

# SCRUTINY REPORT

**MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**DATE: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**SUBJECT: Bury Community Safety Partnership update**

**REPORT FROM: Councillor Sandra Walmsley, Cabinet Member  
for Communities and Inclusion**

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Bury Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory, multi-agency partnership that brings partners together to prevent harm, reduce and mitigate criminality, and to promote measures that increase the safety and resilience of local communities.
- 1.2 This paper is the latest update on the delivery of activities against the five priorities of the CSP, which collectively support the wider delivery of Bury's *LET'S Do It!* ambitions.
- 1.3 The priorities within the CSP Plan, which were developed with partners and our communities, are:
  - Tackling Offences Against Children
  - Prevention and earlier intervention on serious violence
  - Domestic Abuse, in the context of the trio of vulnerabilities
  - Safeguarding inclusive communities
  - Safe places and spaces
- 1.4 For each of these priorities the update from Section 3 onwards highlights partnership delivery activity and the data in relation to these. The report highlights key partnership activity and steps taken to increase safety and the feeling of safety within local neighbourhoods.

## 2. DELIVERY OF THE CURRENT CSP PLAN

- 2.1 Bury Community Safety Partnership is chaired by the Chief Superintendent of Greater Manchester Police (GMP) as District Commander, and Executive Director of Strategy and Transformation at Bury Council.

- 2.2 Bury CSP meets every two months and combines standing items on funding, communications, data and links to the safeguarding ecosystem – alongside deep dives across the priorities and any specific matters arising.
- 2.3 Increasingly the work of the Bury Community Safety Partnership dovetails with the work of the Bury Safeguarding ecosystem. Opportunities are taken across each of the CSP priorities to maximise awareness and connectivity across the respective partnerships, to maximise the embedding of learning and ensure a system response to threats and opportunities.
- 2.4 The delivery of community safety activity is a key component of *Let's Do It!* and Bury's Public Service Reform agenda. This report outlines examples of community safety colleagues across public and voluntary sector partners working together following the LET'S principles of targeting collective resources, working in collaboration and focusing on prevention.

### 3. PRIORITY: TACKLING OFFENCES AGAINST CHILDREN

Measure	24/25 Q1	24/25 Q2	24/25 Q3	24/25 Q4	25/26 Q1	Trend
Number of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) cases open	11	9	12	14	15	↑
Number of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) cases open	12	9	10	8	6	↓
Domestic Abuse victims aged Under 18 (% of total victims)	5.5	4.4	6.7	7.19	7.15	↓
Domestic Abuse incidents where a child was present	81	73	80	93	104	↑
GMP data on Offences committed by under 18s	558	254	351	529	541	↑
Missing from home incidents reported to GMP	375	259	194	243	286	↑
Number of young people as first-time entrants into the youth justice system	10	12	7	10	10	-

- 3.1 In previous Bury CSP plans, children and young people were not specified as a designated priority; rather a focus ran through each of the previous priorities that considered impact in relation to young people. As part of strengthening the approach to Children's safeguarding and the police's commitment to Child Centred Policing, an explicit priority has been included on tackling offences against children to reiterate that this an absolute priority for the partnership.
- 3.2 Central to this is the CSP work with the Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership, that is in turn informed by a number of subgroups including the Complex Safeguarding Subgroup. In Bury we are committed to protect children robustly and the co-located, multi-agency Complex Safeguarding team are efficient and effective. They review and scan daily for risk and respond accordingly. They liaise directly with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and together devise a bespoke response and care packages as appropriate.
- 3.3 The work of the team is intelligence led, suspect focused but victim centred. Over the last twelve months there remains a dynamic relationship between reactive and proactive investigations. Operation WASDALE involves monthly

days of action where GMP and Council colleagues work with partner agencies to be on the front foot targeting locations and offenders suspected to be involved in exploitation. This includes responding to system and community intelligence, such as linking in with Operation ERATH which responds to concerns raised in relation to a business property in the borough which may result in prompt action to lower the potential risk to children including colleagues from the Council's Trading Standards and Licensing team working alongside child protection specialists.

- 3.4 This approach has achieved significant results. In October following an investigation and court case spanning years two males were convicted of over 30 offences against children and we expect them to receive a significant custodial sentence.
- 3.5 Work continues to strengthen the governance and assurance in relation to such activity. Complex Safeguarding Team casework is included in the Children's Services Quality Assurance framework and recent audits and reviews point to the teams performing at a high level, including capturing the voice of young people in influencing interventions. The CSP has sought this year to build on this, through partnership representation at the annual Circles of Influence session with young people at the Elizabethan Suite, and a facilitated session with the SEND Changemakers group. In both cases this was to hear directly from young people to tailor approaches, messaging and support and increase mutual understanding of risks and opportunities.
- 3.6 Increasing awareness and understanding of the warning signs, threats and support to victims is a key feature of the work of the partnership. In February 2025 an Educational Safeguarding Conference took place for Designated Safeguarding Leads, Headteachers and Pastoral Managers across the borough. This session included inputs on harmful sexual behaviour, coercive control, and a session by Michael Conroy on dialogues with male children on being safe and being safe to be around. Bury is also actively engaged with the Greater Manchester Complex Safeguarding Hub, both feeding in local good practice and cascading learning through the Bury ecosystem, including to voluntary and private sector partners. Through the CSP there has been promotion of the GM Complex Safeguarding Week of Action in November 2025 which included inputs around online abuse and extortion, Country Lines, embedding trauma informed practices and, on the 18th November, included a session on Police Youth Voice Work in Bury, showcasing approaches used by the local district police teams in partnership with Bury Youth Service to enhance the role of young people in shaping the work of the police.
- 3.7 Further work is taking place on strengthening links with the Adult Safeguarding Board, including with Adult Social Care to support transition. There has also been increased engagement with Housing Services within this. The CSP continues to work to build connections to other services as part of this work, with Licencing and Trading Standards increasingly connected into intelligence building and enforcement activity.
- 3.8 Section 5 of this report details activity around tackling domestic violence in the borough and notes that the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) recognised children as victims in their own right. Bury's Family Safeguarding Model is central to our local response on this, ensuring a Team Around the Family approach best mitigates and threat and harm. Of note in the data above, whilst there has been an increase in the number of domestic abuse incidents with a child present

during the summer of 2025, the rolling average figure for the year is lower than recent years, and there has been a year-on-year decrease since 2021.

