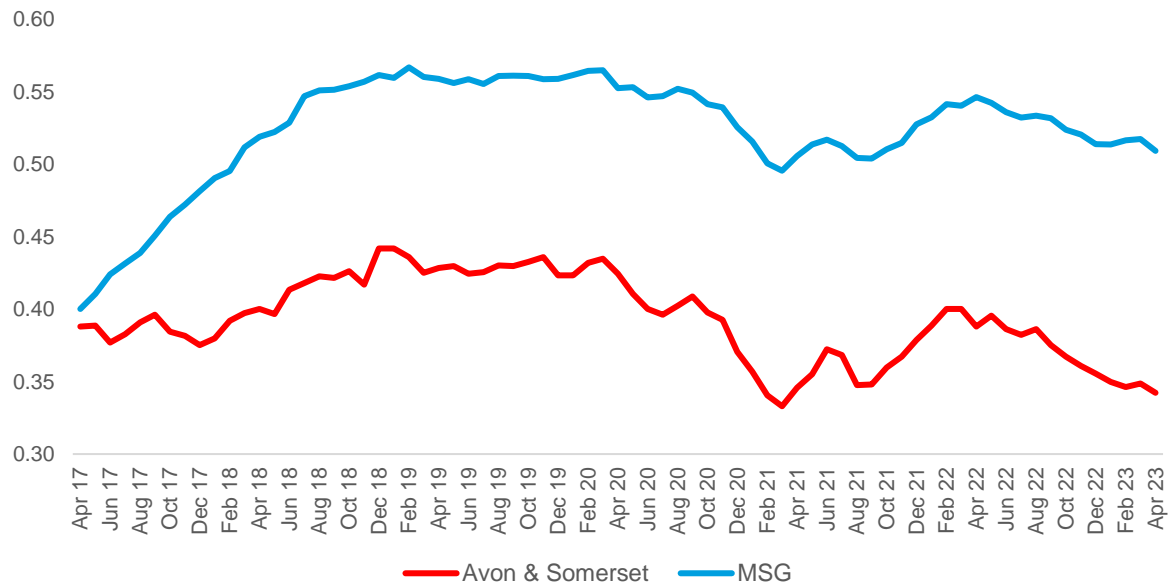
1. Historically there are have been low levels of homicide within Avon and Somerset. However, between January-March 2023 there were 7 recorded Homicides across Avon and Somerset. This volume accounts for the recent noted increase in rate per 1000 residents.

# Reduce Serious Violence

## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Police recorded serious violence offences	Stable	3rd/8 MSG (below MSG average rates)

Serious Violence - 12 Month Rolling Rates per 1000 Residents



## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Continue to embed Serious Violence Duty.
2. Establish new tasking group, comprising local and regional specialist teams to identify and look at top OCGs, Drugs Lines, Serious Violence and persons at risk, including development of a new mapping process.
3. New community knife bins and bleed kit programme that sign posts people to their local Violence Reduction Partnership.
4. Improve Command and Control systems to identify habitual knife carriers in order to increase intelligence and target offenders.
5. Increased disruptions of OCGs and County Lines and exploitation in line with the 4P Plan – Pursue, Prepare, Prevent, Protect.
6. Improvements to processes and development of a performance framework within the Early Intervention Team and VRUs to improve outcomes for children involved in serious youth violence.
7. Reduce harm through the use of advanced bleed kits (and training) - these will be installed in response vehicles and provided to night-time economy stakeholders (e.g. door staff, street pastors).

## Comments

1. ASP benchmark well against the MSG group of forces, based on rates of serious violence per 1000 residents.

# Disrupt Drugs Supply and County Lines

## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Police recorded drug trafficking offences	Reducing	8th/8 MSG (below MSG average rates)
Number of all drugs disruptions	Increasing	Not available
Number of county lines disrupted	Increasing	Not available

