

Sefton Safer Communities Partnership

Community Safety Strategic Assessment

2020-21

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Executive Summary

The purpose of Sefton's Community Safety Strategic Assessment (CSSA) is to identify local needs and views to support local strategy development and service planning. In order to understand whether we are achieving good outcomes locally it is useful to benchmark outcomes in Sefton against the national average and look at trends over time.

It should be remembered that community safety and cohesion issues can often only be tackled by taking a multi-departmental and multi-agency approach to solutions since factors influencing outcomes include not only both primary emergency service activities but also wider determinants such as community development and social relationships; poverty; education; physical environmental quality; housing decency and affordability; and diversionary activity and family support.

The primary purpose of this Executive Summary is to identify key points from the CSSA core dataset, with particular emphasis on those areas and issues that are of greater overall concern within each part of the report. The overall local picture of community safety in the Borough is summarised below.

Core Areas of Concern

Total crime rates have increased in Sefton over the last couple of years, in line with regional and national trends. Whilst Sefton's rates are below those of the North West and Liverpool City Region (LCR) they are higher than the England rates. This is similar for most categories of crime, though rates of drug offences and shop lifting are higher in the borough than the North West.

The highest absolute levels of crime relate to violence against the person and thefts, with the most significant increase being in violent crime.

Localities and Spatial Inequality

When looking at the maps throughout the document there are clear areas with high densities of crimes (mainly Linacre, Derby, the north section of Dukes and Cambridge wards and lower section of Molyneux ward in Central Sefton). Similar patterns can be seen with the rates of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Fly

Tipping. A possible link to this is the higher levels of deprivation seen in these areas.

Initial Conclusions & Recommendations

In Sefton crimes have shown an overall increase over the past five years with 2020/21 having the highest rate, a pattern which can be seen across the North West and LCR. Violent crime and theft are the most prolific crimes within the borough; these should be the target crime types for future activities. The number of domestic abuse and sexual crimes is also on the rise and work should continue in this area.

A clear link can be seen between certain crimes and alcohol (specifically criminal damage and violence). These issues are also spatially and temporally concentrated. Peak times for these crimes are between six pm and four am particularly over the weekend and focussed around areas with bars and clubs though this is not as apparent as previous years (possibly due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns). Work therefore needs to continue with local night time economy providers to try and reduce numbers of offences and impacts on communities.

Sefton has a particular issue with drug offences though rates of Sefton residents completing substance misuse programmes and not representing have fluctuated for drug users over the past five years. Discussions with treatment providers should be conducted to find out the reasons for the fluctuations and plans put in place to improve outcomes.

Anti-Social Behaviour levels across Sefton are the lowest seen for 10 years which is a positive story, though perceptions may not match the reality in some communities. Work needs to continue to ensure levels remain low, especially with youths and street drinkers.

The rate of children killed and seriously injured on Sefton's roads has shown reductions over the past four years and has moved below the national levels. Continued campaigns on road safety may help continue this reduction.

Introduction

The Sefton Safer Communities Partnership Plan highlights the key priorities for building community resilience to crime and increase the confidence of residents by changing their perception of crime in Sefton.

Ensuring the safety of residents is a clear priority for partners in Sefton. Sefton's Safer Communities Partnership is the coming together of organisations from across the borough to work towards reducing crime and reassuring communities. The effect of crime is wide reaching, and it is the Partnership's plan to help reduce this effect and make our communities safer places to live, work and visit.

To support the next iteration of the plan it is important to review and re-assess the current pattern, distribution, and levels of community safety across Sefton. The Community Safety Strategic Assessment is a tool to support the planning, decision making, and commissioning priorities through the provision of insight into community safety issues in Sefton. This helps ensure that community safety considerations form an integral part of the delivery of statutory services within the Community Safety Partnership.

The purpose of this report is to identify issues surrounding community safety in Sefton and to some extent the factors influencing those patterns to support future evidence-based decision making.

The key priorities in the 2020/2021 Safer Communities Budget Plan included:

- Anti-social Behaviour
- Sexual Offences
- Vulnerable Victims – including hate crime
- Community Infrastructure
- Community Resilience
- Serious Organised Crime & Serious Acquisitive Crime
- Targeted Young People Support

Further details about the Sefton Safer Communities Partnership Plan can be found at:

[Sefton Safer Communities Budget Plan 2020/2021](#)

Background

When interpreting the data provided in this report several factors should be kept in mind:

- For crime data, only reported crimes are considered – many (especially 'low-level' crimes) will go unreported.
- An increase in reported crime is not necessarily 'bad'. Sometimes, an increase in reported crime over a period can be a positive result of citizens feeling more confident in the reporting processes, police, or justice system. This may be particularly relevant to crimes such as domestic abuse and / or sexual offences.
- For crime data the information available for use in this report is based on the location the offence occurred rather than the residential location of the offender and as such any correlations will not necessarily directly relate to the offender profile.
- Crime data included in this report is taken from a live system, figures may change slightly in the future, however they will not be reflected in this report.

Supporting Information & Context

JSNA Webpage

[Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) \(sefton.gov.uk\)](#)

Sefton Local Plan

[Local Plan \(sefton.gov.uk\)](#)

Borough & Ward profiles

[Borough & Ward Profiles \(sefton.gov.uk\)](#)

COVID-19

The core figures in this document reflect the latest information available some of this data does not cover the period affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated impacts. Whilst these are expected to be significant there is at present no comprehensive or robust national data to assess these wider impacts.

Sefton Overview

The following section reviews the core current patterns and trends in community safety issues including crime, anti-social behaviour, deliberate fires, and vulnerable people across Sefton.

In four of the last five years, Sefton's overall crime rates has been below those seen nationally and across the Liverpool City Region, however, there has been a gradual increase in the levels of reported crimes with Sefton rates moving above those of England in the current year (August 2020 to September 2021).

Anti-social behaviour and deliberate fires have shown overall reductions across the past 10 years, though reports of Fly Tipping have increased.

Key Themes

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse continues to be an ever-present issue in the Borough. There has been a year-on-year increase in offences reported / dealt with by Merseyside Police; there has been a decrease in the number of cases discussed at MARAC when comparing 2021/22 to the previous year, yet an overall increase of 25% across the past five years.

Children's Safeguarding

The rates of Children in Need and Children Looked After, have shown overall increases across the past five years (16% and 35% respectively).

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Overall ASB has reduced, 18% of incidents reported to Merseyside police in 2021 related to youths. This has fluctuated over the past four years but often becomes an issue around school holidays and during the Halloween / bonfire period. (There was a peak in 2020, possibly linked to the lock down measures introduced throughout the year relating to Covid-19.)

Sexual Offences

Though numbers of sexual offences are relatively low, there has been fluctuations across the past five years, with an overall increase of 4%.

Violence

Continually the highest numbers of offences reported in Sefton; violence has seen a year-on-

year increase from 2017 to 2021, with an overall increase of 89% increase since 2017.

Hate Crime

In Sefton, 642 hate crime offences were reported to Merseyside Police during the 2021, a 65% increase over the last five years, and is the highest total over the same period.

Gaps and limitations in Knowledge

Analysis as part of the CSSA has highlighted some gaps and limitations in knowledge.

Measuring the full extent of sexual offences and domestic violence is difficult as these offences are known to be under reported. Although reporting is increasing following high profile national cases, it is known that figures are largely influenced by the willingness of victims to come forward.

Lack of recording of enhanced data for assault-related injury attendances at hospital Emergency Departments means it is not possible to further understand assault date, time, location or weapon which could be recorded.

Analysis on the residential location of offenders compared to offence locations, indicating how far offenders are travelling to commit crimes would allow better targeting of interventions.

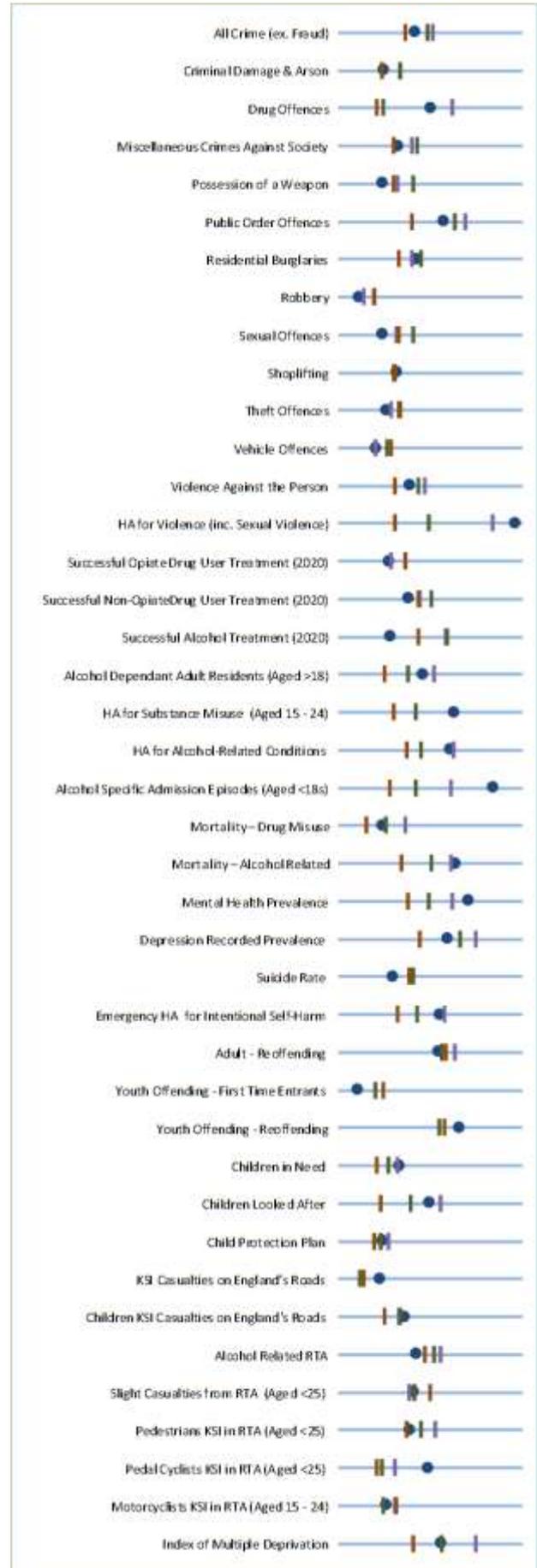
The lack of victim data potentially under-represents the impact on wider health and wellbeing and reduces information available for prioritising better support for victims and their families.

Further data that is not represented within the report includes: cuckooing, serious organised crime, street drinking, and accurate information on rough sleepers.

Comparative National Position

The following illustrates the relative position of Sefton (●) when compared to the range of values for all England local authorities, and highlights the England (|), North West (|) and Liverpool City Region (|) rates.

Low values are to the left, high to the right. For some data topics the LCR figure was not available.



National Crime Comparisons

Data is published by the Local Government Inform Plus on a quarterly basis showing all crimes committed within England down to Local Authority geography on a rolling year basis. The North West figures for 2018/19 appear to be low compared to previous and current rates.

Across Sefton there were approximately 24,000 crimes committed during the 2020/ (August to September), this equates to a rate of 87 crimes per 1,000 residents.

Over the past five years the crime rate within Sefton has remained below both the rates seen across Liverpool City Region (LCR), the North West, though in 2020/21 they have moved above those of England (Figure 1).

The crime rate in Sefton has seen an overall increase of 34% across the past five years, higher than the increases seen, nationally, regionally and across the city region.

Despite the overall rise, in 2020/21 Sefton had the second lowest crime rate of all Local Authorities in the LCR (Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, and Wirral). With Wirral being lowest, and Liverpool the highest (Table 1).

Figure 1. Rate of crimes (per 1,000 population)



Table 1. Total Counts and Rate of Crime per 1,000 Head of Population

2020/21 (Aug - Sep)	Crime Counts	Crime Rates
Halton	13435	104
Knowsley	14914	98
Liverpool	62187	124
Sefton	24027	87
St Helens	18263	101
Wirral	25600	79
LCR	158426	101
North West	716779	97
England	4634871	82

The total crime figures can be broken down into 12 offence categories (Table 2). The sections below detail the rate of offences by category type occurring during the year (August to September).

Criminal Damage and Arson Offences

The rate of criminal damage and arson offences occurring across Sefton reduced year on year from 2017/18 to 2020/21, showing an overall reduction of 1%. 2020/21 has the lowest rate across the last five years.

Sefton has been continually below the LCR rates since 2016/17 and below the national rate for the past two years (Figure 2a).

Drug Offences

Sefton has had considerably higher rates of drug offences than that of the North West and England for the past five years yet has lower rates than seen across the LCR area (Figure 2b).

Numbers of drug offences in Sefton have increased year on year over the past five years with an overall increase of 57% from 2017/18 to 2020/21.

Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society Offences

Rates of miscellaneous crimes against society have fluctuated across the past five years; like the patterns seen across LCR, the North West and England.

In 2020/21 Sefton had a similar rate to that seen nationally and remained below the other two comparator areas (Figure 2c). There has been an overall increase of 20% when comparing the Sefton rate in 2017/18 to the most current rate though actual numbers remain quite low.

Possession of Weapons Offences

Possession of weapon offence rates in the borough have remained stable between 2017/18 and 2020/21, there has been an overall increase of 58% across the five years (though absolute numbers are continually very low compared to other offence types).

Sefton has predominantly been below the three comparator areas across the past five years (Figure 2d).

Public Order Offences

Sefton has generally remained below the rates seen across LCR, the North West (NW) and England, year on year.

The offences have increased year on year between 2016/17 to 2020/21, a pattern seen across the city region and nationally (Figure 2e). In the borough, there has been an overall increase of 182% in the past five years.

Residential Burglary Offences

Data is only available for 2017/18 onwards due to a change in offence terminology. The rates of residential burglaries occurring in Sefton have shown year on year reductions across the past four years.

With Sefton being below the NW for the past two years yet higher than the national rates (Figure 2f).

Robbery Offences

Though the rate (and count) of robbery offences is relatively low, numbers have fluctuated across the past five years, with an overall reduction of 25% (2016/17 compared to 2020/21).

Sefton has mostly remained below the national, regional and city regional rates seen across the five years (Figure 2g).

Sexual Offences

Sexual offences have shown an overall rise of 30% across the past five years, with 2020/21 having the highest levels.

Between 2016/17 and 2020/21 Sefton rates have predominantly been below that of LCR, NW and England (Figure 2h).

Shoplifting

In 2020/21, the rates of Shoplifting in Sefton were on par with those of LCR, NW and England (Figure 2i). Rates have fallen by 259% across the past five years in the borough.

Theft Offences

Levels of theft offences have shown year on year reductions in the borough from 2017/18 to 2020/21, down 27% (across the five years). Sefton rates are continually below those rates seen in the city region and nationally (Figure 2j).

Vehicle Offences

Levels of vehicle offences in Sefton have fluctuated across the past five years, though 2020/21 has seen the lowest rates.

For the majority of years Sefton has had a lower rate of vehicle offences than seen nationally, regionally and across the LCR (Figure 2k).

Violence Against the Person Offences

Violence against the person is the most prolific offence type in the borough and has shown year on year increase across the past five years with an overall increase of 98%.

In 2020/21, Sefton rates were above those of England, yet lower than the North West and LCR (Figure 2l).

LCR LA by Offence Types

Sefton is one of the lowest if not the lowest LA of the six LCR authorities (Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral) for half of the offence types. However, for Residential Burglaries the borough has the second highest rate with only Liverpool being higher (Table 3).

Table 2. Count of Offences Occurring in Sefton by Type

Sefton Offence Counts	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
All Crime (ex. Fraud)	21370	21110	24027
Criminal Damage & Arson	2513	2296	2267
Drug Offences	1621	1703	1788
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	430	388	532
Possession of a Weapon	168	176	171
Public Order Offences	1854	2133	3259
Residential Burglaries	1161	1128	1059
Robbery	169	150	156
Sexual Offences	574	500	666
Shoplifting	1316	1094	1147
Theft Offences	6539	5344	5207
Vehicle Offences	1596	1228	1143
Violence Against the Person	7502	8420	9981

Table 3. Rate of Offences Occurring in the LCR LAs by Type

LCR LAs Offence Types - 2020/21	H ¹	K ²	L ³	S ⁴	St H ⁵	W ⁶
Criminal Damage & Arson	9.6	10.7	11.5	8.2	10.5	9.4
Drug Offences	2.9	9.9	12.7	6.5	6.0	4.7
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Soc	2.1	2.5	2.6	1.9	2.3	2.1
Possession of a Weapon	0.6	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.8	0.5
Public Order Offences	17.9	12.3	16.7	11.8	14.4	11.4
Residential Burglaries	3.1	2.9	5.3	3.8	3.4	2.3
Robbery	0.7	0.6	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.5
Sexual Offences	3.5	2.5	3.2	2.4	2.9	2.4
Shoplifting	3.9	2.4	5.4	4.2	4.9	2.7
Theft Offences	16.9	16.2	28.1	18.9	20.6	14.1
Vehicle Offences	3.0	4.7	5.4	4.1	5.2	3.1
Violence Against the Person	49.5	42.1	47.2	36.2	43.1	33.9

¹ Halton, ² Knowsley, ³ Liverpool, ⁴ Sefton, ⁵ St Helens ⁶ Wirral

Figure 2a. Rate of Criminal Damage and Arson Offences per 1,000 Head of Population



Figure 2b. Rate of Drug Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

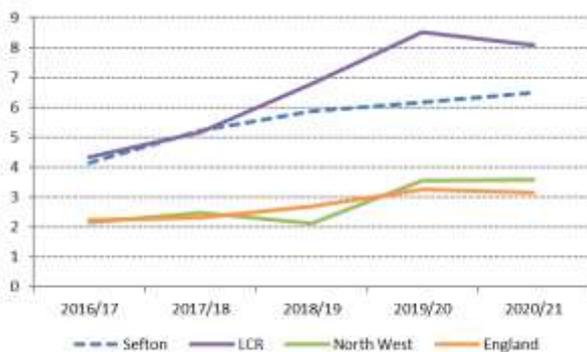


Figure 2c. Rate of Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society Offences per 1,000 Head of Population



Figure 2d. Rate of Possession of Weapons Offences per 1,000 Head of Population



Figure 2e. Rate of Public Order Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

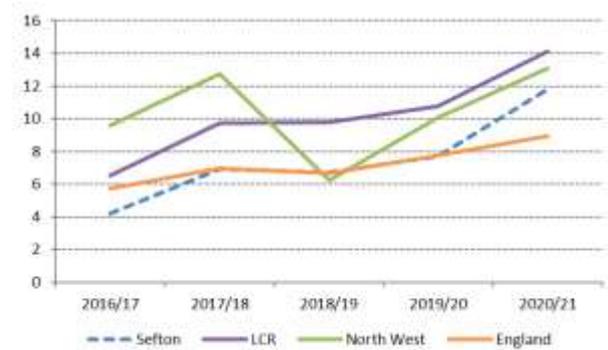


Figure 2f. Rate of Residential Burglary Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