#### **4 PRIORITY: PREVENTION AND EARLIER INTERVENTION ON SERIOUS VIOLENCE**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>24/25 Q1</b>	<b>24/25 Q2</b>	<b>24/25 Q3</b>	<b>24/25 Q4</b>	<b>25/26 Q1</b>	<b>Trend</b>
Rate of Violent Crime	3.5	3.7	3.2	3.2	3.5	↑
Violence with injury crimes	380	407	349	434	383	↓
Possession of weapons offences	65	58	66	60	80	↑
Number of knife enabled robberies	14	7	14	17	17	-
Hospital admissions due to violence (rate per 100,000 population)	3.3	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.0	↑
Total number of A&E attendances by residents due to assault	133	125	122	125	83	↓

- 4.1 Bury CSP has continued a focus on tackling serious violence, following the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty and subsequent focus on Safer Streets by national government. As a borough, Bury is one of the safest districts in Greater Manchester. The borough's rate of all crime and of violent crime remains below regional average. This is something that the CSP is not complacent about and works hard to maintain, whilst also being fully aware that as a result when incidents do happen they are more noticeable and concerning to local communities.
- 4.2 This priority involves working collaborative to identify offenders and crucially to address some of the underlying conditions that enable or facilitate criminality. This is alongside working as a partnership to use the different means of engagement and (civil / criminal) enforcement activity to prevent or intervene earlier on serious violence which includes but is not limited to knife enabled crimes.
- 4.3 A prime example of this has been Operation VARDAR. This has seen different teams within GMP work alongside Housing Services colleagues within the Council and with ASB officers, Youth Services and community sector leads to deliver a programme of partnership problem solving. Responding to a linked series of targeted violent incidents in Whitefield, partnership colleagues came together to address both the immediate safety concerns and to look at underlying factors driving some of the offences. Through building on community-led insight, activity progressed in relation to joint safety patrols, targeted outreach activity, reinforced tenancy engagement work, multiagency awareness activity on cuckooing and the delivery of environment improvements.
- 4.4 Taking a blended approach has included a Sensitive Lets Policy, more visible community walkabouts, targeted maildrops, increased awareness of anonymously submitting information, investment in video doorbells and a Public Space Protection Order for alleygating between Sawley Avenue and

Malton Avenue. This combination has led to strengthened community resilience, as demonstrated by a bustling community action day in September and a district policing award for Problem Solving Operation of the Year.

4.5 VARDAR embodies a number of elements which have been used more broadly within CSP activities, including:

- Direct engagement with school settings to co-produce more meaningful interventions. School knife crime inputs are being rolled out as part of broader crime prevention resources for education establishments through the Pol-Ed platform. Pol-Ed supports schools in delivering expertly planned lessons designed to develop a deep awareness of risks, citizenship and the law. Currently 83% of Bury Schools are signed up to this, the highest rate in Greater Manchester. This allows for ongoing resource access to supplement direct inputs into schools from the GMP neighbourhood teams and for all Year 8 pupils who once again took part in B.Safe during October 2025.
- Staff across the Council and GMP licensing team have been working together to support the Council's Trading Standards team to target activity on premises where intelligence suggests the sale of illicit items and to undertake spot checks with retailers to ensure harmful weapons or paraphernalia are not on sale to children.
- Weapons sweeps on a routine basis, including the use of the Knife Arch on the Bee Network system and work with the Bury Business Improvement District on sensitive environmental improvements that remove natural opportunities for weapons to be stored.
- Mix of overt and covert policing and detached outreach deployments; sharing information on reporting mechanisms such as Fearless (part of Crimestoppers).



- 4.6 Whilst these activities take place throughout the year there is a specific focus during Operation SCEPTRE – GMP Force level week of actions addressing knife crime, the most recent being mid-November including visits to habitual knife carriers; arrests of outstanding knife-enabled offenders and focus on Operation CONCEPT warrants which is police led activity in conjunction with agencies including the Royal Mail and the Border Force to tackle the importation of illegal blades. There is also going to be further work on supporting partners to identify risk through a knife identification aide memoir through the College of Policing and National Police Chief's Council national weapons guide which will be distributed in next couple of months and delivered locally.
- 4.7 Work has continued to focus on identifying and supporting the young people most susceptible to serious violence. Through the Violence Reduction Unit, there has been continued work to focus on diversionary activity, including empowering people to build confidence and resilience, and to find alternative positive avenues to express themselves.
- 4.8 The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) works to reduce violent crime by funding initiatives that support vulnerable communities and prevent violence at its roots. It brings together strategic partners from the local authority, community safety partnership, health, probation, criminal justice and voluntary an community sector leads to deliver community-focused solutions. GMP featured the local work of the VRU with the Bury Defence Academy as part of promoting the role of strengthening community ties and reducing violence through sport and mentorship through a feature on the GMP website in August 2025.
- 4.9 Further VRU related activity includes regular detached sessions (602 young people individually engaged with in the last quarter); mentoring support (19 young people directly supported alongside a girls peer support group); upskilling of Holiday Activity Fund providers to increase the awareness of prevention support offers; and 'Stop the bleed' training on emergency street first aid. This is being further strengthened by greater connectivity to the STEER programme – an Early Intervention project through the Youth Endowment Fund to change behaviours and reduce the risk of offending.
- 4.10 The Bury and Rochdale Youth Justice Board has also established a Serious Youth Violence subgroup which is looking at the opportunities of a Weapons Protocol for schools which is designed to safely reduce the number of exclusions and to maximise out of court resolutions to youth offending.