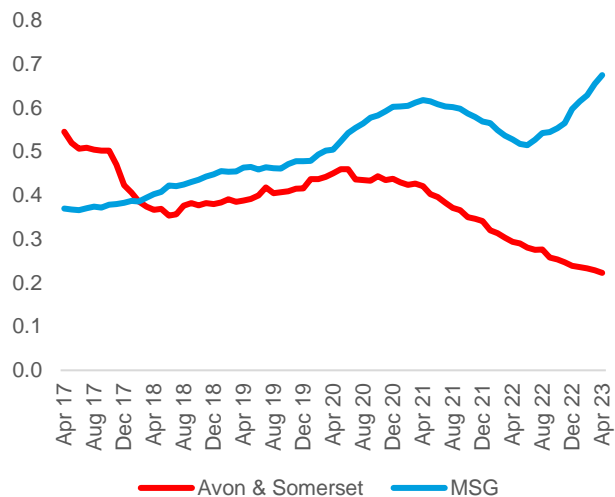
## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Development of local enforcement plans within the Combatting Drugs Partnerships, including needs analysis and problem profiles to inform activity.
2. Continuation of proactive work with charity 'Parents against criminal exploitation' and parents/children to raise awareness and highlight current trends in drugs supply and County Lines.
3. Somerset Youth Offending Team early engagement of children who have been in custody, through an on-call youth support worker provision to maximise early disruption opportunities (reachable moments).
4. Engagement with approx. 500 children in a Somerset secondary school educating children on the dangers of knife crime and links with drugs and County Lines.
5. Improvements to communication between police forces to effectively target criminality and protect trafficked people.

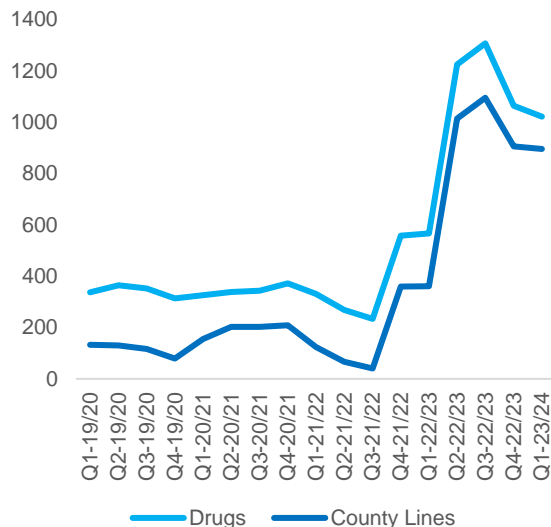
## Comments

1. The force has a lower rate of drug trafficking offences per 1000 residents, compared to the MSG forces and this gap has been growing since mid 2020. This may indicate less proactive identification of the offending.
2. The significant increase in recorded disruptions is driven by intensification as part of Operation Scorpion (South West Regional drugs operation).

Drug Trafficking Crime -  
12 Month Rolling Rates per 1000  
Residents



Drugs and County Lines Disruptions -  
12 Month Rolling Rates



# Reduce Neighbourhood Crime

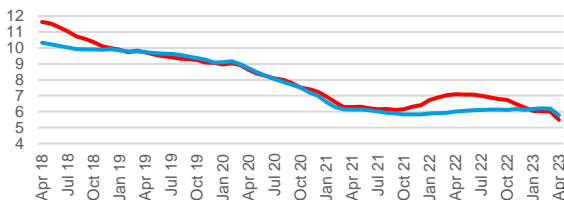
## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Police recorded residential burglary offences	Reducing	3rd/8 MSG (below MSG average rates)
Police recorded vehicle crime offences	Reducing	5th/8 MSG (similar to MSG average rates)
Police recorded personal robbery offences	Stable	6th/8 MSG (above MSG average rates)
Police recorded theft from the person offences	Reducing	2nd/8 MSG (below MSG average rates)

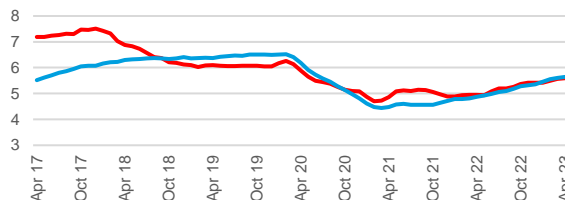
## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Develop an evidence-based evaluation methodology for Problem Solving Plans to ensure learning and best practice is identified and shared accordingly.
2. Develop a Neighbourhood specific Digital Academy for training, Continued Professional Development, Organisational Learning and a Continuous Improvement Suggestion Scheme structured around the six pillars of Neighbourhood Policing: Engagement, Problem Solving, Safeguarding, Offender Management, Responding and Investigating.
3. Develop a performance framework for Op Remedy (proactive Neighbourhood Crime team).
4. Continued focus on Investigative Standards and File Quality through refresher training and increased scrutiny of performance data to drive improvements in the quality and timeliness of Supervisor Reviews, Victim Contact, and File and Data Quality.

