



MK Together
SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP

Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy 2025 - 2029

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Draft for consultation

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Introduction

Recent years have brought significant change, locally and globally shaping crime and safety priorities in Milton Keynes. Factors such as post-Covid recovery, cost-of-living pressures, international conflict, and population growth continue to influence local needs.

The Safeguarding Partnership, which acts as the community safety partnership for Milton Keynes, remains committed to a flexible, evidence-based approach, informed by both community insight and national guidance. This ensures our strategy stays relevant and focused on building a safer, more resilient Milton Keynes.

This strategy reconfirms the partnership's commitment to cross-agency collaboration in improving community safety outcomes. It is shaped by a new strategic needs assessment, the annual community safety survey, and aligned with the [Police and Crime Commissioner's plan](#).

The strategic needs assessment provides data-driven insight into crime and disorder, while the survey ensures public concerns inform our approach. Broad stakeholder consultation - including practitioner input and engagement with young people - has helped shape priorities based on lived experience.

This ensures our strategy is grounded in evidence, responsive to community needs, and focused on making Milton Keynes safer for all.

For clarity throughout this strategy, the terms *Safeguarding Partnership* and *Safeguarding Partners* refer to the agencies responsible for delivering statutory community safety functions.

Scope of the Strategy

This strategy addresses general community safety and crime and disorder concerns and serious violence which is subject to a standalone duty.

Part One – Community Safety

Vulnerable communities and individuals

Priority One – Domestic Abuse

What we know:

Domestic abuse is a key focus for the MK Together Safeguarding Partnership, which ensures compliance with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The Strategic Needs Assessment (link to be added) examined housing, justice system responses, poverty, and local services.

Recommendations aim to improve support for older adults, diverse communities, and those experiencing abuse beyond intimate relationships.

What we have done:

The Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership (DASP) continues to implement a dedicated strategy, with progress tracked via its Operational Group. A strategic assessment in 2023/24 informed the development of the 2025 strategy, ensuring responses remain dynamic and needs led.

DASP reports to the Safeguarding Partnership for oversight and accountability. The updated Domestic Abuse Strategy is available here <link to be added>.

Three Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were completed during the previous strategy period, with recommendations implemented by affiliate groups. Milton Keynes contributes to the national DHR forum, supporting the evolution of DHRs into Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs).

Children exposed to domestic abuse remain a key focus. Recognised as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), early intervention is central to improving outcomes, supported by several local initiatives.

What we will do next:

We will implement our new Domestic Abuse Strategy. Further detail about future actions and initiatives to prevent and reduce harm from domestic abuse can be found in the standalone Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Priority Two – Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

What we know:

This strategy defines VAWG as non-domestic offences, including sexual and violent crimes in public spaces. Domestic abuse is addressed separately through the dedicated Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Survey data shows a slight improvement in perceived safety after dark, with 33% feeling safe - up from 30% last year. However, concerns remain: 79% of women and 66% of young people feel unsafe walking alone at night, compared to 51% of men. Safety perceptions show no significant difference between white and non-white respondents.

Between September 2023 and 2024, reports of rape rose by 21% and other sexual offences by 5%. These increases may reflect improved reporting confidence, supported by national movements and local initiatives like the partnership's Bystander Campaign. Nonetheless, sexual offences remain under-reported nationally, highlighting the need to reduce stigma and strengthen victim support.

In 2024, half of violence with injury cases involved male perpetrators and female victims, though overall rates have declined since 2022.

What we have done:

In 2022, Milton Keynes secured nearly £750,000 from the Safer Streets Fund to strengthen safety in the night-time economy. Funded initiatives included a Safer Route through the city centre, Project Vigilant (A police-led disruption operation for potential perpetrators of violence against women and girls), the "You're Right, That's Wrong" Bystander Campaign, and online Active Bystander Training. These efforts aligned with national campaigns like White Ribbon, encouraging male allies to challenge harmful behaviours, particularly during the festive season.

The Safeguarding Partnership supported The Safety Centre in delivering VAWG prevention education to Years 6–8, reaching 2,394 children by March 2025. Feedback highlighted improved understanding of healthy relationships and consent.

The City Council's Licensing Team continues to promote Ask for Angela in licensed venues, reinforced through inspections and awareness campaigns. Bar Watch, in partnership with Thames Valley Police and Milton Keynes City Council, enhances safety across hospitality and leisure settings.

