

SUBJECT: Safer Monmouthshire Group & Community Safety Report

MEETING: Public Services Select Committee

DATE: 10th October 2022

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the Public Services Board's Community Safety requirements and arrangements to deliver within the county of Monmouthshire.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is invited to review the current legislative requirements for which the Safer Monmouthshire Group (SMG) is responsible for discharging, as far as reasonably possible at a local level
- 2.2 The committee is invited to review the current arrangements, structures, and resources for tackling community safety issues across Monmouthshire, in line with the statutory duties.
- 2.3 The committee is invited to consider where PSB partners will need to be held to account in future meetings for the delivery of collaborative approaches to improve community safety across Monmouthshire.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The legislative and policy drivers for addressing community safety in Wales are shared across public sector organisations which creates complexity in the system. UK Government, through the Home Office, creates legislation and provides direction to Police and Crime Commissioners and sets policy around the function of community safety for local government in both England and Wales.
- 3.2 Community Safety responsibilities are also shaped by Welsh Government who are responsible for setting policy for key public bodies including health boards, Fire and Rescue Authorities and Welsh local authorities. There are also an additional range of agencies who support community safety, however the prime responsibilities for setting policy priorities that contribute to addressing community safety in Wales rest with the Welsh Government nationally; Police and Crime Commissioners at a regional level; and local authorities at a local level.
- 3.3 Public Service Boards (PSB) were created under the **Wellbeing Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**, with the unique ability to simplify partnership and planning arrangements. The act allows PSBs to discharge statutory duties through their wellbeing plan, however it **does not** remove the substantive duties placed on public bodies, but merely allows for the autonomy of how they are delivered. If they are not included in wellbeing plans, then other mechanisms will be required
- 3.4 PSBs have responsibility for discharging a range of statutory duties, two of which are the **Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (and amending legislation)** and **Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 (VAWDASV)**. The statutory bodies with responsibility for the Crime & Disorder act are, Local Authority, Health Board, Fire & Rescue Authority, Probation and Police.

- 3.5 **The Morgan Report (1991)** was critical in shaping community safety and the future development of community safety partnerships (CSPs) in England and Wales. It advanced the notion of partnership and recognised the need to bring together the key stakeholders in the field of community safety and crime prevention. It recommended linking local authorities with police and others in a multi-agency approach to tackling crime. Following its publication there was wide-scale, voluntary adoption of community safety partnerships across Britain. This was the precursor to the **Crime & Disorder Act 1998**.
- 3.6 Section 6 of the **Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (& amending legislation)** places a duty on specified responsible authorities to formulate and implement:
- A strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder
 - A strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances
 - A strategy for the reduction of reoffending
- 3.7 The 2007 **Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) (Wales) Regulations, as amended, and Substance Misuse (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) (Wales) Regulations, as amended**, make further provision as to the formulation and implementation of these strategies. The regulations require a strategy group to be established who must:
- Prepare strategic assessments (in partnership with the Police & Crime Commissioner)
 - Prepare and implement a partnership plan, for the area on behalf of the responsible authorities (via Area Planning Board)
- 3.8 Under the **Crime & Disorder Act, amending legislation, Welsh Government regulations and Violence Against Women & Girls Act (UK legislation)**, Community Safety Partnerships have responsibility for:
- Reducing offending and re-offending (including domestic incidents)
 - Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) /Behaviour adversely affecting the environment
 - Substance misuse
 - Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) (is standalone legislative guidance but applies to PSBs/CSPs functions)
- Also related in practice are:
- Modern slavery
 - Counter terrorism
 - Community Cohesion
- 3.9 In addition to this, Community Safety Partnerships are also required to consider the **Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015**, which states...
- “The VAWDASV Act aims is to improve arrangements for the prevention, protection and support of individuals experiencing violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. It places a duty on **Local Authorities and Local Health Boards** to prepare, publish and implement joint local strategies for tackling violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Whilst referring to a single local authority publishing a local strategy with its relevant Local Health Board, the statutory guidance does not preclude local authorities and Local Health Boards from working on a regional basis and preparing “regional” strategies for the purpose of fulfilling this part of the Act”. Gwent public bodies formed as a pathfinder region for the regionalisation of the VAWDASV agenda, with a regional strategy and approach, which has been in place since 2017.*
- 3.10 The VAWADSV (Wales) Act requirements in practical terms are:
- **Prevention** - To improve arrangements for the prevention of gender-based violence, domestic abuse, and sexual violence

- **Protection** - To improve arrangements for the protection of victims and survivors of such abuse and violence
- **Support** - To improve support for people affected by such abuse and violence.

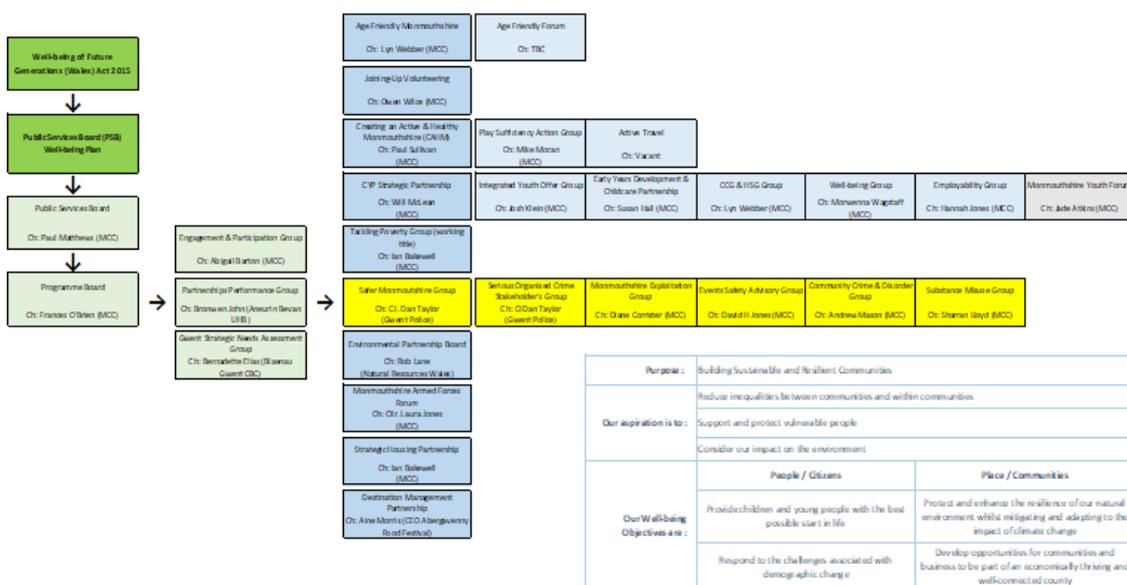
3.11 It is fair to say that there is an incredible amount of complex legislation that CSPs are required to translate, interpret, resource, monitor and deliver against, alongside a backdrop of devolved and non-devolved legislation, with newly emerging legislation and duties, which also must be implemented. The CSP function for Monmouthshire requires strong partnership working to be able to deliver effectively.

4. CURRENT CONTEXT & STRUCTURES

4.1 The Safer Monmouthshire Group (SMG) fulfils the CSP function within Monmouthshire on behalf of the Gwent PSB. The SMG has oversight and direct management of all Crime & Disorder matters and has a solid governance framework, with multiple thematic sub-groups which report directly into SMG. All partnerships and subgroups are multi-agency and aim to take a 'whole system' approach, integrating services where possible, to tackle issues in relation to crime & disorder and community safety. In addition to this, the SMG is exploring ways to link more closely with the community, particularly in areas where we are seeing trends or hotspot areas for ASB, substance misuse, domestic incidents, and negative behaviours from the night-time economy.