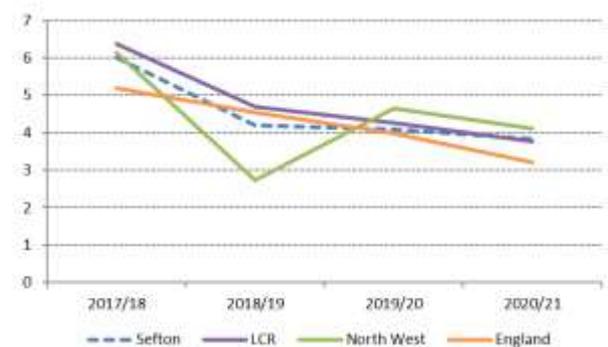


Figure 2g. Rate of Robbery Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

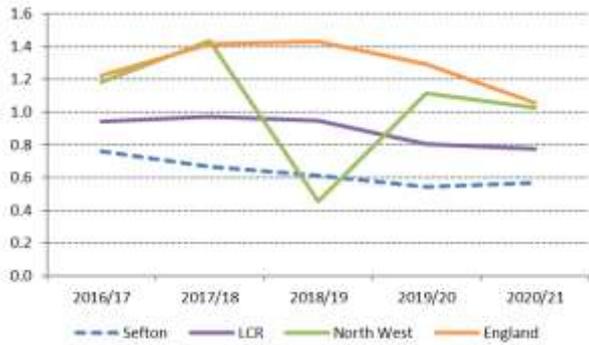


Figure 2k. Rate of Vehicle Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

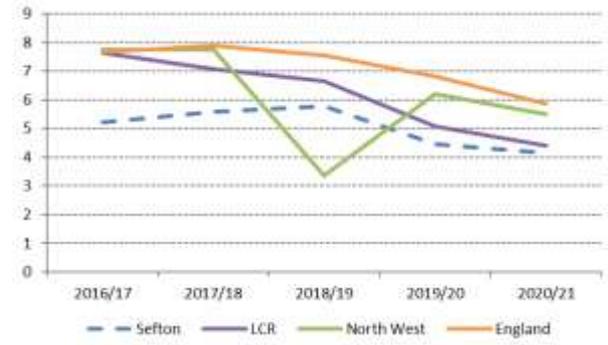


Figure 2h. Rate of Sexual Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

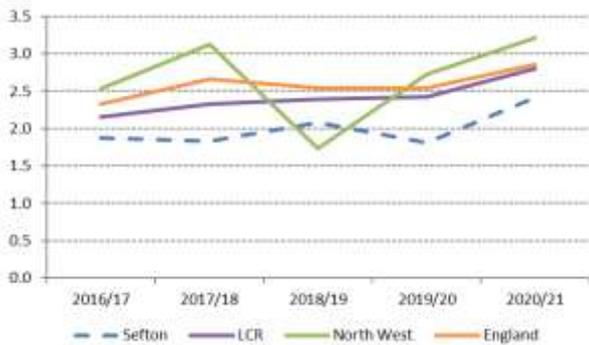


Figure 2l. Rate of Violence Against the Person Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

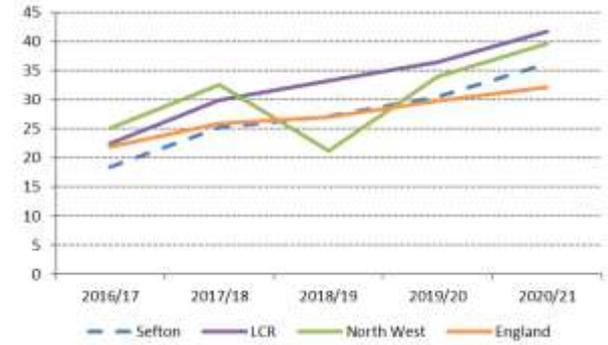


Figure 2i. Rate of Shoplifting Offences per 1,000 Head of Population per 1,000 Head of Population

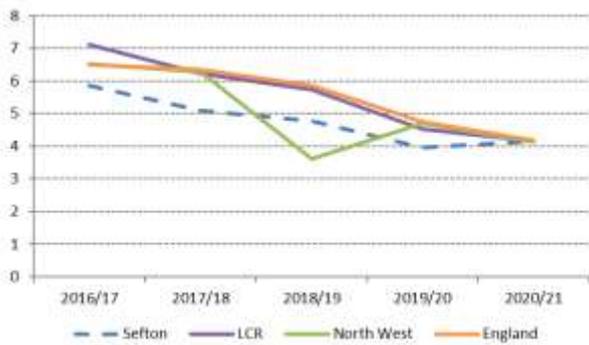
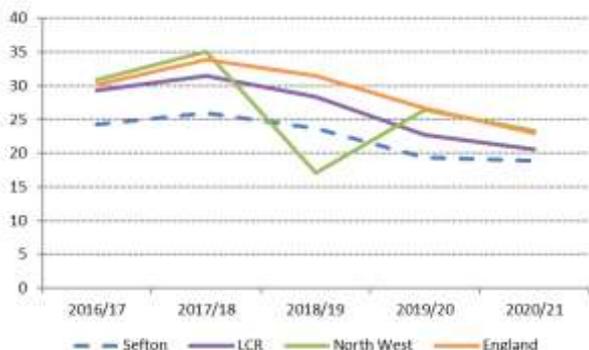


Figure 2j. Rate of Theft Offences per 1,000 Head of Population per 1,000 Head of Population



Locally Reported Crime

Sefton receives offence data from Merseyside Police on a quarterly basis. This data has been analysed below to show the type of crimes occurring and which areas are most affected by which crime. It should be noted that the data is correct at the time of download (quarterly) and is not a live database.

Violence and Theft are the most prolific crime types seen across Sefton, making up over half (60%) of all the crimes in the Borough (Table 4 and 5). Crime types have shown varying changes over the past five years (2017 to 2021). The relative levels of crime also vary across localities and by type of crime.

Part of the increase in crime rates over the last couple of years is a result of recording and reporting patterns - for example, the rate of domestic abuse offences reported to Merseyside police from across Sefton has seen an increase of 120%, from 2017 to 2021, this may partially be due to the changes in domestic abuse laws which first started to change in December 2015 meaning coercive and controlling behaviour is now deemed an offence. COVID may also have impacted the number of domestic related offences as families were forced to limit social interaction with others and stay indoors.

Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) mapping indicates that the highest rates of offences in the 2021 were in the South of the Borough particularly in Linacre and Derby wards. However, there is a small pocket of high intensity in the North, centred on Southport town centre (Cambridge / Dukes wards) and to the south of Central Sefton (Map 1).

There is a moderate correlation (0.6) between all crimes and deprivation (IMD) indicating that there is a relationship between crimes and deprivation i.e., it is likely that there will be more crimes in deprived areas.

Burglary Offences

The rate of burglary offences within Sefton reduced year on year over the past five years, with an overall reduction of 45% (Figure 3a).

Unlike all crime, burglary offences are spread throughout the borough with high intensities seen

in the Ainsdale, Birkdale, Blundellsands, Church, Dukes and Derby (Map 2).

There is no correlation between burglaries and deprivation (IMD) meaning that there is no relationship between crimes and deprivation i.e., deprivation has little effect on the locations of burglaries

Criminal Damage Offences

Criminal damage offence rates have generally reduced across the last five-year period, with an overall reduction of 19% from 2017 to 2021 (Figure 3b).

Criminal damage offences mirror some of the areas highlighted in the all crime and violence maps with Linacre / Derby, and Dukes being amongst the highest affected areas, along with Ford, Molyneux and St Oswald wards (Map 3).

Drug Offences

Rates of Drug offences in Sefton have shown increases 2017 to 2021 with an overall increase of 7%, 2020 had the highest number of offences recorded in the last five years (Figure 3c).

A high correlation is seen between drug offences and IMD (0.7), meaning that there is likely to be more drug offences occurring in deprived areas.

Public Order Offences

Public order offences have shown considerable increases in Sefton across the past five years with an overall rise of 174% (Figure 3d).

Other Offences

Other offences have shown slight fluctuations between 2017 and 2021, though there has been an overall increase of 9% (Figure 3e).

Robbery Offences

Overall robbery offences have reduced across the past five years (24%). Robbery numbers across Sefton are relatively low compared to other crime types and make up just 1% of crimes reported in 2021 (Figure 3f).

Sexual Offences

Sexual offences have fluctuated between 2017 to 2021 with an overall increase of 4%. Compared to other crimes the rate of offences remains relatively low (Figure 3g).

Theft Offences

Like robbery, theft offences have reduced across the past five years (2017 to 2021). With an overall reduction of 27% (Figure 3h).

Thefts - excluding thefts from shops - are again predominantly concentrated in the South of the borough, though Southport town centre and parts of Central Sefton are also affected (Dukes, Molyneux and St Oswald wards). Thefts encompass several crime types including theft from / of a vehicle (large car parks in certain areas will provide opportunities for these sorts of crimes to occur), theft from the person and theft of pedal cycles (Map 4).

Theft from shops is the main type of Theft reported in Sefton, offences reported to Merseyside Police have shown reductions over the past five years with an overall reduction of 27%. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic most shops were forced close (those deemed to be retailing non-essential items), this could be the reason for lower rates of thefts from shops during this period (Figure 3i).

As expected, high levels of theft from shops are concentrated around areas with either high numbers of shops or where there are large shopping centres, for example Southport town centre in Cambridge/Dukes, Kew retail park in Kew, Bootle Strand in Linacre, Aintree Asda superstore in Molyneux, Formby town Centre in Harington etc (Map 5).

Violent Offences

Violent offences have seen a year-on-year increase in reporting rates with an overall increase of 43% (Figure 3j).

Violent crime shows a similar pattern to that of all crimes with South Sefton (particularly Linacre, and Derby), Cambridge and Dukes (North Sefton) along with Ford and St Oswald (In Central Sefton) being the most affected areas (Map 6).

There is a positive correlation (0.7) between deprivation and violent crimes suggesting there will be more violent crimes in deprived areas. There also appears to be a strong correlation (0.9) between Violent Crimes and drug offences.

Violent offences will be discussed in more detail later in the report.

Included within this section (Violent Offences) are the following crime groups Homicide, Possession of a Weapon, Violence with Injury and Violence Without Injury

Domestic Abuse Offences

During 2021, there were total of 5,274 Domestic Abuse crimes reported to Merseyside Police occurring within the Sefton area, an increase of 120% since 2017, with counts increasing year on year over the past five years (Figure 3k).

There are several possible reasons for this increase, including victims feeling more confident in reporting and handling of cases, more support being available, and a change in the law in December 2015 as mentioned above.

Sefton MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) - a key component of Sefton's Domestic Abuse Strategy - discussed 674 cases between April 2021 and March 2022 a decrease of 8.5% when compared to the previous year. Although across the past five years (2017/18 to 2021/22) there has been an overall increase of 25% (Figure 3l)

As with violent crime, Linacre is the ward with the highest intensity of people residing in being discussed at MARAC. Central Sefton has some of the lowest rates across the whole of the borough (Map 7).

Acquisitive Crime Offences

Acquisitive Crime is the taking of property by an offender(s). The Home Office "Safer Streets Fund 2020-2021" prospectus has been used in this report to determine the crimes. These crimes are bicycle theft, burglary, other theft, robbery, shoplifting, theft from the person and vehicle crime.

There were 5,668 acquisitive crimes reported to Merseyside Police during 2021, with an overall reduction of 31% seen across the past five years (Figure 3m).

Hate Crime Offences

In Sefton 642 hate crime offences were reported to Merseyside Police in 2021. This is an 65% increase over the last five years, with a year-on-year increase seen (Figure 3n).

Table 4. Sefton Crime Types (2021)

Offence Title	Crime Count	Crime %
Burglary	1252	5%
Criminal Damage (inc Arson)	2305	9%
Drugs	1684	7%
Public Order	3578	15%
Other	464	2%
Robbery	155	1%
Sexual	508	2%
Theft	4042	17%
Violence	10470	43%

Table 5. Additional Sefton Crime Categorisations

Category	Crime Count	Crime %
Domestic Abuse Crime	5274	22%
Acquisitive Crime	5668	23%
Hate Crime	642	3%

Figure 3a. Rate of Burglary Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

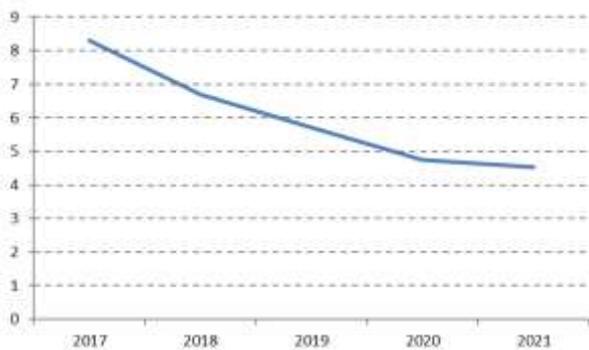


Figure 3b. Rate of Criminal Damage Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

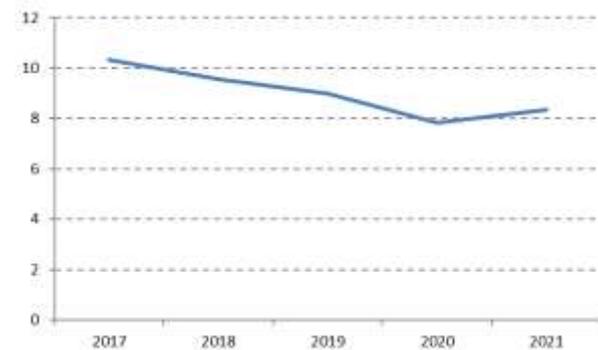


Figure 3c. Rate of Drug Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

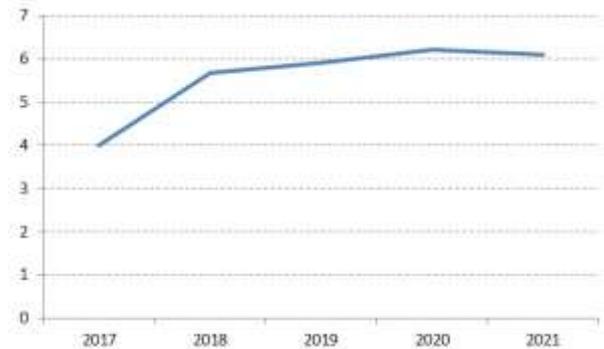


Figure 3d. Rate of Public Order Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

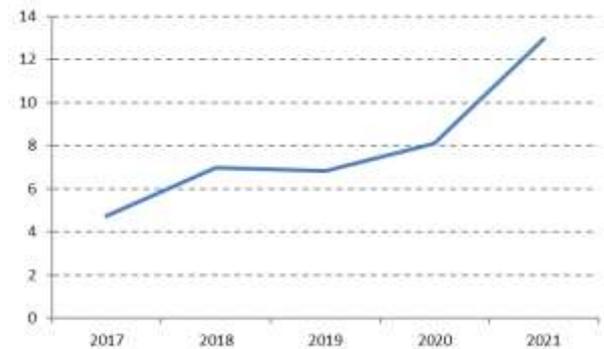


Figure 3e. Rate of Other Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

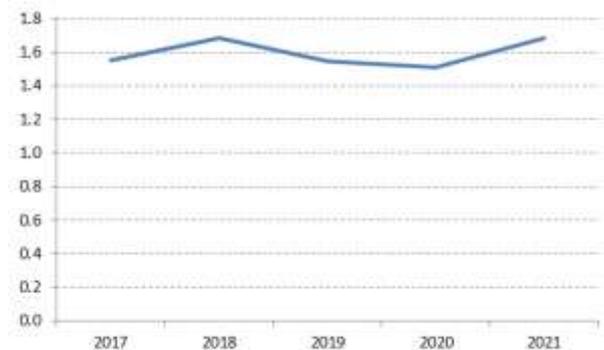


Figure 3f. Rate of Robbery Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

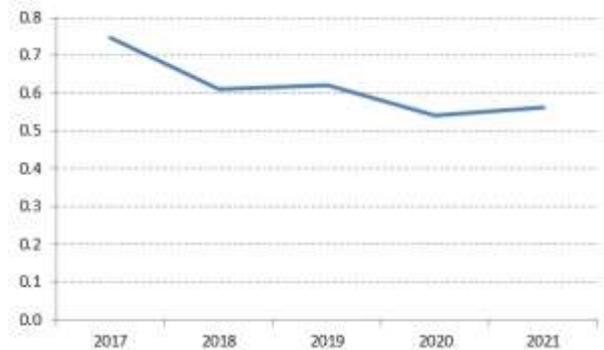


Figure 3g. Rate of Sexual Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

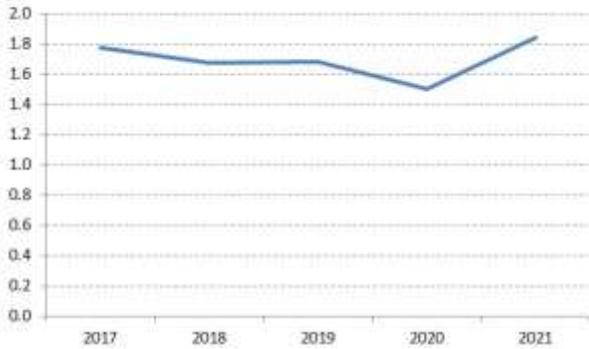


Figure 3k. Rate of Domestic Abuse Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

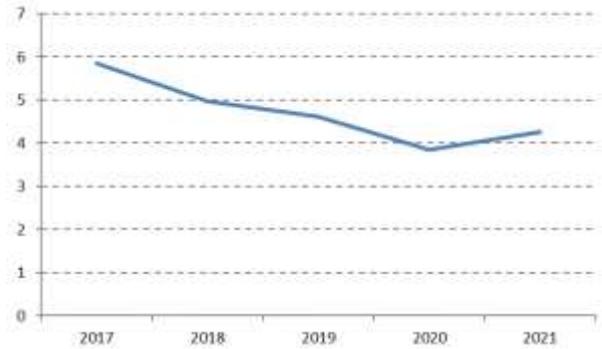


Figure 3h. Rate of Theft Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

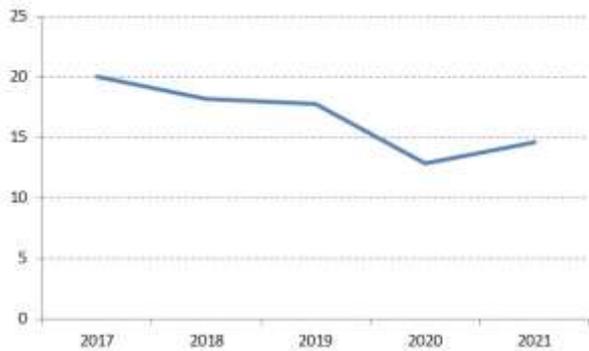


Figure 3l. Rate of Domestic Abuse Cases Discussed at MARAC per 1,000 Head of Population