## 5. PRIORITY: DOMESTIC ABUSE (INCLUDING IN CONTEXT OF SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH)

Measure	24/25 Q1	24/25 Q2	24/25 Q3	24/25 Q4	25/26 Q1	25/26 Q2	Trend
Number of DVA Incidents (GMP)	1062	1394	1030	1092	1265	1112	↓
Percentage of Domestic Abuse victims that are repeat victims	10.6	13.7	12.2	11.2	10.8	N/A	↓
Percentage of DA suspects who are repeat offenders	17.1	19.4	16.2	17.3	16.3	N/A	↓
MARAC* Cases	108	166	115	116	158	N/A	↑
MARAC* Percentage of Repeat Cases	41	35	22	35	37	N/A	↑
Number of (all) crimes linked to influence of drugs	211	217	245	248	356	324	↓
Early Break: Percentage of young people reporting a reduction in substance use	100	75	77	79	79	100	↑
<i>*MARAC – Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference</i>							

5.1 The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, a statutory partnership under the Domestic Abuse Bill 2021, has continued to lead this agenda, focusing on the following priorities:

- Ensuring victims can access timely and effective support with appropriate risk management through MARAC, including evolving processes in line with the Family Safeguarding model,
- Improved partnership working with a focus on prevention so that individuals and communities recognise the signs of domestic abuse and the promotion of healthy relationships, and
- Working with perpetrators to identify and stop harmful behaviours.

5.2 Domestic Abuse remains a key priority for Bury Community Safety Partnership and increasingly for Bury Safeguarding Partnership. Whilst there was previously a CSP Plan priority on Domestic Abuse, the refreshed strategy emphasises the outcomes from safeguarding learning reviews of the importance of considering domestic abuse in the broader context of a person/family's circumstances, particularly considering any co-occurring experiences, such as those relating to substance use and mental health.

5.3 This is reflective of the work to broaden partnership awareness of the nature of such circumstances, to increase professional curiosity for agencies to consider broader features of a household (including whether these might be causal factors or one factor exacerbating another) and to increasingly consider the opportunities to collaborate in supporting victims and changing the behaviours of offenders. This approach has been central to the ongoing work of the Family



Safeguarding Model within Children's Services and is reflected in the new Bury Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy which was approved by Cabinet in April 2025. The strategy commits the Partnership to supporting more integrated commissioning of all forms of safe accommodation, and is being enshrined in the new contracts for Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and Substance Misuse provision which have both been reviewed within the past year.

- 5.4 Since the last report to Scrutiny, Domestic Abuse Protection Orders have been introduced. The pilot began in Bury in late November 2024, and now covers Manchester, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan. Within this time period regionally there have been the successful application of more than 400 DAPOs (over 60 of which related to the Bury district), including five which are indefinite, which is helping us to ensure survivors are much safer from harm, without them needing to go through the court process themselves.
- 5.5 In February, the Safeguarding Minister visited Bury to meet the specialists from the Domestic Abuse team to explore how DAPOs are being used to protect victims from all types of domestic abuse offences, whether that be physical, sexual, or coercive and controlling behaviour. They can be granted for any length of time, may require 'positive requirements' for perpetrators such as electronic monitoring or attendance at a behaviour change programme, and any breach is an arrestable criminal offence. One key benefit for victims is that DAPO applications do not require a victim to attend or provide evidence at court. Police work with local partners to compile all necessary information for the courts to authorise the sought-after orders.
- 5.6 DAPOs are just part of the approach to addressing perpetrator behaviour. Talk Listen Change continues to develop our services for both adults (through the Aspiring to Change Programme) and children and young people in Bury, supporting both those who are displaying harmful behaviours and those who are affected by them. Currently, TLC delivers the Respect Young Peoples Programme, the Encouraging Healthy Relationships Programme and provides counselling for children and young people impacted by domestic abuse.
- 5.7 The cohort accessing Using Harm programmes tend to be older children and has a higher percentage of referrals of young people with a learning, access, or behaviour need. The Respect programme has seen parents report a 74% reduction in conduct problems and 71% reduction in harmful behaviour in addition to 90% reporting a positive change in relation to their overall wellbeing. 61% of young people have reported a positive change in their home environment, learning outcomes and positive change in their support networks, as well as their understanding on how they affect others.
- 5.8 The GMP Domestic Abuse Team have recently conducted a week of action to embed evidence led trauma informed responses, focusing on bringing offenders to justice. This has included delivering evidence led Prosecution training to colleagues (which will provide additional focus in cases where there are mental health concerns or substance use concerns that could previously have led to the withdrawal of the individual supporting the prosecution); improving evidence capture at first response; strengthening compliance and welfare checks; shared partner training on applying for DAPO; and inputs from Respect to Bury officers on securing sustainable positive requirements on DAPO applications.
- 5.9 With respect to supporting victim-survivors of domestic abuse, the Risk Management of cases includes a daily priorities meeting to discuss all high-risk



cases with representation from GMP, Social Care (adults and children), commissioned support including Safenet<sup>1</sup>, Achieve, Probation, Criminal Justice Mental Health. Any cases including young people are automatically screened through the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) and there is a fortnightly MARAC meeting, co-chaired between GMP and the Council. Work has taken place through the partnership to further evolve the 'decision tree' to ensure the total system capacity of support is appropriate and used most effectively, including efficient triage via the MASH and to increase system understanding of connectivity into specialist support, either through the Family Safeguarding Model or specialist IDVAs where appropriate.