A recent scoping exercise on frontline responses to adult female sex working identified the need for stronger support pathways for trafficking victims and improved intelligence to hold perpetrators accountable.

What we will do next:

A dedicated Task and Finish group will be established to monitor trends and take forward actions to tackle VAWG.

Following insights from the adult female sex working scoping exercise, the Safeguarding Partnership will develop a multi-agency pathway. This will support frontline practitioners in identifying victims, reporting perpetrators, and reinforcing Milton Keynes as a hostile environment for exploitation.

The Partnership will also review recommendations from the Baroness Casey Review on Group-Based Sexual Exploitation to strengthen local systems.

In collaboration with the My Milton Keynes Business Improvement District (BID), facial recognition technology via body-worn cameras will be piloted in licensed venues. This aims to identify barred individuals and enhance frontline risk responses, particularly for women.

The partnership will continue to engage with residents, bringing together statutory and voluntary partners to gather feedback, share updates, and promote crime prevention measures.

Priority Three – Countering Radicalisation and Online Harm

What we know:

It is widely recognised that online harm and radicalisation remain growing concerns across the UK. High-profile national incidents, such as the Southport murders, the resulting summer disorder, and broader global conflicts, continue to influence community cohesion.

Public responses to complex issues including grooming gangs and asylum hotels further compound this risk. In these environments, vulnerability to radicalisation may increase.

Additionally, the surge in extreme violence and mass casualty content circulating online has prompted a revision to the Channel Duty Guidance (March 2025), reflecting an urgent need for renewed vigilance and action.

What we have done:

In Milton Keynes, we take pride in our diverse and inclusive community. Through the Prevent Board, we remain proactive in identifying emerging risks, sharing intelligence, and implementing measures to mitigate the threat of radicalisation. This includes strengthening multi-agency coordination, fostering safer digital and physical spaces, and promoting resilience across all communities.

For other types of online harm such as scamming, we deliver regular online safety education to members of the public in our regular engagement activities with a specific campaign during the annual Bite Back and Online Safety Weeks.

What we will do next:

Milton Keynes continues to implement updates to the Channel Duty Guidance, with oversight from the Prevent Board and the Home Office Assurance Process. Preventing Radicalisation Training remains a priority, supported by annual monitoring and promotion of the Home Office Prevent Training Platform.

Through the Prevent Partnership Plan, we aim to empower professionals and the public to recognise radicalisation risks in both online and offline environments.

Our ongoing commitments include:

- Monitoring the impact of the 2025 Channel Duty Guidance amendment
- Ensuring access to appropriate services and interventions
- Implementation of the Protect Duty (Martyn's Law)
- Sustaining public engagement through outreach and awareness

Neighbourhoods

Priority Four – Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

What we know:

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) remains a significant concern in Milton Keynes, affecting communities through neighbour disputes, nuisance in public spaces, harassment, and vehicle-related issues.

The Safeguarding Partnership is committed to innovative approaches that support victims and prevent further harm. Recognising that ASB often stems from underlying needs such as substance misuse or poor mental health, we work in partnership to provide tailored support to both victims and perpetrators.

Findings from the annual ASB survey highlight the scale of the issue. 52% of respondents said that they have experienced ASB in the past year, but only 37% reported incidents to police or the council. Key concerns for respondents included speeding, nuisance vehicles, rowdy behaviour, aggressive begging, and problem neighbours.

What we have done:

Milton Keynes delivers a coordinated approach to ASB, integrating enforcement, safeguarding, and community engagement. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) target alcohol misuse and vehicle-related nuisance, supported by dedicated police operations and delegated enforcement through authorised security staff (provided by My Local Bobby).

The refreshed ASB Pathway aligns with the Care Act 2014, safeguarding vulnerable adults and supporting victims through multi-agency case management and early intervention.

Operation Intercept provides an intelligence-led response to exploitation and civil enforcement.

START (Safety, Theft, Antisocial Behaviour, Retail Crime Taskforce) addresses ASB and retail crime in key areas, by delivering initiatives such as alternative giving campaigns, graffiti removal, crime prevention roadshows, and encouraging businesses to sign up to the DiSC crime prevention and reporting app.

Environmental visual audits are conducted to help identify practical ways to reduce repeat ASB, while public outreach—including events, messaging, and signposting to services like Victims First—remains central to building safer communities.