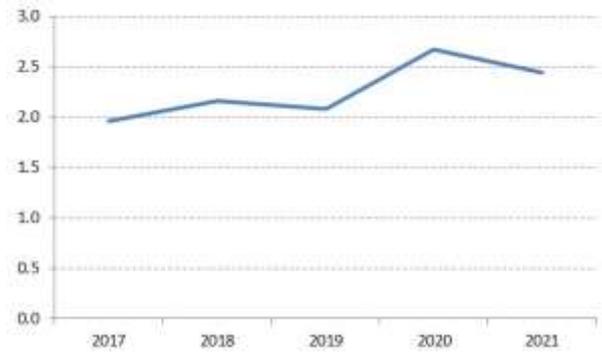


Figure 3i. Theft from Shops and Stalls per 1,000 Head of Population

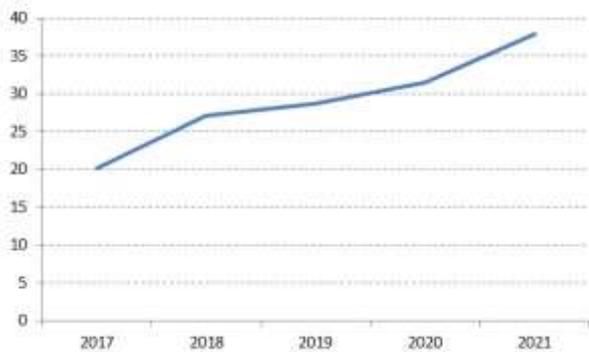


Figure 3m. Rate of Acquisitive Crime Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

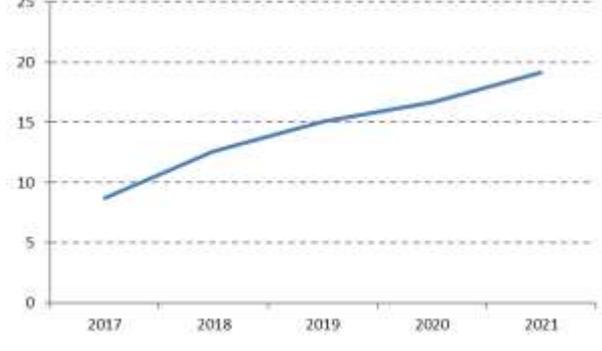


Figure 3j. Rate of Violence Offences per 1,000 Head of Population

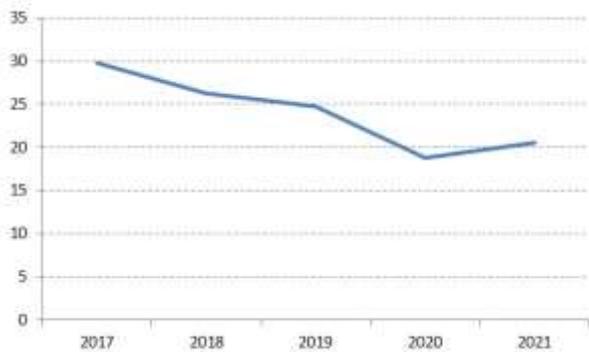
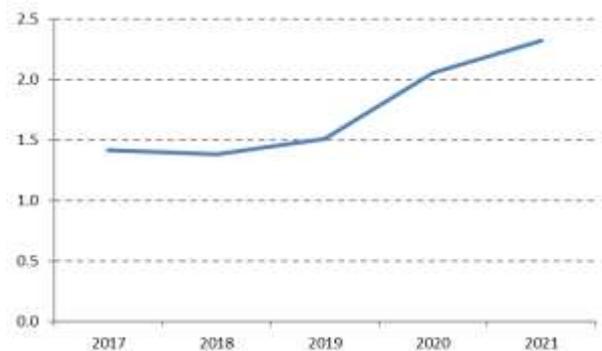
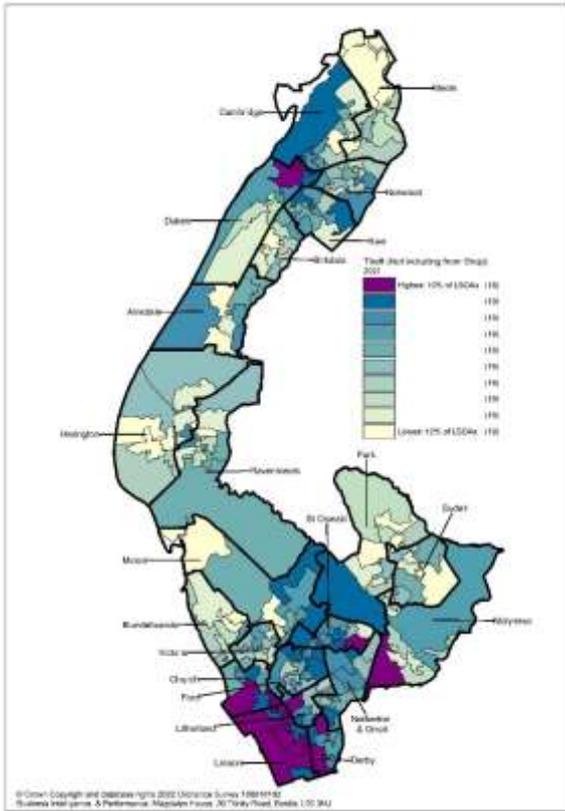


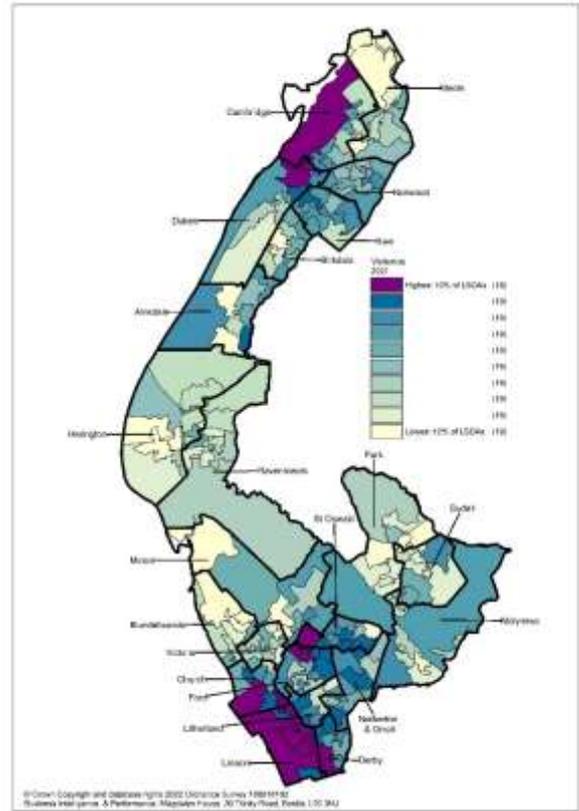
Figure 3n. Rate of Hate Crime Offences per 1,000 Head of Population



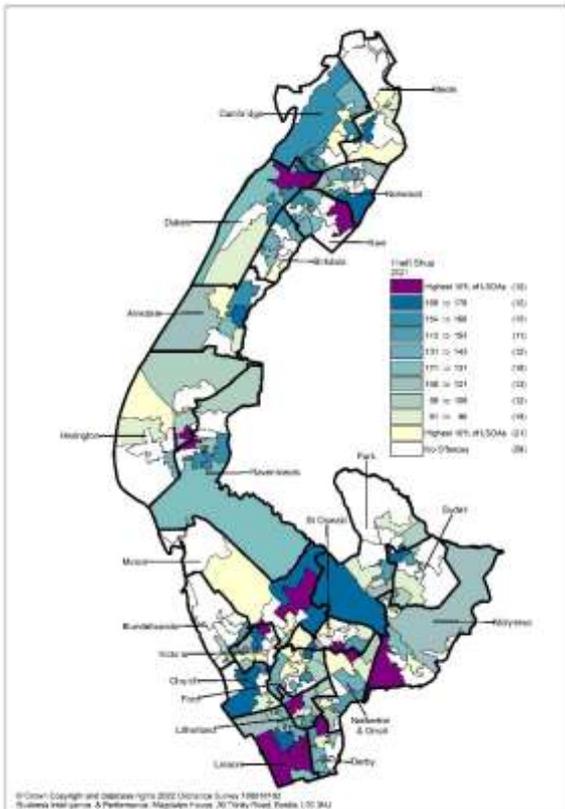
Map 4. Distribution of Theft Crime – not inc. theft from shops (LSOA Level) - Rank of Crime Rate



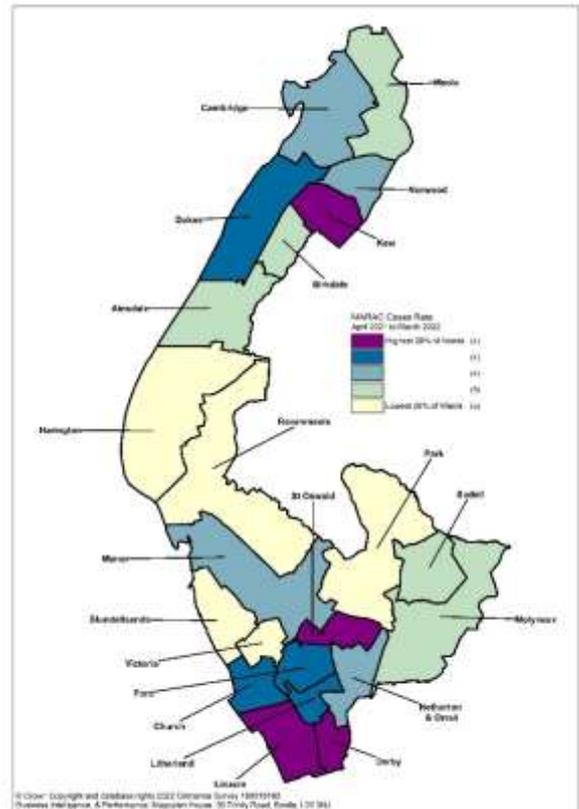
Map 6. Distribution of Violent Crime (LSOA Level) - Rank of Crime Rate



Map 5. Distribution of Theft from Shops and Stalls (LSOA Level) - Rank of Crime Rate



Map 7. Distribution of MARAC Cases - Rank of Case Rate



Details of Violent Offences

Due to the significant increase in the number of violent offences seen within Sefton (a trend also seen across the city region, regionally and nationally) violent offence data has been expanded upon in this section.

In 2021, the weekend (Saturday and Sundays) was the peak time, with 30% of all reported violent offences (Figure 5). Violent offence numbers increase throughout the day (Figure 5) with the highest peak being between 16:00 and 17:59 hours making up 13% of all violent offences. (Due to the times not being available on all crimes, 1,102 were not included in the hour band analysis).

Figure 4. Violent Offences Weekday (2021)

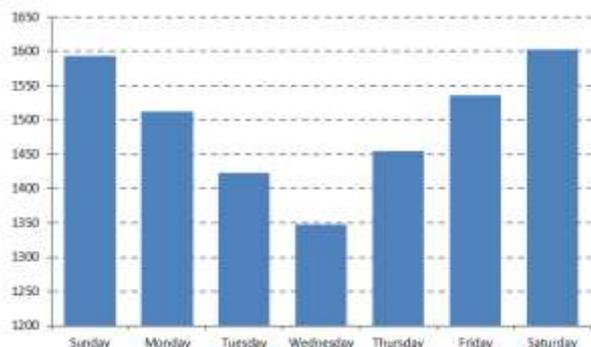
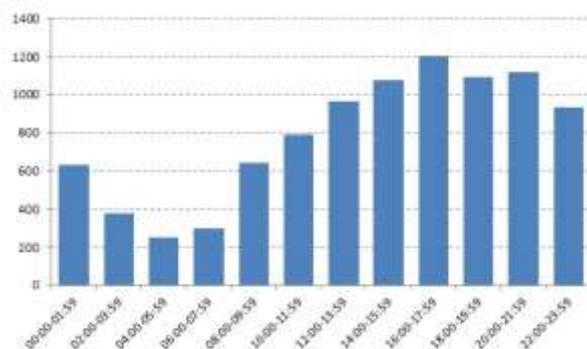


Figure 5. Violent Offences Hour bands (2021)



Merseyside Police include various flags within their reported crime data including if the offence in question was:

- If alcohol was involved (Figure 6a).
- If it was domestic related (Figure 6a).
- If drugs were involved (Figure 6b).
- If it was a hate crime (Figure 6b).
- If a knife was used (Figure 6b).
- If an offender was identified (Figure 6a).

In total between April 2018 and December 2021 there were 32,974 violent crimes reported across Sefton. 81% (36,575) of these had at least one of the above-mentioned flags (in some offences up to five flags were present) at the time the data was downloaded.

Offender, Domestic and Alcohol flags were the most prevalently used within the violent crime offences during the period, with the hate flag being the lowest.

- **Alcohol Flag**
 - 6,657 total offences.
 - 430 with alcohol alone.
 - 6,227 with other flags.
 - 57% had Alcohol, Domestic and Offender flagged (with or without other flags).
 - 59% had the Domestic flag (either alone or with other flags).
 - 91% had the Offender flag (either alone or with other flags).
- **Domestic Flag**
 - 13,203 total offences.
 - 445 with domestic alone.
 - 12,758 with other flags.
 - 29% had Alcohol, Domestic and Offender flagged (with or without other flags).
 - 30% related to Alcohol (either alone or with other flags).
 - 72% included Offender flag (either alone or with other flags).
- **Offender Flag**
 - 25,017 total offences
 - 9,270 with offender alone
 - 15,747 with other flags
 - 15% had Alcohol, Domestic and Offender flagged (with or without other flags).
 - 24% related to Alcohol (either alone or with other flags).
 - 51% had the Domestic flag (either alone or with other flags).

Figure 6a. Number of Violent Offences by Flag Type (Q1 18/19 to Q3 21/22)

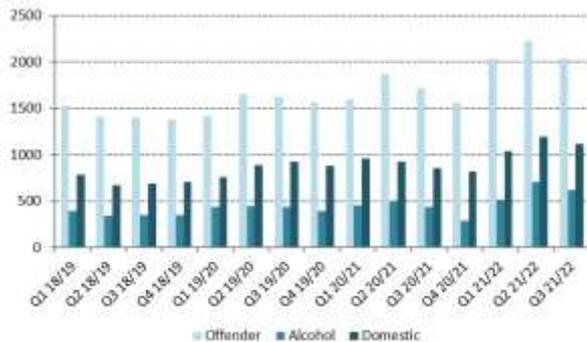
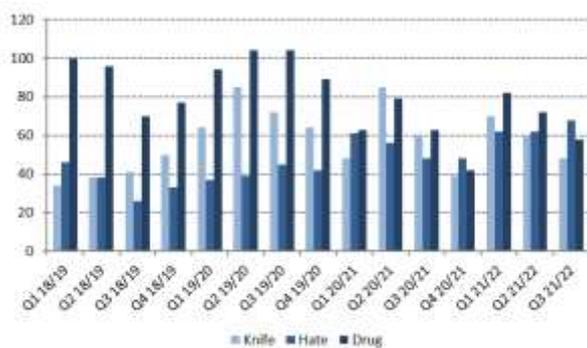


Figure 6b. Number of Violent Offences by Flag Type (Q1 18/19 to Q3 21/22)



Between 2018/19 and 2020/21 there have been 820 emergency hospital admissions relating to violent crimes across Sefton which equates to a directly standardised rate of 111.4 - significantly worse than the rate seen across England, and higher than that of the North West and Liverpool City Region (Figure 7). There has been an overall increase (46%) in the admission rates when comparing the current period to 2014/15 to 2016/17. With a 1% increase from the previous years' data.

Figure 7. Directly Standardised Rate of Emergency Hospital Admissions for Violence per 100,000 Population (Including Sexual Violence)



The 'Night Time' Economy

In September 2020, there were a total of 445 premises within Sefton, which had an activity listed as Public House / Restaurant / Licensed Club (Night Time Economy provider – NTE provider) according to the licensed premises data held by Sefton MBC. These are in 121 Lower Super Output Areas across Sefton (68 LSOAs did not have any).

Over the past five years (2017 to 2021), there were 11,522 crimes reported to Merseyside Police which were recorded with the alcohol flag occurring in Sefton. Of these criminal damage (including arson), public order and violence made up 86% (Table 6). A total 7,169 offences or 65% occurred between the hours of 18:00 and 03:59 (Figure 8). Using this as a guide for night time economy crime, all criminal damage (including arson), public order and violent crimes occurring during the times of 18:00 and 03:59 (where the earliest hour committed data was available) have been analysed below and will be called NTE Crime.

There was a total of 6,708 NTE crimes in 2021, showing a year-on-year increase in the number over the past five years, with an overall increase of 55% when comparing 2017 to the current period (Figure 9).

Using the earliest time / date committed information, the weekend (Saturday and Sundays) were the peak days with 34% of all reported NTE crimes (Figure 10). Unlike previous years NTE, crimes levels show reductions across the hourly time-period 18:00 to 03:59 (Figure 11). This variation in the count pattern may be due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions imposed on hospitality which began slowly reopening in May 2021.

62% of the offences were violence related, with the most prolific type being common assault and battery - 33%, followed by actual bodily harm - 16% (Table 7).

When looking at the geographical distribution of NTE crimes (Map 8, 9 and 10) there is still a higher prevalence in areas that have high concentrations of NTE establishments, e.g., Southport town centre, South Road in Waterloo, and central Bootle though this is not as apparent as previous years (possibly due to the COVID-19 pandemic as mentioned above).