- 5.10 Across Greater Manchester work is underway through GMP to review MARAC governance arrangements to seek to increase consistency of approach and support the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA) tool.
- 5.11 In terms of volumes of activity, Bury has seen a fairly consistent rate of domestic abuse over the past 12 months, and this has typically been the third lowest rate across the ten GM authorities, behind Stockport and Trafford. Of the Domestic Abuse crimes recorded by GMP on the Bury district, the prominent nature of crimes included stalking and harassment (33%); violence without injury (30%) and violence with injury (14%).
- 5.12 The highest prevalence of domestic abuse reports in the borough are concentrated within the Moorside, Bury East and Radcliffe East wards. Attention is being given to focus support offers into these areas, including prioritisation for training, opportunities to locate staffing and awareness sessions in these areas, and to provide a focus for public service leaderships teams in these locations. Positively there has been a sustained reduction in cases from Radcliffe West following targeted promotion of activity, along with reductions in Elton and Unsworth.
- 5.13 Of the individuals being supported through Safenet Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), just under 90% of these are female (there was a slight increase in males in the most recent quarter); 16% of individuals are from BAME communities and 20% identify as having a disability. In addition, 14.5% of cohort have an alcohol support need (up annually from 11.1%); 11.8% a drug support need (up from 10%) and 52.6% a mental health support need up from 48.9%.  
Admission abuse types principally recorded as emotional and psychological abuse (37%); physical abuse (30%); controlling and coercive control (22%) sexual abuse (13%) and economic abuse (12%)
- 5.14 A key component of the work of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board continues to be the ongoing awareness raising and training on domestic abuse provision. There has been an increased focus on the fact that domestic violence and abuse takes many forms and that it is much more than physical abuse between intimate partners. This awareness has included:
  - Dame Jasvinder Sanghera provided an input on Forced Marriage and Honour based abuse at Education Safeguarding Conference in February 2025 and input to professionals including probation, social care, safeguarding, acute health and migration colleagues is taking place as part of White Ribbon campaign on 27<sup>th</sup> November at Gigg Lane.

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<sup>1</sup> Safenet are a commissioned provider in relation to Domestic Abuse Services, including Independent Domestic Violence Advisors; community outreach support; and safe accommodation refuge <https://safenet.org.uk/our-services/bury-services-bury-idva-bury-outreach-bury-refuges/>

- Domestic Abuse in Older Life training has continued across public and community sector leads.
- GMP led a week of action focusing on increasing awareness around stalking and harassment.
- Domestic Abuse awareness alongside substance misuse information as part of Adult Safeguarding Community Engagement stalls during November and December.
- Work is taking place with the University of Manchester Policy Unit on parricide (child to parent) abuse.
- The Partnership have supported the recent launch of the Mayor's latest campaign to tackle gender-based violence in GM, with a focus on coercive and controlling behaviour which can often escalate over time and can initially be difficult to spot. These behaviours can include controlling someone's finances or isolating them from their family and friends.
- Attendance at Women of Worth Seasonal Celebration in November including Neighbourhood Policing Team and DA staff to engage with public and try and improve public trust and confidence in the police. There will likely be females who have struggled with substance use and/mental health present.

5.15 Learning sessions have also taken place as part of ongoing Domestic Homicide Reviews and as part of the implementation of a tracker to embed such learning a refreshed series of seven-minute briefings on these is being developed with safeguarding colleagues. These will look at the cross-over between domestic abuse and wider vulnerability to harm including radicalisation and substance misuse, in addition to raising the awareness of child-to-parent domestic abuse.

5.16 With reference specifically to substance use, over the past 12 months, a significant achievement has been the development and launch of the new Bury Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan for 2025–2030. This strategy outlines six key priority areas, which include:

- Priority 1: Prevention: Neighbourhoods in Bury will be healthy spaces and people will be protected from drug and alcohol exposure and harms.
- Priority 2: Harm Reduction: Fewer people in Bury will experience drugs and/or alcohol harms - where people use drugs and/or alcohol they make better, safer, and informed choices.
- Priority 3: Treatment and support: More people in Bury who are in need will be supported by drug and alcohol treatment services.
- Priority 4: Social and community harms from drug and alcohol use: People in Bury will not be victimised, exploited, or be victims of crime and disorder associated with drugs and/or alcohol.
- Priority 5: Children, young people and families: Children and young people in Bury are protected from drug and alcohol harms and supported towards bright futures.
- Priority 6: Recovery: In Bury we are ambitious about recovery, and recovery is visible and celebrated.

5.17 The Bury Co-occurring Conditions (CoC) group continues to meet quarterly and provides progress reports and updates devolved from the Greater Manchester CoC framework. Bury has a local plan with a number of key priority areas, which the drug and alcohol and mental health commissioner are jointly leading and coordinating to improve collaboration between services for adults and children, with good progress being made. Operationally, weekly huddles and regular meetings take place between the two adult service providers (Pennine and Achieve), helping to support individuals who require treatment for co-

existing severe and enduring mental health difficulties alongside drug and/or alcohol use issues.

- 5.18 Big Life Group (part of the Achieve Partnership) who deliver outreach services, is now attending Health and Care Integrated Neighbourhood Team meetings to represent the service and the Achieve treatment and recovery partnership. Their involvement will help support individuals known to caseloads and contribute to improved outcomes and access to services and support, while enhancing partnership working.
- 5.19 Closer working between the Bury Safeguarding Team and the Achieve Bury service is an important focus. The services have implemented simplified communication channels to raise concerns or seek information and advice, similar to those established locally by GMP and Community Mental Health Team with the Adult Social Care Safeguarding Team. Both services will attend each other's team meetings to raise awareness of their offer and the benefits of partnership working.
- 5.20 The Bury Drug and Alcohol Related Death (DARD) partnership has been strengthened over the past year, with improved representation and attendance from Community Mental Health Team, GMP, Bury GP Lead, and the Adult Social Care Safeguarding Team in the quarterly 2025/26 panels. This enhanced engagement and reporting is improving partnership case reviews and discussions and improving local system learning. A GP masterclass session is scheduled for January, led by a Greater Manchester Mental Health Consultant, to raise awareness of the risks associated with long-term use of dependency-forming medicines. This session responds to a local theme identified by the Bury DARD panel and aims to support safer prescribing practices and reduce Bury drug related deaths.
- 5.21 Some examples of partnership activity to tackle drug related harm within our communities from an enforcement perspective include:
- In October 2025 a man who ran one of the country's biggest drug trafficking networks with connections in the borough was sentenced to over 18 years for possession and supply for Class A and B controlled drugs, in addition to money laundering offences.
  - Officers dedicated to Programme Challenger (Greater Manchester's partnership response to serious and organised crime) made significant arrests and jailed a persistent offender for drug supply offences in Bury and Radcliffe. Programme Challenger work to disrupt and dismantle criminal networks involved in drug trafficking, exploitation, firearms offences, and money laundering.
  - Drone teams supported GMP colleagues chasing a suspect which led to the discovery of a large cannabis farm. By using the specialist unit of the drone unit for a wider view, it enabled them to spot something that was suspicious which ultimately led to the significant find. What was uncovered was precisely 658 plants and six vacuum packed bags ready for distribution and was able to be prevented from getting onto local streets.
- 5.22 Specific inputs have been provided by the Council's Trading Standards and Licensing colleagues to tackle illicit sales. Within the last year this has included:
- In March 2025, officers from the Licensing Service and Trading Standards Service worked in partnership with Greater Manchester Police, Immigration and HMRC. They visited 7 premises in total and seized 1503 Illegal Vapes which equated to £20,000 in street value. Whilst undertaking the visits, a