4.2 Monmouthshire currently has one FTE post dedicated to community safety. The post of Community Safety Coordinator is currently being fulfilled as a job-share. The post is 90% funded by a grant from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent (OPCC) and additional in-kind contributions from Monmouthshire County Council. The role of Community Safety Manager is currently fulfilled by the Strategic Partnerships Manager for MCC in addition to core function and role. In addition to these posts mentioned, Gwent Police provide a dedicated Chief Inspector for East Division (Newport & Monmouthshire) with responsibility for partnerships. The Chief Inspector chairs the Safer Monmouthshire Group Partnership and works closely with MCC staff.

4.3 The Safer Monmouthshire group structure currently is as follows (highlighted in yellow):



5. CHALLENGES

- 5.1 Current weaknesses in the Monmouthshire community safety approach have been identified through self-evaluation and reflection; these are:
- The Strategic assessment, which is supported by the OPCC police analyst, has not been completed since 2019
 - KPIs and delivery plan data has been hard to plot and monitor due to consistent changes in personnel in partner agencies (technical data is monitored through monthly crime packs provided by the police analyst)
 - Data does not 'flow-into' the SMG where regional structures exist, such as the VAWDASV Board, IDVA/MARAC, and APB commissioned services
 - Feedback undertaken with the community has highlighted a lack of confidence in reporting and recording of crimes – there is apathy amongst the residents within the county
 - Limited resources across all partner agencies prohibits the ability to take a truly preventative approach
 - Heavy reliance on a grant funded post to deliver on the above community safety commitments and responsibilities
- 5.2 In-light of these challenges, a review has been undertaken and a newly proposed sub-group structure with sharpened focus on delivery and outcomes is currently being implemented across the Safer Monmouthshire Group, sub-groups, and partner agencies. It is anticipated that this will enable SMG to be more responsive, have better use of data and intelligence and will drive improved communication, strengthening relationships with the community across the county.

6. SUCCESSES

- 6.1 The Safer Monmouthshire Group, has been successful in securing additional funding through the Home Office Safer Streets grants in the last 12mths, bringing in over £300k for targeted work across Abergavenny and most recently, Caldicot. MCC in partnership with Gwent Police bid for funding to tackle Violence Against Women & Girls in the Abergavenny area, as this area had the highest prevalence of domestic incidents in the county, and most recently, via Safer Streets 4, funding has been secured to tackle ASB and youth crime in the Caldicot area. Both these developments were project managed and delivered, successfully, by community safety officers given challenging time scales.
- 6.2 In addition to this, and despite limited resources, the SMG has identified 11 individuals linked to different Organised Crime Gangs and worked in partnership to close and disrupt these operations.
- 6.3 One of the main successes and strengths of SMG are the well established and positive relationships across all stakeholders and partner agencies with whom we collaborate.
- 6.4 Positive use of the legislation & powers, together with partners, such as Public Space Protection Orders, Closure Orders, Dispersal Orders, utilised to disrupt and control ASB in various locations.

7. SUMMARY

- 7.1 The Safer Monmouthshire group operates in a complex field of legislative and policy drivers driven by both devolved and non-devolved administrations. There is a raft of legislation, guidance and policy directives which must be navigated, interpreted, and delivered with ever diminishing resources and against a challenging backdrop. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated some issues, particularly those in relation to VAWDASV and mental health, substance misuse and homelessness. In addition to this we are now facing a cost-of-living crisis which is significantly impacting vulnerable communities which will likely correlate to a rise in crime across the county. All these factors, in addition to the public feedback received, have driven the need to review the

current structures across Monmouthshire to ensure we are utilizing the limited resources and strong partnership working to best effect to ensure that we are able to keep our communities safe.

- 7.2 Whilst the current and historic structures have worked well in practice, the changing landscape, the churn of staff turnover with our stakeholders in the partnership and the desire and need to strengthen the focus on prevention and early help has enable the Safer Monmouthshire Group, led by the Chief Inspector for Gwent Police, in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council Community Safety staff to start a process of improving the governance, intelligence and data flow, and alignment of resources to meet the ever demanding challenges facing the community safety & VAWDASV agenda within the county.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

- Test its understanding of the legislative responsibilities of the Safer Monmouthshire group or request further information if required
- Review the current arrangements and resources for community safety and establish if these are sufficient
- Establish areas for the future work programme, identifying were the Committee feels there is a need to hold partners to account

9. RESOURCES

9.1 There are no resource implications attached to this report

10. EQUALITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

10.1 This report presents an overview of structures and resources, and no implications are identified as a result.

8. AUTHOR:

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Reference:

- Appendix 1: *Crime & Disorder and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence 2020/21 Data Overview – Safer Monmouthshire Data*

Appendix 1

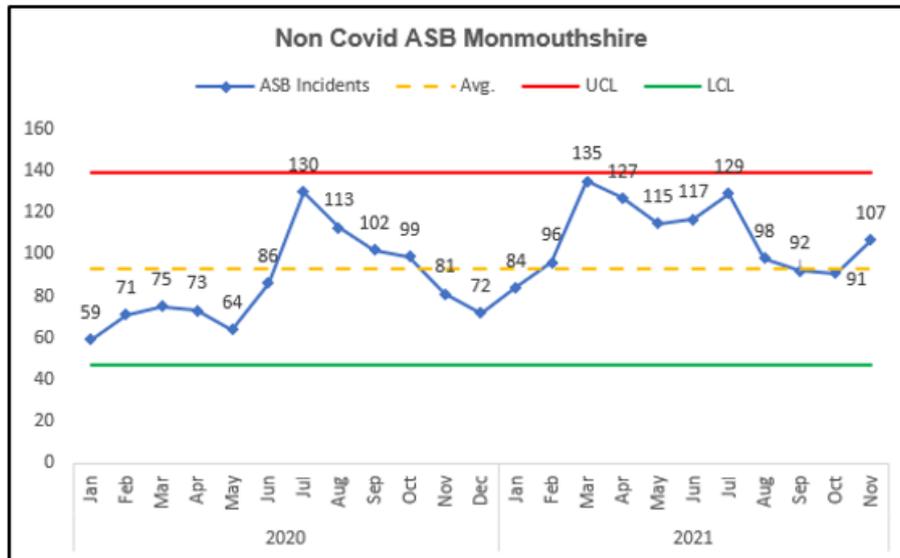
Crime & Disorder and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence 2020/21 Data Overview

When compared to Wales as a whole crime in Monmouthshire is lower than the five other local authority areas covered by Gwent Police, however, there has been a marked increase in certain crime types within the county. In the twelve months to April 2021, there were 4677 recorded crimes in the county, a rate of 49.4 per 1000 population. The data shows an increase of 560 crimes from the previous assessment, rising from 4117 in 2016 wellbeing assessment, with an increase of 4.8 from 44.6 per 1000 population. Monmouthshire accounts for 9.87% of all crimes in the Gwent area.

When compared with areas with similar demographic, social and economic characteristics which relate to crime Monmouthshire's crime rate is just above average. The tables below shows a breakdown of recorded crime in Monmouthshire split by crime type and the rates of Antisocial behaviour against Wales average and upper crime limits and lower crime limits.