Residential Burglary - 12 Month Rolling Rates per 1000 Households

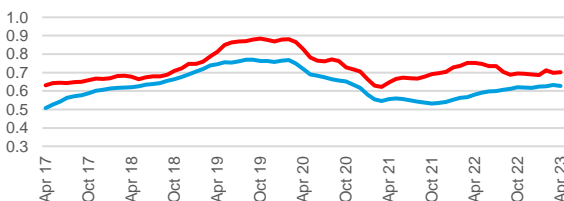


Vehicle Offences - 12 Month Rolling Rates per 1000 Residents

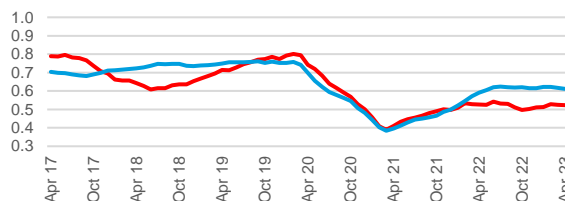


— Avon & Somerset — MSG

Personal Robbery - 12 Month Rolling Rates per 1000 Residents



Theft from the person - 12 Month Rolling Rates per 1000 Residents



## Comments

1. Recorded neighbourhood crimes saw large reductions during the COVID-19 lockdown periods. Robbery offences remained more stable and the number of robberies in Bristol continues to cause ASP to have slightly higher levels than our MSG.

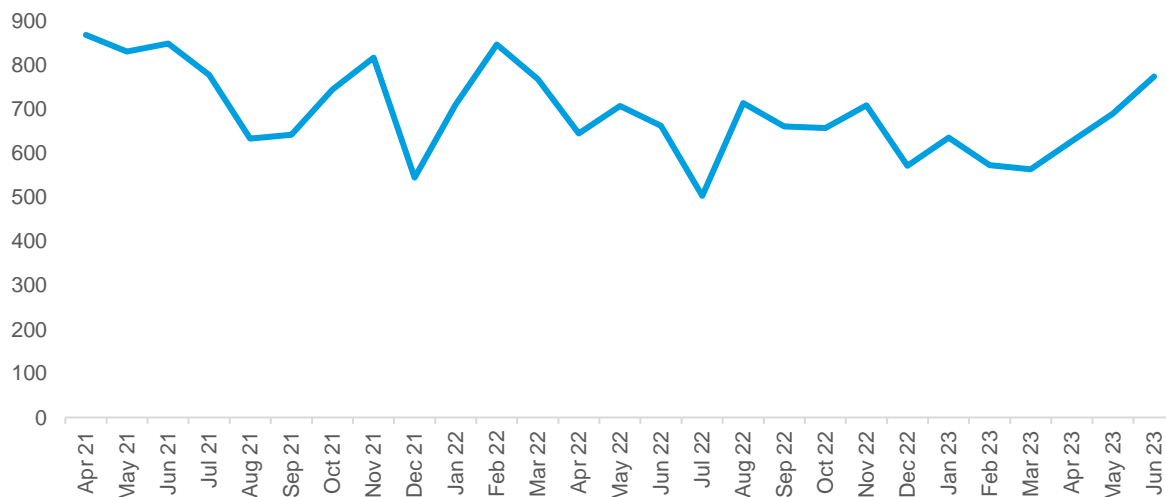
## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Investigate 100% of all cyber dependant crime disseminated to forces	Stable (100%)	Not available
Provide 100% of all cyber dependant crime victims with specialist advice	Stable (100%)	Not available
Action Fraud Offences	Stable	Not available

## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Ongoing promotion of fraud-awareness, linking to national campaigns, to increase public understanding of offending methods and to deliver appropriate crime prevention advice.
2. Engagement in the launch of a national database of Cyber volunteers to ensure that specialist skills are available across police forces and Regional Organised Crime Units when required. This includes the recruitment of a Fraud volunteer with specific industry expertise in forensic accounting.
3. Dedicated Cryptocurrency Continued Professional Development and use of Suspicious Activity Reports to target criminal use of crypto funds.
4. Development of Cyber escape room - an interactive cyber awareness workshop.