fire safety issue was identified relating to a person living upstairs and there was no means of escape in the event of a fire. This has been referred to the Fire Service to take the necessary enforcement action they deem appropriate.

- During Operation AVRO licensing breaches were identified and a large quantity of illicit tobacco, illegal vapes and counterfeit goods were seized. This included 384 packs of Cigarettes (7480 sticks), 43 packets of hand rolling tobacco (2.15 kg) and 1218 vapes. In total £25,000 of items were seized, protecting public health from these unsafe items.
- Joint operations in August as part of Keeping Town Centres Safe this summer the following items were seized - 447 illegal vapes; 34,260 illicit sticks of tobacco (1713 packets); 8.4 kg of illicit hand-rolling tobacco (168 packets) with a collective value close to £40,000.
- In October 2025, Licensing Enforcement Officers visited seven premises across the Borough as part of Operation MACHINIZE alongside officers from Greater Manchester Police, HMRC, Immigration, Trading Standards, Environmental Health and a tobacco dog. This Operation is an ongoing National Crime Agency coordinated operation to tackle money laundering and criminal use of cash-intensive high street businesses. 888 packets of Illicit cigarettes and 108 pouches of hand rolling tobacco were seized as well as 199 illegal disposable vapes and 76 counterfeit toys and 10 counterfeit pairs of headphones with an approximate street value of £22,500.

## 6. PRIORITY: SAFEGUARDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Measure	24/25 Q1	24/25 Q2	24/25 Q3	24/25 Q4	25/26 Q1	25/26 Q2	Trend
GMCA Survey: % of people who feel their community is a place where people from multiple backgrounds get along	74	75	79	79	72	77	↑
GMCA Survey: My local area is a place where people look out for each other	78	71	78	75	72	74	↑
Number of Hate Crimes	168	194	164	144	184	252	↑
How confident are you that you could get help from Greater Manchester Police in an emergency?	60	67	66	63	69	67	↓
Violence Against Women and Girls	2,006	1,254	1,087	1,117	1,156	1,146	↓
GM Survey: Percentage of women who feel safe in their local area	87	93	90	89	92	89	↓

- 6.1 Community Cohesion has been an existing priority of the Community Safety Partnership for a number of years. Engagement on the current strategy took place in the context of regional, nation and international tensions being felt

within and across communities in Bury, which strengthened the CSP's commitment to this priority.

- 6.2 The recent year has seen significant challenges that have increased community tension locally and have been the focus on co-ordinated community safety activity to address.
- 6.3 On 2<sup>nd</sup> October the terror attack on Heaton Park Synagogue, taking place during Yom Kippur, brought significant grief to our Jewish communities; concern to our Muslim communities, and shock to the broader neighbourhoods of Bury. Emergency response activity saw Bury resources deployed to assist those in need within the borough and to support colleagues in Manchester and the wider region. Emergency command structures, including a Response Co-ordination Group sought to ensure urgent health and humanitarian aid was provided as GMP colleagues led the immediate response to the threat.
- 6.4 Patrolling activity had already been enhanced as part of specific operations to support High Holy Days, but significant additional resources were provided to increase security presence in the immediate days and weeks after the attack, to provide reassurance. This included engagement with wider community settings concerned over the potential for reprisals. The aftermath of the attack coincided with the anniversary of the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 Hamas attack and points below reference to the ongoing work under Operation WILDFLOWER which has continued to co-ordinate activity associated with tensions relating to the Gaza conflict. Council colleagues continue to assist through liaising with GMP on CCTV linkages to support investigations and as part of joint tension monitoring.
- 6.5 Responding to the synagogue attack there has been a mixture of formal and informal engagement with community leads, the tailoring and sharing of support information, including victim support, trauma informed wellbeing information and further guidance on reporting any form of hate. There have also been additional meetings with representatives from Prestwich to further conversations on ongoing reassurance and support. There has been reinforced messaging on reporting antisemitism and islamophobia, emphasising the need to call out all forms of hatred.
- 6.6 Targeted liaison has taken place with headteachers to support the return of pupils to school; with community health partners on the opportunities to ensure culturally appropriate support and provision is both available and known about; and bespoke approaches to communication are being developed in conjunction with community partners to increase the depth of dialogue between CSP partners and local communities
- 6.7 The events of the 2<sup>nd</sup> October are compounded by the timing of a court case concerning a foiled terror attack following arrests by counter-terrorism officers in 2024. Whilst a positive piece of policing to negate the threat of that attack, the information disclosed as part of the court case naturally brings additional concerns to members of the community, as such the activities set out in 6.5 and 6.6, and broader work on cohesion look to address the totality of experience being felt locally with the need for ongoing reassurance activity and that addressing cohesion is an everyone-everywhere issue.
- 6.8 Operation WILDFLOWER activity has continued throughout 2025. Working with colleagues in Salford and Manchester, alongside the Community Security Trust and Shomrim, this allows for sharing community level concerns, tensions and reports of incidents. It allowed for the two-way flow of updates in relation to

