

Derby and Derbyshire Serious Violence Strategy 2026 – 2028



Derby & Derbyshire
Safer Communities

Contents

Foreword	3
Executive Summary	4
Introduction-Defining Serious Violence	6
Vision and Mission.....	12
Principles and Approach.....	12
Local Governance	14
Understanding Risk.....	16
The Local Picture	18
Scale of the problem	20
When it happens	23
Who is involved	23
Where it is happening	25
Emerging issues	26
Performance Indicators for 2026/27	28
Glossary	31
Appendix 1 – Definition – Trauma-informed approach	34
Appendix 2 – Public Health Approach	35
References.....	36

Foreword

Serious violence remains a significant challenge across the UK. Its impact is profound - devastating the lives of victims and families, creating fear within communities, and placing a substantial cost on society. Between 2019 and 2024, Derby and Derbyshire experienced a 10% increase in serious violence. More recently, following a range of targeted local interventions, the Strategic Needs Assessment for Derby and Derbyshire reported a 14% reduction in serious violence, and a 7% reduction in knife crime, between April 2024 and March 2025.

However, the most up-to-date data from March to December 2025 shows incidents of serious violence beginning to rise again. While much of this increase is linked to changes in the recording of some crime types, it reinforces the need for continued monitoring and sustained action to ensure that progress made so far is not lost.

The Serious Violence Duty, introduced through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, sets out a clear expectation for local areas to take a multi-agency, preventative approach. Local partners are committed to a public health approach—working collaboratively, drawing on evidence, and focusing on prevention and early intervention. Using robust data from a wide range of sources, we are better able to understand the nature of serious violence, where and when it occurs, who is affected, and what drives these harms. This evidence has shaped our collective response.

This 2026-2028 Strategy sets out how local partners will continue to deliver the Serious Violence Duty. It builds on the foundations established in the 2024-2026 Strategy and is informed by the refreshed Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment completed in summer 2025.

Our shared commitment is to coordinate a strong multi-agency public health approach and deliver the strategic objectives outlined in this document. Through sustained collaboration, prevention-focused action, and evidence-led practice, we aim to reduce serious violence and improve the safety and wellbeing of people across Derby and Derbyshire.



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Executive Summary

This 2026–2028 Serious Violence Strategy sets out a forward-looking, whole-system plan for reducing serious violence across Derby and Derbyshire. It brings together the shared priorities of statutory partners, the Violence Reduction Unit, and the wider community safety system to address the most significant drivers, risks and inequalities identified in the 2024/25 Strategic Needs Assessment. While recent years have seen reductions in some forms of serious violence, the most up-to-date data demonstrates emerging pressures and evolving patterns of harm that require sustained, coordinated, and flexible partnership responses. This strategy provides the overarching framework for that response.

At its core, the strategy adopts a public health approach—prioritising prevention, early intervention, place-based responses and stronger protective factors across communities. The Public Health approach works on the basis that prevention is better than cure (Christmas and Srivastava, 2019) and the partnership adopts the 6 cs, Collaborating, Co-producing, Co-operating, Creating a counter-narrative and Community Consensus.

The partnership’s response is structured around **seven strategic objectives**, which have been developed using local evidence, national expectations, and learning from interventions delivered since 2024:

1. **Reduce young people’s involvement in serious violence** through early identification, diversion, strengthened youth support, and family-focused interventions.
2. **Tackle knife crime** by combining hotspot policing, education, targeted prevention, potential hospital-based interventions, and improved use of data.
3. **Disrupt repeat offending and reoffending**, recognising the overlap between victims and perpetrators, and strengthening multi-agency work with high-risk individuals.
4. **Reduce violence linked to the night-time economy** through continued joint police and local authority licensing activity, including management of high-risk venues identified through NTE data and improved use of health data.
5. **Address alcohol and drug use as drivers of serious violence** by raising the awareness treatment pathways and aligning with the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership (DASP) priorities.
6. **Address inequalities resulting from serious violence**, prioritising areas of higher deprivation and ensuring responses are trauma-informed, culturally competent, and place-based.
7. **Improve data collection, collation and analysis** to strengthen early identification, refine hotspot mapping, and enhance the partnership’s understanding of risk factors and emerging trends.

These strategic objectives are underpinned by our shared vision that Derby and Derbyshire are places where people can live, work and visit without the fear or experience of serious violence. Guided by our mission to make our communities safer together, the partnership remains

committed to reducing the incidence, severity and impact of violence through prevention, early intervention and sustained multi-agency collaboration.

Partnership learning and evidence highlight the importance of interventions that build positive relationships, strengthen resilience and increase safety in key settings. Two case studies featured in this strategy illustrate the tangible impact of this approach: Active Bystander Training, which has improved young people's confidence and ability to challenge harmful behaviours; and the Chesterfield night-time economy outreach model, which has reduced incidents of violence through targeted safeguarding and youth engagement. These examples demonstrate how well-designed interventions can influence behaviour, reduce vulnerability and prevent harm.

A separate, detailed interventions report has been produced by partners, outlining the full range of programmes delivered across 2024–2026 and evidencing their outcomes. Building on this, a new multi-agency action plan is in development and will set out specific delivery actions, responsibilities, timescales and measures of progress aligned to the strategic objectives. This will ensure that the partnership's activity over the next two years is cohesive, accountable and focused on the areas of greatest impact.

Through sustained collaboration, strong use of evidence and a commitment to prevention, partners across Derby and Derbyshire aim to achieve long-term reductions in serious violence and improve safety, wellbeing and opportunity for all communities.

Delivery of this strategy will be overseen by the Derby and Derbyshire Serious Violence Board, supported by the Safer Derbyshire Research and Information Team, which will provide quarterly updates using new national Key Performance Indicators from April 2026. The Board will work closely with linked partnerships, including those for domestic and sexual abuse, serious organised crime and exploitation, Prevent, and substance misuse, ensuring a coherent whole-system response.

Introduction-Defining Serious Violence

The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act (2022) does not define serious violence for the purposes of the Duty, and specified authorities must determine what amounts to serious violence in their local area. The Act does however provide that for the purposes of the Duty, violence includes not only physical violence, but domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence, but does not include terrorism. Specified authorities should include a focus on public space youth violence including: homicide, violence against the person which may include both knife crime and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as within county lines drug dealing.

In Derby and Derbyshire, some aspects of serious violence are addressed by other thematic boards within the Safer Communities structure. Domestic and sexual abuse are addressed through the work of the Derby and Derbyshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership Board, serious violence relating to serious and organised crime, exploitation and county lines, are addressed through the Serious and Organised Crime and Exploitation Board and serious violence relating to terrorism is addressed through the Prevent (Counter Terrorism) Board. Outside of the Safer Communities structure, the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership have strategic oversight of addressing the harm caused by drug and alcohol use. The Serious Violence Board will maintain close links with these boards.

Therefore, the Derby and Derbyshire Serious Violence Board focuses on a definition of serious violence that does not include domestic and sexual abuse, but includes the following;

- Violence resulting in, or potential to result in significant injury, with or without weapons, with the inclusion of all ages.
- Crime groups include robbery, violence with injury (Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) and Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) and above), any offence involving a knife or other weapon (including possession) and homicide.

This definition has recently been updated and agreed by the Derby and Derbyshire Serious Violence Board to bring it in line with the Derbyshire Constabulary definition of serious violence, which includes Actual Bodily Harm.

This change to the definition came into effect from October 2025, and therefore, it should be noted that the definition used in the 2024/25 Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment is different to that used in this new strategy. Data collected and analysed for the 2025/26 Strategic Needs Assessment will be based on the new definition.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Online Harm are cross-cutting concerns which run through each of the thematic boards.

What has been achieved in Derby and Derbyshire?

As part of the development of the first Derby and Derbyshire Serious Violence Action Plan during 2024/25, extensive partnership work was undertaken to map existing activity, identify gaps, and align interventions with the strategic objectives set out in the 2024–2026 Serious Violence Strategy. This whole-system approach has strengthened coordination across agencies and ensured that resources are directed where they can have the greatest preventative impact. Alongside this, a wide range of partnership-funded and specified-authority-funded initiatives have been complemented by several Home Office-funded interventions, many of which continue to be delivered across the city and county. These programmes span early intervention, targeted support, hotspot activity, youth engagement, and safety-focused practice, each contributing to a more resilient local system.