Table 6. Total Alcohol Related Crimes (2017-21)

Offence Title	Crime Count	Crime %
Burglary	132	1%
Criminal Damage (inc Arson)	969	8%
Drugs	515	4%
Other	186	2%
Public Order	1308	11%
Sexual	287	2%
Theft	487	4%
Violence	7668	66%
Total	11552	100%

Figure 8. Total Alcohol Related Crimes by hour band (2017-21)

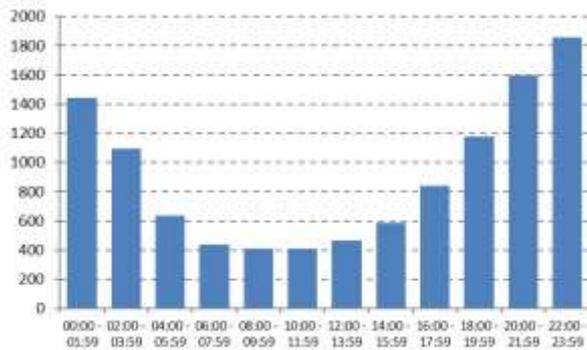


Figure 9. NTE Crimes Year Counts (2017-21)

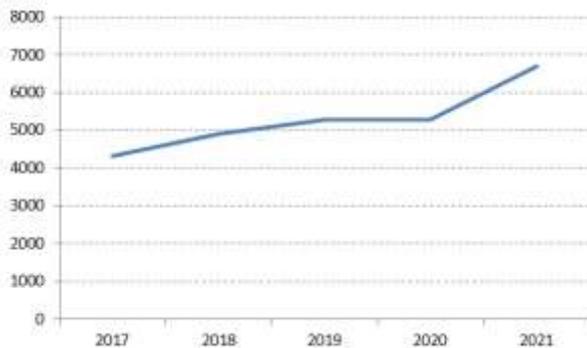


Figure 10. NTE Crimes Weekday Counts (2021)

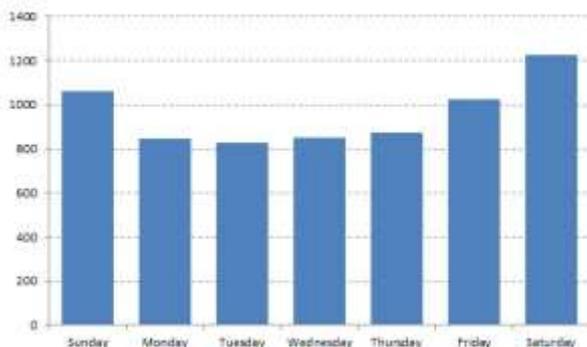


Figure 11. NTE Crimes Hour Counts (2021)

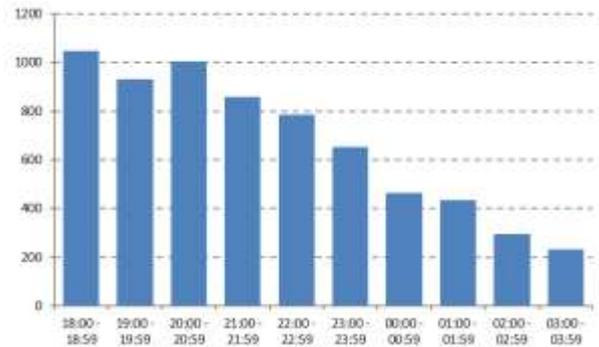
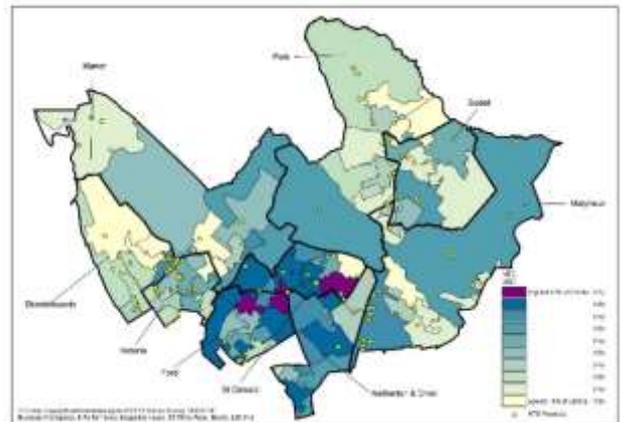


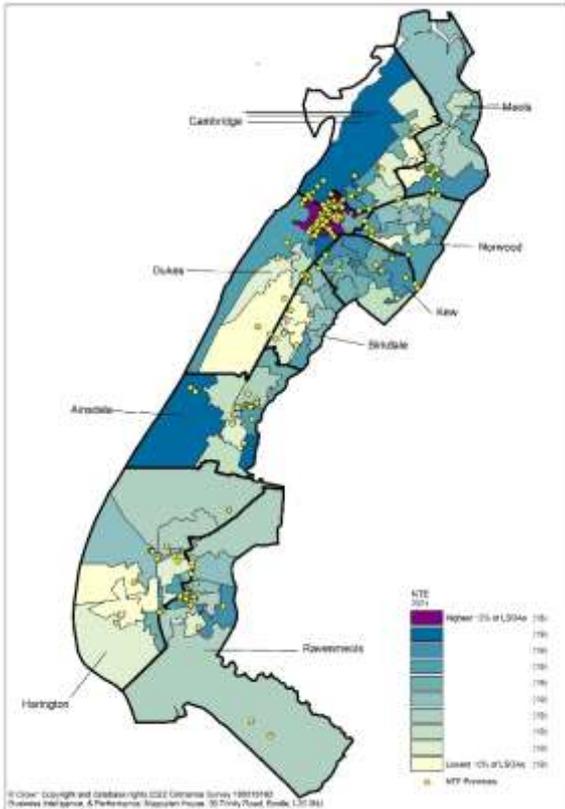
Table 7. NTE Offence Types (2021)

Top 10 Offence Types	Crime Count	Crime %
Common Assault and Battery	1854	33%
Section 47. Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm	912	16%
Causing Intentional Harassment, Alarm or Distress (Sec 4a)	643	11%
Malicious Communications	419	7%
Other Criminal Damage to a Residence (Under £5,000 Damage)	384	7%
Other Criminal Damage to a Vehicle (Under £5,000 Damage)	383	7%
Harassment	357	6%
Fear or Provocation of Violence (Sec 4)	251	4%
Harassment, Alarm or Distress (Sec 5)	232	4%
Other Criminal Damage Other (Under £5,000 Damage)	207	4%
Remaining Offences	1066	19%

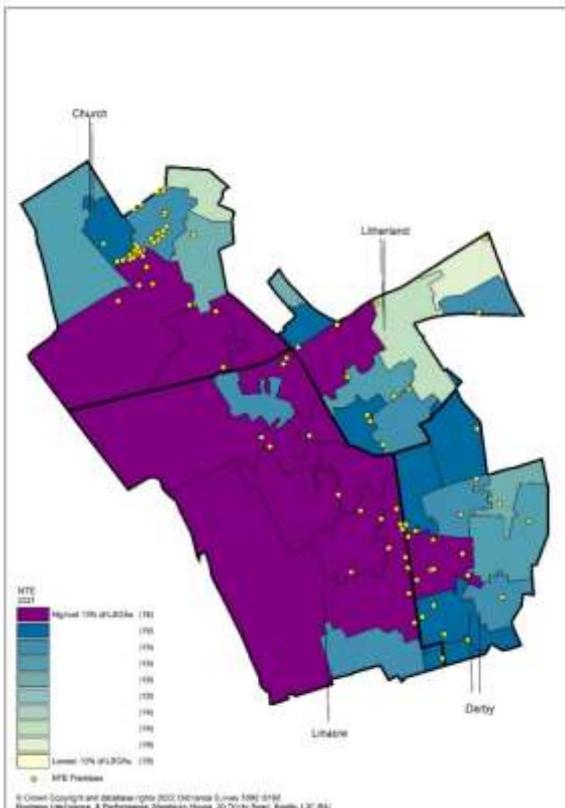
Map 8. Distribution of NTE Crime Rate Along with NTE Establishments – Central Sefton



Map 9. Distribution of NTE Crime Rate Along with NTE Establishments – North Sefton



Map 10. Distribution of NTE Crime Rate Along with NTE Establishments – South Sefton



Reported Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Anti-social behaviour is defined as “behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person” *Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 and Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011*

ASB is broken down into three main categories:

- Personal – targeting of an individual or group.
- Nuisance – trouble, annoyance or suffering caused to the general community.
- Environmental – actions which affect the wider environment i.e., public spaces or buildings.

All ASB Incidents

In 2021, there were 4,564 anti-social behaviour (ASB) reports made to Merseyside Police occurring within Sefton, a rate of 16.5 incidents per 1,000 residents.

Over the past decade there has been an overall reduction of 53% (2012 to 2021) with 2021 having the lowest number of reported incidents (Figure 12). There was a peak in 2020, possibly linked to the lock down measures introduced throughout the year relating to Covid-19.

Personal Incidents

There has been an overall reduction of 59% in incidents deemed as personal in the Borough, from 2017 to 2021. Though rates have fluctuated year on year, however, 2021 is the lowest year (Figure 13a).

Nuisance Incidents

Nuisance incidents reported to Merseyside Police occurring in Sefton have shown an overall decrease across the past five years of 45% (Figure 13b), though they remain the most prominent type making up 88% of all the Borough’s ASB reports.

Environmental Incidents

Environmental ASB reports in Sefton, have also reduced overall across the last five years (16%). Numbers are relatively low when compared to Personal and Nuisance counts (Figure 13c).

Youth Incidents

18% of all Sefton ASB calls in 2021 related to Youths. There has been a year-on-year reduction in reports of Youth ASB from 2017 to 2021 (Figure 14a). Counts peak at certain times throughout the year specifically school holidays and around the Halloween and Bonfire period (Figure 14b).

Alcohol Related Incidents

Just 4% of all Sefton ASB calls in 2021 mentioned Alcohol, there has been an overall reduction of 54% in reports of alcohol related from 2017 to 2021 (Figure 15).

Figure 12. Rate of ASB Incidents

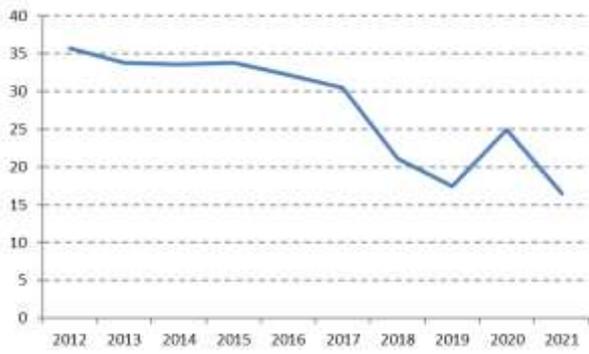


Figure 13a. Rate of Personal ASB Incidents

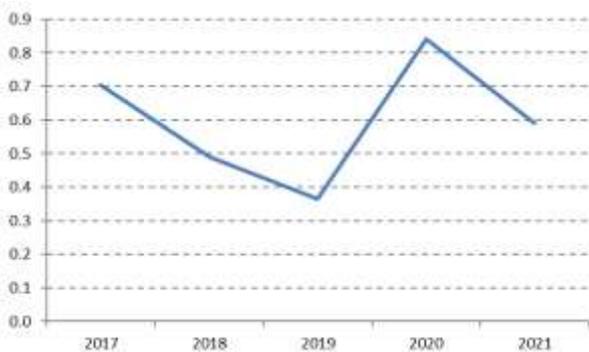


Figure 13b. Rate of Nuisance ASB Incidents

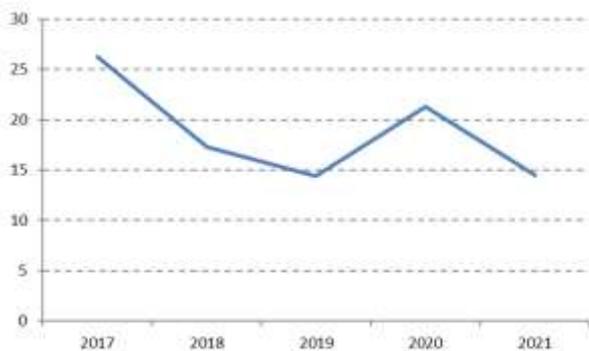


Figure 13c. Rate of Environmental ASB Incidents

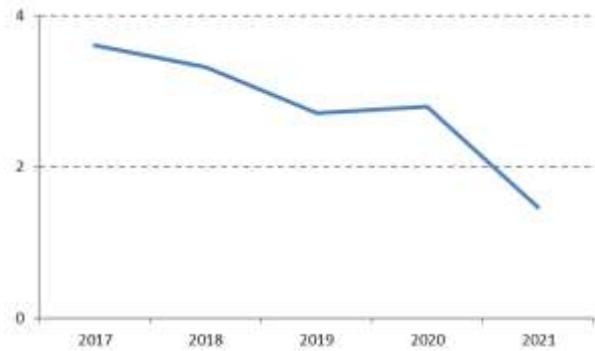


Figure 14a. Rate of Youth related ASB Incidents

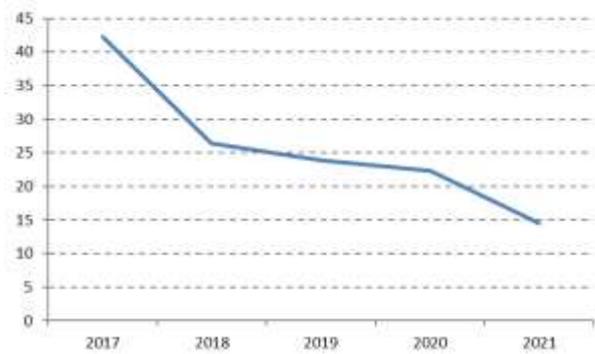


Figure 14b. Count of Youth related ASB Incidents by Month

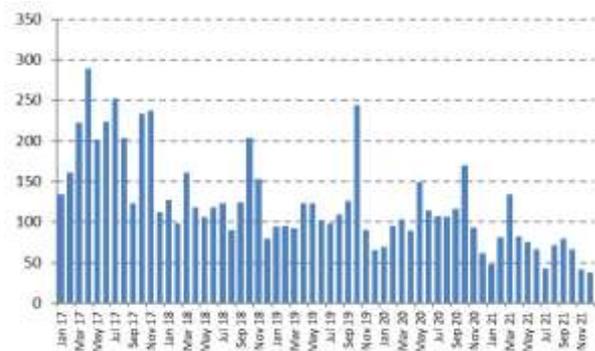
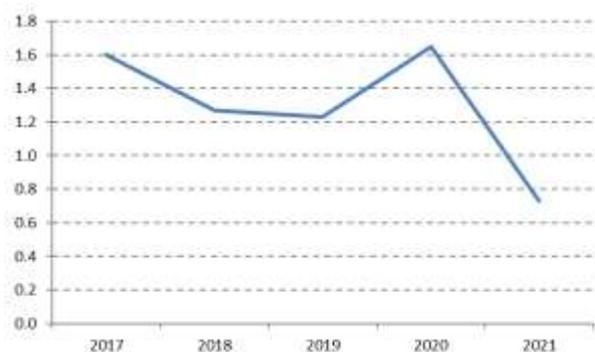
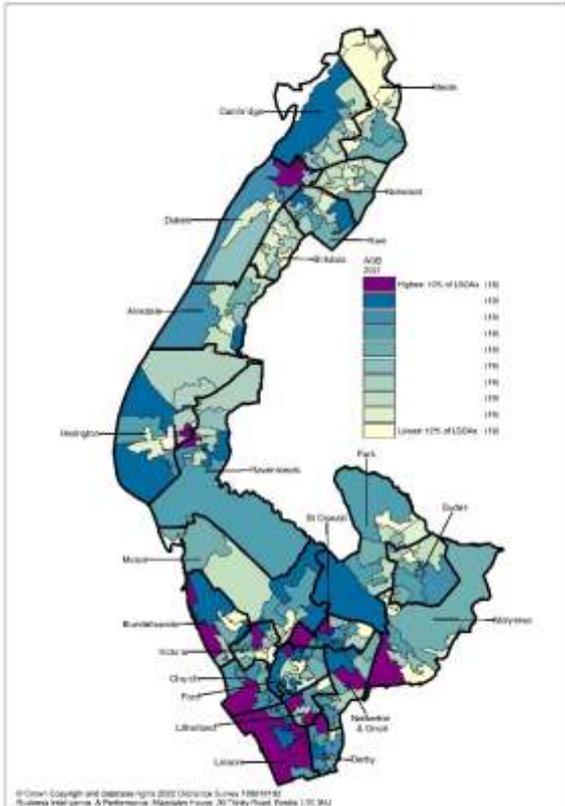


Figure 15. Rate of Alcohol related ASB Incidents



The geographic distribution of ASB (Map 11) is similar to that of overall crime in Sefton, with most prolific rates in the south of Sefton and pockets in the north, particularly associated with Southport town centre and central Sefton (Blundellsands, Molyneux, Nethererton & Orrell and St Oswald).

Map 11. Distribution of All Reported ASB (LSOA Level) - Rank of ASB Rate



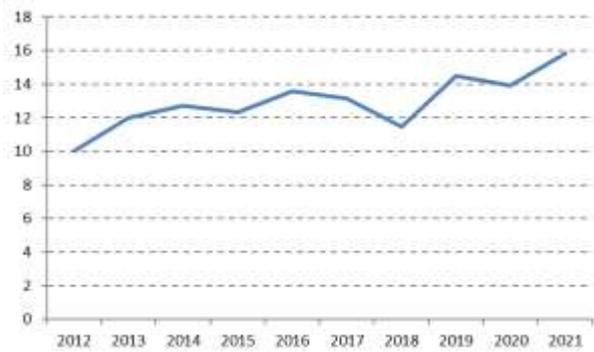
Reported Fly Tipping

Fly tipping is the illegal dumping of waste. Reports are made to Sefton Council either online or via the contact centre relating to fly tipping across the Borough.

There were 4,369 reports of fly tipping made to Sefton council in the 2021, a rate of 15.8 incidents per 1,000 residents.

Calls for service relating to fly tipping have shown overall increases over the past decade (59%), with 2021 having the highest number/rate (Figure 16).

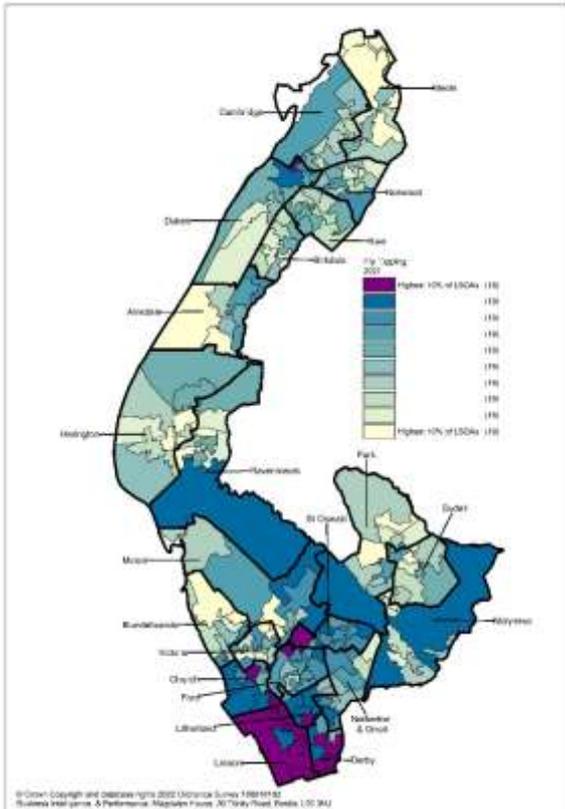
Figure 16. Reported Incidents of Fly Tipping



Like the patterns of ASB and crime Fly Tipping has higher rates in the South of Borough, with small pockets in the North and Central Sefton has fewer higher density areas (Map 12).

Correlation analysis shows a positive relationship (0.7) between fly tipping and deprivation, implying levels of fly tipping will be higher in poorer areas.

Map 12. Distribution of Reported Fly Tipping (LSOA Level) - Rank of Fly Tipping Rate



Merseyside Fire and Rescue

All Incidents

During 2021 (January to December), Merseyside Fire and Rescue (MFRAS) responded to 2,714 incidents within Sefton, equating to 9.8 per 1,000 residents. This is lower than the Merseyside rate (12.2), with Sefton continually being below the Merseyside rate over the past five years (2017 to 2021). Rates in both the Borough and the county have shown minimal change between 2017 and 2021 (Figure 17).

All Fires

In 2021, there have been a total 915 fires within Sefton, equivalent to 3.3 per 1,000 residents. Again, this is below the average Merseyside rate. Over the past five years, the number of fires occurring in the borough have shown an overall reduction of 26% (Figure 18).

Accidental Fire in the Home

There has been an overall reduction in the rate of accidental fires in the home across Sefton of 17%. There was a total of 158 reported in 2021, a rate of 0.6 per 1,000 population, the same as seen across Merseyside (Figure 19).