these between statutory agencies and partners the cross-referencing of any reported incidents between agencies; co-ordination of work together to protect and maintain community cohesion including linkages to and learning from activity elsewhere across the region (with Bury inputting into regional WILDFLOWER governance); and shared intelligence on any risks to cohesion, such as demonstration or acts of hate. The WILDFLOWER meetings have allowed a means to respond quickly to any potential point of tension, eg identification and removal of hateful graffiti and a more co-ordinated approach as partnership to ensuring that different faiths can observe days of significance and local customs in ways that don't increase local tension. Notably there was positive feedback to the joint patrol plans around Purim and Ramadan in 2025, applying learning from previous years and increasing mutual awareness and understanding across different communities.

6.9 Activity to safeguard against hateful extremism has continued to evolve following another strong outcome in local benchmarking of Prevent Duty delivery through the Home Office, where benchmarking standards were met in all categories and exceeded in two-thirds of standards). The new tiered training approach has been rolled out, Prevent Partnership membership extended to include licensing colleagues, the leaving care team and broader housing providers; whilst work on reducing permissive environments has seen Bury lead on guidance around mitigating the use of 3D printers for harm. To further promote safeguarding against hateful extremism, the CSP has worked with SAFE (Security Advice for Everyone) via the Community Security Trust who are delivered a session on awareness in relation to The Far Right, Incels and Martyn's Law (Protect Duty).

6.10 Safeguarding against hate includes a relentless focus on increasing hate crime reporting by supporting options for reporting and awareness across communities. GMP and Bury Council have continued to work together to engage with existing hate crime reporting centres and to broaden the array of hate crime ambassadors within communities. During the past twelve months this has included inputs as part of Greater Manchester Hate Crime Awareness week in February, national Hate Crime Awareness week in October, and on an ongoing basis. Examples of activity include:

- Awareness raising and ambassador training at Chesham Fold Community Centre and to tenancy engagement officer across housing services.
- Training to Citizens Advice staff to support disclosures and share awareness.
- Showcase of young people of Bury and Radcliffe promoting hate crime messaging at The Met.
- A Hate Crime awareness round table event with over 70 attendees at the Mosses Centre.
- Information stalls at the Millgate, Bury Interchange and wider Bee Network, community action days.
- Drop ins at existing community activities and networks, including the BAME Project and Women of Worth.
- Input to matchday volunteers at Bury Football Club and joint engagement with Her Game Too.
- Inputs through B.Safe including from the Sophie Lancaster Foundation
- Information and awareness through cohesion related events outlined in section 6.12

6.11 On the key events of Hate Crime Awareness week in October was a session with the British Red Cross and Eagles Wing which had a particular focus on

increasing awareness and support in relation to hate crime relation to asylum seekers, refugees, and those agencies supporting this population. The CSP has sought to provide support against challenging national rhetoric and partners have worked closely to share any insight and intelligence of any concern including to debunk any mis/disinformation that might be in circulation where possible, and to ensure individuals are aware of, and confident, in reporting any concerns of crimes – and that these will be thoroughly investigated.

6.12 As part of Bury's approach, we have been keen to showcase and celebrate the different cultures and heritage we have within and across our communities. We have continued to be proud to recognise key dates within Bury's civic and cultural diary. Following Community Cohesion roundtables in 2024, partners including community leads have continued to meet with a focus on developing co-designed events and activities, sharing opportunities to raise awareness and learning through these. This has included:

- Supporting Sisters developed a Community Garden at Cateaton Street as a focal point for community and social interaction, fostering a stronger and more connected neighbourhood.
- Bury Met – Patchwork Voices, a creative project gathering personal reflections, memories, and responses from people across Bury. Through conversations, interviews, and prompts, the project invited individuals to explore themes of identity, belonging, creativity, and community, using the metaphor of a patchwork quilt; something stitched together from many stories, colours, and textures, representing the diverse voices of the borough. The Patchwork is completed and organisations have been invited to host the display during 2026.
- Collabor8 is a family event that celebrates Bury's diverse communities, with a range of stalls and events run by various cultural, community and faith groups from the Borough. The purpose of the event was to bring people together from the communities of Bury; creating an opportunity for attendees to develop their own cultural awareness and understanding, to ask questions and learn in a respectful and fun manner, enabling us to break down stereotypes, eradicate prejudice and allow a platform to tackle hate crime and to raise awareness. More than 650 attendees took part in the grounds of Derby High School.
- Bury Mela took place once again at Burrs Country Park – with a broader array of community representation involved and in attendance, with the use of town centre 'flash dances' to raise awareness.
- LGBTQI Forum- Queer Fest. A day and evening of cultural celebrations, Queer Fest included imaginative storytelling for families, poetry and art workshops, two question and answer sessions with LGBTQI+ authors, information stalls and Bollywood dancing.
- Community Cricket Match. The event organised by ADAB, took place at Bury Cricket Club and welcomed over 300 attendees including members of the public and various stallholders. The event provided a free opportunity for young people to come together to try out cricket with people from different communities recognising the role of sport as a common bond.
- Bury Interfaith Schools event – 20 schools from across the Borough engaged in a safe space to learn about 7 faiths, getting to speak first hand to different faith leaders, explore key artefacts of each faith and be able to ask any questions that they might have.