To illustrate the real-world impact of this work, the following two case studies highlight interventions that have delivered some of the strongest outcomes. These examples demonstrate how evidence-based, relationship-centred, and community-focused approaches can reduce risk, change behaviour, and improve safety for young people and adults most vulnerable to serious violence. They provide insight into how sustained multi-agency collaboration is achieving meaningful results on the ground and shaping the learning that informs future delivery.

Active Bystander Training

Safe and Sound have been commissioned to deliver Active Bystander Training to young people in Primary and Secondary schools, in school years six to nine, across Derby and Derbyshire. The workshops, called 'I can I will', include discussions around what is a bystander, who can be a bystander, the Bystander Effect, the differences between Passive and Active Bystanders, why taking action can make a difference, Peer on Peer Abuse, keeping safe and reporting, examples of serious violence and young people's views and concerns.

This has been delivered in schools across Derby and Derbyshire has shown some of the most substantial measured benefits of all interventions. Through 139 workshops in 37 schools, the programme reached nearly 3,000 young people and achieved a 61% increase in understanding of serious violence and a 53% improvement in knowing how to act safely as an active bystander. Teachers and pupils reported strong engagement, with the sessions helping to challenge harmful norms, build confidence, and equip young people with practical tools to intervene safely or seek help. Importantly, the model has proved highly adaptable, expanding into alternative provision and children's homes, and offering a scalable, evidence-based approach to early prevention.

Vulnerability Hub in Chesterfield Night-Time Economy

The Chesterfield Vulnerability Hub was created as a response to feedback from licensed premises and other stakeholders, such as Derbyshire Constabulary, who consistently faced demand in managing and supporting individuals who had become vulnerable through the use of alcohol or drugs in the night-time economy. These issues often meant that vulnerable individuals became victims of crime, and/or suffered injury or experienced mental health issues. The Vulnerability Hub was created to operate on Friday and Saturday evenings in Chesterfield Town Centre. The Hub was

staffed by Enforcement Officers, Paramedics and Street Pastors, and was supported by Derbyshire Constabulary Officers.

Vulnerable individuals were identified by the bars and clubs and referred to the Vulnerability Hub via the Town Centre radio system. The team would then provide appropriate support and care to the individual to ensure they were safe. During a six-month period from April 2025 to October 2025, the Hub dealt with approximately 16 individuals per night of operation, the majority of whom were vulnerable through use of alcohol or drugs. 23% of the individuals were experiencing mental health issues, and 14% were considered homeless.

When staffing challenges reduced Hub capacity, the shift to targeted youth outreach delivered by Chesterfield Football Club Community Trust maintained this progress, on average 55 young people were engaged per session and diverting an average of 21 young people to the town-centre Youth Hub. Police have since reported reductions in violence and anti-social behaviour during outreach hours, illustrating the effectiveness of consistent, trusted engagement in preventing escalation and promoting safer public spaces.

Further details of the wide range of interventions that have been delivered can be found in the accompanying report '*Derby and Derbyshire Serious Violence interventions 2024-2026*'

Safer Derbyshire Research and Information- KPI Report

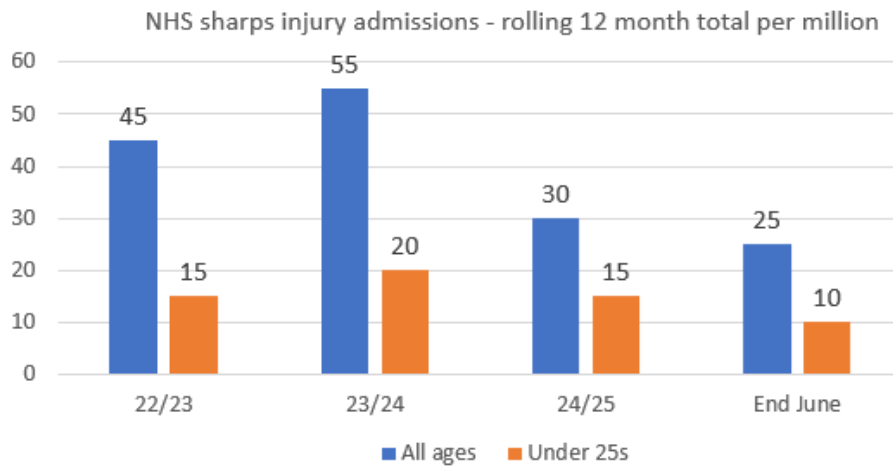
The Safer Derbyshire Research and Information Team present a quarterly report to the Board detailing performance against the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) so that progress against these can be monitored.

Overall performance against those KPIs between January 2024 and December 2025 (unless stated otherwise) was as follows;

- A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25 (data shown is from 2022/23 to June 2025)

Admissions for all ages and those under 25 have decreased year-on-year for the last two years. These figures represent the number of admissions per million population.

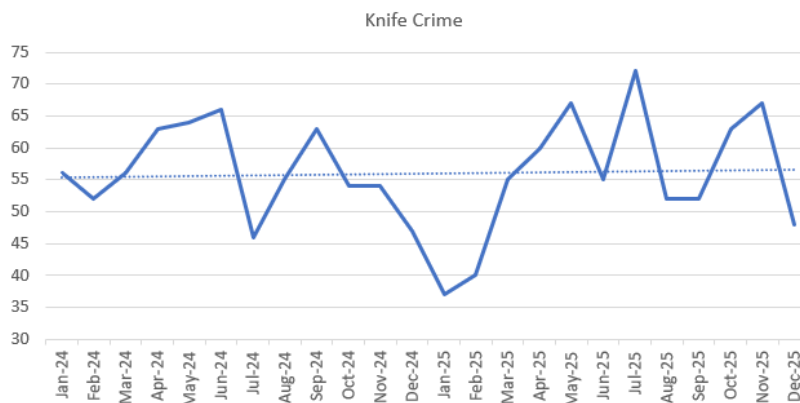
A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25.	Period	22/23	23/24	24/25	End June 25
	Admissions all ages	45	55	30	25
Admissions under 25s	15	20	15	10	



- A reduction in knife enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25.

Knife crime data is consistent over the last two years. The average total monthly offences were around 56 during 2024 and 2025. When possession offences are removed, other knife crime offences total 350 during 2024 and 341 during 2025 – this is also largely consistent over the two years, with an average of 28 offences per month during 2024 and 29 offences per month during 2025.

A reduction in knife enabled serious violence and especially among those victims under 25	Period	2024	2025
	Total offences	676	668
	Total victims	376	352
	Total victims under 25	150	148
	% total victims under 25	40%	42%



- A reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 and involving knives.

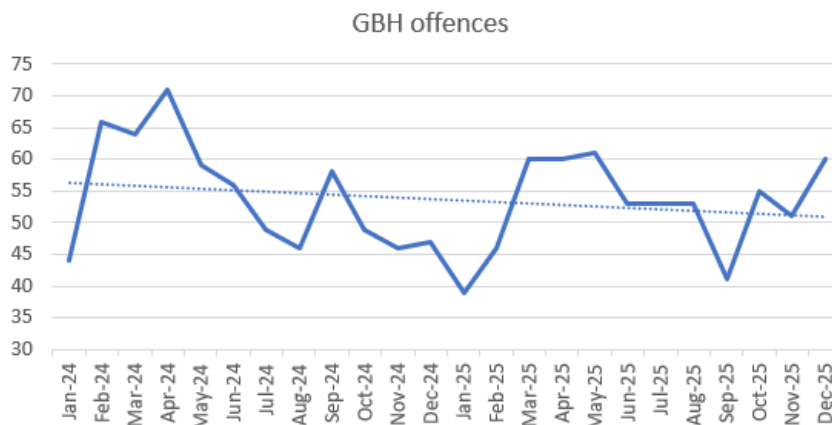
There has been a reduction in non-domestic homicides, particularly among victims aged under 25 and in incidents involving knives. The number of non-domestic knife-related homicides fluctuated slightly between 2021 and 2025 but overall decreased from six to four victims. Due to the small numbers involved, these figures should be interpreted with caution, as minor changes can appear more significant. Across the period, there were 16 victims in total; 10 were aged under 25, 13 were male and three were female.

A reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims under 25 involving knives	Period	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	Total offences/victims	6	1	4	1	4
	Total victims under 25	5	0	2	1	2

- A reduction in Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) offences with/without intent.

GBH offences have decreased over the last two years, with the average monthly offences falling to 52 in 2025, from 55 during 2024.

A reduction in Grievous Bodily Harm offences with/without intent	Period	2024	2025
	Total offences/victims	655	632
	Total victims	663	648
	Total victims under 25	185	202
	% total victims under 25	28%	32%



A risk log is managed by key partners and monitored by the Board on a quarterly basis, allowing key concerns around resources and funding to be detected early and mitigated against where possible – this is particularly difficult as the nature of national funding for early intervention and prevention work in relation to serious violence is currently short-term.

Given the nature of the preventative, public health approach we are taking, we anticipate that while there will be short-term progress in addressing serious violence and the associated risks, the main impact of the broader partnership strategy will be realised over a longer timeframe.

Vision and Mission

The vision is:

That Derby and Derbyshire are places where people can live, work, and visit without the fear or experience of serious violence.

Achieving this requires a united partnership mission supported by shared principles, including place-based working, community involvement, evidence-led practice, and continuous learning. Seven strategic objectives guide the partnership's work, focusing on young people, knife crime, reoffending, Night Time Economy harm, alcohol and drug drivers, inequalities, and improved data and intelligence.

Our mission is:

To make Derby and Derbyshire safer together by reducing the instances, severity and impact of violence on individuals, families, and communities across the County.

Principles and Approach

The partnership will:

- Work with commitment and effectiveness within a partnership framework to tackle serious violence.
- Take a place-based approach, focussing on the local needs and contexts where serious violence takes place.
- Empower and support individuals, families, and communities to play a role in tackling serious violence by engaging and co-producing responses to serious violence.
- Take an evidence-based approach to understanding the problem of serious violence and responding to it.
- Shape and strengthen existing structures and services, recognising that there is already a lot of good work taking place to address serious violence in Derby and Derbyshire.
- Continuously learn and improve as responses are developed to reduce the problem of serious violence.

A public health approach has been adopted, which brings the whole system together to identify need and understand serious violence in our communities.

- Primary interventions aim to prevent violence before it occurs by influencing social norms, strengthening community resilience, and reducing the emergence of new cases.
- Secondary interventions respond quickly to incidents to prevent escalation, focusing on high-risk locations and individuals at greater risk of offending.
- Tertiary interventions address violence once it is occurring, supporting victims, treating harm, and offering rehabilitation opportunities for offenders.

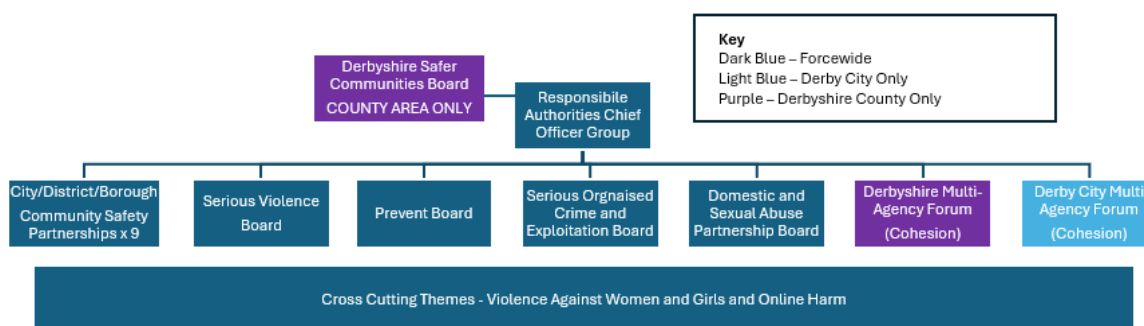
Across all levels, the aim is to reduce risk factors, strengthen protective factors, and build resilience in individuals, families, and communities.

Local Governance

The Derby and Derbyshire Serious Violence Board is one of four multi-agency strategic boards focussing on key community safety priorities in Derby and Derbyshire. A refreshed governance structure, from April 2026, ensures strong oversight;

- Responsible Authorities Chief Officer Group (RACOG) – provides strategic oversight
- Serious Violence Board – multi-agency strategic board accountable for delivery
- Linked thematic boards: Domestic & Sexual Abuse; Prevent; Serious Organised Crime and Exploitation

The governance structure is detailed below;



The Serious Violence Board is made up of statutory partners (specified authorities under the Serious Violence Duty) and other key partners. It meets quarterly and is chaired by the Assistant Director of Public Health at Derbyshire County Council. The Board drives the work of the partnership and is complemented by a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in Derby and Derbyshire. Funding for interventions is received from different sources, which has historically been short term, for three years or less. This can affect ability to plan over the longer term. The role of the Serious Violence Board and the Serious Violence Strategy is to support recipients of funding to deliver against the strategic objectives.

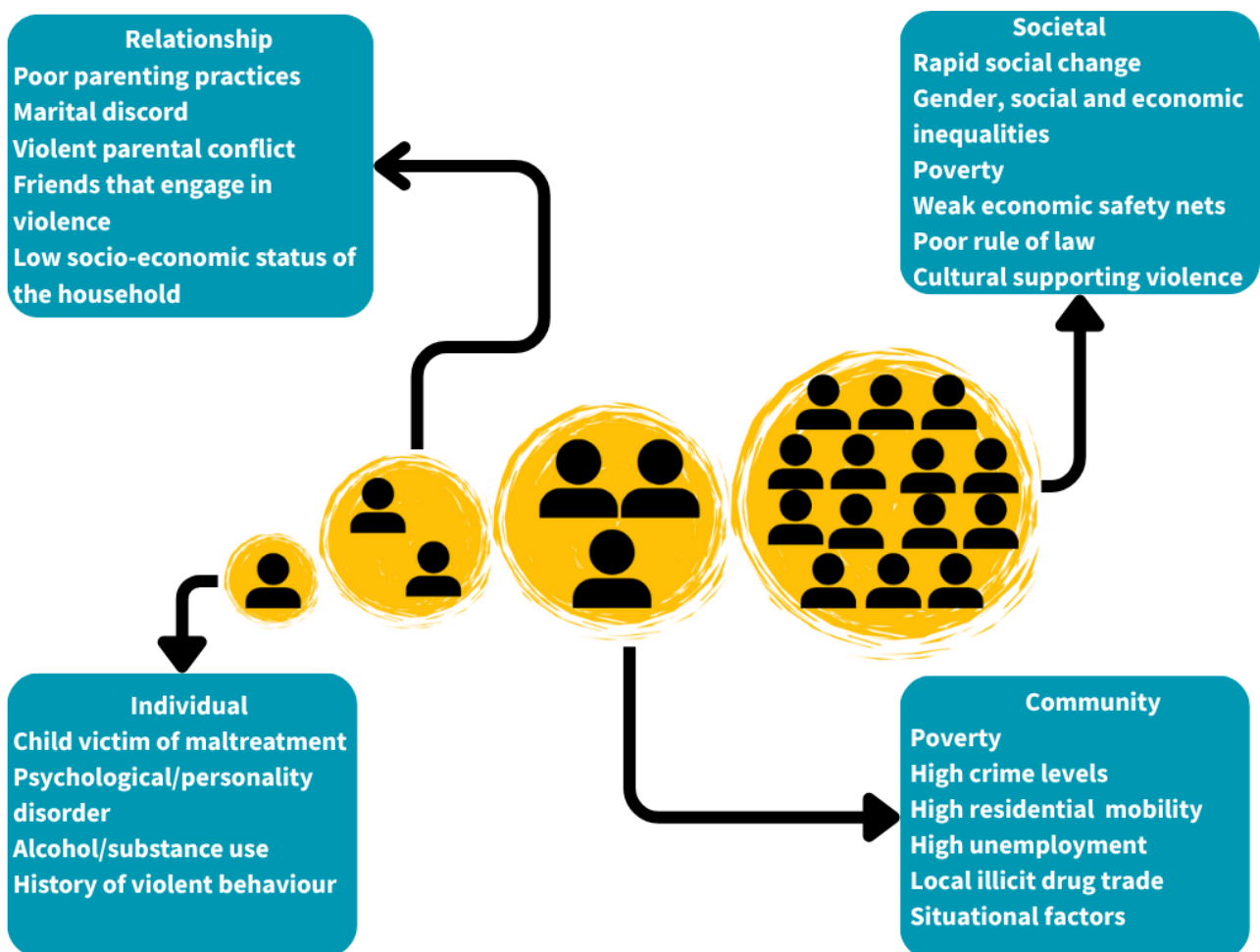
The membership of the Board is made up of:

- Derby City Council – Community Safety, Public Health and Youth Justice Service
- Derbyshire County Council – Community Safety, Public Health and Youth Justice Service
- Derbyshire Constabulary
- Derby and Derbyshire Violence Reduction Unit
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Safer Derbyshire Research and Information Team (analytical support)
- Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
- District and borough community safety partnerships – represented by Chesterfield Borough Council and Erewash Borough Council

- Health – NHS – Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board, East Midlands Ambulance Service, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton, Chesterfield Royal Hospital
- Prison Service
- Probation
- Voluntary and Community Sector

Understanding Risk

As outlined above, the Serious Violence Board adopts a public health approach to preventing serious violence, recognising that harm is shaped by a complex interaction of individual, relationship, community, and societal factors. The Strategic Needs Assessment and the Strategy have been based on the World Health Organization’s ecological framework, adapted below, describing four levels of vulnerability a person can be exposed to which can increase their vulnerability to serious violence (WHO 2023). Rather than focusing on single causes, this ecological model helps partners understand how vulnerabilities accumulate across different levels of a person’s life, from early adversity and personal experiences to family functioning, peer influences, neighbourhood conditions, and wider social and economic inequalities.



These factors do not operate in isolation, and the likelihood of involvement in serious violence increases where multiple risks intersect, highlighting the most significant drivers identified locally and nationally. Equally important are the protective factors that mitigate risk, such as positive relationships, supportive home environments, community belonging, and access to education, employment and safe spaces. By strengthening these protective factors and reducing exposure to risk, the public health approach supports partners to intervene earlier, address root causes, and

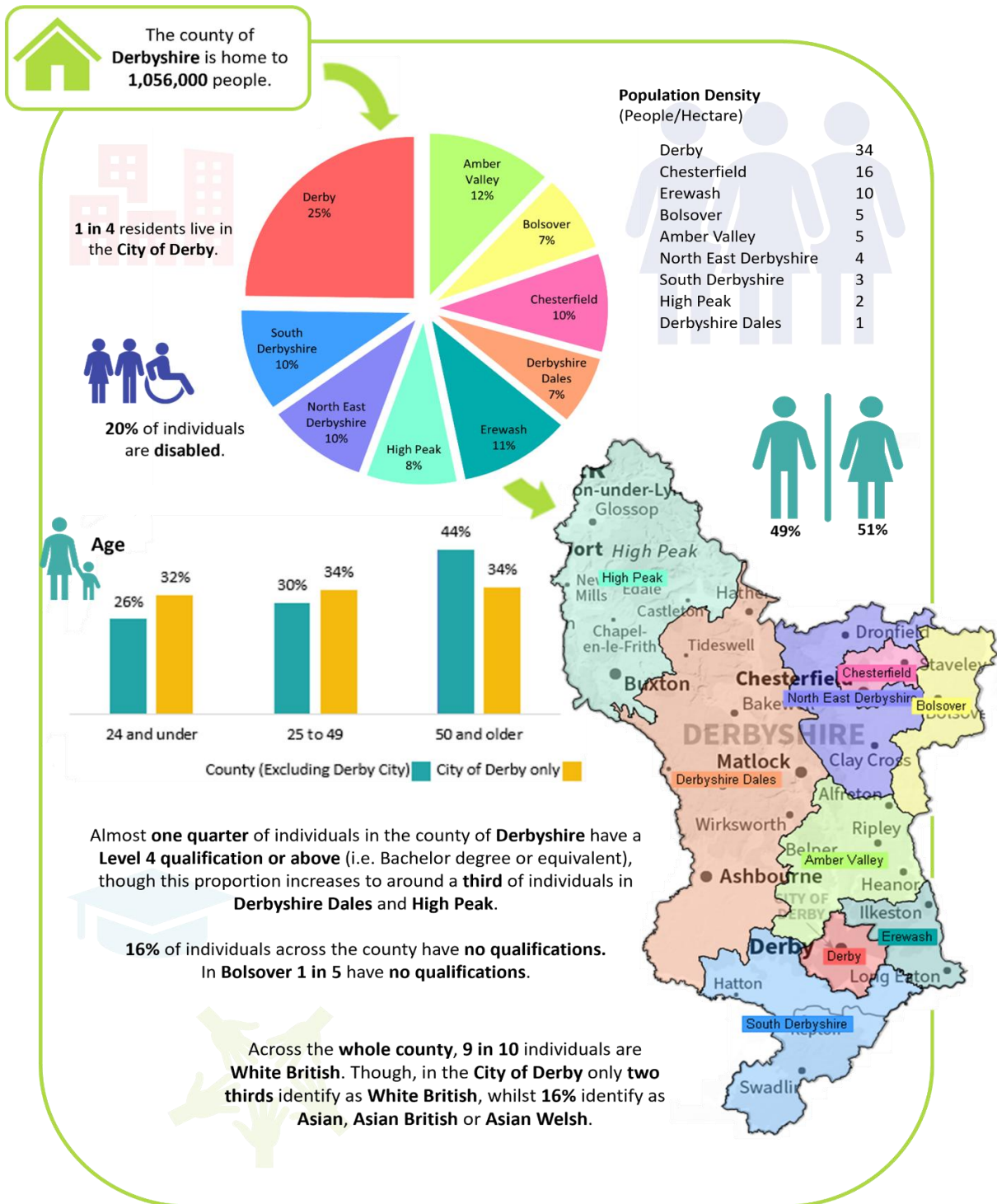
create safer conditions in which individuals, families, and communities can thrive.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are a significant driver of vulnerability to serious violence, influencing development, wellbeing and risk across the life course. The refreshed Strategic Needs Assessment highlights that early adversity, including abuse, neglect, household substance misuse, parental mental illness, domestic abuse, parental incarceration, bereavement and instability in the home, can compound other risk factors and increase the likelihood of children and young people becoming victims or perpetrators of serious violence as they grow older. Strengthening protective factors and addressing ACEs early is therefore essential to achieving our vision of ensuring that people can live, work and visit Derby and Derbyshire without the fear or experience of serious violence.

This strategy recognises that preventing serious violence requires tackling the root causes of harm as well as the behaviours that emerge later in life. Our strategic objectives reflect this, with a strong emphasis on early identification of children experiencing adversity, reducing the escalation of harm, and building resilience through trauma-informed practice across all partner organisations. Interventions aimed at reducing young people's involvement in serious violence, disrupting repeat offending, tackling knife crime and addressing alcohol and drug use are strengthened by a greater understanding of childhood trauma and its long-term effects. Place-based approaches in areas experiencing higher deprivation, combined with improved data sharing and intelligence, will support earlier detection of ACE-related vulnerability and allow partners to take coordinated action that prevents violence before it occurs.