						Longer-term Trend		Short-term Spikes				
						Year on Year (rolling 12m)		Nov-21			24-month avg	
	12m to Nov 20	12m to Nov 21	Nov-20	24m avg	Nov-21	# diff Y on Y	% diff Y on Y	# diff Nov 20	% diff Nov 20	% diff Oct 21	# diff 24m avg	% diff 24m avg
All Other Theft	430	436	23	36.4	38	6	1.4%	15	65.2%	-14.0%	1.5	4.5%
Bicycle Theft	32	28	1	2.6	0	-4	-12.5%	-1	-100.0%	0.0%	-2.6	-100.0%
Commercial Burglary	115	66	5	7.7	6	-49	-42.6%	1	20.0%	50.0%	-1.7	-22.2%
Criminal Damage & Arson	598	649	50	51.2	73	51	8.5%	23	46.0%	9.0%	21.8	42.7%
Drug Offences	213	185	20	16.7	18	-28	-13.1%	-2	-10.0%	20.0%	1.3	8.0%
Fraud	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0	-100.0%
Homicide	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0	-100.0%
Misc Crimes Against Society	195	142	9	14.7	8	-53	-27.7%	-1	-11.1%	-27.0%	-6.7	-45.5%
Non Notifiable Offences	9	4	0	0.5	1	-5	-55.6%	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.5	100.0%
Other Sexual Offences	103	141	9	9.7	18	38	36.9%	9	100.0%	80.0%	8.3	85.4%
Possession of Weapons	26	17	3	1.8	3	-9	-34.6%	0	0.0%	50.0%	1.2	63.6%
Public Order Offences	704	754	55	59.9	72	50	7.1%	17	30.9%	31.0%	12.1	20.3%
Rape	48	65	4	4.4	10	17	35.4%	6	150.0%	25.0%	5.6	128.6%
Residential Burglary	247	227	9	19.9	22	-20	-8.1%	13	144.4%	29.0%	2.1	10.7%
Robbery	18	17	2	1.5	0	-1	-5.6%	-2	-100.0%	-100.0%	-1.5	-100.0%
Shoplifting	293	232	18	22.7	14	-61	-20.8%	-4	-22.2%	40.0%	-8.7	-38.3%
Theft From The Person	14	10	0	0.9	2	-4	-28.6%	2	0.0%	0.0%	1.1	118.2%
Vehicle Crime	251	191	17	18.5	23	-60	-23.9%	6	35.3%	53.0%	4.5	24.6%
Violence With Injury	477	511	46	41.9	44	34	7.1%	-2	-4.3%	5.0%	2.1	5.0%
Violence Without Injury	1392	1511	101	119.6	145	119	8.5%	44	43.6%	15.0%	25.4	21.2%
Total	5165	5188	372	430.6	497	23	0.4%	125	33.6%	16.0%	66.5	15.4%

Table 1 - Overall Crime and ASB by Sector for Gwent



There has been an increase in Violence Without injury, which can include domestic-related incidents, assaults by family members (and is not confined to “partner on partner”). The data shows that from December 2019 – November 2020 there were 1329 recorded incidents, this rose the following year to 1511, an increase of 8.5%. Criminal damage and arson increased from 598 to 649, again an increase of 8.5%, and Public Order offences, which can include threatening behaviour, distress, harassment, and verbal abuse, increased from 704 incidents in 19/20 to 754 in 20/21 an increase of 7.1%.

There is also evidence that Organised Crime Groups are operating within the County, and this may contribute to some of the increases in certain crime types.

Rape and other sexual offences have also seen increases in the years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. Incidents of Rape in 19/20 were recorded were 48 which rose in 20/21 to 65 showing a 35.4% increase in 12months. Similarly, other Sexual Offences, which includes, assault by penetration, inappropriate/sexual touching, and indecent images increased from 103 incidents in 19/20 to 141 in 20/21 showing a 36.9% increase in the county.

Shoplifting, residential burglary, commercial burglary, thefts, and vehicle crime have mainly shown reductions in the 12months from 19/20 to 20/21, which is likely due in part to the lockdowns in the pandemic, with restricted shopping and more people being required to stay home.

Drug Offences are showing a reduction in the county with recorded incidents reducing from 213 - 185 from November 2020 to November 2021. Gwent police data, shows that ‘Stop and Search’ was also down with the lowest numbers for stop and search activity in the East Local Policing Area in Gwent the last 2 years, this has possibly impacted the figures for substance misuse and drug offences, which again could be attributed to the pandemic and restrictions during that period.

Substance misuse remains an ongoing issue within our younger population. A confidential report highlights that Monmouthshire pupils are rank higher than the national average for smoking, cannabis, and alcohol consumption. Further data is being explored to better understand this issue.

As of January 2021, the Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service (GDAS) has a total of 288 adults accessing substance misuse services across the county. Of this number, 150 are receiving support for alcohol abuse, and 138 for other substance misuse issues. The main substances for which help is initially sought are Alcohol and Heroin, which have maintained steady use across the county. There has been a small increase in the reported use of Crack Cocaine and Benzodiazepines in the South of the county which is reflective across Gwent as whole. A fall in the number of adults accessing support during the pandemic and lockdowns was recorded, however latest data indicates a recovery back to pre-pandemic levels of adults seeking support for substance misuse.

The table below shows the crime incidents for Monmouthshire which falls under the East Local Policing Area (LPA)

	2019/20	2020/21				2021/22		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Force Total	13512	12436	13125	11627	11199	13275	13475	9556

	2019/20	2020/21				2021/22		
LPA	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
East Total	5949	5487	5824	5302	4883	5762	5904	4397
West Total	7563	6949	7301	6325	6316	7513	7571	5159

	2019/20	2020/21				2021/22		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Monmouthshire	1437	1252	1289	1166	1158	1366	1355	926
ABERGAVENNY	522	453	449	399	417	467	457	293
CALDICOT	268	243	282	278	247	276	276	193
CHEPSTOW	272	265	234	256	205	241	258	203
MONMOUTH	375	291	324	233	289	382	364	237

Table 2 - Crime Incidents for Gwent

Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)

Anti-Social Behaviour or ASB can be anything from cold calling and poor parking to vandalism and nuisance neighbours. Incidents across Monmouthshire have seen increases and decreases over a three-year period spanning April 2018/19, 19/20, and 20/21. In April 18/19 there were 1044 recorded incidents, in April 19/20 this decreased to 946 recorded incidents and in April 2020/21 this increased markedly to 1135 recorded incidents which was a 20% increase across the county. The most common classification of ASB in Monmouthshire during the most recent period has been nuisance, accounting for 53% of all incidents, personal incidents have accounted for 15% and environmental incidents have accounted for 15% of all non-covid 19 related incidents.

The table shows a breakdown of ASB recorded incidents for Gwent, both LPA areas and Monmouthshire specific data for comparison.

GWENT	2019/20	2020/21				2021/22		
ASB	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
ASB	2288	2244	3806	2862	3130	3803	3404	1968

LPA AREA	2019/20	2020/21				2021/22		
LPA	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
East ASB	1054	1005	1671	1149	1323	1518	1435	867
West ASB	1234	1239	2135	1713	1807	2285	1969	1101

	2019/20	2020/21				2021/22		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Monmouthshire	205	223	345	252	315	359	319	198
ABERGAVENNY	82	69	93	79	120	123	85	53
CALDICOT	41	52	68	58	52	81	70	51
CHEPSTOW	47	54	92	66	82	68	80	46
MONMOUTH	35	48	92	49	61	87	84	48
Newport City Centre	205	78	149	119	68	134	141	105
CENTRAL	205	78	149	119	68	134	141	105
Newport East	322	323	569	382	461	510	456	269

Table 3 -
Incidents

ALWAYS	148	150	245	195	242	210	164	130
MAINDEE	174	173	324	187	219	300	292	139
Newport West	322	381	608	396	479	515	519	295
BETTWS	199	196	318	216	286	272	290	156
PILL	123	185	290	180	193	243	229	139
Blaenau Gwent	326	285	596	400	432	534	508	255
ABERTILLERY	70	54	105	92	67	116	89	55
BRYNMAWR	79	78	162	99	114	141	113	68
EBBW VALE	111	89	216	111	156	164	173	64
TREDEGAR	66	64	113	98	95	113	133	68
Caerphilly Central	252	206	390	339	348	444	367	225
BLACKWOOD	130	86	190	164	192	177	197	130
RISCA	122	120	200	175	156	267	170	95
Caerphilly North	173	235	314	299	343	413	363	169
BARGOED	71	77	136	106	137	154	117	57
RHYMNEY	61	90	118	121	153	176	163	78
YSTRAD MYNACH	41	68	60	72	53	83	83	34
Caerphilly South	148	185	293	229	244	258	247	119
BEDWAS	58	121	139	102	115	85	113	45
CAERPHILLY	90	64	154	127	129	173	134	74
Torfaen	335	328	542	446	440	636	484	333
CWMBRAN	184	164	260	224	220	335	272	195
PONTYPOOL	151	164	282	222	220	301	212	138

ASB
for Gwent

Abergavenny – Crime & ASB

CRIME: From the year November 2020 to November 2021, overall crime in Abergavenny has decreased from 35.1% to 33.9%, with a reduction of recorded crimes of Shoplifting, Theft, and Residential and Commercial Burglaries. This could be due in part to the pandemic and lockdown periods. There have been increases in Other Sexual Offences which increased from 30 to 54 recorded incidents, Criminal Damage has increased from 224 to 240 recorded incidents, Robbery from 2 to 6 recorded incidents, Possession of a Weapon from 7 to 8 recorded incidents and recorded incidents of Rape have increased from 20 to 23 in a 12month period.