What we will do next:

We will launch a public consultation on renewing the city-wide PSPO targeting anti-social vehicle use, with Operation Chromium continuing to focus on enforcement where there is ASB or street racing.

START will maintain its focused approach in retail hotspots, combining enforcement with support for vulnerable offenders to reduce repeat crime and uphold safeguarding principles. Enhanced public and business engagement will:

- Promote accessible ASB and crime reporting
- Raise awareness of support services and prevention tools
- Empower communities to take proactive safety measures

The National Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee is an initiative aimed at restoring and enhancing visible policing across England and Wales. As part of the government's Safer Streets Mission, this framework sets out clear expectations for neighbourhood policing teams, ensuring they are responsive, accessible, and deeply embedded within the communities they serve.

In Milton Keynes, the Guarantee is being actively implemented to deliver:

- Visible Patrols: Intelligence-led policing in town centres and residential areas to deter crime and reassure the public.
- Named, Contactable Officers: Every neighbourhood will have dedicated officers who are known to residents and businesses, fostering trust and accountability.
- Community Engagement: Police teams will work collaboratively with local stakeholders to identify priorities, address concerns, and co-design solutions.
- Crime Prevention and Enforcement: Enhanced powers and resources to tackle antisocial behaviour, shoplifting, and street crime, supported by new legislative tools such as Respect Orders.

This commitment reflects a broader ambition to rebuild the vital link between policing and the public—ensuring that officers are not only present but proactive in making Milton Keynes a safer, more resilient city.

Priority Five - Retail and Acquisitive Crime (Shoplifting, Robbery and Burglary)

The Strategic Needs Assessment has identified a notable rise in reports of acquisitive crime across Milton Keynes during the reporting period:

- Shoplifting increased by 31%
- Robbery of business premises rose by 46%
- Residential burglary grew by 14%
- Theft from the person decreased by 10%

These trends warrant further analysis to understand contributing factors, including the potential impact of targeted operations and improved reporting practices.

A police-led operation is actively tackling prolific shoplifting and promoting better engagement with retail businesses. Alongside this, a weekly multi-agency neighbourhood crime meeting monitors short-term fluctuations in offences, such as theft from motor vehicles, and coordinates timely prevention and enforcement responses.

To support public awareness and prevention, crime prevention roadshows have engaged over 3,000 residents since April 2025. These events offer personal safety items, tailored advice, and community engagement, with early indications showing a reduction in offences, particularly vehicle theft, in the weeks following.

What we will do next:

We remain committed to monitoring the effectiveness of police led operations and other interventions, ensuring a responsive and data-driven approach to reducing acquisitive crime. These interventions target our most prolific shoplifters and high-risk retail units taking a robust approach to this type of offending.

We will continue to deliver on multi-agency action plans targeting our top priority offenders in the City Centre in partnership with the Business Improvement District.

We will continue to deliver crime prevention roadshows across the Milton Keynes, using data to target hotspots, these roadshows are having a demonstrable impact on reducing crime.

Using the weekly Neighbourhood Crime meetings, we will continue to take a partnership approach to targeting groups who steal from motor vehicles and properties and encourage businesses to submit intelligence through the DISC application or partnership intelligence portal.

Priority Areas for Monitoring:

Modern Day Slavery (MDS)

Referral numbers for Modern Day Slavery (MDS) remain low, with criminal exploitation of White British young people the most frequently identified concern. The multi-disciplinary contextual safeguarding team within Children's Services works closely with Thames Valley Police's Harm Reduction Unit to engage young people at risk of both criminal and sexual exploitation.

Aligned with the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategic priority, further work will focus on deepening our understanding of MDS linked to the illegal sex trade.

Hate Crime

While national levels of hate crime have risen—particularly targeting Jewish and Muslim communities—recorded incidents in Milton Keynes have remained largely static. Racist hate crimes continue to be the most frequently reported, followed by a slight increase in disablist offences. In contrast, reports of homophobic and transphobic hate crimes have declined, though ongoing vigilance remains essential.

The Prevent Board plays a key role in monitoring hate crime trends and fostering community engagement. Annual data is reviewed to inform proactive outreach, including collaboration with the Independent Advisory Group, engagement at Mosques and Synagogues, and a visible presence at community events.