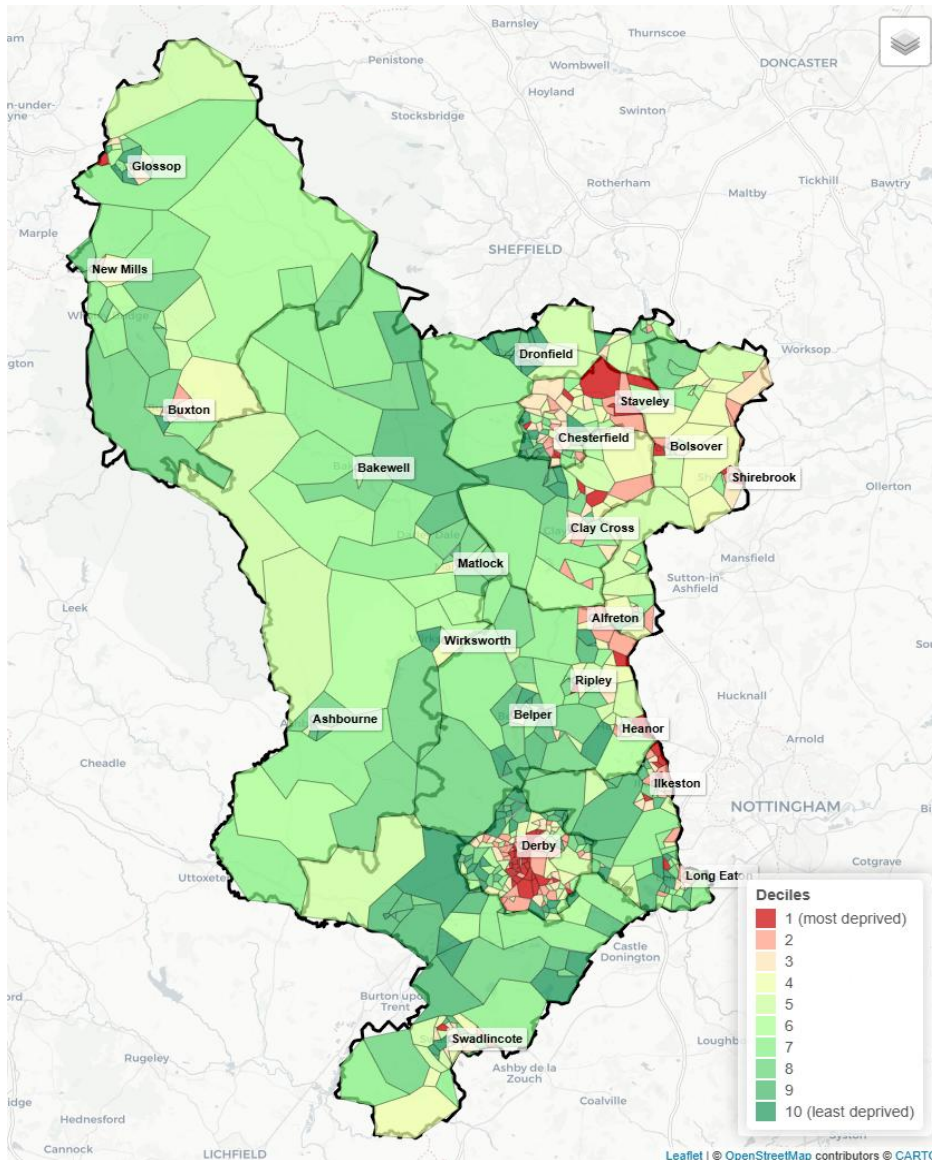
The Local Picture

This infographic provides an at-a-glance overview of Derbyshire’s population, highlighting key demographics, diversity, and local characteristics across the county and city.



Derbyshire demographic overview created by N Ganeki (Partnership Analyst, SDR&I) on 20/01/2026. Using ONS Census 2021 data, available online: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create> and NEC Software Solutions xd version 3.1.0 Copyright 2002 – 25 (map).

Map* showing Derby and Derbyshire levels of deprivation



This map shows levels of deprivation in Derby and Derbyshire using the 2025 Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Although deprivation varies across both areas, Derby City experiences significantly higher levels overall, with 36% of its Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) ranked within the 20% most deprived nationally compared with 14% in Derbyshire. Within Derbyshire, deprivation is most concentrated in the northeast, particularly Bolsover and parts of Chesterfield, though smaller pockets are present across the county.

Understanding deprivation is important because serious violence is consistently shown to be more prevalent in

more deprived communities. Evidence indicates that poverty and financial stressors increase the risk of children and young people becoming involved in crime and violence, although poverty is understood as a significant risk factor rather than a direct cause. Neighbourhood deprivation is particularly associated with non-violent crime, while low household income shows a stronger link with violent crime. Research also highlights a complex interplay of socio-economic factors—including poverty, social exclusion, community resource decline, and exploitation—which together create conditions that heighten vulnerability to serious violence.

Placing deprivation alongside patterns of serious violence helps explain why some areas experience greater harm and reinforces the need for a place-based, public health approach that addresses underlying inequalities, strengthens protective factors, and improves life opportunities.

*(Map produced by Derbyshire County Council’s Public Health Knowledge and Information Team)

The Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) (2024/25) describes the types and extent of serious violence in Derby and Derbyshire. The 2024/25 SNA is the third analysis of serious violence within Derby and Derbyshire, providing context to the occurrence of serious violence, including the types of violent crime, where and when it happens, who the perpetrators and victims are and why it happens. This enables partners involved in the local response to identify people and groups who are most at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of serious violence, and to respond accordingly with a range of evidence-based preventative measures, interventions, and actions. The SNA is available on the [Derbyshire Observatory](#) website, it should be noted that it uses the Serious Violence Board's previous agreed definition of serious violence (which did not include Actual Bodily Harm) – this definition was in use from August 2021 – September 2025.

The SNA aimed to answer key research questions, which would in turn form the basis of recommendations on which to develop this strategy for 2026-28. Those research questions were:

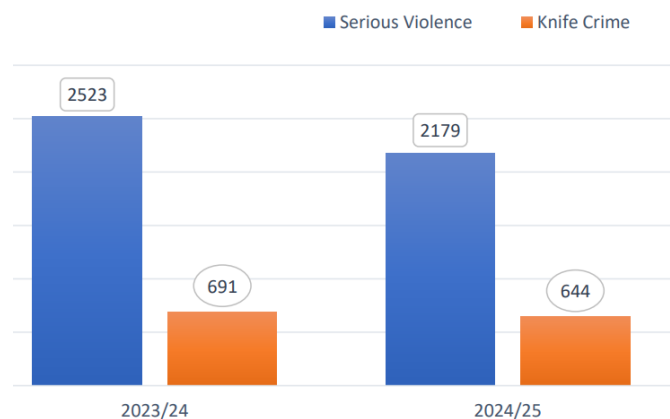
1. What does serious violence look like in Derby and Derbyshire?
2. Where does serious violence occur in Derby and Derbyshire?
3. Who is involved in serious violence in Derby and Derbyshire?
4. When does serious violence occur in Derby and Derbyshire?

Detailed below are the key findings in answer to each of these research questions, taken from partnership quantitative data, from which a conclusion/s can be drawn. Together, these conclusions have informed recommendations in the SNA and priorities for future work in the City and County to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Scale of the problem

Based on the previous Serious Violence Board definition of serious violence (used up to September 2025), there was a 14% reduction in serious violence offences in Derby and Derbyshire between April 2024 and March 2025, compared with the previous 12 months. During this same time period, there was also a 7% reduction in knife crime specifically.