ASB: From April 2020 to March 2021 there were 361 incidents of ASB recorded accounting for 31.8% of all reported ASB across Monmouthshire. The wards with the highest prevalence were Priory, Llanfoist Fawr South and Grofield, which are predominantly town centre wards.

VOLUME: The Crime Volume in Abergavenny of Violence Without Injury has reduced from 511 recorded incidents to 481 and Public Order Offences have also reduced from 275 – 270 recorded incidents. Whilst there is a reduction in these crime types, the volume of crime numbers remains relatively high for these wards.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE: As of January 2021, there are 91 adults accessing support, 51 for alcohol and 40 for other substances. The highest recorded substances for which initial help is sought are alcohol and heroin.

Monmouth, including Usk & Raglan – Crime and ASB

CRIME: From the year November 2020 to November 2021, overall crime in Monmouth has increased from 24.5% to 25.4%. There has been a reduction of recorded crimes for Shoplifting, Theft, and Residential and Commercial Burglaries. This could be due in part to the pandemic and lockdown periods. There have been increases in Violence Without Injury increasing from 254 recorded incidents to 398. Violence With Injury has increased from 106 – 140 recorded incidents, Public Order Offences have increased from 177 – 198 recorded incidents and Rape has increased from 5 – 15 recorded incidents. Other sexual offences have decreased from 36 – 33 recorded incidents.

ASB: From April 2020 to March 2021 there were 250 incidents of ASB recorded accounting for 22% of all reported ASB across Monmouthshire. The wards with the highest prevalence were Drybridge, Overmonnow and Trellech United.

VOLUME: The Crime Volume in Monmouth of Criminal Damage and Arson reduced marginally reduced from 146 - 145 recorded incidents.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE: As of January 2021, there are 46 adults accessing support, 31 for alcohol and 15 for other substances. The highest recorded substances for which initial help is sought are alcohol and heroin.

Caldicot – Crime & ASB

CRIME: From the year November 2020 to November 2021, overall crime in Caldicot has remained the same at 20.7%. There has been a reduction of recorded crimes for Shoplifting, Theft, and Commercial Burglaries. However, there has been a marked increase in Residential Burglary which is up from 34 recorded incidents to 65, Criminal Damage and Arson has increased from 107 – 122 recorded incidents, Rape has increased from 9 – 14 recorded incidents and Other Sexual Offences have increased from 28 – 36 incidents.

ASB: From April 2020 to March 2021 there were 230 incidents of ASB recorded in Caldicot, accounting for 20.3% of all reported ASB across Monmouthshire. The wards with the highest prevalence were Green Lane, Mill and Severn Wards.

VOLUME: The Crime Volume in Caldicot of Violence Without Injury increased from 100 incidents to 110, Public Order Offences increased from 128 – 142, and Violence with Injury offences increased from 334 – 338 recorded incidents.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE: As of January 2021, there are 52 adults accessing support, 29 for alcohol and 23 for other substances. The highest recorded substances for which initial help is sought are alcohol and heroin.

Chepstow – Crime & ASB

CRIME: From the year to November 2020 to November 2021, overall crime in Chepstow has remained the same at 19.5%. There has been a reduction of recorded crimes for Rape, Commercial Burglaries, Drug Offences, and Robbery. This could be due in part to the pandemic and lockdowns, and the reduction in stop and search activity within the county. There have been increases in all Other Thefts increasing from 67 – 91 incidents, Public Order Offences from 124 – 144, Other Sexual Offences from 9 – 18 incidents.

ASB: From April 2020 to March 2021 there were 294 incidents of ASB recorded accounting for 25.9% of all reported ASB across Monmouthshire. The wards with the highest prevalence were St Mary's, Thornwell and St Christopher's, with a brief spike in Shirenewton.

VOLUME: The Crime Volume in Chepstow of Violence Without Injury has increased from 270 – 294 and Criminal Damage has also increased from 121 - 142 incidents.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE: As of January 2021, there are 99 adults accessing support, 39 for alcohol and 60 for other substances. The highest recorded substances for which initial help is sought are heroin and alcohol.

Fire Data

South Wales Fire and Rescue services keep the public safe from many other threats, including floods and road traffic incidents, and plays a major role during major incidents such as terrorist attacks. Crucially, Fire and Rescue Service workers help prevent fire and loss of life with comprehensive public information and engagement campaigns. The table above shows the number of fires recorded across Gwent between 2016-17 and 2020-21, and although variable peaked in 2018-19, probably due to the exceptionally dry summer of 2018. Monmouthshire local authority area had the lowest number of fires across the period, and the figure is stable apart from a small increase in 2018-19.

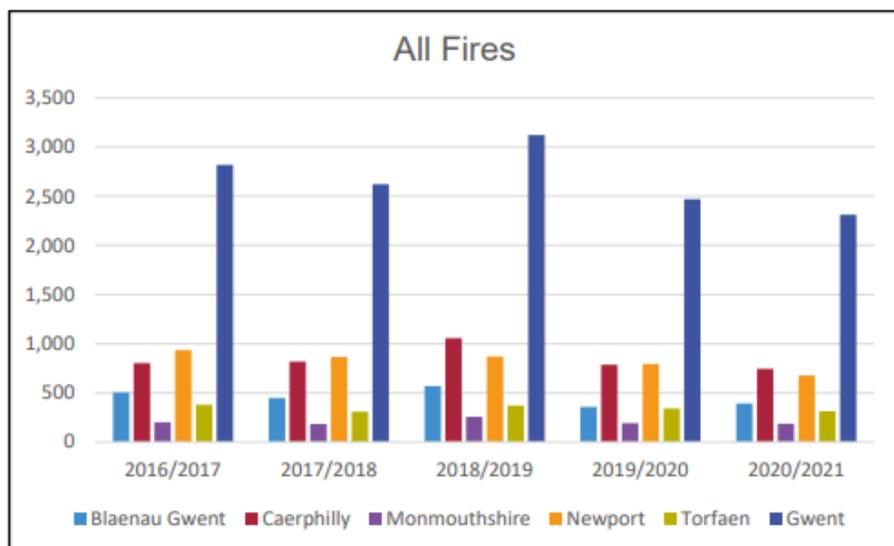


Figure S8: All Fires recorded in Gwent 2016-17 to 2020-21 Source: South Wales Fire and Rescue Service

The table below shows the breakdown of the total number of incidents for Monmouthshire, including road accidents. Monmouthshire has been consistent across deliberate and accidental fires, and deliberate grass fires and malicious calls to the service.