Action Fraud offences disseminated to Avon and Somerset Police



## Comments

1. There is no local measurement similar to the national measures, which focus on 'Confidence in the law enforcement response to cyber crime' and 'the percentage of businesses experiencing a cyber breach or attack'. Both of these measures are captured at a national level.

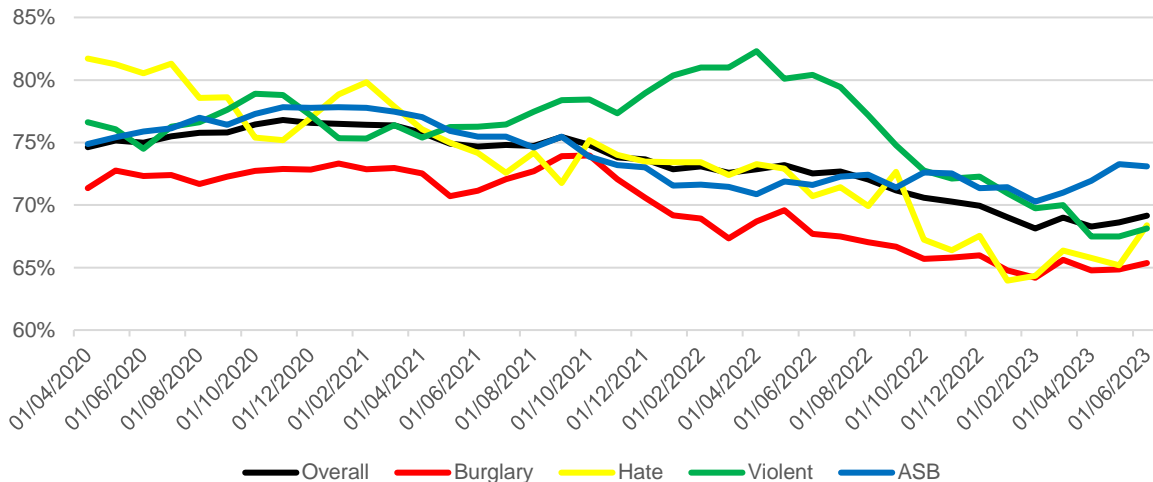


# Improve Victim Satisfaction, with a Focus on Victims of Domestic Abuse

## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Overall victim satisfaction rate	Reducing	Not available
Burglary victim satisfaction	Reducing	Not available
Hate crime victim satisfaction rate	Reducing	Not available
Violent crime victim satisfaction	Stable	Not available
ASB victim satisfaction rate	Reducing	Not available

Victim Satisfaction - 12 Month Rolling Rate



## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Implementation of local [violence against women and girls framework](#) (which includes domestic abuse).
2. New victim information packs to ensure that victims of crime are provided with relevant information, guidance and support.
3. Ongoing work to review and make improvements to the management and enforcement of all protective orders to evaluate their effectiveness and ensure breaches are robustly dealt with.
4. Joint working with CPS and other partners to improve understanding of post-charge processes to support victims.
5. Ongoing analysis of cases closed because the victim declines to prosecute - to provide greater insight into victims' reasons for withdrawing to identify any areas for improvement.
6. Improvements to the accessibility and service provision of ISVAs in police premises to enable closer working with police and improved services to victims.
7. Expansion of the DRIVE programme for DA perpetrators, aimed at challenging and supporting perpetrators of domestic abuse offences and reducing reoffending.