Comparison of the volume of serious violence and knife crime 2023/24 to 2024/25

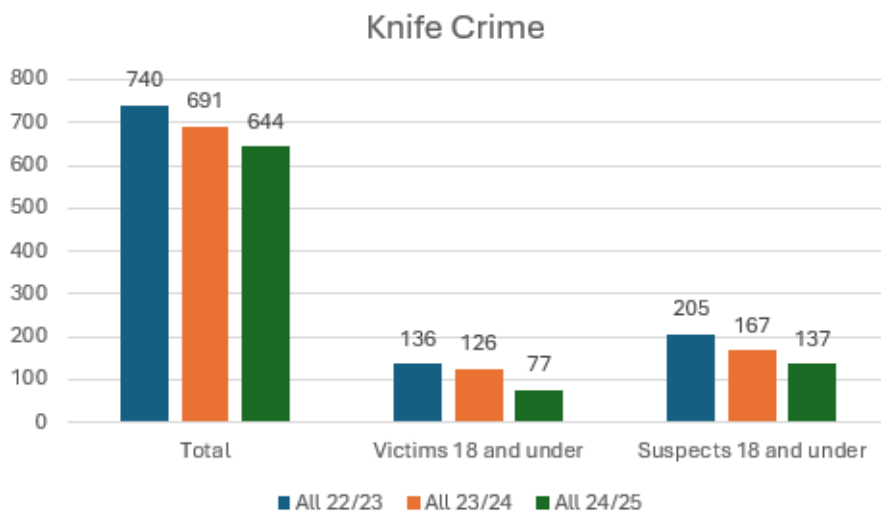
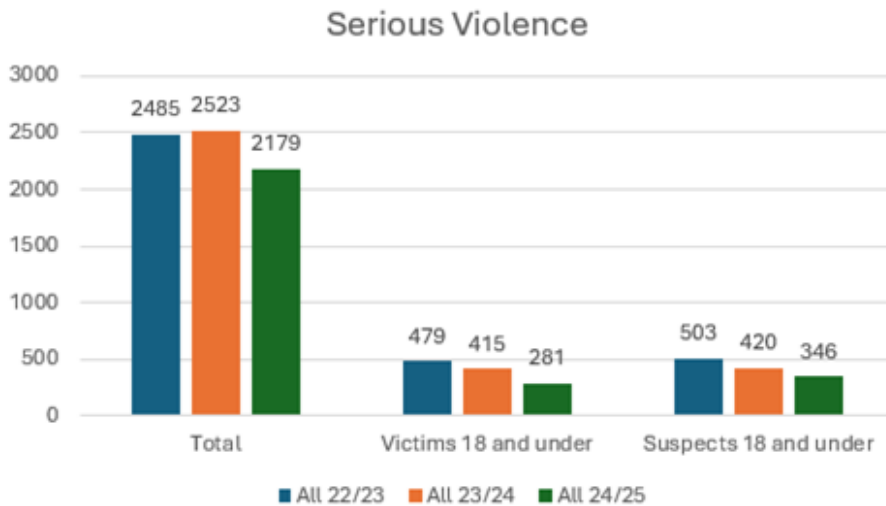


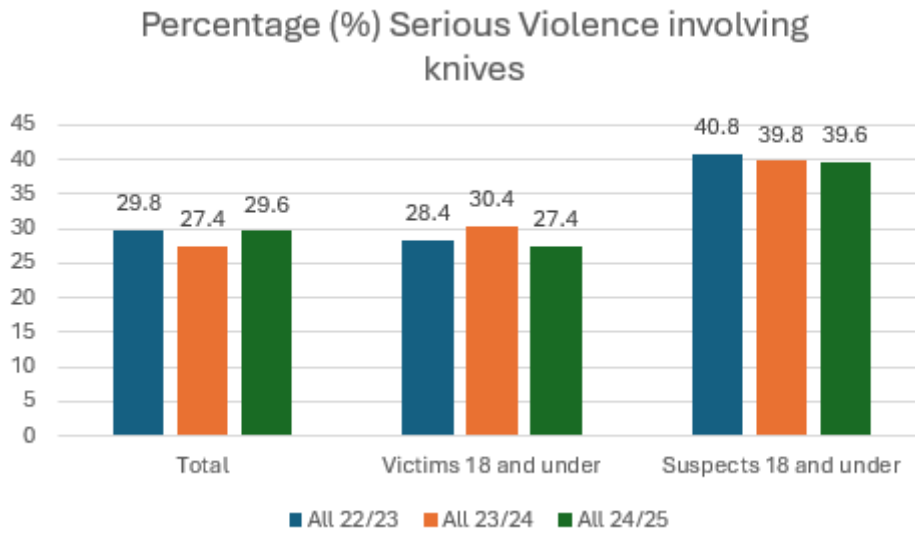
In 2024/25 serious violence in Derby and Derbyshire is estimated to have cost £36,096,840, this represents a 25% reduction in cost (£12.6 million) compared to 2023/24.

Year on year, over the last three years, the number of victims and suspects aged 18 and under reduced. Possession of weapon offences (including knife possession) remained consistent, but these could have been influenced by a police presence (increased hotspot patrols, Stop Search activity). Robbery offences saw a decrease and 2024/25 saw the lowest figure in the last three years.

For serious violence, violence with injury was consistently high in recent previous years but decreased by 14% during 2024/25, falling from 894 offences to 764.

Volume of serious violence and knife crime for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25, shown for victims and suspects aged 18 and under





Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) with intent was at its highest level for the last five financial years during 2023/24, however this decreased by 24% to 461 offences during 2024/25. GBH without intent remained consistent, with an average of 167 offences per year. Administering poison remained high with 93 offences during 2024/25.

Data from assault related attendances at Chesterfield Royal Hospital’s Accident and Emergency Department showed that the majority (1160) of assaults were carried out by a fist/body part, and 257 were carried out by a weapon, with knife related incidents decreasing year on year.

2024 saw the highest number of serious violence probation cases at 680 for the year. Both custodial and community sentences were at their highest during that period.

When it happens

During the three years up to March 2025 in Derby and Derbyshire, serious violence peaked in July 2023 and was at its lowest in February 2025.



Significant concentrations in volume of serious violence continued to be present during 6pm to 6am on Friday and Saturday nights, with this period accounting for 23% of police recorded serious violence.

This correlates with Chesterfield Royal Hospital data which shows that for assault related attendances at the Accident and Emergency Department, 55% of attendances arrived between 6pm and 4am, and 55% attended on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

Who is involved

On average during the last three years (to March 2025) 41% of suspects were aged between 11 and 25 and 22% of suspects were aged up to 17. 15-year-olds had the highest rate for suspects, with 203 occurrences.

During this time there was a slow downward trend in the number of suspects aged up to 17 years, and in the number of suspects aged 18-34 years.

Possession of weapons was highest amongst 15–19-year-olds, as was robbery and violence with injury. Robbery of personal property was significantly higher amongst 10–19-year-olds than for any other age group.

Suspect age ranges for different serious violence crime types 2022/23 to 2024/25

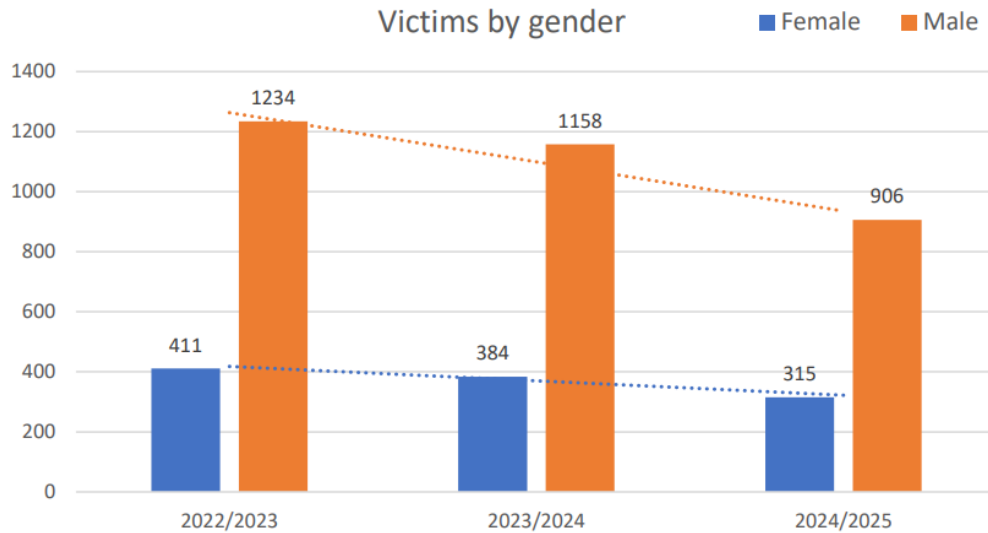
Suspect age	Homicide	Possession of weapons	Robbery (Business)	Robbery (Personal)	Violence with injury
5-9	0	16	0	4	5
10-14	0	205	7	139	158
15-19	8	343	17	194	237
20-24	13	267	4	87	204
25-29	7	237	3	76	236
30-34	6	237	13	79	209
35-39	4	245	12	72	175
40-44	2	214	11	53	127
45-49	1	138	4	45	89
50-54	5	117	0	19	79
55-59	1	79	1	11	56
60-64	0	55	0	1	19
65-69	0	36	0	3	12
70-74	1	15	0	0	12
75-79	0	16	0	0	6

Most suspects and victims of serious violence were male, although there was a 25% reduction in the number of male suspects over the last three years (to March 2025).

There is around a 10% overlap between victims and suspects, which means that out of all the victims and suspects over a three-year period, around 10% of victims of serious violence had also been suspects or went on to be suspects.