Incident Categories	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1-Q2	Last Year Q1-Q2	Q1-Q2 YoY	Q1-Q2 YoY %
Total Incidents	903	90	56	81	82	71	96							227	249			476	481	-5	-1%
Special Service Call	198	22	22	21	24	18	23							65	65			130	78	52	67%
Total RTCs Attended	49	8	6	8	6	6	3							22	15			37	25	12	48%
Total Other SSCs Attended	149	14	16	13	18	12	20							43	50			93	53	40	75%
Total False Alarms Attended	519	34	25	45	43	32	54							104	129			233	294	-61	-21%
Malicious False Alarms	8	1	0	0	0	0	0							1	0			1	6	-5	-83%
Good Intent False Alarm	144	16	6	13	13	10	17							35	40			75	93	-18	-19%
Automatic False Alarms	367	17	19	32	30	22	37							68	89			157	195	-38	-19%
Total Fires Attended	186	32	9	15	15	20	19							56	54			110	109	1	1%
Deliberate Fire	75	13	5	4	3	11	6							22	20			42	55	-13	-24%
Deliberate grass fires attended	22	9	1	2	1	4	1							12	6			18	21	-3	-14%
Deliberate refuse fires attended	35	3	1	1	1	1	1							5	3			8	23	-15	-65%
Accidental Fire	111	19	4	11	12	9	13							34	34			68	54	14	26%
Accidental Dwelling Fires Attended	22	2	1	0	2	1	2							3	5			8	11	-3	-27%
Total Deaths and Injuries In Fires	5	0	0	0	0	0	0							0	0			0	3	-3	-100%
Total Accidental Deaths and Injuries In Fires	5	0	0	0	0	0	0							0	0			0	3	-3	-100%

An analysis of the statistics relating to accidental dwelling fires suggests that there has been a decrease in incidents compared to last year in Q1/2. The number of incidents had fallen from 11 to 8. There were 3 incidents in Q1 and 5 in Q2. There were 8 different causes of the accidental dwelling fires in Monmouthshire, 4 of the fires were because of human factors with one person being distracted and the other 3 being unknown factors. The South Wales Fire

and Rescue strategy to reduce accidental dwelling fires is closely linked to the Welsh Government wider social justice and supporting people agendas by targeting the most vulnerable groups within our society and making them safer within their homes.

There were no fatalities or injuries compared to 3 last year. Attendance at Other special service calls had increased by 75% with assistance to other agencies increasing from 10 to 23 (+130%) compared to last year.

The number of road traffic collisions attended has increased from 25 to 37 (+48%) with crews attending 12 extractions/release of persons compared to 6 last year. Most of the calls were making the scene/vehicle safe (22). SWFRS run 'Options' campaigns aimed at reducing road traffic collisions across the authority.

Deliberate fire-setting remains an issue across the county and stations will continue to seek opportunities to reduce the number of these types of incidents as restrictions are eased. Deliberate grass fires, however, have decreased by 14% from 21 to 18. Deliberate refuse fires have also decreased by 65% from 23 to 8.

Automatic false alarms have decreased by 19% from 195 to 157. Malicious false alarms have decreased from 6 to 1. There was also a 19% decrease in good intent false alarms with calls to dwellings accounting for many of these calls.

[Business Plan Actions Report; Health Check, 2021/22 Q2 report – SWFRS, dated 23rd Nov 2021]

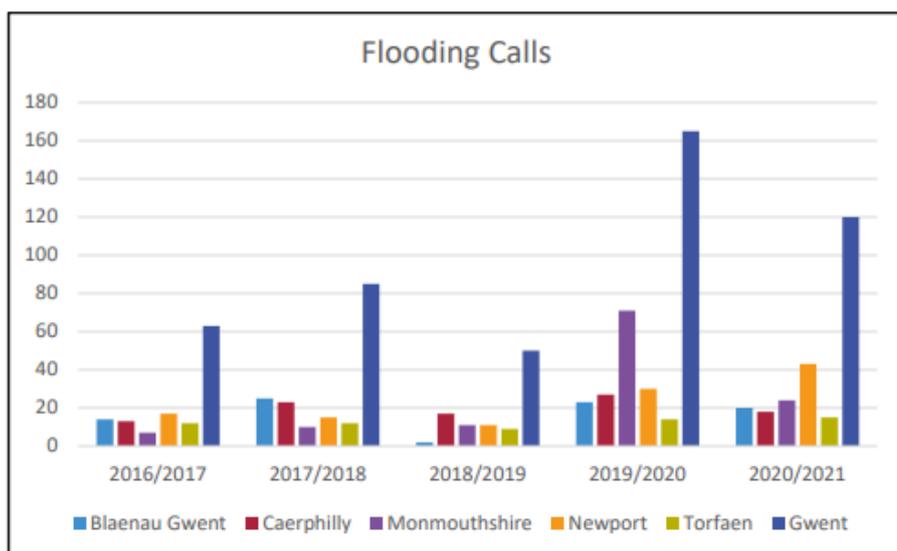


Figure S20: Flooding Calls in Gwent 2016-17 to 2020-21 Source: South Wales Fire and Rescue Service

Non-fire incidents (also known as Special Service incidents) are incidents requiring the attendance of an appliance or officer. They include, but are not limited to:

- local emergencies e.g. road traffic incidents, responding to medical emergencies, rescue of persons and/or animals or making areas safe
- major environmental disasters e.g. flooding, hazardous material incidents or spills and leaks
- domestic incidents e.g. persons locked in/out, lift releases, suicide/attempts
- prior arrangements to attend or assist other agencies, which may include some provision of advice or standing by to tackle emergencies

The table above shows the number of flooding calls made to the Fire & Rescue Service in Gwent between 2016-17 and 2020-21, and evidence that the general trend is that the number of calls is highly variable. 165 flooding calls were received within Gwent in 2019-20, twice the peak in the previous three years. The figure in 2020-21 was also relatively high at 120 flooding calls. The number of calls across the local authority areas was relatively low for

every area between 2016-17 and 2018-19, with the Monmouthshire area having the highest number of calls in 2019- 20.

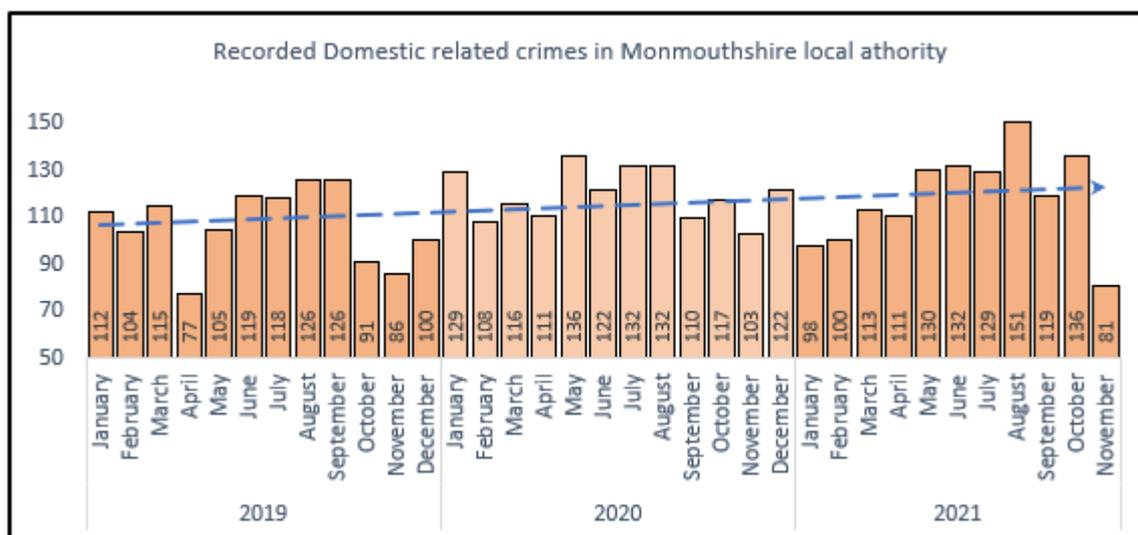
VAWDASV

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) occurs in all social classes and is equally prevalent in both rural and urban parts of Gwent and Monmouthshire. It is classless and affects all people across all protected characteristics as detailed in the Equality Act 2010. The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 incorporates all aspects of VAWDASV including:

- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Forced Marriage
- ‘Honour’ Based Abuse (HBA)
- Trafficking
- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Violence including Rape and Sexual Harassment
- Sexually Exploited People within the Sex Industry
- Stalking and Harassment

Being affected by VAWDASV is often linked to causing both physical and mental ill-health. There are links between substance misuse and crime such as domestic abuse and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Domestic Crime in Monmouthshire has shown a steady increase since January 2019. In November 2021 the two-year average stands at 118 crimes per month. It is thought that Covid-19 had reduced the number of reported domestic crimes however Image 1 doesn’t necessarily back this up with only a 1% reduction in average monthly domestic crimes recorded in 2021 compared to 2020.