Figure 17. All Incidents

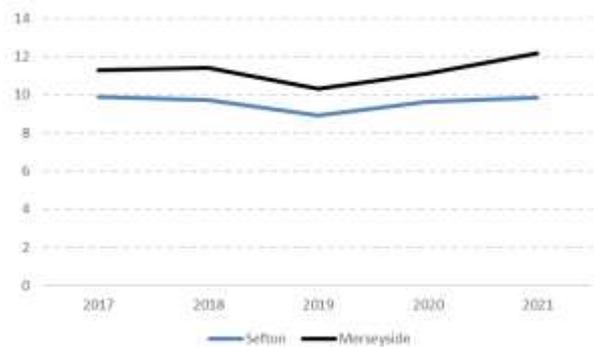


Figure 18. All Fires

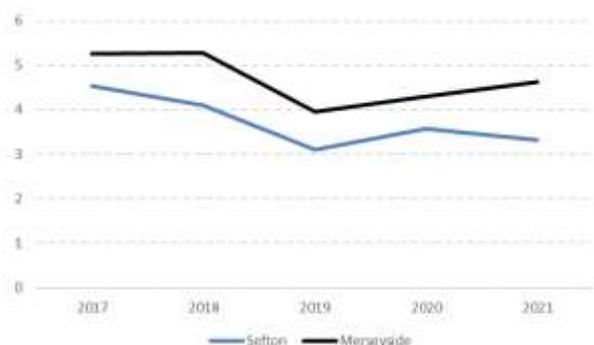


Figure 19. Accidental Fire in the Home

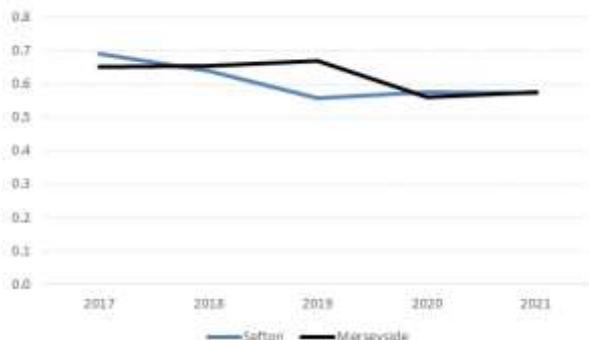
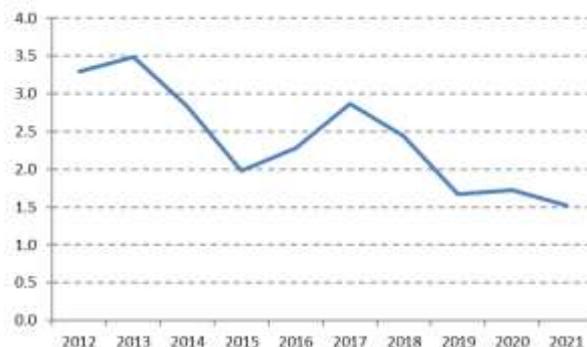


Figure 20. Reported Incidents of Deliberate Fires



Deliberate Fires

Deliberate fires are broken down into three types:

- Deliberate Property Fires – fires to non-derelict buildings including dwellings, non-residential buildings (i.e. shops, public buildings, warehouses) and other residential buildings (i.e. hostels, hotels, nursing homes).
- Secondary Fires – smaller fires, generally outdoors (i.e. parks, derelict building, bins, refuse).
- Vehicle Fires.

419 of the deliberate fires reported to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFARS) occurred in Sefton in 2021, this equates to a rate of 1.5 deliberate fires per 1,000 residents.

Deliberate fire rates reduced overall (54%) across the past 10 years, there has been a 13% decrease when comparing 2021 to the previous year. 2021 has seen the lowest rate of deliberate fires out of the 10 year period (Figure 20).

Deliberate Property Fires

Deliberate property fires have shown an overall reduction (60%) over the past five years (Figure 21a).

Secondary Fires

Secondary fires are the most prolific type of deliberate fire, these have also shown an overall reduction (46%). Counts have fluctuated across the five years with 2021 having the lowest number of fires (Figure 21b).

Vehicle Fires

Vehicle fires have shown reduction in the Brough (38% overall), though there was a slight increase seen between 2021 and 2020 (Figure 21c).

Figure 21a. Rate of Deliberate Property Fires

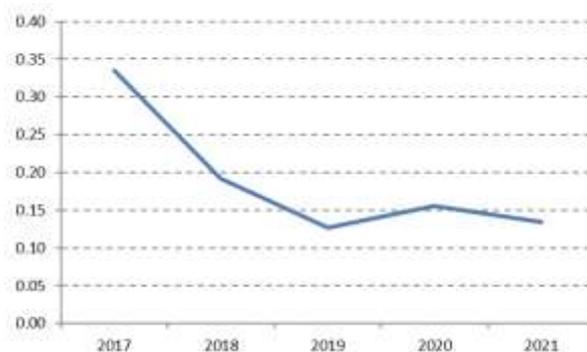


Figure 21b. Rate of Secondary Fires

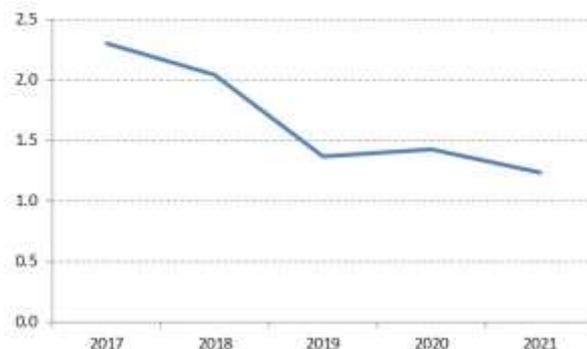
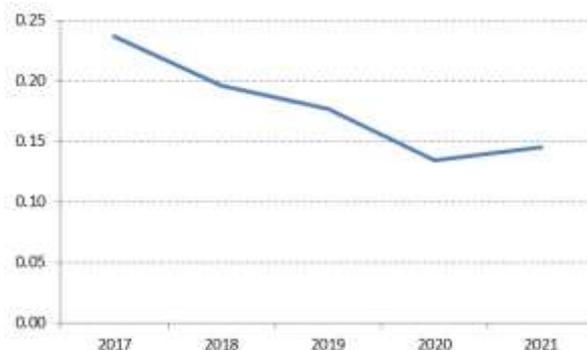


Figure 21c. Rate of Vehicle Fires

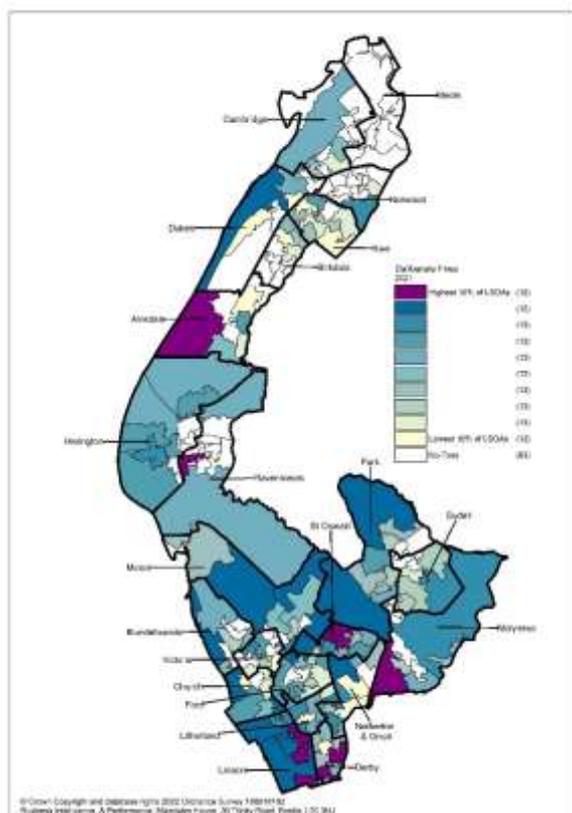


According to the Arson Fire Strategy 2019-2022 created by NFCC (National Fire Chiefs Council): “Local resident reluctance to report crime has created desensitisation, facilitating the prevalence of arson mainly in areas associated with higher levels of deprivation.”

When looking at the distribution of deliberate fires across Sefton, 55% of all deliberate fires fall into Sefton LSOAs that are within the top 20% of deprived (IMD) areas nationally.

There is a high level of deliberate fires occurring in Linacre and Derby wards (South Sefton), with pockets of higher rates seen in Molyneux and St Oswald (Central Sefton) along with Ainsdale and Ravenmeols (North Sefton). However, there were a total of 63 LSOAs across Sefton where there were no deliberate fires in 2021 (Map 13).

Map 13. Distribution of Reported Deliberate Fires (LSOA Level) - Rank of Deliberate Fire Rate



providing simple advice and when appropriate the provision of smoke alarms.

HFSC’s are targeted towards residents over the age of 65 in the first instance (around 70%) with the remainder being delivered to other vulnerable residents and in areas where a fire may have previously occurred. Residents identified as high risk from this visit may be referred on to an advocacy team who deliver Safe & Well visits.

Safe & Well Visits are delivered to people identified as being high risk or vulnerable to fire who have been identified by operational fire crews, partner agencies or referred by a family member or neighbour. The visits may also be complimented by brief health interventions including falls risk assessments, alcohol reduction, bowel cancer, blood pressure, and smoking cessation advice.

The number of HFSCs carried out in 2020 and 2021 were greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with activities limited to occupiers who were extremely vulnerable or completing a HFSC after a dwelling fire. As government guidelines changed over the period, the number of HFSCs fluctuated each month:

- Between March 2020 to December 2020, a total of 1,681 HFSCs were completed in Sefton.
- Between April 2021 and December 2021, there were 4,523 HFSCs completed in Sefton.

Home Fire Safety Checks

Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs) are Merseyside Fire & Rescue Services primary engagement tool designed to reduce accidental dwelling fires by raising awareness of fire safety in the home by

Substance Misuse

Police Drug Testing

Merseyside Police drug test individuals in the custody suite following arrest. If Cocaine or Opiates are found the individual is served with a Required Assessment by the Police, meaning they must attend two appointments with a drug worker.

According to the Sefton Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP), there were a total of 436 tests carried out in 2021 (in Copy Lane custody suite). With approximately seven out of ten having a positive result for drugs (69%).

Nearly two thirds (63%) of all positive tests were for cocaine (only) use with a further 33% of individuals testing positive for using both cocaine and opiates (Figure 22).

According to police drug testing data 13% of clients who tested positive in Copy Lane custody suite during 2021 subsequently re-presented and were tested again during the year. This equated to 33 clients in total.

In 2021, 191 clients were assessed for DIP, (Drug Intervention Programme which identifies and engages with drug using offenders known to the criminal justice system and guides them towards appropriate treatment service.) 175 (92%) of these had further Intervention needs.

Of the 191 DIP assessed, 43% had a main drug of Cocaine (this was further split into Unspecified with 36% and Freebase / Crack with just 7%), with a further 29% being Heroin Illicit (Figure 23).

A third (33%) of the arrests at the time of DIP assessment were misuse of drugs / possession offences, with a further 16% being wounding or assault. 38% were registered as other offences (Figure 24).

Figure 22. Successful Tests

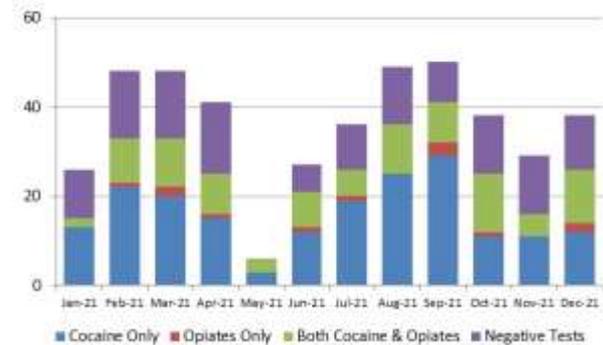


Figure 23. Main Drug at DIP Assessment

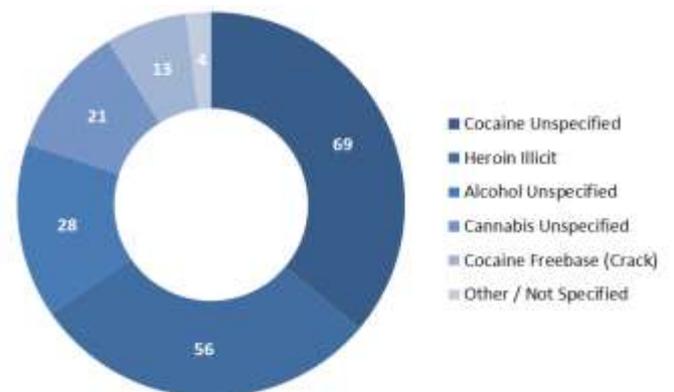
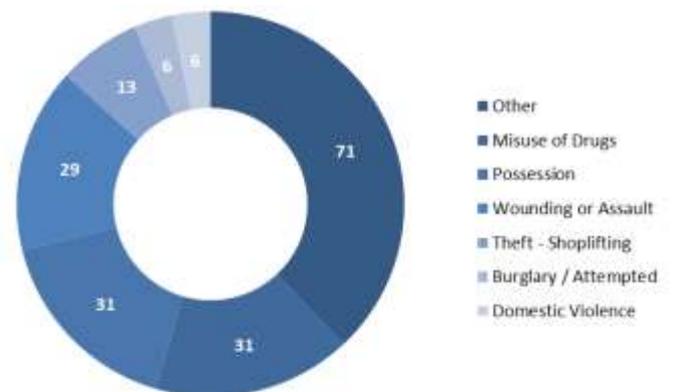


Figure 24. Offending at DIP Assessment



Drug Treatment

According to the December 2021 data from the National Drugs Treatment Monitoring System, between July 2020 and June 2021:

Opiate Users

- A total of 993 clients received drug treatment.
- 41 / 4% of all clients completed without re-presentation (in the preceding six months).
- Sefton is continually below the levels of completed without re-presentation than the national rate, however, there has been a slight overall increase in levels (Figure 25a).

Non-Opiate Users

- A total of 468 clients received drug treatment.
- 155 / 33% of all clients completed without re-presentation (in the preceding six months)
- Sefton has been below the England rate for the past five years, yet there have fluctuated during the period with an overall increase (Figure 25b).

Alcohol Users

- A total of 535 clients receiving alcohol treatment
- 162/ 30% of all clients completed without re-presentation (in the preceding six months).
- Again, Sefton has been below the England rate over the past five years. Rates have shown overall increases from 2016/17 to 2020/21 (Figure 25c).

Figure 25a. Percentage of all clients completing and not re-presenting – Opiate Users

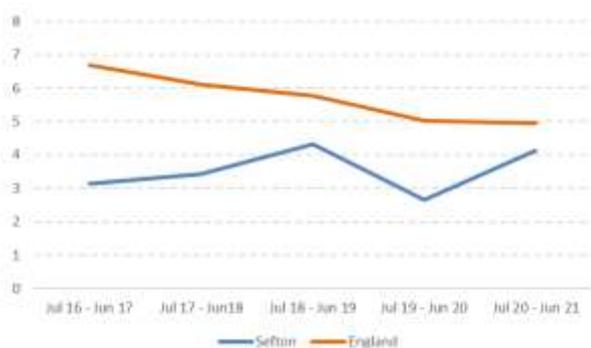


Figure 25b. Percentage of all clients completing and not re-presenting – Non-Opiate Users

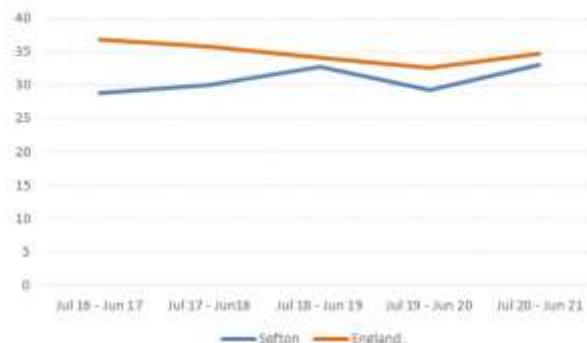
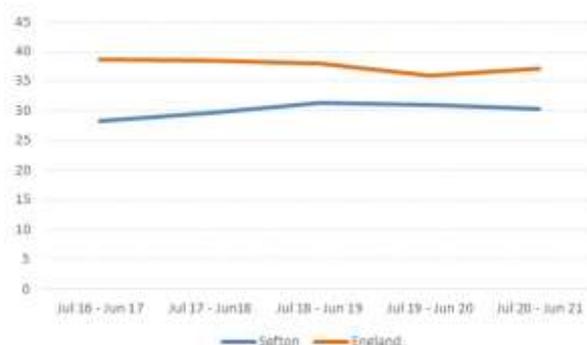


Figure 25c. Percentage of all clients completing and not re-presenting – Alcohol Users



Public Health England states “Alcohol consumption is a contributing factor to hospital admissions and deaths from a diverse range of conditions. Alcohol misuse is estimated to cost the NHS about £3.5 billion per year and society as a whole £21 billion annually.” [Local Alcohol Profiles for England - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://www.phe.org.uk/publications/local-alcohol-profiles-for-england-data-ohid)

The Chief Medical Officer advises that to keep to a low level of risk of alcohol related harm adults should drink no more than 14 units of alcohol a week. Public Health England estimate that between 2015/18 over 24% of Sefton adults drink above this guideline, approximately 54,061 residents aged 18 and over. In 2018/19, 4,237 Sefton adults were estimated to be alcohol dependant (an estimated 2% of the adult population).

Hospital Admission – Substance Misuse (15 – 24 year olds)

Between 2018/19 to 2020/21 there were 120 hospital admissions due to substance misuse in those aged between 15-24 years, with a directly standardised rate (DSR) per 100,000 of 148, this is significantly worse than the England rate (81) and higher than the North West (106), rates in Sefton

have predominantly increased over the past five time periods (Figure 26)

Hospital Admission – Alcohol-Related Conditions - Narrow (All)

There were 1,607 hospital admissions related to alcohol conditions (narrow classification meaning just the primary cause for admission) in 2020/21 across Sefton, a DSR of 581. Sefton has had a significantly worse rate than England and the North West for the last five years. There has been a reduction in the rate seen across Sefton for the current year compared to previous years (Figure 27).

Admission Episodes for Alcohol-Specific Conditions (Aged 18 and Under)

Sefton saw 115 hospital stays due to alcohol for those under 18 during 2018/19 to 2020/21 a crude rate of 71. The borough has a worse rate than England in four of the five time periods, over the last three years Sefton has seen a considerable increase and has moved above the North West and Liverpool City Region - LCR (Figure 28), there were a total of 115 admissions in the borough between 2018/19 and 2020/21.

Mortality – Drug Misuse

There were 49 deaths in Sefton due to drug misuse in 2018-20, a DSR of 6.5. Sefton is continually higher than England (though this has been deemed similar to England in the last four time periods). The Borough has moved below, the North West and LCR rates during the same time (Figure 29).

Mortality- Alcohol Related

Sefton is significantly worse than England in 2020, with the Borough moving above the North West and LCR. In total there were 150 deaths related to alcohol in 2020. The rate is higher for men (18 per 100,000 DSR) than women (10 per 100,000 DSR). The rate for alcohol related mortality for males and females is similar to the England average though slightly higher (Figure 30).