Monitoring will continue with a focus on:

- Strengthening community reassurance
- Promoting confidence in reporting hate crime
- Ensuring inclusive, responsive action to emerging concerns

Part Two – Serious Violence

Introduction

Under the Serious Violence Duty, Milton Keynes Safeguarding Partnership has led a coordinated strategy since 2022 to reduce violence—particularly among under-25s. Working with key stakeholders, the strategy has delivered measurable progress in tackling weapon-enabled crime.

Key outcomes include:

- 13% reduction in weapon possession
- 4% drop in violence with injury
- Year on year decrease in knife crime over three years

Public perception has also improved:

- Fewer residents personally affected by knife crime (7% to 4%)
- Increased reporting among affected individuals (57% to 67%)
- Decline in concern about knife crime as a local issue (56% to 48%)
- Fewer individuals carrying knives or knowing someone who had (14% to 9%)

This strategy demonstrates our commitment to safeguarding young people and building safer communities through data-driven, partnership-led action.

Our Approach

The Partnership remains firmly committed to reducing serious violence, with a tough stance toward perpetrators and continued investment in prevention and safeguarding for those at risk.

Our refreshed strategy adopts a strengthened public health approach, informed by research and national reviews. It addresses complex contributing factors such as:

- Poverty and limited access to education or employment
- Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- Cultural identity, adultification, and disproportionality in youth violence

Guided by trauma-informed principles and the “reachable and teachable moment,” we aim to keep weapons off our streets and reduce harm to individuals and communities.

Governance

This strategy is owned by the MK Together Safeguarding Partnership, which includes representation from all duty holders and named authorities as outlined in the Serious Violence Duty.

What we have done:

The multi-agency Serious Violence Operations Group leads the delivery of the annual Serious Violence Action Plan, monitors Thames Valley Police's efforts to disrupt organised crime, and reviews the impact of preventative interventions using shared partner data.

Emerging threats are escalated through the monthly Delivery Group, drawing insight from weekly Knife Crime Panels focused on habitual knife carriers, police led forums, and Multi-Agency Panels such as the Contextual Safeguarding Board, which assess exploitation risks.

While the Thames Valley Together platform is yet to deliver, partners continue to strengthen the evidence base through the Strategic Needs Assessment and annual Community Safety Survey.

What we will do next:

Milton Keynes has updated its Serious Violence Action Plan to reflect insights from the latest Strategic Needs Assessment. Delivery will be overseen through established governance structures.

A serious violence dashboard is being developed to improve performance monitoring, and this will be reviewed quarterly by the Operations Group. This dashboard will serve as a tool for tracking progress against strategic objectives, spotting emerging trends, and aligning data from key partners such as the Youth Offending Team and Milton Keynes Hospital. Bringing these insights together will support more informed decision-making and a clearer picture of the evolving landscape.

This data-driven approach enhances accountability, supports targeted interventions, and ensures continuous improvement in reducing serious violence.

Early Identification and Intervention

What we know:

The 2025 Strategic Needs Assessment highlights key demographic patterns in serious violence. Most victims (73%) and perpetrators (86%) were male, with individuals aged 18-34 most affected - though rates in this group are declining. Offending among those aged 35-54 is rising, indicating a shift in concern. Ethnicity data remains incomplete, but among

recorded cases, Black and Mixed ethnicity individuals were disproportionately represented as victims.

While serious violence primarily involves adults, risk factors often emerge in childhood. The partnership is committed to early identification and intervention using developmentally and culturally informed approaches.

Contributing factors include:

- Poverty and deprivation
- Poor school attendance
- SEND (Special, Educational, Need, Disability) and SEMH (Social, Emotional, Mental Health) needs
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and peer group influence
- Living in high-crime areas

In 2024, children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) were significantly more likely to be cautioned for offences, including serious violence. Social, emotional and mental health needs were most strongly associated with offending. Despite a rise in the number of suspensions, permanent exclusions are rare in Milton Keynes and absence rates are broadly in line with or better than national, which reflects the success of inclusive education efforts. Critically, 38% of children had been cautioned or sentenced before their first serious violence offence - underscoring the importance of early intervention in the youth justice journey.

What we have done:

Milton Keynes has implemented a robust, evidence-based programme of early intervention initiatives to identify and support individuals at risk of serious violence. These efforts are shaped by local data and delivered collaboratively across services, with a strong emphasis on systemic change. However, sustainability continues to be a risk in the current climate.