6.13 One of the core components on work in relation to cohesion is the recognition of intersectionality and that different communities of identity and experience have different feelings of safety or experiences of crime. One particular focus for the partnership is gender based violence and addressing violence against women and girls. Over the past year, Bury CSP has built upon activity to mark the White Ribbon campaign, through a number of initiatives including:

- Contributing to the development of a Bury Women & Girls Commission, including inputs to a scoping session as part of International Women's Day in March which saw inputs from Bury Council, GMP and TravelSafe who have followed this event with demonstrations at education settings and community events, including virtual-reality goggles to allow men and boys to experience unwanted attention and abuse from a different perspective.
- Active bystander training for public service and voluntary sector leads, including direct inputs from the White Ribbon and Kindling Interventions
- A joint engagement event with local running groups at Philip's Park to address concerns from female runners over safety in green spaces. GMP and Council colleagues shared information on patrolling activities including from Mounted Police colleagues in response to concerns raised, from ASB and detached outreach colleagues; and worked to develop an information sheet for running groups to share on best practice including the means of reporting any forms of concern (to support identification of offenders and targeting of pulse patrolling). This is being built on with some work at the Policy Lab at Manchester University based on research into this area.
- Inputs to young people, including through B.Safe, on healthy relationships and the impact of microaggressions.
- Listening circles by GMP with women's groups and networks in the Borough, supplementing overt and plain clothes operations to promote women's safety within the Night Time Economy.

## 7. PRIORITY: ENSURING RESILIENT, SAFER PLACES AND SPACES

Measure	24/25 Q1	24/25 Q2	24/25 Q3	24/25 Q4	25/26 Q1	Trend
Bury Council – ASB Reports received	145	120	64	100	149	↑
Rates of ASB incidents reported by GMP (per 10,000 population)	48.7	48.3	42.6	54.9	64.7	↑
Number of GMFRS callouts for water incidents	1	3	2	2	2	↓

7.1 This report has highlighted some of the multi-agency activity which takes place as daily business in the borough. Many of these teams also work together to address specific events or as part of key initiatives. During June and July, Heaton Park saw a series of concerts including Parklife and Oasis with tens of thousands of visitors to the borough, with the CSP involved in the planning, delivery and debrief to ensure such events took place safely for both those attending and local communities. In terms of activities outside of the event perimeters, this involved:

- Community liaison with residents on fencing and security arrangements.
- Safe liaison of taxi provision and hackney carriage rank operations.
- Trading standards assessing pedlar certification and removal on unlicensed traders.
- Joint licensed premises checks.
- Removal of vehicles obstructing clearways.
- Intervention remove underage sales of vapes.

- 7.2 Environmental safety considerations have included a renewed focus on water safety, with updated materials developed and shared on the dangers of open water, including cascade through the Early Years partnership, safeguarding leads in education and community settings, including translated materials on warning signs and life-saving guidance such as Float to Live. This complements activity between the Council and GM Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) to further evaluate water courses in the borough and deliver on recommendations set out through Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) reports and localised surveys. This work has seen delivery against prioritised sites (those of the highest profile, footfall, most accessible and/or where there have been previous incidents or near misses. This rolling programme has progressed to phase 2 sites.
- 7.3 GM Fire and Rescue Services (GMFRS) have also been central to work throughout the year. For example, there has been multiagency activity to address concerns in relation to Pioneer Mill in Radcliffe. Local agencies have engaged regional and national colleagues from the Environment Agency and Health & Safety Executive to respond to concerns over environmental concerns, drug related criminality, concerns for welfare and in response to a series of fires, the most serious of which occurred in September 2025. Work continues to use all civil and criminal powers to investigate, set and enforce prohibitions, and work collaboratively to reduce the threat of harm and mitigate risk.
- 7.4 Within the year GMFRS have published their updated Greater Manchester Fire Plan, which dovetails with the work of the CSP and regional Safer and Stronger Plan. In particular the Fire Plan focuses on a Safer Communities and Intervention offer which includes promotion of Firestoppers (where anonymous reports can be made to support the identification of deliberate fire setting to enable joint work with GMP on criminal investigative action); targeted interventions such as through The Atlas Project (support and education for convicted fire setters); the Achilles Project (intervention for individuals involved in the criminal justice system to change behaviour and develop personal resilience) and individual offers through Home Fire Safety Assessments (HFSA) by GMFRS, involving home visits to assess and reduce fire risk. The assessments are person-centred, offering advice and signposting based on risks related to the person, environment, or behaviour.
- 7.5 Road safety forms part of GMFRS activity, as part of the Vision Zero Strategy which aims to eliminate road death and life changing injuries by 2040 with a target of a 50% reduction by 2030. There has been promotion of partnership resources on road safety including *Sharing the Road*; *Fatal 4* and *Winter Road Safety* guidance from GMFRS; promotion of DriveSafe through the Bee Network and *Safe Drive Stay Alive* in conjunction with the Northern Care Alliance and GM colleagues/ youth groups. Further work has taken place to review hotspot locations for partnership engagement, including with GMP over speeding operations or considerations to design out any vulnerabilities, alongside use of virtual reality and live extraction from vehicle demonstrations.