Figure 26. Hospital Admissions Due to Substance Misuse Aged 15-24 years (Directly Standardised Rate per 100,000 15-24)

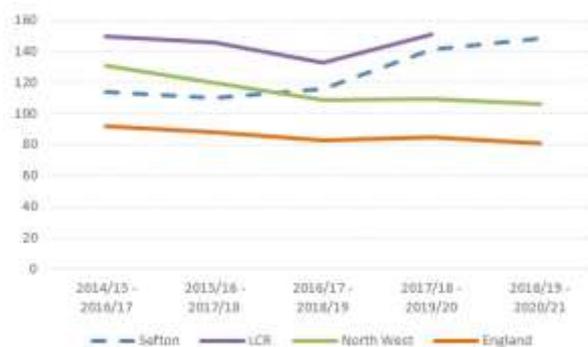


Figure 27. Hospital Admissions for Alcohol-Related Conditions (Directly Standardised rate per 100,000)



Figure 28. Admission Episodes for Alcohol-Specific Conditions Aged Under 18 - (Crude Rate per 100,000 under 18)

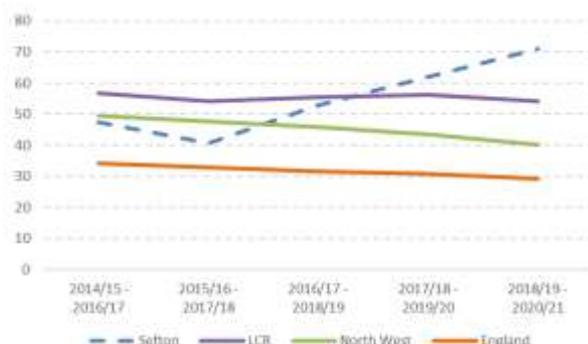
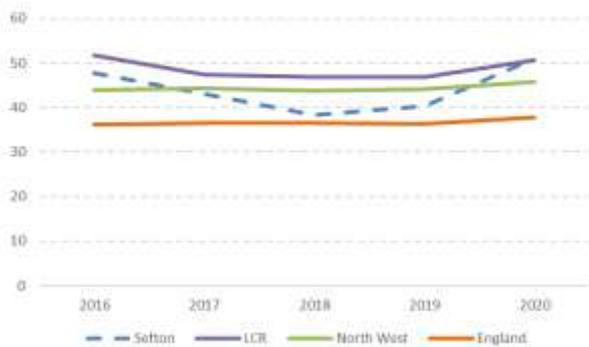


Figure 29. Deaths from Drugs Misuse (Directly Standardised Rate per 100,000)



Figure 30. Alcohol Related Mortality (Directly Standardised Rate per 100,000)



Mental Health

The Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) states that in 2020/21 there were 3,460 people registered with GPs residing in Sefton who had a mental health illness (this includes patients with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder, and other psychoses). This equated to 1.3% of the population - a slight increase when compared to 2016/17. Sefton has a higher prevalence rate than that of the LCR, North West and England (Figure 31). Sefton falls within the highest quintile in England.

There was a total of 32,145 (14%) Sefton residents aged 18 and over with depression on GP registers (Figure 32). This has shown a year on year increases since 2016/17 and is higher than the rates seen nationally (yet is below those seen regionally and across LCR).

It should be noted these figures are still likely to be underestimates given that some of the Sefton population (especially those not in contact with health services) will remain undiagnosed.

Since 2014-16 Sefton suicide rates have been reducing, with the directly standardised rates (DSR) seen in 2018-20 being lower than those seen nationally and regionally, with 64 suicides reported in the borough (Figure 33).

Emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm DSR have shown overall increases over the last five years (13%) Sefton is continually significantly worse than the England rate. In 2020/21 there were 685 emergency admissions in the borough due to self-harm (Figure 34).

Figure 31. Mental Illness Recorded Prevalence (Percentage of Patients on Practice Register All Age - QOF)

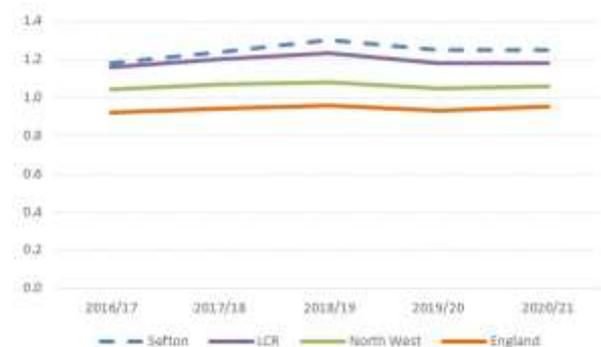


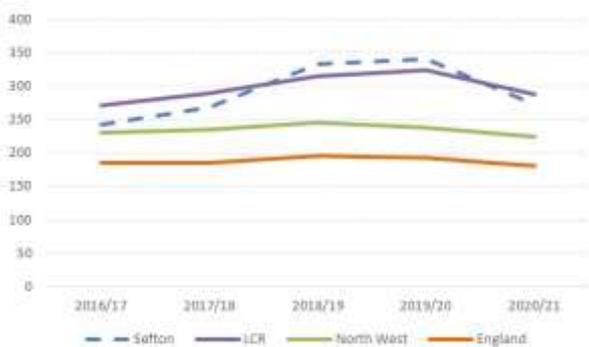
Figure 32. Depression Recorded Prevalence (Percentage of Patients on Practice Register Aged 18 + - QOF)



Figure 33. Suicide Rate (Directly Standardised rate per 100,000)



Figure 34. Emergency Hospital Admissions for Intentional Self-Harm (Directly Standardised rate per 100,000)



Re-Offending

According to the Ministry of Justice, re-offending is defined as “someone who has received some form of criminal justice sanction (such as a conviction or a caution) and goes on to commit another offence within a set time period”. This is often difficult to measure as “only a proportion of crime is detected and sanctioned and not all crimes and sanctions are recorded on one central system”. In this instance “proven re-offence is defined as any offence committed in a one-year follow-up period and receiving a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow up or a further six months waiting period”.

As of October 2015, reoffending data has been sourced differently, meaning comparisons before this date cannot be done.

Between April 2019 and March 2020 there were a total of 5,494 offenders in Sefton, of these 24% (1,298) were proven re-offenders. There has been an overall reduction (12%) from 2016/17.

Re-offending rates have been higher in the Borough than seen nationally for the past four years, with the last two years also being higher than the region rates (Figure 35).

In Sefton, 21% (270) of those proven to be re-offenders were aged between 30 and 34 years of age (Figure 36). 86% of all re-offenders were male. Re-offenders in Sefton are predominantly white (97%), this is comparable to the ethnicity profile of the Borough as a whole.

In total there were 2,123 re-offences, the most prolific of which was ‘Summary Non-motoring’ and made up a third of all re-offences, followed by theft attributing to a further quarter of all offences (Table 8).

Figure 35. Percentage of Cohort Reoffending

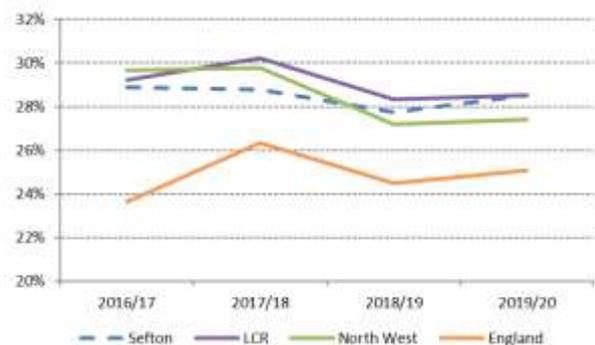


Figure 36. Age breakdown of Reoffenders

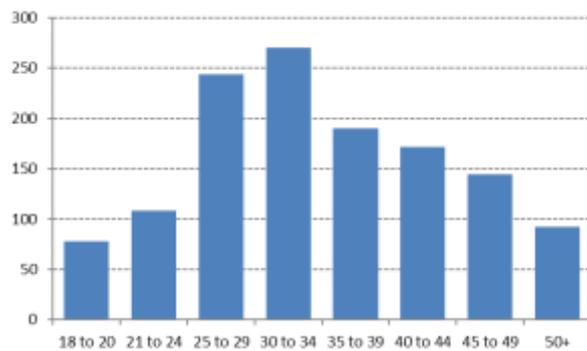


Table 8. Breakdown of Re-offences Committed

Reoffences	Count	Percent
Summary Non-motoring	701	33%
Theft	525	25%
Drug	346	16%
Public Order	145	7%
Violence Against the Person	144	7%
Summary Motoring	106	5%
Possession of Weapons	54	3%
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	52	2%
Fraud	26	1%
Other	24	1%
Total	2123	100%

Children & Young People Known to the Criminal Justice System

The following data has been collated via Sefton's Youth Offending Team's database Child View, for the purpose of analysing offences and incidents recorded during April 2021 to March 2022. Child View is a live database therefore data collated for analysis is a snapshot at the time of extraction and does not remain static.

During 2021/22 there were a total of 114 incidents carried out by 104 young people that resulted in involvement from Sefton Youth Offending Team (YOT) for specific interventions to address their offending behaviour. Of that cohort 67% (70) were male and 33% (34) were female, with over a quarter (29%) being aged 15 (Figure 37a). Nearly half of all incidents (46%) related to anti-social behaviour drugs involved (Table 9a).

A total of 98 offences were committed in 2021/22, by 98 young people resulted in involvement from Sefton Youth Offending Team (YOT) for specific interventions to address their offending behaviour. Over half (56%) of the young people that offended were aged between 16 and 17, with 89% of all offenders being male (Figure 37b). Violence against the person was the main offence reported and accounted for 34% of all offences (Table 9b). Of the 98 court outcomes 48% of young people received a referral order (Table 9c).

To compare Sefton's re-offending nationally, Police National Computer (PNC) data is provided from April 2015 to March 2020. There were 37% of young offender reoffending in Sefton during April 2019 to March 2020. There has been an overall reduction (13%) in the percentage of young offenders re-offending in Sefton over the past five years (Figure 38), with Sefton moving below the Merseyside rate yet remaining above those of the North West along with England & Wales.

Between October 2020 and September 2021 there were 24 First Time Entrants (FTE) in Sefton, a year-on-year reduction can be seen across the past four years (Figure 39), with an overall reduction of 61%.

PNC data shows that the rate of FTE per 1,000 young people aged 10 to 17 in the borough has

been below that of the Merseyside, the North West, and England, for three of the last four. A low rate shows good performance. Sefton along with the other three comparator areas have experienced overall reductions (Figure 40).

Figure 37a. Age and Gender breakdown of YOT Incident Cohort

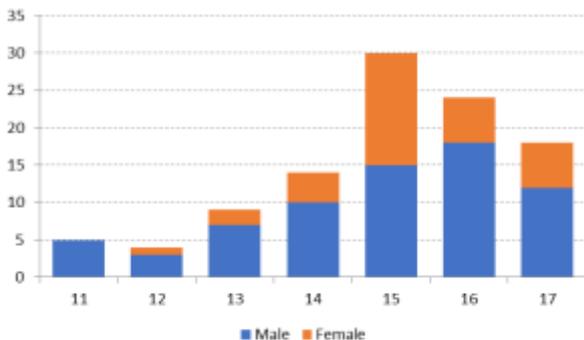


Figure 37b. Age and Gender breakdown of YOT Offender Cohort

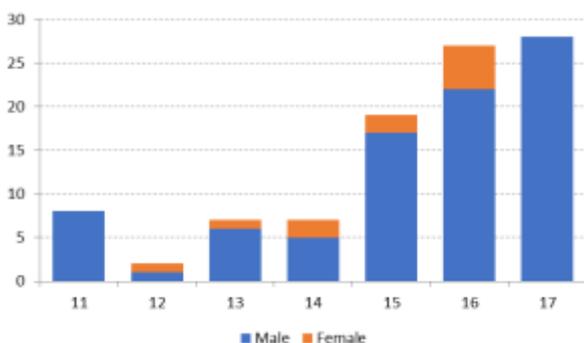


Table 9a. Breakdown of Incidents Committed resulting in a YOT intervention

Incidents	Count	Percent
Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)	5	4.4%
ASB-Drugs Involved	49	43.0%
ASB-Drugs Involved-Knives Involved	1	0.9%
ASB-Drugs Supply Involved	3	2.6%
ASB-Homophobia Involved	1	0.9%
ASB-Knives Involved	3	2.6%
ASB-Police called out	9	7.9%
ASB-Police called out-Knives Involved	1	0.9%
ASB-Threatening Behaviour	3	2.6%
ASB-Threatening Behaviour-Knives Involved	1	0.9%
ASB-Threatening Behaviour-Police called out	2	1.8%
ASB-Threatening Behaviour-Police called out-Racism Involved	1	0.9%
ASB-Threatening Behaviour-Violent Behaviour	3	2.6%
ASB-Violent Behaviour	21	18.4%
ASB-Violent Behaviour-Domestic Violence	1	0.9%
ASB-Violent Behaviour-Police called out	6	5.3%
ASB-Violent Behaviour-Police called out-Physical Disability Involved	1	0.9%
ASB-Weapons Involved	2	1.8%
ASB-Failure to stop for police-Dangerous Cycling	1	0.9%
Total Incidents	114	100%

Table 9b. Breakdown of Offences Committed resulting in a YOT intervention

Offences	Count	Percent
Arson	3	3%
Breach Of Conditional Discharge	1	1%
Breach Of Statutory Order	3	3%
Criminal Damage	9	9%
Drugs	13	13%
Fraud And Forgery	1	1%
Motoring Offences	9	9%
Non Domestic Burglary	1	1%
Public Order	5	5%
Racially Aggravated	1	1%
Robbery	9	9%
Sexual Offences	2	2%
Theft And Handling Stolen Goods	5	5%
Vehicle Theft / Unauthorised Taking	3	3%
Violence Against The Person	33	34%
Total Offences	98	100%

Table 9c. Breakdown of Court Outcomes resulting in a YOT intervention

Court Outcome	Count	Percent
Absolute Discharge	2	2%
Conditional Discharge	6	6%
Referral Order	47	48%
Youth Caution	1	1%
Youth Conditional Caution	15	15%
Youth Rehabilitation Order	16	16%
Youth Rehabilitation Order ISS Extended	7	7%
Youth Rehabilitation Order ISS Requirement Band 1	4	4%
Total Outcomes	98	100%

Figure 38. PNC Data Percentage of Cohort Reoffending

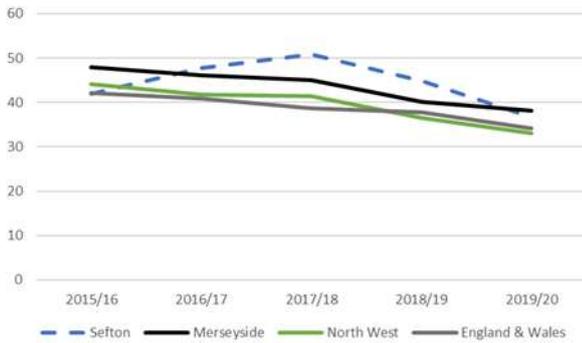


Figure 39. Count of Sefton First Time Entrants

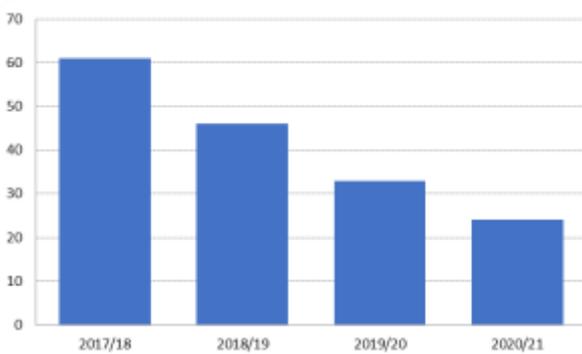
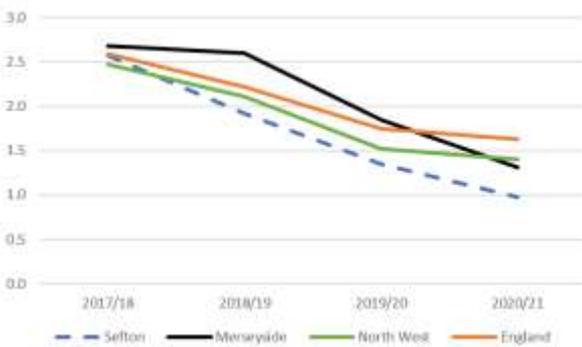


Figure 40. PNC Rate of First Time Entrants per 1,000 (aged 10 to 17)



Child Exploitation

The current child exploitation data is under review by children’s Social Care and this section could not be updated in time for publication.

Safeguarding

Adults

There was a total of 692 suspected adult abuse contacts made to Sefton during 2021, an increase of 19% on the previous year, and the highest number over the past five years (Figure 41).

Of these safeguarding contacts 229 (a third) were neglect and acts of omission, with a further 14% (94) being psychological abuse (Figure 42).

Figure 41. Suspected Adult Abuse Contacts

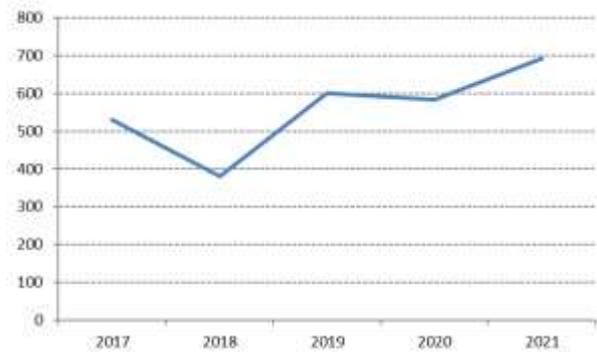
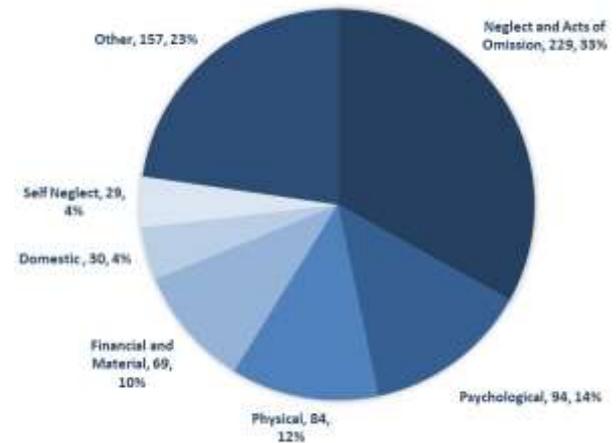


Figure 42. Safeguarding Abuse Type



Children

Within Children’s Social Care there are three plan types: Children in Need (CIN), Children Looked After (CLA), and Child Protection (CP). The data represented in this report is the rate of children per 10,000 population 0 to 17-year olds as at 31st March in the specified year. CP plans can be started for four reasons: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse (in some cases there can be more than one reason, this is not covered in this report).

Sefton’s levels of CIN have seen an overall increase in the Borough (16%) across the past five years (2017 to 2021), with 2020 having the highest number. Sefton has continually had a higher rate than that seen nationally and has been above the North West for the last four (Figure 43).

CLA rates have shown year on year increases between 2017 to 2021. Again, the Borough has continually been above the national rate, though LCR rates are continually higher (Figure 44).

Children on CP plans in Sefton have fluctuated across the five years (Figure 45) and has been below the North West and LCR rates (except for 2018).

Neglect closely followed by emotional abuse are the most prolific CP start reasons. Neglect has increased year-on-year with the count in 2021 rising significant. With Sefton moving above the national and regional rates (Figure 46a).