## Comments

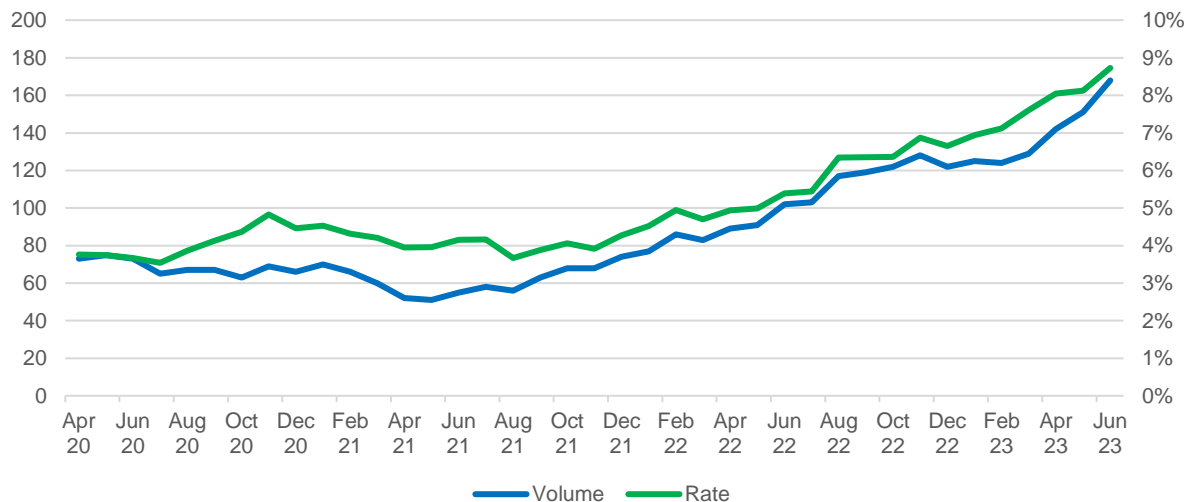
1. Dwelling burglary shows higher satisfaction levels than all burglary (78.6% vs 53.3%).
2. There is no domestic abuse victim satisfaction survey currently in place in Avon and Somerset.

# Better Criminal Justice Outcomes for Rape Cases

## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Charge volumes for rape offences	Increasing	Not available
Charge rate for rape offences	Increasing	2nd/8 MSG (above MSG average rates)

Rape - Charge & Summons Volume and Rate  
12 Month Rolling



## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Rollout of the first National Operating Model for rape investigations, based on the findings and learning from Op Soteria and Avon and Somerset's Project Bluestone dedicated to the investigation of rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO) using specialist investigators.
2. Detailed work to expedite RASSO crime allocation following our 2021/22 PEEL Inspection and a specific AFI relating to the timely allocation of RASSO offences.
3. Explore options around the use of Specialist Engagement Officers for marginalised / disadvantaged communities.
4. Promotion of the revised Victim Engagement Survey to provide feedback to police and partners of victims' experience of their end-to-end journey.
5. Testing of a new Rape Data tool for sharing of information between police and CPS to improve timely access to information.
6. Continued joint training with CPS and ISVAs to improve the joined up approach to support victims through the Criminal Justice System..

## Comments

1. There has been a recent and sustained increase in both the volume of police charges and the rate.

# Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025

## Contribution of Avon and Somerset Police\* Priority 2 – Engaging, supporting and working with communities, victims and partner organisations

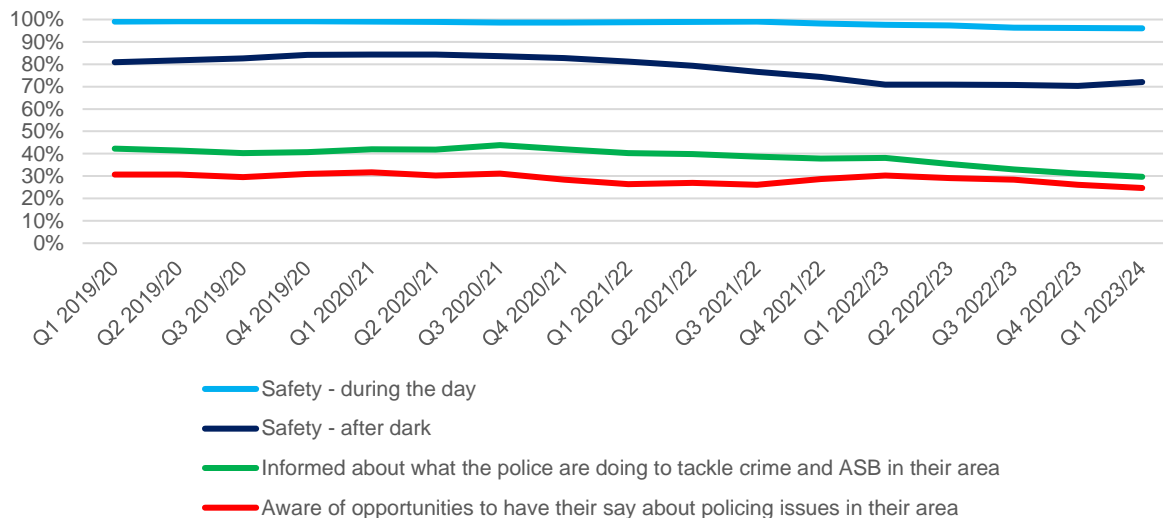
\*The national measures in the previous section also align with the local plan as shown below.