On average during the last five years 40.6% of victims of serious violence were aged between 0-24 years old, 23% of victims were aged 0-17 years old. The single age category with the most victims (177) was age 15.

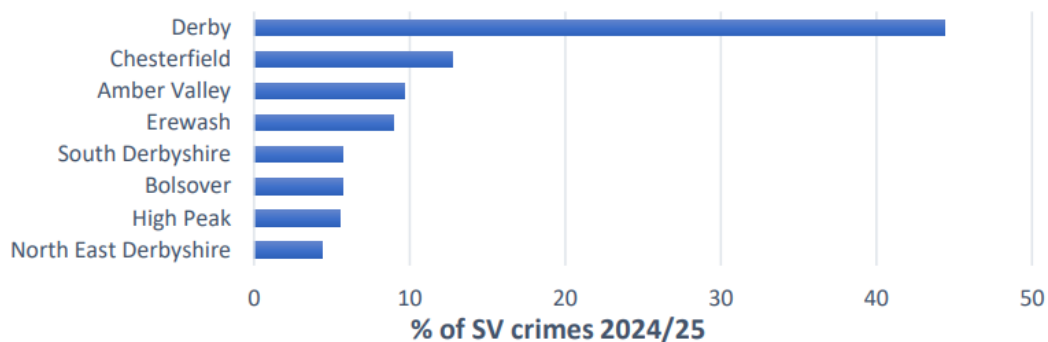
The number of male victims (906) of serious violence during 2024/25 was roughly three times that of female victims (315), whilst the number of both male and female victims decreased during that period.



Where it is happening

Most serious violence occurred in Derby City, followed by Chesterfield (in and around the town centre and Staveley), Amber Valley (Ripley, Alfreton and Heanor) and Erewash (Ilkeston and Long Eaton).

Percentage of serious violence crimes by district during 2024/25



During 2024/25 offence numbers were at their lowest for each district for the last three financial years. With the exception of Chesterfield, where there was a slight increase of three occurrences when compared with 2022/23.

The overall percentage of serious violence, knife crime and lower-level violent crimes occurring at or nearby a school decreased year on year, over the last three years, although this did increase slightly in three specific districts – Bolsover, Amber Valley and High Peak, during the last year (2024/25).

The number of Night Time Economy crimes by district remained consistent, with a small reduction in Derby City during 2024/25.

For Night Time Economy crimes per 1000 population, Bolsover had the highest average rate over three years of 14.1, with an average of 1136 crimes per year.

Chesterfield Royal Hospital data for those attending the Accident and Emergency Department for assault shows that most assaults took place in open spaces i.e. public spaces and parks, or in streets.

Emerging issues

Fascination with committing an Extreme Violence or Mass Casualty Attack (FCEVMCA)

Terrorism is the use or threat of serious violence to people or damage to property, for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.

The Prevent programme stops people from being drawn into terrorism or supporting it. It identifies people who may be vulnerable to being influenced by extremist ideas and safeguards them with early support before harm happens.

Fascination with committing an Extreme Violence or Mass Casualty Attack (FCEVMCA) is an emerging issue within the Prevent programme. Unlike other terrorism concerns such as Extreme Islamist Terrorism or Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism, FCEVMCA terrorists do not necessarily subscribe to an ideological motivation. Instead, FCEVMCA individuals may have an unhealthy interest in committing extreme or mass violence, which makes them an issue for Prevent. This could include those interested in school massacres or violence targeted at other settings or people.

Previous individuals in this cohort have shown interest in historic terror attacks from across the world, even if the ideology appears to be mixed or confused. They may exhibit a deep knowledge of historic terror attacks gained through research and may express support or glorification of those actions being carried out. They may express a desire to carry out their own attacks, emulating the actions of other terrorists.

Data shows an increase in serious violence in Derby and Derbyshire since March 2025

To inform this strategy, a range of data has been used. The most recent Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) provides a comprehensive analysis of multiple data sources from a range of partners, enabling a detailed picture of serious violence across Derby and Derbyshire to be built

over time. Further detail on the findings from the latest SNA for 2024/25 is provided later in this document, within the *Local Picture* section. The SNA showed an overall decrease in serious violence for the period April 2024 - March 2025, when compared to the previous SNA, which covered the period April 2023 - March 2024.

More recent data covering March to December 2025, which has been used to assess our performance against the Key Performance Indicators for serious violence (see the section below on *Our Performance and Monitoring*), indicates an increase in serious violence across Derby and Derbyshire during this period.

This data shows that there was an overall increase of 382 serious violence incidents from calendar year 2024 to calendar year 2025 (note that for knife crime specifically, there was a slight decrease). There was a sharp rise from February 2025 (158 incidents) to March 2025 (212 incidents). Numbers continued to grow more gradually, peaking in July 2025 at 292 incidents. After July, incidents declined and then fluctuated between 236 and 256 per month through to December 2025.

The number of serious violence incidents per month between January 2024 and March 2025

2024	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total = 2397	172	179	195	222	236	218	182	192	201	235	190	175
2025	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total = 2779	173	158	212	224	240	247	292	247	236	251	256	243

There are some specific reasons for the increase.

- Robbery of business premises rose to 235 in total during 2025, from 43 in 2024. The recording of robbery changed in March 2025. The Home Office has issued guidance stating that any increases seen since that time are likely due to recording of the crime, rather than an increase in incidents. Where violence or threats are used during or immediately after a theft, the offence is now recorded as a robbery, so it can be expected that the rise reflects improved compliance and consistency in crime recording.
- In 2025 possession of weapons offences were at their highest in recent years. In 2023 possession of weapons offences were +6%, in 2024 they were -7% and in 2025 they were +12%. This increase during 2025 is likely due to increased Police patrols and Stop and Search activity in line with focused Police Operations. This results in more weapons being taken off the streets, but results in an increase in this crime type.

It should be noted that calendar year 2024 saw the lowest rates for serious violence in Derby and Derbyshire for the last three years at -10% (the SNA shows a decrease of 14% as that straddles two calendar years). In 2023 the rate was +6% and in 2025 it was +12%.

In addition, except for June 2025, when there were four homicides in one month, and the highest monthly total since pre-2022, homicide rates have remained largely consistent across the last four calendar years of 2022-2025. Violence with injury has decreased year on year.

Although the overall trend is downwards, there has been an uptick in recent months, which will continue to be monitored throughout the life of the strategy. This will enable the partnership to respond accordingly through the action plan to ensure that delivery of interventions to prevent and reduce serious violence remains timely and relevant.

Performance Indicators for 2026/27

From April 2026, the Home Office requires local partnerships to report on a new set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). These new KPIs will be adopted by the Derby and Derbyshire Serious Violence Board. The Safer Derbyshire Research and Information (SDRI) Team will provide quarterly reports on these KPIs to the Board.

The new KPIs are;

- NHS data on Hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object (for all ages, and especially under 25yrs)
- Knife and sharp object enabled serious violence recorded by police for all ages, based on police recorded crime data
- Homicides recorded by the police but especially among victims aged under 25yrs and in a non-domestic setting

Strategic Objectives and Priorities

The strategic objectives for 2026-2028 are to;

- Reduce young peoples' involvement in serious violence
- Tackle knife crime
- Disrupt repeat offending and re-offending
- Reduce violence linked to the night time economy
- Address alcohol and drug use as drivers of serious violence
- Address inequalities resulting from serious violence
- Improve data collection, collation and analysis to help us understand the drivers and risk factors for serious violence in our area.

The strategic objectives reflect national requirements under the Serious Violence Duty, local evidence from the 2024/25 Strategic Needs Assessment, emerging trends identified in 2025, and learning from interventions delivered across Derby and Derbyshire since 2024.