A number of targeted interventions have been funded by the Home Office and Thames Valley Violence Prevention Partnership. Key projects included:

- Focused Deterrents for habitual knife carriers – an evidence-based programme that supports habitual knife carriers to engage with preventative interventions and escalates enforcement tactics where there is no engagement with support
- Hospital & Custody Navigators supporting individuals post-incident
- School Navigators, Operation Paramount, and Street Games for vulnerable children
- Stay True to You campaign for families and practitioners [Young People - Stay True to You](#)

Though funding ended in 2025, Focused Deterrents continues albeit with a scaled down approach, Operation Paramount and Street Games are now embedded into services and toolkits remain available via Stay True to You.

Act Now, an initiative to make best use of the reachable, teachable moment, provides rapid mentoring for young people within 48 hours of arrest for a weapon related offence.

The Youth Justice Support Service delivers early intervention to children who have not yet reached the criminal threshold providing interventions such as speech and language assessments. Data reveals 93% of referred children had unmet speech and language needs.

The new Child First Model in place in MKCC's Children's Services enables timely action when parental safeguarding is compromised, empowering practitioners to work at the child's timescale not the adults. This is supported by a new Early Help Strategy that provides additional resource to universal services to manage risks at the earliest stage.

The MK Inclusion Partnership prevents exclusions through dual placements and peer led panels, meaning children remain on role at a mainstream setting whilst accessing specialist short term support at a specialist school.

A trauma informed toolkit has been produced directing agencies to specialist advice on training to provide trauma informed services.

What we will do next:

Milton Keynes continues to evolve its early intervention and violence prevention strategy with a focus on sustainability, workforce development, and equitable safeguarding.

Launching in 2025, the Risk Outside the Home (ROTH) pathway will support professionals in identifying contextual harm and making timely referrals to services.

Work is underway to transition Act Now, Focused Deterrents, and the Early Support Project into long-term, business-as-usual models as funding cycles conclude.

Practitioner survey findings revealed that there was limited awareness of available services and a lack of confidence in spotting early indicators of serious violence. In response, the Partnership will launch a regular newsletter for practitioners to consolidate service information and continue promoting Stay True to You campaign materials to build practitioner confidence.

Further analysis will explore demographic patterns among children at risk of serious violence to prevent unconscious bias and adultification and ensure equitable access to safeguarding support across all communities.

Engagement and Community Support

What we know:

Reducing serious violence is a shared responsibility and empowered, resilient communities are central to a safer Milton Keynes. Strong relationships with the city's diverse population are maintained through the Independent Advisory Group, direct engagement with local businesses, and an ongoing programme of community engagement.

While the partnership is delivering a wide range of impactful interventions, public awareness of the success is limited. Although crime fell by 2.2% in the past year, with the largest drop in knife-enabled crime, only 2% of survey respondents believed crime had declined. Public concern about knife crime remains high. This highlights the need for proactive communication to build community confidence, promote trust in local services and showcase positive change.

What we have done:

Milton Keynes is strengthening its place-based approach to violence prevention through targeted policing, real-time intelligence, and inclusive community engagement. Thames Valley Police use hotspot mapping to deploy high-visibility patrols that deter crime and build community trust, and the newly implemented Thames Valley Intelligence Sharing Platform enables professionals to submit real-time intelligence, enhancing police responsiveness.

Environmental visual audits in hotspot areas identify improvements which could be made to increase safety and public space enjoyment.

A well-developed community outreach and engagement model brings together partners such as drug and alcohol services, homelessness outreach teams and emergency services to maintain an open dialogue with businesses and communities around crime prevention and partnership activity.

TVP's Neighbourhood Officers are trained to deliver knife crime prevention sessions in schools and engage with schools throughout the year including during Operation Sceptre, a national knife crime awareness campaign.

Collaboration with voluntary and community partners like the MK Dons Community Trust and The Safety Centre delivers preventative education and activities for children.

Continued partnership with the Milton Keynes Community Foundation supports delivery of a Knife Crime Prevention Fund, targeting underrepresented groups—especially Black and mixed-race boys and girls at risk of exploitation.

What we will do next:

The partnership is committed to continued engagement with residents and businesses, using community feedback to shape service delivery and resource allocation.

Launching the 'In MK I Can' counter-narrative campaign will showcase opportunities and inspire ambition among young people.

We will develop a communications plan to improve transparency, celebrate successes, raise public and practitioner awareness of services and impact.