Although various organisations and charities have seen an uplift in the use of their services Gwent Police are still facing the probability that many domestic abuse crimes had been underreported during the Covid-19 lockdowns and it is feared that this remains the case.

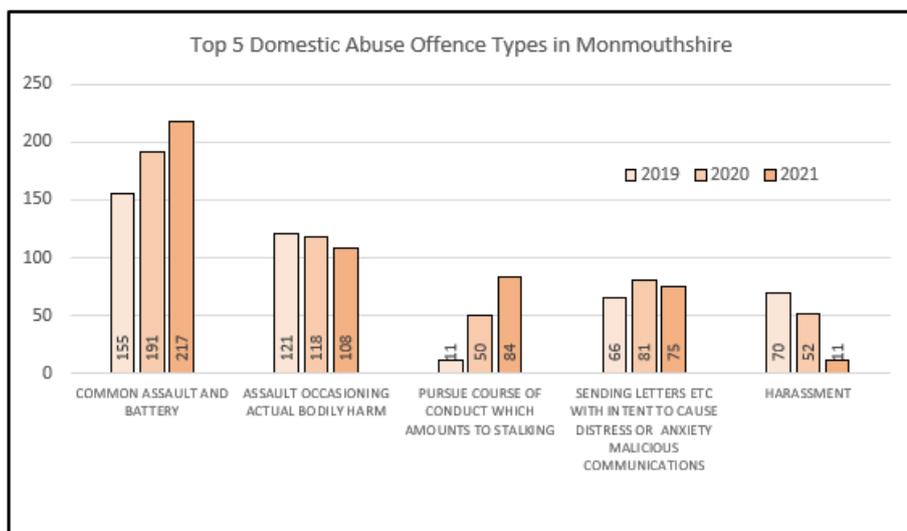
The slow rise in crimes in 2021 could lend itself to the encouragement by Gwent Police and other partner agencies for victims to come forward and report. It could also be down to the ability for victims to have time away from the offender to be able to report the crime as people go back out to work.

The Table above indicates the month of August remains to be the month where a high number of domestic crimes are recorded.

Crime Types:

Common Assault and Battery is the most common type of domestic abuse by offenders recorded in Monmouthshire. Over the last three years its increase year on year as has the Pursue course of conduct which amounts to stalking offence, this is likely due to the new crime recording standards in place for this type of offence.

Assault occasioning actual bodily harm and harassment offending has decreased year on year over the last three years.



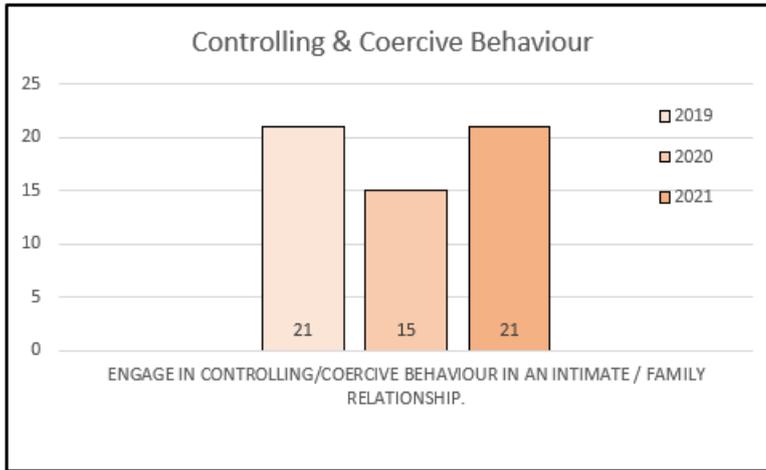
On the 29th of December 2015, a new offence called ‘Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate or Family Relationship’ came into use.

The Government definition also outlines the following:

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour

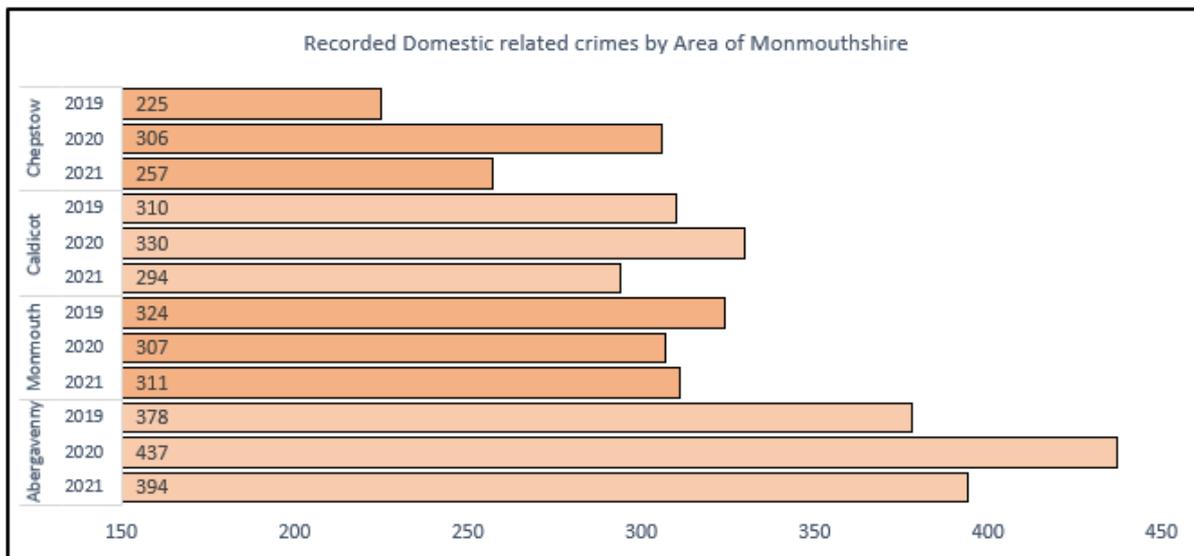
The table below tells us that victims are beginning to recognise that it is a crime to be subject to controlling and coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship. Recording of this crime has increased by 40% so far in 2021.