In 2021 Sefton was below the rates seen in England, the North West and LCR for physical abuse (Figure 46b) yet were above for sexual (Figure 46c). Emotional abuse in the Borough was higher than seen nationally and regionally (Figure 46d).

Figure 43: Children in Need as at 31st March Rate per 10,000

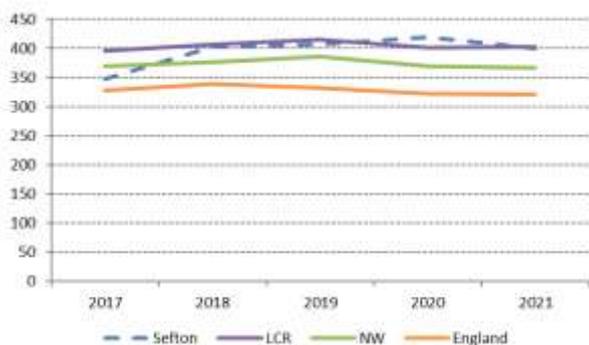


Figure 44: Children Looked After at 31st March Rate per 10,000

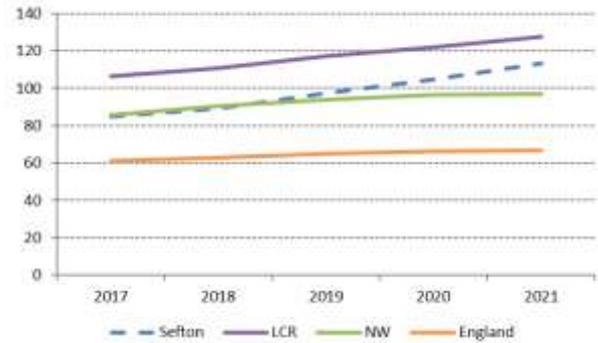


Figure 45: Child Protection Plan at 31st March Rate per 10,000

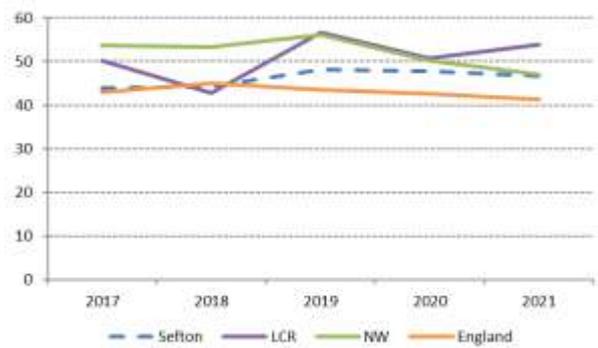


Figure 46a: Child Protection Plan Starting Because of Neglect at 31st March Rate per 10,000

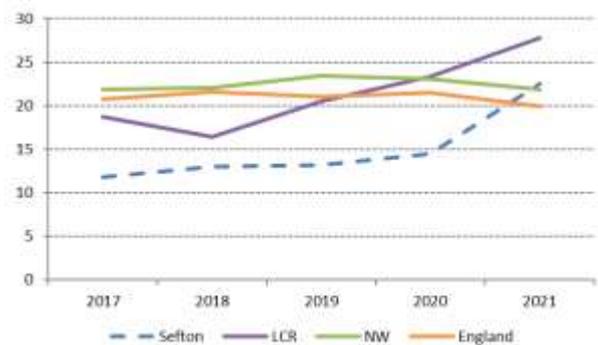


Figure 46b: Child Protection Plan Starting Because of Physical Abuse at 31st March Rate per 10,000

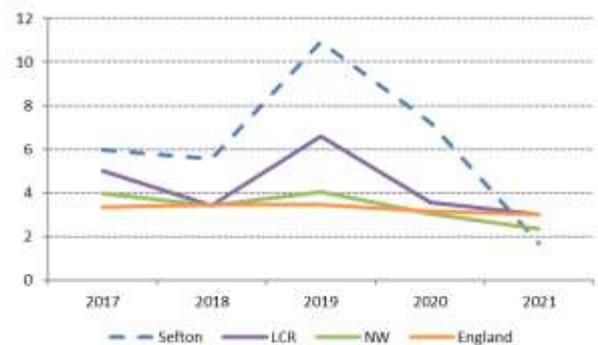


Figure 46c: Child Protection Plan Starting Because of Sexual Abuse at 31st March Rate per 10,000

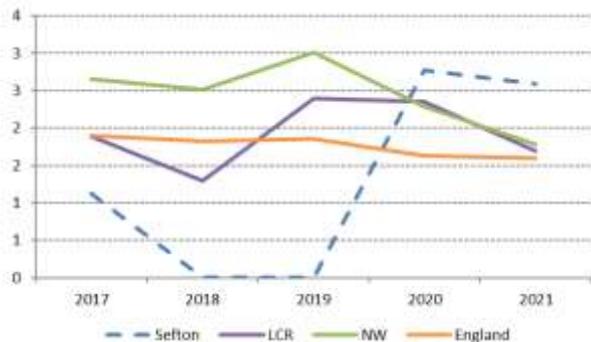
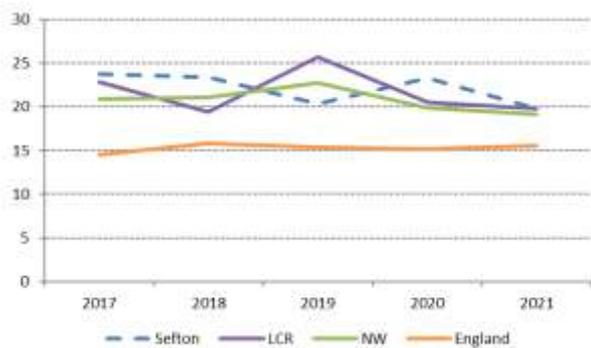


Figure 46d: Child Protection Plan Starting Because of Emotional Abuse at 31st March Rate per 10,000



Sefton Turnaround Programme

The national Troubled Families programme (Turnaround Programme in Sefton) is a “targeted intervention for families with multiple problems, including crime, anti-social behaviour, truancy, unemployment, mental health problems and domestic abuse.”

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7585>

Phase 2 of the Sefton Turnaround Programme was completed on 31st March 2020. The target of 2,130 families was reached with the cohort being ‘turned around’ meaning that the LA could draw down funding from the government of £1000 per family. Generating £2,130,000 worth of funding to support interventions provided by Social Workers to support families. For the purpose of this report, there were 1,390 families ‘turned around’ and claimed for from Sep18 –Mar20.

The First Extension Year of the Sefton Turnaround Programme (STP) was completed on 31st March 2021. The target of 357 families was reached with the cohort being ‘turned around’ meaning that the LA could draw down funding from the government of £800 per family. This generated £285 600 worth of funding to support interventions provided by Social Workers to support families. The name and marketing of the Turnaround Programme has now been changed to the ‘Supporting Families’ Programme (SFP).

The Second Extension Year of the SFP commenced on 1st April 2021. The new target of 372 families has been designated to Sefton. The same funding amounts apply as above. So far, there have been 275 families ‘turned around’ meaning that 75% of the target has been achieved. This is inline with set targets of achieving 75% by the end of Quarter 3. If the target of 372 families is achieved; this will generate funding of £297,600.

In the ‘Budget’ from the Chancellor of the Exchequer in October 2021, it was announced that the Programme will continue beyond the current financial year and be developed into a three-year programme from April 2022 to March 2025. There are also future proposals from representatives at the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) as to how the Programme may be coordinated where outcomes are concerned.

Road Safety

In 2020 there were 80 people killed and seriously injured (KSI) on Sefton roads a rate of 116 per billion vehicle miles, the borough has had a higher rate than those seen across England and the North West for the past four years though they have reduced considerably (Figure 47).

The rate of children aged 0 to 15 killed or seriously injured (KSI) on roads has shown an overall decrease across the past five time periods. In 2018 – 20, 30 children were KSI on roads in Sefton a crude rate of 20.8 per 100,000 higher than the rates seen in the Liverpool City Region (LCR), the North West and England (Figure 48).

There has been an overall reduction in the rate of alcohol related road traffic accidents (RTA), when comparing 2010/12 to 2014/16 (10%). In 2014/16 Sefton moved below the rates seen nationally and regionally (Figure 49).

Rates of slight casualties from RTAs have shown overall reductions from 2011/15 to 2015/19, with Sefton continually performing better than the England average. There were 738 slight casualties in Sefton during 2015/19 (Figure 50).

“Road traffic collisions are a major cause of deaths in children and comprise higher proportions of accidental deaths as children get older. Parents cite vehicle speed and volume as reasons why they do not allow their children to walk or cycle, thereby reducing opportunities for physical activity” Public Health England

The rate of young pedestrians (aged 0 to 24) killed or seriously injured in RTAs on Sefton Roads have reduced, with Sefton now being below the rates seen nationally and in the LCR (Figure 51).

Sefton continually has higher percentages of pedal cyclists caged 0 to 24) than England, the North West and LCR, and overall, rates have increased from 2011/15 to 2015/19 (Figure 52).

The rate of Motorcyclists KSI in road traffic accidents (aged 15-24) have shown an overall reduction across the time periods. Sefton has moved below rates seen nationally and across LCR (Figure 53).

Figure 47. Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) Casualties on England's Roads (per billion vehicle miles)

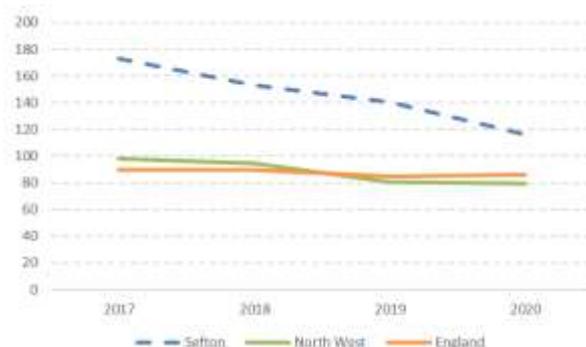


Figure 48. Children Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) Casualties on England's Roads (Crude Rate per 100,000)

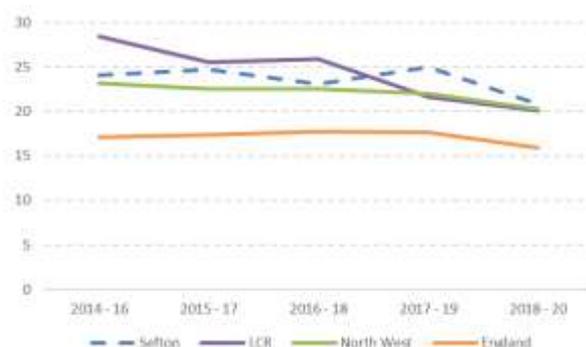


Figure 49. Alcohol Related Road Traffic Accidents (Crude Rate per 100,000)

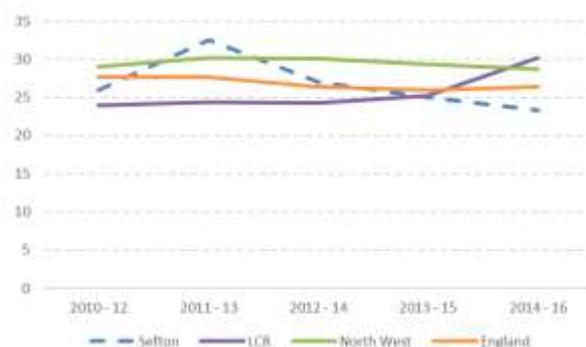


Figure 50. Slight Casualties from Road Traffic Accidents - Aged 0-24 (Crude Rate per 100,000)

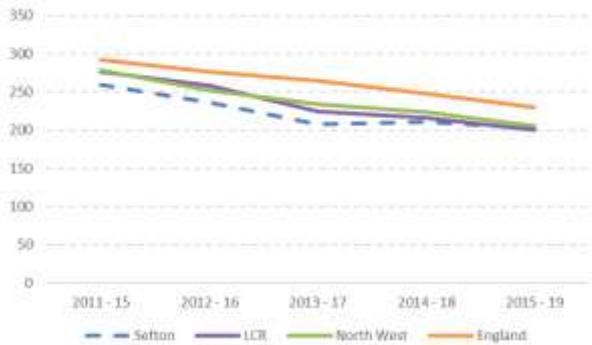


Figure 51. Pedestrians Killed or Seriously Injured in RTAs - Aged 0-24 (Crude Rate per 100,000)

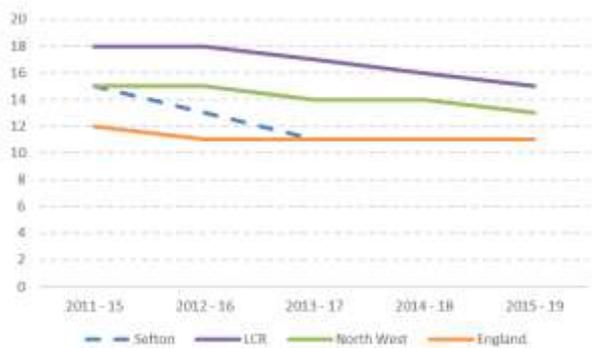


Figure 52. Pedal Cyclists Killed or Seriously Injured in RTAs - Aged 0-24 (Crude Rate per 100,000)

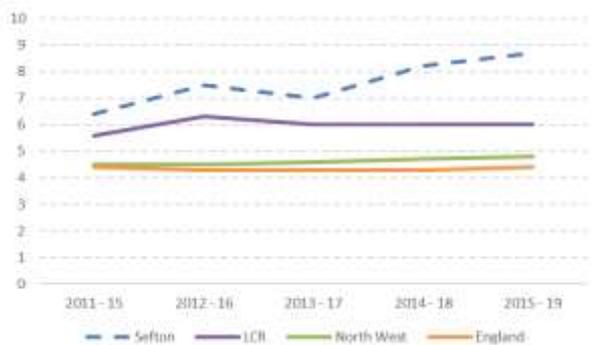
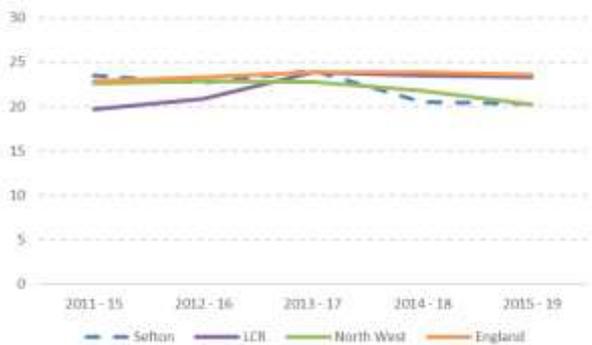


Figure 53. Motorcyclists Killed or Seriously Injured in RTAs - Aged 15-24 (Crude Rate per 100,000)



Parking Fines & Penalty Charge Notices

During 2021 (January to December), there have been 25,699 Parking Fines and Penalty Charge Notices issued by Sefton Council on roads and off-street car parks; 79% of these were due to cars parked on the street with the remaining 21% in car parks (Table 10).

Best fit wards have been applied to the data and shows that Duke’s ward accounts for 37% of all fines and charges. This primarily reflects the tourist and attraction nature of the ward which comprises much of Lord Street and the seafront in Southport but demonstrates the potential level of impact on these communities.

Table 10. Parking Fines and Penalty Charge Notices Issued by Sefton Council

	On Street		Off Street		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Ainsdale	1,253	6.2%	53	1.0%	1,306	5.1%
Birkdale	414	2.0%	-	0.0%	414	1.6%
Blundellsands	323	1.6%	906	16.7%	1,229	4.8%
Cambridge	184	0.9%	294	5.4%	478	1.9%
Church	2,361	11.6%	1,026	19.0%	3,387	13.2%
Derby	1,602	7.9%	6	0.1%	1,608	6.3%
Dukes	7,577	37.3%	1,869	34.5%	9,446	36.8%
Ford	44	0.2%	-	0.0%	44	0.2%
Harington	1,638	8.1%	1	0.0%	1,639	6.4%
Kew	136	0.7%	14	0.3%	150	0.6%
Linacre	2,896	14.3%	644	11.9%	3,540	13.8%
Litherland	136	0.7%	-	0.0%	136	0.5%
Manor	39	0.2%	289	5.3%	328	1.3%
Meols	30	0.1%	1	0.0%	31	0.1%
Molyneux	23	0.1%	-	0.0%	23	0.1%
Netherton & Orrell	91	0.4%	-	0.0%	91	0.4%
Norwood	57	0.3%	3	0.1%	60	0.2%
Park	81	0.4%	1	0.0%	82	0.3%
Ravenmeols	114	0.6%	129	2.4%	243	0.9%
St Oswald	144	0.7%	39	0.7%	183	0.7%
Sudell	62	0.3%	-	0.0%	62	0.2%
Victoria	1,083	5.3%	136	2.5%	1,219	4.7%
Sefton Total	20,288	100.0%	5,411	100.0%	25,699	100.0%

NB not all wards have Off Street parking available

Associated Factors & Wider Determinants

As noted in the introduction there are a wide variety of factors affecting the level of crime in an area. The following looks at the most commonly associated factors including deprivation, housing, and activity / opportunity.

Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation (IoD) measures levels of deprivation across seven core domains, which are merged to create the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The higher the score the more affected or ‘deprived’ an area is. The IoD data is provided by LSOA (these are groups of approximately 1,200 households - defined nationally). The seven core IoD domains include:

- Income
- Employment
- Education, Skills, & Training
- Health & Disability
- Crime
- Barriers to Housing & Services
- Living Environment

In Sefton, deprivation has seen an overall increase in the average score from 2004 to 2019, (26.2 to 27). 2019 is the second highest IMD level out of the five years.

Sefton has remained below the City Region levels of IMD across the period (it is, however, continually higher than the national rate), and has been the lowest LA of the LCR authorities for four of the five years (Figure 54).

In 2019, the Borough was ranked 58 out of the 318 lower tier Local Authorities Districts around England (Table 11).

38 LSOAs across Sefton fall within the most deprived areas in England (top 10%), with seven of these being in the top 1%.