National measures	Local areas of focus
Improve Victim Satisfaction, with a Focus on Victims of Domestic Abuse	Supporting victims of crime and anti-social behaviour

## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Perceived safety – during the day	Stable	Not available
Perceived safety – after dark	Stable	Not available
Public feel informed on local policing	Reducing	Not available
Public are aware of opportunities to have their say on local policing	Reducing	Not available

Safety and Engagement - 12 Month Rolling Rates



## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Inviting people to join an engagement network for ASP Race Matters work – either to be actively involved or simply informed on the things that ASP are doing to become anti-racist. Will be able to invite the people within this network to engage in consultation forums/workshops.
2. Analyse and take forward findings from the ASP survey of Black heritage communities and how to improve communication and confidence within these communities.
3. A Community Confidence Group for people from a Black heritage background has been established in Bristol. Themes will be identified by the group for discussion during the upcoming meetings in addition a young person's Independent Advisory Group which is now in place with work ongoing to increase the membership of this group.
4. Cultural Awareness Workshops are running monthly with staff visiting sites across Bristol to engage with key communities.

## Comments

1. Feelings of safety during the day remain high at over 96%. Feelings of safety after dark are lower and fluctuate more but with a more notable reduction in the last two years.
2. People feeling informed about policing or aware of opportunities to have their say about policing have seen a more consistent reduction over a number of years.

# Special Constables and Citizens in Policing

## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Special Constable duty hours	Stable	Not available
Public involved in active citizenship	Reducing	Not available

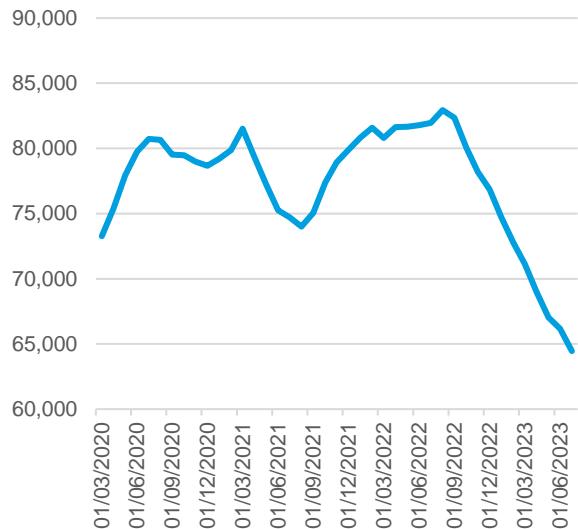
## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Ensure the implementation of the Citizens in Policing Strategy and supporting delivery plans to improve the experience of our volunteers.
2. Review and refine activity to attract career specials to strengthen the quality and longevity of the Special Constabulary.
3. Support the organisation to explore new opportunities for Police Support Volunteers involvement, particularly in relation to capacity and additional services.
4. Enhance the support of Police Cadets and Mini Police programmes to ensure safe and consistent provision.