- 7.6 Road safety was a key feature of Operation AVRO which took place again in April. Operation AVRO is a force wide initiative that delivers extra resources and specialist officers to a different district within Greater Manchester each month. On AVRO day a total of 80 traffic offences were reported, with 11 stop searches, nine breaches of the Road Traffic Act, five motoring offences and one stolen vehicle recovered. In addition, 11 warrants were executed for broader criminal concerns, resulting in 33 arrests and the seizure of £25,000 of counterfeit electronics.
- 7.7 Activity continues to take place to tackle the illegal and anti-social use of e-scooters, e-bikes and all-terrain vehicles. Bringing together community insight and intelligence from the Bury Challenger team resulted in warrants for units on Bolton Street in Radcliffe in which fourteen vehicles were seized, all of which held under the Proceeds of Crime Act.
- 7.8 In addition, work with TravelSafe colleagues as part of the Bee Network, focuses on increasing safety, and the feeling of safety, on public transport in the Borough. The approach involves prevention and education activity, including the deployment of the Foundation 92 bus routinely to Bury Interchange providing a safe space for young people to engage, safety inputs into local clubs and networks; high visibility patrolling on the network, including jointly with the Council's youth detached teams – the latter of which driven by weekly intelligence sharing between TravelSafe, GMP, Colleges, Bury Council's ASB team and Youth Services colleagues. This includes details on any incidents on the network to allow a partnership response, including multi-agency intervention and the targeting of patrols.
- 7.9 TravelSafe inputs formed part of Bury's Keeping Town Centres Safe campaign this summer, delivering on the Home Office's Safer Streets campaign. Locally this built on Operation HEARTBEAT which is a dedicated operation to address youth related crime, anti-social behaviour and criminality in the town centre. GMP have been working in conjunction with the Council's ASB colleagues, TravelSafe, Millgate and The Rock security and the Bury Business Improvement District Stewards to share intelligence and engagement with the youth detached outreach team and complex safeguarding colleagues.
- 7.10 Town Centre safety activity has also included an additional focus in Prestwich in response to a linked series of shoplifting reports and youth related anti-social behaviour. The daytime HEARTBEAT activity is complimented by Operations LYNX and EXPEDITE within the Night Time Economy working in conjunction with licensing colleagues, licenced premises (including Pubwatch), Street Pastors and Bury Business Improvement District. This work has been built on Bury having a Purple Flag accredited town centre, an accolade the borough is rightly proud of and has once again received. The Safer Streets funded expansion of CCTV provision last year is being supplemented by joint work with the Bury BID on digital crime reporting and intelligence system to improve connectivity and sharing of information between organisations.
- 7.11 The CSP has continued to work collaboratively to tackle anti-social behaviour in the borough. The latest GMP rolling 3 month data details that Bury has the lowest level in force for ASB overall.
- 7.12 Where anti-social behaviour does occur the predominant categories are of rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour, which is nearly three times higher than the next categories of vehicle nuisance, neighbour disputes and noise concerns. It is noted that almost a third of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour incidents are

within 250 metres of the Metrolink network. For vehicle nuisance the predominant themes are off-road bikes and anti-social parking.

7.13 A district Anti-Social Behaviour Problem Profile directs a series of strategic and tactical partnership responses to tackling the causes and mitigating the effects of anti-social behaviour across the borough and includes:

- Ongoing joint visits between police and Council ASB colleagues to properties where both organisations have received complaints to help resolve any issues that have been raised.
- Multiagency visits, including engagement with educational establishments to address behaviours of young people around Manchester Road Park.
- Joint 'surgeries' in locations across the Borough to support the awareness of how to report ASB and address any concerns raised at these.
- Ongoing joint patrols in hotspot locations examples including work with the Prestwich Neighbourhood Policing Team regarding off road bikes

7.14 With regards to neighbourhood crime, also known as acquisitive crime:

- Residential Burglary continues to show year on year reductions both across Greater Manchester and within the borough. Bury has the lowest number of residential burglaries in Greater Manchester, and has shown 15% reductions compared to the previous year to date. Whilst there are occasional pockets of activity in particular police beats, there are not persistent hotspots with pulse patrolling of both overt and covert officers deployed to target any peaks, and local areas provided with crime prevention advice to reduce any local vulnerabilities.
- Personal Robbery has seen further reductions, with volumes down 8.8% compared to the previous year to date. Bury has the second lowest volume of robbery across Greater Manchester, just ahead of Trafford. All robberies are reviewed by Bury's Neighbourhood Crime Team, with particular emphasis on identifying any patterns or linked series. The team works closely with neighbouring Districts and Force-level teams such as the Transport Unit, to ensure that crimes are not viewed in isolation, and so that disruptive actions have maximum effect.
- Vehicle crime (vehicle interference; theft from motor vehicles and theft of motor vehicles) has reduced by 8.3% in Bury compared to the previous year to date, which is double the reduction across Greater Manchester generally. Bury had 466 vehicle crime offences in the current year to date, by far the lowest amongst GM boroughs, with the next highest being 621 in Trafford. There is no room for complacency however, with an understanding that behind every crime is a victim, and it remains a crime that can have a significant impact on victims in terms of confidence and livelihood. Targeted work continues with crime prevention advice including messaging through Bee in the Loop, and proactive patrols.

## **8 SUMMARY**

8.1 Bury's Community Safety Partnership has continued to work collaboratively to keep the people of Bury safe from harm. Through a combination of proactive and preventative activity, to responding in a multi-agency manner in response to emerging threats and incidents, the CSP is delivering against the commitments and priorities set out in the CSP plan. Examples outlined in this report demonstrate the CSP delivering on Bury's *LET'S Do It!* approach and

initiatives such as Operation VARDAR demonstrate the contribution CSP partners to neighbourhood working in Bury.

- 8.2 Delivery against the overarching strategy though is set within a dynamic and challenging context. Emerging and escalating threats of harm are addressed as the partnership, and there is the ongoing task of balancing these alongside existing priorities at a time of continued pressure on system resources.
- 8.3 The Partnership continues to iterate, and tailor focus to lead mitigations to identified and emerging risks, increasingly working with wider partnerships to maximise their connections and opportunities for engagement and addressing wider causal contributions to grievances or harm. This is also the case across the existing priorities, recognising the overlaps and intersectionality between these, particularly when considering furthering cohesion - ultimately building on, and where necessary re-framing existing commitments.
- 8.4 This will be the continued focus for the CSP over the coming months, addressing seasonal safety areas of business during winter months, whilst building on insight (data and community intelligence) to continue to re-position the partnership to be best places to protect people from harm, and demonstrate that we are safer & stronger together.

## **9 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 This report provides an overview of the recent, current and planned activities taking place across the priorities of Bury's Community Safety Partnership. The Committee is asked to note the report and outline any areas of further interest.

## **ACRONYMS**

ASB – Anti Social Behaviour  
CSP – Community Safety Partnership  
CST – Community Security Trust  
DAPO – Domestic Abuse Protection Orders  
DVA – Domestic Violence/ Abuse  
GMCA – Greater Manchester Combined Authority  
GMFRS – Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service  
GMP – Greater Manchester Police  
IDVA – Independent Domestic Violence Advisor  
MARAC – Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference  
VAWG – Violence Against Women & Girls

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