Figure 54. Average IMD Score Trends 2004 to 2019

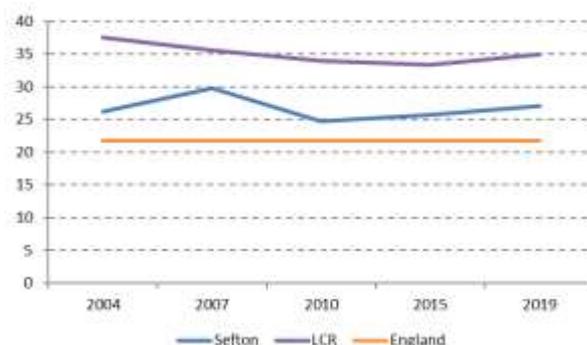


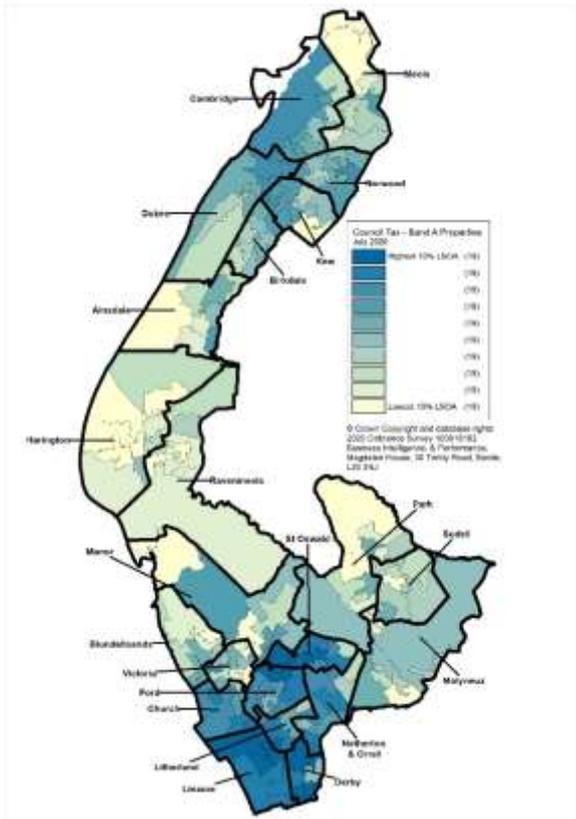
Table 11. Average IMD Score in 2019 by Local Authority

2019 (LA District)	IMD Score	IMD Rank
Halton	32.3	23
Knowsley	43.0	2
Liverpool	42.4	3
Sefton	27.0	58
St Helens	31.5	26
Wirral	29.6	42
LCR	34.9	N/A
England	21.7	N/A

Overall IMD score by LSOA (Map 14) exhibits a similar overall pattern to that of overall crime (Map 1). Deprivation is highest in the south of the Borough specifically around Linacre and Derby wards, with small pockets of high intensity dotted around other locations including Southport town centre.

In general, there is nearly five times more crime occurring in the 20% most deprived areas of Sefton than occurring in the 20% least deprived areas.

Map 15. Distribution of Council Tax Band A Households (LSOA Level) – Rate Rank



Using houses in Council Tax Band A as a surrogate for lower cost housing, there is a moderate positive linear correlation between the levels of crime and the number of residences in Band A (0.6).

Violent crimes along with drug offences and fly tipping incidents have stronger correlations with low-cost housing (all three being over 0.7). Behaviour.

Community Perspectives

At present the CSSA covers significant quantities of quantitative data and the core issues have been identified using this information. However, a key part of the CSSA is the supplementation of this information with priorities and challenges from local communities. At present this is a gap in the analysis.

PESTELO Overview

Brexit

Britain withdrew from the European Union as of 01st January 2021, Global Initiative Against Organized Crime warn cross-border smuggling may become an issue including alcohol, fuel, and tobacco. More worryingly so the increased threat of human trafficking and with reduced cooperation between Britain and the EU drug imputation. These issues are on a national level, yet with the improved Bootle and Seaforth dock areas leading to increased transportation to and from the ports Sefton may see an increase in these crimes.

Black Lives Matter

After an incident in the USA in May 2020, the Black Lives Matter (BLM) campaign has become more publicised across the world with protests taken place both nationally and internationally. This may continue to have a possible effect on crime and anti-social behaviour rates especially hate crimes.

COVID19

COVID19 is an infectious disease which has caused a global pandemic. England had numerous “Lockdowns” throughout 2020 and 2021, with limitations being put in place on People / Households limiting their movement, these limitations have mostly been removed. Tracking of ASB, domestic abuse, hate crimes and YOT reports were taken place weekly within Sefton. ASB incidents reported to Merseyside Police saw significant increases during the time, with Domestic Abuse seeing a slight rise, hate crimes and YOT appeared not to be affected.

Due to the numerous “Lockdowns”, many businesses were forced to close, meaning people were unable to attend work. On 20th March 2020 the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, was introduced, providing employers financial help with paying their furloughed employees 80% of their usual wage. This ended on the 30th September 2021. Many businesses have not been able to recover from the lost income.

The UK has been thrown into the biggest recessions the country has ever seen, it is not

clear how fast the economy will return to pre “Lockdown” levels.

Unemployment

Unemployment levels in Sefton, as measured by out of work benefit claimants, saw a considerable increase during the COVID pandemic, numbers in 2020/21 being the highest seen since 1996, levels are slowly starting to reduce though are still higher than before the pandemic.

In January 2022, a fifth of all Sefton adults claiming some form of out-of-work benefits reside in just two of Sefton wards (Derby and Linacre both located in the very south of the Borough).

Long-term unemployment is a concern, with 50% of those claiming Universal Credits for unemployment (in December 2021), in the Borough having been claiming for more than two years with 6% claiming unemployment benefits for five years or more.

In 2020, there were 12,600 (16%) workless households within Sefton, higher than the North West and Great Britain.

Population Increase

Sefton’s population is growing slowly, the growth is forecast to continue however the Borough is among the slowest growing authorities in England. The 2018 population projects suggest that the population will rise from 278,269 in 2022 to at least 281,774 by 2027 (a 1% increase) and 291,502 by 2040 (a 5% increase). These increases will place some demands on public services, but the age profile of change is more concerning.

An Ageing Population

Population projections predict that there will be a 25% increase in the number of residents aged 65 and over living in Sefton (from 2022 to 2042) with those aged 85 and over increasing by 54%.

Fear of crime is greatest amongst older people, even though they are less likely to be victims of crime. As society ages and the number of older people rises, overall levels of fear of crime may also increase.

Older people are being encouraged and supported to live in their own homes for longer, and not to move into nursing or residential care. The number of very elderly people living in their own homes will increase significantly over the next decade.

This raises the concern that they could become victims of those crimes, such as distraction burglaries, to which older people are more vulnerable and are targeted.

Economic Migration

In 2021, there were 337 National Insurance Numbers (NINo) issued to non-UK nationals living Sefton Borough. This represents a decrease of 64% compared to five years ago and is at its lowest level in the last 18 years (there may be numerous reasons for this including the COVID19 pandemic causing travel restrictions and Brexit affecting European migrants).

This is a very small proportion of the Sefton’s overall economically active population. Therefore, it is possible on small scale methods of education and enforcement may need to change to reflect this.

Housing Costs and Availability

Home ownership and home rental costs have both increased significantly in the Borough since 2001, in line with national trends. While house prices dipped during and after the 2008-09 recessions, they started to climb again in 2014 and this continued in 2021. The Borough’s median house price: earnings ratio in 2020 was 6.46 which, combined with high deposit requirements, presents major problems of affordability.

While the combination of government programmes such as *Help to Buy*, which is targeted at first time buyers have improved access to housing, affordability is a major issue, particularly for first time buyers. Concern has also been expressed about the ability of homeowners who have borrowed heavily to service those mortgages with interest rates and cost of living rising considerably.

The number of private rentals in the Borough rose by 77% (6,893) between 2001 and 2011 and from 8% of all households to 13%. It has undoubtedly grown further since 2011. In 2020 there were a total of 19,386 social housing dwellings within Sefton, owned by 34 providers. 56% of these properties are owned by One Vision Housing Limited and 12% by The Riverside Group Limited (none of the other providers owned over 5% of the stock).

High housing costs, high demand, and limited supply are all contributing to greater overcrowding. This can include unlicensed houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) and exploitation of, particularly, new migrants and younger adults. Overcrowding has negative impacts not only on the residents but on neighbours and neighbourhoods.

Deprivation

The 2019 Indices of Deprivation indicate that overall deprivation levels in the Borough is within the top 20% of English lower tier local authorities affected by deprivation.

The average figures mask some significant deprivation disparities, with seven Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in parts of Linacre and Derby wards being among the 1% most deprived areas in England on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), a further 20 LSOAs across Sefton (including the remaining LSOAs making up Linacre) are in the top 5% of affected areas.

A total of 59 areas are now within the top 20% most deprived nationally compared to 53 in 2015.

All of the 53 areas which were within the top 20% most deprived areas nationally in 2015, were still within this deprivation level in 2019 and the majority became more deprived, suggesting that deprivation is deeply entrenched in many parts of the Borough.

In 2019/20 there were 10,178 (17%) children aged 0 to 19 living in relative low income, this has increased over the past five years, with an overall increase of 14%.

Welfare Changes

A number of changes have been made to welfare benefits. The impacts are widespread and will see some benefits cut, others frozen and, in some cases, changes in eligibility rules will mean some people no longer qualify for the benefit. While these changes are being accompanied by greater employment and training support, there is a concern that loss of benefit income might cause some people to resort to crime to fill the income gap.

Specific changes include:

- Universal Credit (UC) has been rolled out to all Jobcentres and local authorities. UC will

replace a range of existing benefits including JSA, Income Support and Housing Benefit. As of November 2021, 25,920 people (22,977 households) in the Borough receive UC. UC is paid directly to a nominated householder; people not experienced in budgeting may mismanage their UC and get into debt. At the beginning of the scheme there were reports of increasing rent arrears in pilot areas. Payment to a nominated householder may also contribute to issues related to Domestic Abuse as it could further exacerbate difficulties in leaving an abuse home environment where all finances become controlled by the abuser.

Homelessness

The increase in those defined as homeless has seen increase both nationally and across Sefton. Homelessness has a number of layers with Rough Sleepers very tightly defined as in/on bedding in the open air and does not include those residing in shelters or simply could not be found when the count took place.

Within the homeless population of Sefton there are challenges around alcohol & substance abuse, mental health, economic migrants who are unemployed and have no recourse to public funds and the various individual difficulties which led to someone sleeping on the street. The challenge for the partnership will be to work alongside agencies supporting these individuals into a more positive lifestyle.

Community Engagement

Within the additional statutory duties emerging from legislation around Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Prevention of radicalisation (Prevent), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) there is an expectation that we are engaged with our communities and identifying risks to vulnerable persons to safeguarding agencies.

These problems cannot be dealt with where little is known about the scale and extent of the problem. It is important for local authorities to have an effective Community Engagement plan and work with communities to challenge extremist views. The benefits of effective engagement will enhance our ability to deliver our statutory duties and also deal more effectively

with issues like domestic abuse which can be hidden in hard to reach communities.

Social Media

Social media has become a significant facet of human relationships, particularly for young people. There are significant opportunities to engage with residents if we understand which medium to utilise for different demographic groups within Sefton. Within this growing area of human interaction there are significant and growing threats to vulnerable persons. Online grooming is a reality not just relevant to young persons. We are increasingly seeing dating sites and social media used to identify potential victims and build what the victim believes to be a genuine relationship, leading to them putting themselves at greater risk when meeting the predatory offenders for the first time.

Sefton 2030

In an effort to meet a substantial resource deficit Sefton Borough Council are seeking to sustain and improve the services provided to residents by shifting to a more technologically streamlined way of working. Internally, Agile Working will allow staff to be more flexible in how they work and offer opportunities to work at locations out within the community. Externally, a better use of technology will create effective, transparent pathways for the public to access services they require. The development of the service will also consider the differing levels of acceptance of technological solutions. For the CSP members there will be very significant opportunities to reduce costs and introduce innovation by working together to support the communities within Sefton.

Fly-tipping

Another challenge that has nationally seen a huge increase in public money spent in clearing up (with rates during the pandemic seen significant increases in certain areas). Whilst fly-tipping could be viewed as a minor offence it features high on the list of quality of life issues when our residents are consulted. Whatever improvement to crime and disorder we make as a partnership, fly-tipped rubbish is seen as a visual cue for urban decay and neglect. Whilst the Local Authority have the lead responsibility, significant progress is possible only with a shared plan to reduce this growing urban

blight and increase public confidence in partner agencies.

Homelessness Reduction Act

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA 2017) came into effect on the 3rd April 2018. This Act will have significant implications for Sefton's Housing Options service provision. The Act provides a statutory duty to provide homeless prevention services to all people who are threatened with homelessness irrespective of whether they are in priority need or not. The Act also proposes earlier intervention (56 days from homelessness rather than the current 28 days) and would require each person to have an individual assessment and 'Personal Housing Plan to include housing, income, employment and debt advice. It is estimated that the workloads of the Housing Options service will increase by 35 – 40% as a direct result of the duties placed upon the Council by the HRA 2017.

Counter Extremism Bill

The proposed legislation which underpins the review of the Home Office Counter Extremism Strategy makes clear the local authority's responsibilities and provides additional statutory powers to carry out those duties. There is a significant emphasis on the development of community cohesion plan to engage closer with communities, supporting and empowering those who would challenge extremism. There are significant implications from the CSP, who are likely to deliver a substantial piece of this work.

World Conflicts

In the past year there have been major conflicts seen in Afghanistan and more recently the Ukraine. These have left residents of both countries extremely vulnerable and seeking asylum across the western world. This may increase the demand on services and the risk of crimes including hate crime and victimisation.

Recommendations

The following have been identified within the main body of this report and highlighted as areas of opportunity for future partnership work. They have been broken down into three key areas: Recommendations, Considerations, and Information Gaps.

No	Priority Area	Recommendation
R1	Domestic Abuse	Continue to build on the Domestic Abuse strategy delivering preventative and targeted support to support the best possible outcomes for victims, children, and perpetrators. Integrated with issues surrounding Child Protection and 'Breaking the Cycle'
R2	Anti-Social Behaviour	Continue with existing targeted ASB activities.
R3	Violent Crimes	Continue working with Violence Reduction unit and Knife Crime Reduction partnership delivering preventative and targeted support to support the best possible outcomes for victims.
R4	Location Based Summary	The partnership should develop a priority based upon the geographic areas most affected by the impacts of Criminal Damage, Drugs and Violent Crime.
R5	Hate Crime	Partnership communications should be coordinated after any significant events, to reduce the likelihood of retaliation and to raise awareness of support.
R6	Hate Crime	The partnership should seek opportunities to raise awareness of those motivational factors that are currently under represented.
R7	Vulnerable Victims	The partnership should look to develop as a single priority area around reducing the risk of priority crimes in vulnerable groups.

No	Priority Area	Considerations
C1	Existing Activities	Review levels of success of existing activities e.g., theft kits / single use breath tests / knife wands.
C2	Hate Crime	The partnership should monitor the effects of BREXIT, BLM and current conflicts, considering proactive partnership communications at key points that are most likely to provoke an increase in offending.
C3	Mental Health	Partnership should consider the impact of increasing levels of Mental Health and Depression on safety and support.
C4	Child Criminal Exploitation	Monitor the number of cases being referred to MACE as further data starts to become available.

No	Priority Area	Information Gaps
I1	All	Although data is being recorded on issues such as Female Genital Mutilation, Prevent, and Asylum seekers it tends to be sparse and is unlikely to be providing a comprehensive picture of the issues. A review of data sources and opportunities for development should be undertaken to identify likely gaps and identify qualitative opportunities for completing the picture.
I2	All	Given issues for all partners relating to resources it is important that targeting is undertaken. However, the high level and generic nature of some publicly available data sets makes precise locality-based work difficult. Consideration should be given to support the analysis and location specific information and subsequent anonymization to allow a more targeted approach whilst maintaining

No	Priority Area	Information Gaps
		data confidentiality where appropriate.
13	All	Measuring the full extent of sexual offences and domestic violence is difficult as these offences are known to be under reported.
14	All	Lack of recording of enhanced data for assault-related injury attendances at hospital Emergency Departments means it is not possible to further understand assault date, time, location, or weapon which could be recorded.
15	All	Analysis on the residential location of offenders compared to offence locations, indicating how far offenders are travelling to commit crimes. Along with external factors causing offences i.e., drink, drugs, deprivation.
16	All	Victim data under-represents the impact on health and wellbeing.
17	All	Further data which Business Intelligence does not have access to includes cuckooing, serious organised crime, street drinking and rough sleepers.

Conclusion

Although the current quantitative data requires supplementing with qualitative data from our communities a few key areas for focus over the short to medium term are clear. This includes a need to understand and act on issues including:

Crimes have shown overall increases across the past five years in Sefton, a pattern seen nationally regionally and across the city region.

Unlike crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, and Fires have seen overall reductions over the past ten years, across Sefton, with slight fluctuations during the time period.

Overall crime distribution across Sefton indicates high intensity to the South of the Borough as well as pockets located around Southport town centre, and small sections of Central Sefton. This shows similarities to the distributions of both high IMD scores and high levels of Council Tax Band A properties.

Theft and Violence are the most prolific offences in the borough, with violence showing a considerable increase over the past five years, (theft has shown a reduction in rates during the same period).

Crimes, specifically criminal damage, public order and violent offences have shown a strong link to alcohol, with 65% occurring between 18:00 and 03:59 hours. This is a proxy measure of crimes occurring due to the Night Time Economy (NTE). As expected, these offences peak over the weekend. When looking at the geographical distribution, there is still link between NTE crimes and the locations of NTE providers (though this may have been impacted by the Covid-19 lockdowns).

Sefton is performing better or similar to the national and regional rates for most crime types except for drug / public order / residential burglaries / violent offences.

The distribution of all ASB incidents is like that of the crime. General nuisance is the highest type of ASB reported to Merseyside Police across Sefton, the rates of which have shown an overall reduction across the past five years (45%).

Fly Tipping has increased by 59% across the past 10 years, with 2021 being the highest of all years.

Correlations were identified between Fly Tipping and IMD.

Research carried out by the National Fire Chiefs Council indicates that arson and lower socio-economic groups go hand in hand, within Sefton 55% of fires occurred in the top 20% most deprived areas nationally (IMD).

Glossary of Terms / Acronyms

ASB Anti-social behaviour

CARMAC Child at Risk Multi Agency Assessment Conference

CiN Child in Need

CLA Child Looked After

CP Child Protection

CSE Child Sexual Exploitation

CSP Community Safety Partnership

CSSA Community Safety Strategic Assessment

DIP Drug Intervention Programme

DWP Department of Work and Pensions

EU Europe

FGM Female Genital Mutilation

FTE First Time Entrants

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GP General Practitioner

HA Hospital Admissions

HFSC Home Fire Safety Checks

HMO Housing of Multiple Occupation

HRA Homelessness Reduction Act

IMD Index of Multiple Deprivation

JSA Job Seekers Allowance

KSI Killed or Seriously Injured

LA Local Authority

LCR Liverpool City Region

LSOA Lower Super Output Area

MACE Multi Agency Child Exploitation

MARAC Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MFARS Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

NDTMS National Drug Treatment Monitoring System

NEET Not in Education Employment or Training

NINo National Insurance Number

ONS Office for National Statistics

QOF Quality Outcomes Framework

PNC Police National Computer

RTA Road Traffic Accident

SAC Serious Acquisitive Crime

UC Universal credit

UK United Kingdom

YJB Youth Justice Board

YOT Youth Offending Team

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MARAC Data – Sefton MBC (Louise O'Rourke)

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Killed and Seriously Injure (KSI) on England's Roads – Public Health Profiles - Fingertips / Public Health Outcomes Framework / Wider Determinants of Health

Children Killed and Seriously Injure (KSI) on England's Roads – Public Health Profiles - Fingertips / Child and Maternal Health / Unintentional Injuries

Alcohol Related Road Traffic Accidents – Public Health Profiles - Fingertips / Local Alcohol Profiles for England / Other Impacts

Slight Casualties from Road Traffic Accidents

(Aged 0-24) – Public Health Profiles – Fingertips / Child and Maternal Health / Unintentional Injuries

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Median House Price: Earnings Ratio – ONS / House price to workplace-based earnings ratio

Social Stock in Sefton by Provider – Sefton MBC Housing (Alistair Malpas)

Children Living in Relative Low-Income Families – Stat-Xplore (via Sefton MBC log in)

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