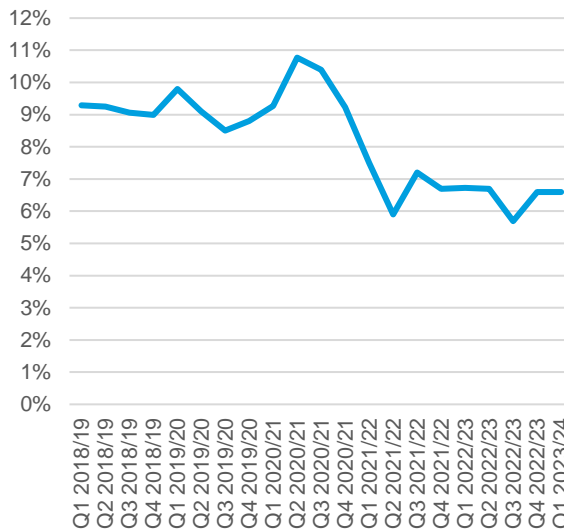
## Comments

1. ASP are managing a reduction in the number of Specials but instead focusing on the development and contribution of those who have volunteered. While the average number of hours per Special is stable the reduction in numbers has caused the total contribution to decrease.
2. The pandemic had a negative effect on active citizenship which was to be expected as a number of meetings and forums were paused. However, this has not recovered after the removal of social restrictions.

Special Constables Duty Hours  
- 12 Month Rolling Total



Active Citizenship -  
12 Month Rolling Rate



# The Criminal Justice System

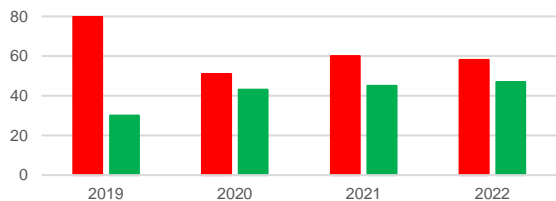
## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Days from offence recorded to police charge (victim-based cases)	Stable	3rd/8 MSG (lower than MSG average rates)
Days from police referral to CPS authorising a charge	Increasing	6th/8 MSG (higher than MSG average rates)
Days from charge to completion at Crown Court	Increasing	4th/8 MSG (higher than MSG average rates)
Cases which resulted in a completed trial or guilty plea	Stable	4th/8 MSG (similar to MSG average rates)

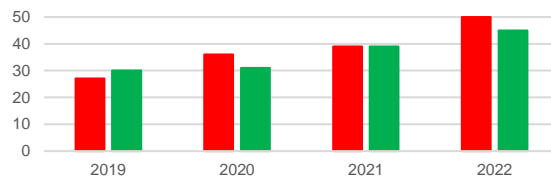
## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Review of ASP's Criminal Justice Department new ways of working that were implemented in January 2023. The aim is to further refine the new processes.
2. Op Holmes is providing Chief Officer Direction to improve investigative standards and is supported by senior leaders and departments from across the force working together.
3. Engaging with current national reviews (JOIM review & Ministry of Justice/HMCTS Criminal Justice System Efficiency Project) and planned joint inspections on case building and effective communication and relationships with our partners.

Days from offence recorded to police charge

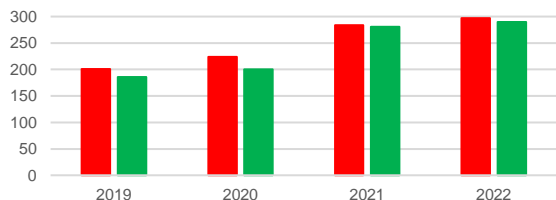


Days from police referral to CPS authorising a charge

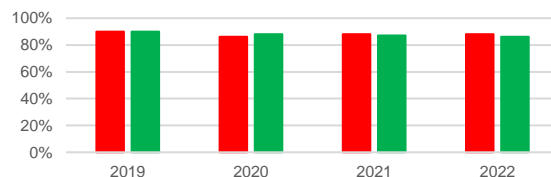


— Avon & Somerset — National

Days from charge to completion at Crown Court



Cases which resulted in a completed trial or guilty plea



## Comments

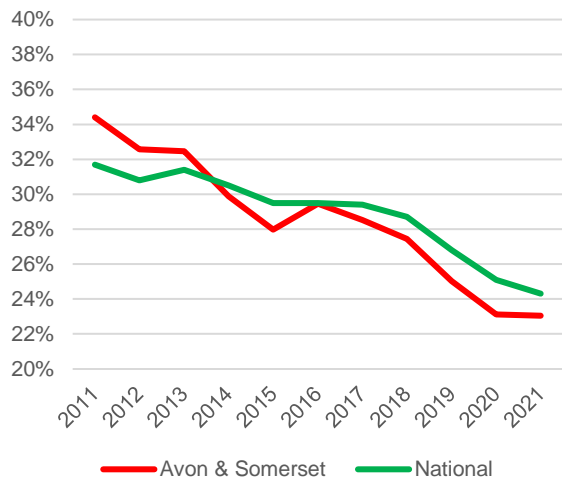
1. While the time to charge (for a police decision) is longer for ASP compared to national; this has reduced from 2019 to 2022 and is lower than the MSG average.
2. The CPS South West time to authorise a charge is longer than the national and MSG levels.
3. Mean days for Crown Court finalisation has also increased but is very similar to MSG levels.