Strategic objectives	Actions/How it will be achieved
Reduce young peoples' involvement in serious violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand early identification through schools, youth justice and community settings, using risk indicators such as exclusions, repeat missing episodes, ACEs and youth-on-youth harm. • Strengthen diversion and early intervention programmes delivered by partners, including youth outreach, mentoring, and targeted work in hotspot areas. • Increase collaboration with schools to reduce persistent absence and exclusions, which the SNA identifies as key risk factors. • Support parents and families through existing evidence-based programmes that build resilience and positive relationships. • Continue building partnerships with community and voluntary organisations already working with high-risk young people.
Tackle knife crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain hotspot policing activity, which contributed to previous reductions in knife-enabled harm. • Promote education and awareness programmes that address myths, consequences and peer influences linked to knife carrying. • Continue knife amnesty operations and partnership operations in town centres and high-risk locations. • Broaden hospital-based interventions—using A&E data and under-25 injury admissions as triggers for early support. • Use the Knife Crime Dashboard & new KPIs to target resources more precisely.
Disrupt repeat offending and reoffending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use integrated multi-agency problem-solving for individuals repeatedly involved in violence (victims and suspects), acknowledging the 10% overlap identified in the SNA. • Expand and raise the awareness of the existing support for those leaving custody, including housing, employment, mental health and substance use services. • Continued delivery of Integrated Offender Management and High-Risk Offender Accommodation. • Strengthen information sharing between Probation, Police and Youth Justice to identify escalation early. • Continue targeted operations against high-harm offenders and county lines exploitation.
Reduce violence linked to the nighttime economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue joint police and local authority licensing activity, including management of high-risk venues identified through NTE data. • Deliver visible policing and partnership patrols between 6pm–6am on weekends, reflecting peak harm times identified in the SNA.

	<p>Work with businesses to reduce alcohol-related harm and promote safer travel options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use A&E assault data to identify hotspots and target preventative activity.
Address alcohol and drug use as drivers of serious violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of the pathways into treatment for those presenting with substance-related harm. • Review the use of community-based outreach in hotspot areas where illicit markets and substance use contribute to violence. • Maintain close alignment with Public Health’s wider substance use strategy and DASP. • Support Clear Hold Build pilots across the County.
Address inequalities resulting from serious violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target interventions in areas identified through the SNA as having higher deprivation levels—Derby City, Chesterfield, parts of Amber Valley and Erewash. • Deliver place-based interventions that build community cohesion, youth opportunities and safe spaces. • Ensure trauma-informed practice continues to be embedded across all partner organisations, particularly for high-risk groups. • Support a culturally competent approach to violence prevention to reduce barriers to services.
Improve data collection, collation and analysis to help us understand the drivers and risk factors for serious violence in our area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue quarterly KPI reporting through the Safer Derbyshire Research and Information (SDRI) Team. • Embed the three new national KPIs from April 2026: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hospital admissions for assaults with knives/sharp objects – Knife-enabled serious violence recorded by police – Non-domestic homicides (with a focus on under-25s) • Improve cross-system data sharing, including live-time Police, Health and Local Authority intelligence. • Use data to refine hotspot mapping, improve early identification, and strengthen predictive analysis of emerging risk factors.

Glossary

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Potentially traumatic events occurring before the age of 18, including abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction. ACEs are associated with poorer long-term health, wellbeing and increased vulnerability to involvement in violence.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Behaviour that causes harassment, alarm or distress to individuals or the wider community. This can include vandalism, intimidation, nuisance behaviour, and public disorder.

Bystander / Active Bystander

A *bystander* is someone who witnesses an event without being directly involved. An *active bystander* is someone who takes safe, appropriate action to prevent harm or challenge inappropriate behaviour.

Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

A local statutory partnership responsible for coordinating activity to reduce crime, disorder, and reoffending in a specific area.

County Lines

A form of organised criminal activity where illegal drugs are transported from one location to another, often using vulnerable children or adults who are coerced or exploited to carry out activity on behalf of gangs.

Domestic Abuse

Any incident or pattern of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between intimate partners or family members.

Exploitation (Criminal / Sexual)

Situations in which an individual is manipulated, coerced, or forced into criminal or sexual activity for the benefit of others. Often involves grooming, threats, violence or debt bondage.

Homicide

The unlawful killing of another person, including murder and manslaughter.

Hotspot Policing

Targeted police presence in locations where crime is statistically more likely to occur, to deter offending and increase safety.

Knife-Enabled Serious Violence

Serious violence offences where a knife or sharp object is used, threatened or present.

Multi-Agency Working

A collaborative approach where organisations share information, expertise and resources to address complex issues such as serious violence.

Night-Time Economy (NTE)

Economic and social activity taking place in the evening or late night, typically involving licensed premises, entertainment venues, public transport, and public spaces. It is a common setting for alcohol-related harm and violence.

Offending

The act of committing a criminal offence. In the context of this strategy, *offending* includes a wide range of violent and non-violent crimes, including weapon possession, violence with injury, robbery, and other behaviours that contribute to serious violence.

Reoffending

When an individual commits further crimes after a previous offence or conviction. Reducing reoffending is a key priority because evidence shows a relatively small group of repeat offenders are responsible for a disproportionate level of harm. Reoffending often relates to unmet needs such as trauma, substance misuse, instability, and lack of positive support.

Public Health Approach

An evidence-based, whole-system method that seeks to prevent harm by addressing the underlying social, economic, and environmental factors that increase the risk of violence. It focuses on early intervention, strengthening protective factors, and long-term population-level change.

Serious Violence Duty (SVD)

A legal requirement introduced through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 requiring specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA)

A multi-agency analysis of data and evidence to understand the local patterns, drivers, and risk factors associated with serious violence.

Specified Authorities

Organisations named in legislation as having a responsibility under the Serious Violence Duty, including police, local authorities, health bodies, fire and rescue services, youth justice services, and probation.

Trauma-Informed Practice

An approach recognising the widespread impacts of trauma and prioritising emotional, psychological and physical safety. It aims to avoid re-traumatisation and support recovery through trust, empowerment and choice.

Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

A multi-agency team focused on tackling the root causes of serious violence through prevention, early intervention and partnership working.

Violence with Injury (VWI)

Recorded crimes where physical injury has been inflicted on a victim, including Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) and Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH).

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

A broad term covering crimes primarily experienced by women and girls, including domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, harassment and harmful practices.

Appendix 1 – Definition – Trauma-informed approach

‘Trauma shapes lives in ways that are profound and far-reaching, reshaping the lives of individuals, families, and communities. For decades, research has illuminated the lasting effects of trauma. These experiences shape how people engage with the world, how they relate to others, and their overall mental and physical health.’ (Trauma Informed Derbyshire 2025).

Trauma-informed practice is an approach that recognises the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery. It emphasises physical, psychological, and emotional safety for everyone and aims to empower individuals by rebuilding a sense of control and autonomy.

Trauma-informed practice refers to ways of working that:

- Recognise the prevalence and impact of trauma on individuals, families, and communities.
- Understand the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved in the system.
- Integrate knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices.
- Actively avoid re-traumatisation by creating safe environments and interactions.

The understanding of trauma informed practice/approaches is increasing, and practice is being utilised across Derbyshire. It has seen a significant uptake recently based on the work completed by Derbyshire County Council’s Public Health Team, under the title of ‘Trauma Informed Derbyshire’. It informs intervention commissioning and delivery of work streams to reduce and prevent serious violence.

By recognising the influence trauma can have on behaviour, services can better understand the pathways into violence and design interventions that reduce escalation. Several of the current funded interventions and work streams aimed at reducing and preventing serious violence are focused on building healthy relationships and positive connections, which help to counterbalance the negative impacts of trauma.

By identifying signs of trauma early and providing support and stabilisation, services tackle the root causes of violence before they escalate. Trauma informed approaches, therefore, strengthen preventative work by addressing underlying factors long before they reach crisis levels.

A trauma informed approach helps communities and systems move from reacting to violence, to preventing it, by understanding and addressing the trauma that fuels it.

Appendix 2 – Public Health Approach

Public Health approaches work on the basis that prevention is better than cure (Christmas and Srivastava, 2019). Success relies on close partnership working through the 5Cs:



- Collaborating: Recognising that no single organisation can resolve serious violence, partners work together with shared priorities.
- Co-producing: Communities help shape the understanding and response, strengthening legitimacy, trust, and local capacity.
- Co-operating: Partners share data and intelligence to build a robust, cross-system evidence base and maintain a clear risk profile.
- Creating a counter-narrative: Positive alternatives to criminality are promoted by supporting aspirations, role models, and community assets.
- Community consensus: A place-based approach that empowers local people and draws on the knowledge of organisations already working within communities.

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