Ongoing collaboration with the voluntary and community sector ensures services reflect the lived experiences, values, and aspirations of the city's diverse population.

Law Enforcement, Drug Supply and County Drug Lines

What we know:

While prevention remains a priority, disruption and enforcement are essential when individuals pose a serious risk. This police-led strand of the strategy depends on strong multi-agency cooperation and intelligence sharing to effectively target locations and individuals, making Milton Keynes a hostile environment for drug dealers and organised criminals.

The 2025 Strategic Needs Assessment reveals that drug trafficking offences rose by 34% whilst drug possession offences fell by 17%. This shift likely reflects improved intelligence-led targeting and partnership effectiveness, rather than a rise in overall criminal activity.

What we have done:

Operation Deter has been a cornerstone of our enforcement approach for four years, delivering a zero-tolerance response to adult weapon possession. This unwavering stance reinforces our commitment to tackling serious violence and organised crime.

Embedded within Children's Social Care, the Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Service work in close partnership with the Youth Justice Support Service (YJSS) to provide targeted, evidence-based interventions. This collaboration has yielded strong performance, with 55% of referrals coming from YJSS—significantly above the national average. More than half of these referrals are linked to out-of-court disposals, such as the Drug Diversion Scheme, and the service consistently achieves an 80% positive outcome rate, reflecting high levels of engagement and effective support for young people.

The adult drug and alcohol service, ARC, delivers rehabilitation services to people with harmful substance use and addiction, including the Alcohol Treatment Orders (ATOs), and Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR). During 24/25 there was a 70% meaningful client

engagement for ATOs and 50% for DRRs. A new partnership arrangement is in place for drug testing on arrest to engage people who commit drug related offending earlier to prevent further reoffending.

All relevant partners have received updated guidance on the police response to serious organised crime and local drug line activity. This is facilitated through the Serious Violence Operations Group, weekly knife crime panels and monthly Stronghold meetings. These forums ensure consistent communication, intelligence sharing, and alignment across agencies, strengthening our collective ability to disrupt criminal networks and safeguard vulnerable individuals.

What we will do next:

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime, Serious Violence & Substance Misuse in Milton Keynes

Thames Valley Police remain firmly committed to reducing the impact of serious and organised crime (SOC), serious violence and drug related offending across Milton Keynes. While specific operational tactics used nationally to disrupt SOC offenders are not disclosed publicly for security reasons, the Force continues to build on robust local arrangements that are proving effective in both crime reduction and safeguarding vulnerable individuals. This work focuses on partnership-led disruption, prevention, and protection.

Youth Substance Misuse Interventions

The Young People's Drugs and Alcohol Service is actively developing psychosocial group work interventions tailored for young people engaging voluntarily with the Youth Justice and Support Service (YJSS). These evidence-informed programmes aim to:

- Address underlying causes of substance misuse
- Promote resilience and informed decision-making
- Support diversion from offending pathways

This approach reflects national guidance from the Youth Justice Board, which emphasizes co-created, trauma-informed interventions for children in or on the edge of the justice system.

Drug Testing on Arrest (DToA)

The Drug Testing on Arrest initiative continues to be a key component of early intervention and intelligence gathering. Individuals arrested for trigger offences may be required to provide a sample, with positive results prompting referral to support services. Thames Valley Police have partnered with Liaison and Diversion teams and healthcare professionals to ensure assessments are timely and trauma sensitive.

Data from DToA will be shared with the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Partnership, delivering duties of the Combatting Drugs Partnership to:

- Build a robust evidence base
- Identify emerging trends in drug-related offending
- Inform targeted prevention and treatment strategies

This integrated approach ensures that enforcement is balanced with support, helping individuals access pathways out of addiction while protecting the wider community.

Conclusion

The Milton Keynes Safeguarding Partnership is proud of the progress made in reducing crime, preventing young people becoming offenders or victims, and taking more criminals off the street. As the partnership has matured, we have been able to streamline meetings and concentrate our resources more towards operational capacity by assessing its impact, gaining assurance that people are safeguarded, and identifying areas for development in a timely manner.

Our strategic needs assessment does show that certain crime types are reducing given the work being done to tackle it, whilst some crime types show an increase which needs to be better understood. Projects that have been tried and tested in Milton Keynes will have inevitably contributed to the reduction of some crime types; however, sustainability remains an issue as external funding comes to an end.