# Reducing Reoffending

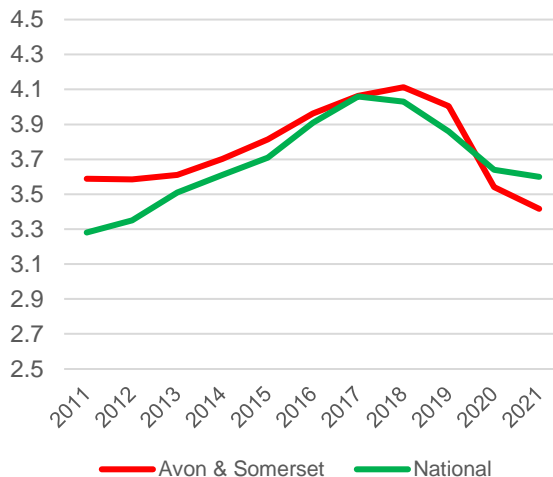
## Measures Summary

Local Measures	Trend	Benchmark
Proportion of offenders who reoffend	Reducing	-1.3% points compared to national
Average number of reoffences per reoffender	Stable	-0.2 compared to national

Proportion of Offenders who Reoffend  
- Year Ending September



Average Reoffences per Reoffender  
- Year Ending September



## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. Embedding of new offender managers in Integrated Offender Management (IOM) which has grown through the Uplift programme; and new ways of working from the national IOM Strategy.
2. IOM are working closely with Operation Soteria / Bluestone to develop plans to identify and disrupt persons of interest in Rape and Serious Sexual Offences cases. This work will ensure that each suspect or perpetrator has a bespoke plan to manage their risk of reoffending should they meet the agreed partnership thresholds for inclusion into a Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement or High Harm teams, or through their effective management within Operation Bluestone.

## Comments

1. The proportion of offenders who reoffend has decreased nationally but the decrease in Avon and Somerset has been even greater and the local levels have been lower than national for the last five years.
2. The average number of reoffences has also decreased since 2018 and Avon and Somerset now have fewer reoffences than the national rate.

# Collaboration and Partnership Working

## Measures Summary

There are no numerical measures that can sufficiently capture or represent the breadth of work that is achieved in collaboration or partnership with other policing agencies or other organisations.

There is a South West Police Collaboration Board which is attended by the PCCs, Chief Constables, the regional Assistant Chief Constable and other representatives. This provides oversight and assurance against these strategic regional collaborations.

Avon and Somerset Police also provide thematic assurance reports which are jointly commissioned by the Office of the PCC. These reports are overseen through the PCC's Governance and Scrutiny Board. These reports include assurance on partnership working in relation to the specific theme.

## Planned Action to Drive Performance

1. A number of improvements already identified throughout this report rely on partnership working.
2. Working with health and other partners to develop a [Right Care, Right Person](#) approach in Avon and Somerset.
3. Working with the Local Safeguarding Boards to develop an improved model for Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences.
4. Strengthening the Operation Encompass model with Local Safeguarding Boards and education settings to improve information sharing for vulnerable children.
5. Work with HMCTS to improve the effectiveness of Special Measures (which support victims when their case is going to trial) in both Magistrates and Crown Court is ongoing.
6. Develop information sharing agreements with GPs within the Somerset Local Authority Area.
7. Trial a joint funded position with Somerset Children Social Care to improve the information and referrals made between Police & Social Care.
8. As part of B&NES VAWG strategy, the local team is collaborating with British Transport Police, Bath Rugby and the Bath Business Improvement District (BiD) to launch the Speak Up, Interrupt campaign. The campaign is aimed at encouraging individuals to be upstanding in support of victims of harassment by challenging inappropriate behaviour.