VAWDASV and Locality:

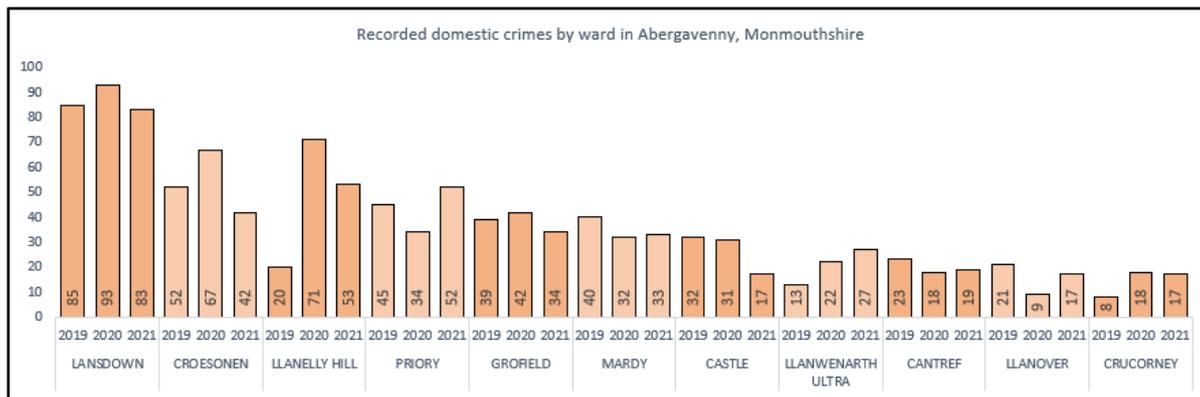
Looking at the breakdown by Area in the table below, recorded domestic crime in Monmouthshire in the last three years has been more common in Abergavenny. All wards except Monmouth have seen a decrease in recorded crimes in 2021 if we look at average crimes per month for each area over the last three years. Abergavenny makes up for 30% of average crimes per month, Monmouth 24%, Caldicot 23% and 22% of average crimes per month.

When looking at the WIMD (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation) almost 40% of Abergavenny wards score 2 or less on the depravity quartile scale 2019 (1 being most deprived, 5 being less deprived)



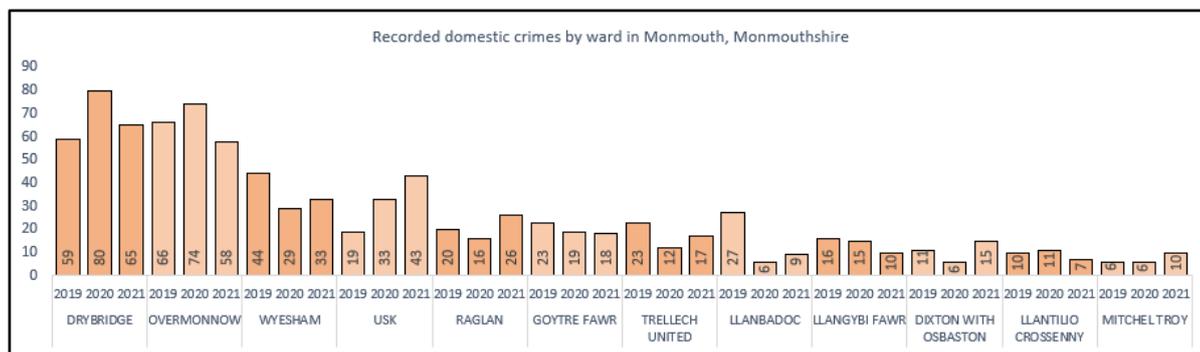
Abergavenny:

From the table below, it is clear to see that Lansdown in Abergavenny has recorded the most domestic-related crime over the last three years. From January 2021 to November 2021 Lansdown makes up for 21% of all recorded crime in the Abergavenny area. Lansdown is ranked the 6th most deprived ward or (Lower layer Super Output Area – LSOA) out of 58 LSOA’s identified in Monmouthshire.



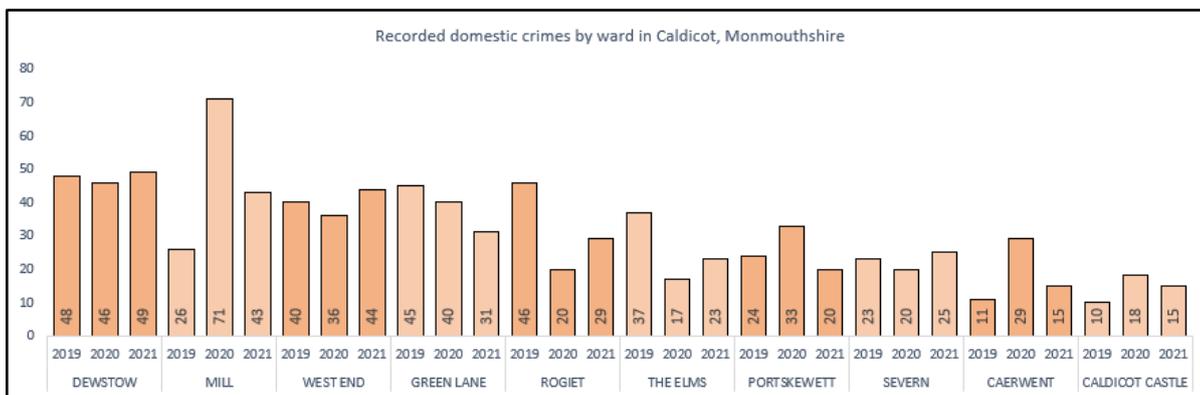
Monmouth, including Usk and Raglan:

From the table below, it is clear to see that Drybridge in Monmouth has recorded the most domestic-related crime over the last three years. From January 2021 to November 2021 Drybridge makes up for 21% of all recorded crime in the Monmouth Area. Drybridge is ranked the 21st most deprived ward or (Lower layer Super Output Area – LSOA) out of 58 LSOA’s identified in Monmouthshire.



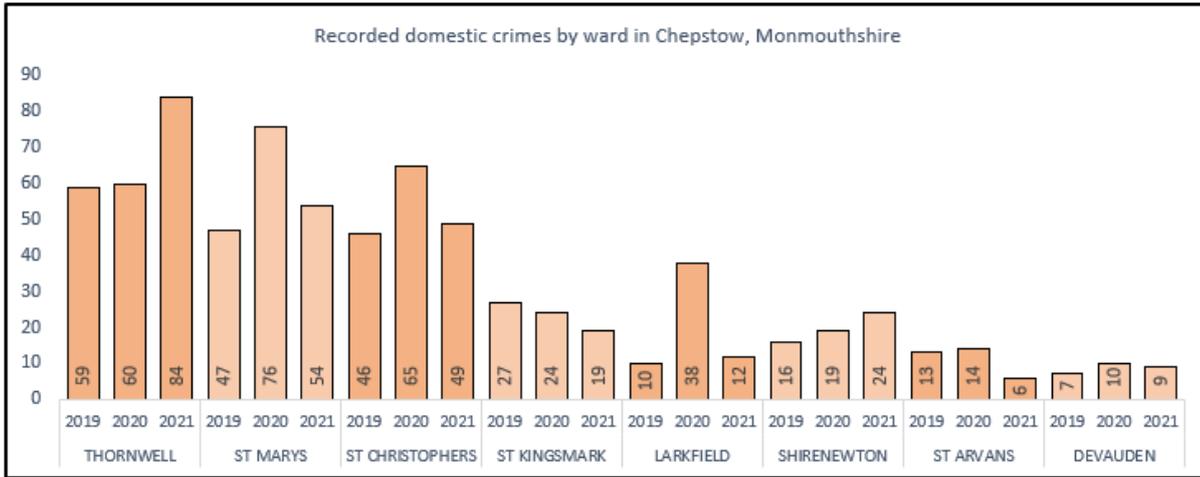
Caldicot:

From the table below, we can see that Dewstow in Caldicot has recorded the most domestic-related crime over the last three years. From January 2021 to November 2021 Dewstow makes up for 17% of all recorded crime in the Caldicot area. There is a significant rise in the amount of recorded domestic abuse crimes in Mill in 2020, 37% of these crimes were recorded as Violence without injury. Dewstow is ranked the 8th most deprived ward or (Lower layer Super Output Area – LSOA) out of 58 LSOA’s identified in Monmouthshire.



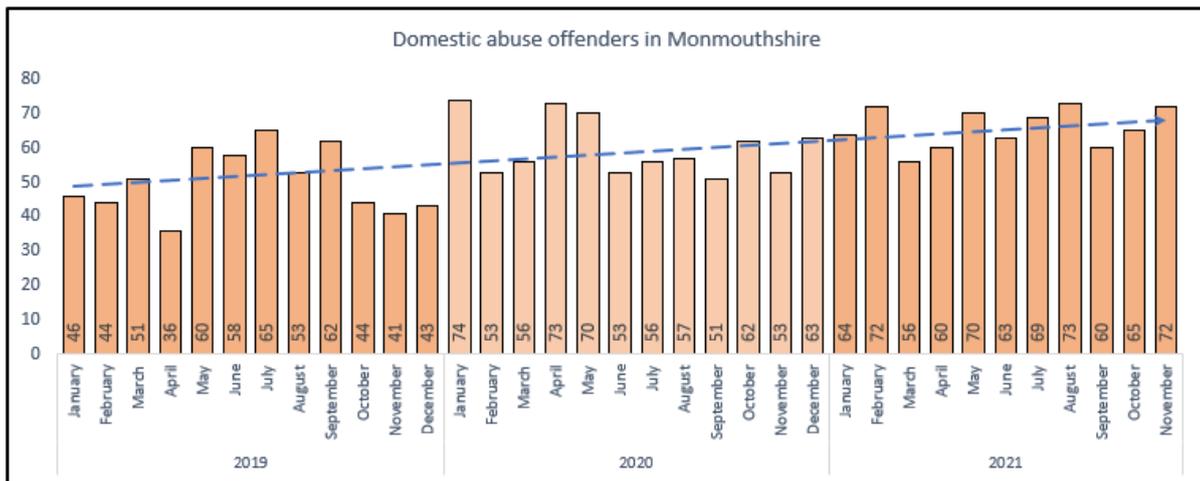
Chepstow:

From the table below, we can see that Thornwell in Chepstow has recorded the most domestic-related crime over the last three years. From January 2021 to November 2021 Thornwell makes up for 33% of all recorded crime in the Chepstow area. Thornwell is ranked the 3rd most deprived ward or (Lower layer Super Output Area – LSOA) out of 58 LSOA’s identified in Monmouthshire.



Offenders:

The table below, shows us that the number of identified offenders of domestic abuse has increased steadily over the last three years. This is encouraging because it tells us our victims are feeling more confident to come forward and identify perpetrators, as well as this, officers are now expected to always wear body-worn cameras which will also lead to formal identification of domestic abuse offenders without the need of confirmed identification from the victim.



Repeat Offenders in each locality area:

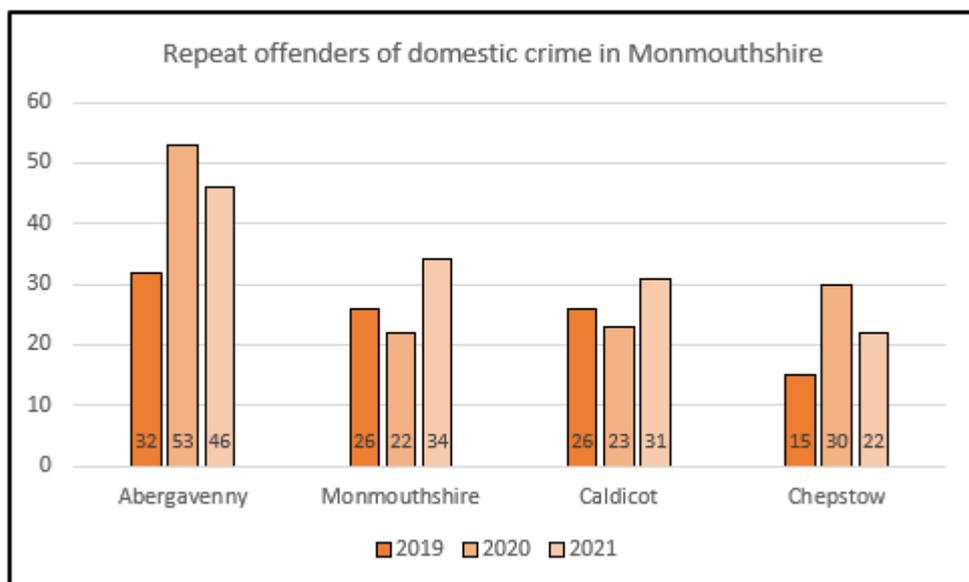
There have been more male offenders of domestic crime than female offenders over the last three years.

The average monthly number of identified female offenders has increased year on year since 2019. 2019 = 12 avg. per month, 2020 = 15 avg. per month and 2021 16 avg. per month.

It is interesting to note that female offending seemed to dip in June, July, and November over the last two years, except for November 2021 where there has been double the number of female domestic crime offending during November 21 for the last three years. Of those 20 offences, 11 were of an assault nature, 5 were of harassment/stalking nature and 4 were of other mixed nature.

Also, an anomaly worth noting is the significant increase in female offending in April of 2020 which was the first month of lockdown. 9 of the recorded offences were related to malicious comms via text messages & phone calls and 5 offences were assaults between family members e.g., sisters, child against parent. Others were between partners, ex-partners, and spousal altercations.

In 2019 76% of identified offenders were male, in 2020 74% of identified offenders were male, in 2021 75% of identified offenders were also male.



Over the last three years, ages of between 22yrs and 30yrs are the most common age categories of overall domestic abuse offenders in Monmouthshire. However, this age range does account for 49% of people who live in Monmouthshire both in females & males and overall.

Age ranges of 31-40yrs and 41-50yrs are the most concerning as they have shown significant rises year on year. Also, of concern is the 71-80yrs age range which saw a huge increase of over 50% in 2021 in only 11 months of the year compared with the full 12 months of previous years data. 13 out of 14 were domestic incidents between husband & wife or partners.

Victims of VAWDAVS

In 2019 26% of victims were male, in 2020 28% of victims were male, and in 2021 29% of victims were male. This shows an upward trend over the last 3 years suggesting that more male victims are reporting domestic abuse. This could be a mix of male victims being more likely to report crimes of a domestic nature and a reduction in covid restrictions compared with the same period in 2020.

In the last three years, ages of between 22 to 50yrs are the most common age categories of overall domestic abuse victims in Monmouthshire. However, the age range between 22 to 60yrs does account for 49% of people who live in Monmouthshire both in females & males and overall.

Age ranges of 31-40yrs are most concerning as it shows a significant rises year on year of between 30% and 40%. Also, of concern is the 0-16yrs age range which has shown a year-on-year increase, 58% between 2019/2020 and 26% between 2020/21.

Summary:

Although there is a worrying increasing trend of Domestic related crime in Monmouthshire it shows that victims are coming forward to report it. It highlights the need for attention from all partners to support and protect the vulnerable.

The Area with the highest number of domestic-related incidents in Monmouthshire is Abergavenny and within Abergavenny the ward with the highest number of reports of domestic crime is Lansdown. This is followed by Monmouth where the ward with the most reported domestic crime is Drybridge. These areas do sit highly on the deprivation scale for Monmouthshire, showing a considerable correlation between domestic crime and deprivation.

Females remain to more likely be victims of domestic crime, however, male victims are on the rise.

Males remain more likely to be the perpetrators of domestic-related crime, however, females between the ages of 31 to 50 have seen a year-on-year increase in the last three years.

Over the last three years, ages of between 22 to 40yrs are the most common age categories of overall domestic abuse offenders in Monmouthshire and the most common age of victims is between 22 to 50.

Age ranges of 31-40yrs and 41-50yrs are the most concerning as they have shown significant rises year on year of both victim and offender domestic-related crime.

Also of concern is the victim and offenders in the 71-80yrs age range which saw a huge increase of over 50% in 2021 and the increase in victims between the ages of 0 to 16yrs.