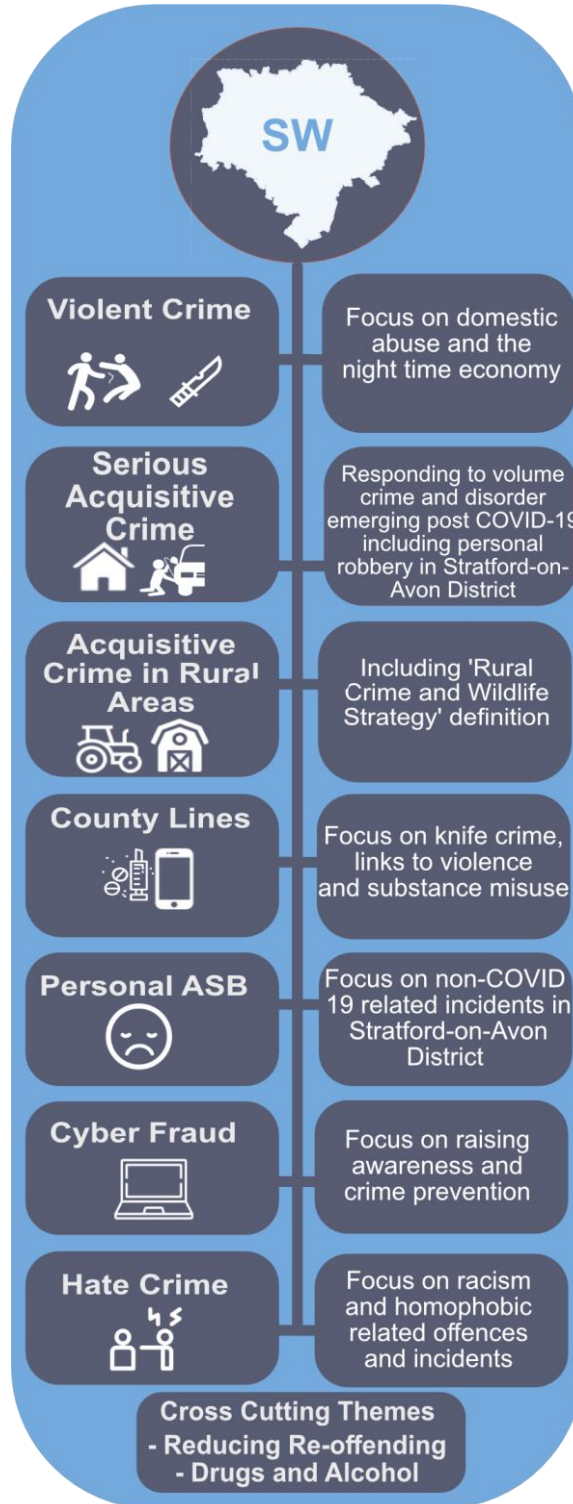




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Confirmed Priorities for 2021/22

The below priorities were agreed at the South Warwickshire CSP Board on 26th February 2021:





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Data Table for Crime and Disorder

The below table shows crime and disorder data for 1st April 2022 – 31st December 2022 in comparison to the previous year and to three year averages, using a colour coded RAGⁱ status:

Indicator	April to December 2022	Performance vs same period 21/22	Performance vs Cumulative 3 Year Monthly Averages
<i>Violence with injury</i>	1,455	8.5%	13.1%
<i>Violence with injury - domestic abuse flag</i>	482	18.1%	2.8%
<i>Violence with injury - domestic abuse flag - as a % of total violence with injury</i>	33%	2.7%	-3.3%
<i>Violence without injury</i>	3,402	-5.6%	15.4%
<i>Violence without injury - domestic abuse flag</i>	1,270	-5.9%	5.2%
<i>Violence without injury - domestic abuse flag - as a % of total violence without</i>	37%	-0.1%	-3.6%
<i>Rape</i>	162	-1.2%	13.3%
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	352	23.1%	26.2%
<i>Section 18 Wounding</i>	70	-11.4%	-6.7%
<i>Section 20 Wounding</i>	49	-5.8%	-21.0%
<i>Knife Related Violence</i>	75	21.0%	33.9%
MARAC - Number of cases discussed	264	29%	N/A
<i>Number of repeat cases</i>	80	8%	N/A
<i>% of mental health involved</i>	98%	2%	N/A
<i>% of alcohol involved</i>	85%	31%	N/A
<i>% of drugs involved</i>	77%	37%	N/A
<i>Possession of Article with Blade or Point</i>	73	-2.7%	28.1%
<i>Possession of Other Weapons</i>	67	9.8%	N/A
Serious Acquisitive Crime Total	1,966	26.0%	-27.4%
<i>Residential burglary</i>	584	12.7%	-33.4%
<i>Theft from vehicle</i>	1,008	39.8%	12.1%
<i>Theft of vehicle</i>	284	26.8%	19.3%
<i>Personal Robbery</i>	90	3.4%	-9.1%
<i>Rural Crime Offences-according to the Rural Crime and Wildlife Strategy*</i>	228	-30.5%	-44.0%
<i>Acquisitive Crime in a Rural Area**</i>	1,956	-2.2%	N/A
<i>Hate Offences and Non Crimed Investigations</i>	398	2.8%	45.3%
<i>Cyber Fraud Offences***</i>	84	75.0%	N/A
<i>Violence with and without injury - Alcohol Related Flag</i>	352	-7.6%	-20.9%
<i>Violence with and without injury - Drugs Related Flag</i>	23	76.9%	-37.8%
<i>Possession of Controlled Drugs (Cannabis)</i>	114	-14.3%	-30.5%
<i>Possession of Controlled Drugs (Excluding Cannabis)</i>	47	-31.9%	-65.2%
<i>Other Drug Offences (including 'Trafficking of Controlled Drugs')</i>	116	0.0%	N/A
Total Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	2,983	-21.0%	-36.1%
<i>Personal</i>	517	-22.6%	-23.5%
<i>Nuisance</i>	2,225	-17.7%	-34.5%
<i>Environmental</i>	241	-40.3%	-59.5%
Related COVID-19 Incidents	0	-100.0%	-100.0%
Deliberate Small Fire Incidents (DSFs)	66	371.4%	65.0%
<i>Domestic Abuse Offences and Non Crimed Investigations</i>	3,414	-4.2%	2.9%
<i>CSE Offences and Non Crimed Investigations</i>	76	484.6%	85.4%
<i>Abuse of Children Through Sexual Exploitation</i>	4	100.0%	N/A
<i>Modern Slavery</i>	3	-86.4%	-89.7%
Total Recorded Crime	13,597	6.7%	4.1%

Produced by Sarah Parker, Business Intelligence Analyst (Community Safety), 13/02/23, WCC



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Notes to the Data Table:

Three Year average - Based on 3 years by previous month. VAP related knife crime offences, Possession of Article with Blade or Point, Possession of Other Weapons, Abuse of Children Through Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery, Possession of Controlled Drugs (Cannabis), Possession of Controlled Drugs (Excluding Cannabis), Other Drug Offences and Rural Crime Offences are based on 2 years only.

¹ *Red for increases of 5% and over; amber for increases or decreases of less than 5%; green for decreases of 5% and over.*

** This is based on themes specific to the rural crime strategy (e.g. acquisitive crime on farms, equine, livestock offences, etc). This is a new measure for 2019.*

*** Acquisitive crime in a rural area is based on the 2011 Census utilising the Output Area (OA) rural classification*

**** 'Cyber Fraud - Theft' offences only incorporate offences with a cyber flag relating to 'Theft,' Theft other' and 'blackmail' offences. Data has only been captured from April 2020 and is therefore only comparable from April to December 2020 and 2021.*

Sources: *STORM Incident System, Warwickshire Police; Business Objects Crime Information System, Warwickshire Police; MARAC Performance Data, Refuge; Deliberate Small Fires, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue; KSI data, Road Safety Team WCC; Rural Crime Officer, Warwickshire Police*

Crime and Disorder Risk Overview

Analysis of crime trends over the last 18 months and as part of the MoRiLE¹ risk assessment process has shown the following crime areas to be of specific note to South Warwickshire CSP. The analysis within this section is based on crimes reported to Warwickshire Police and other partnership agencies between 1st April 2022-31st December 2022 (see sources and notes to the data at the end of this report), to identify emerging areas of note.

- 1) **Rape offences in Warwick District and other sexual offences in Stratford-on-Avon District** are of specific note this year due to high proportional increases compared to the previous year, and also higher volumes than the three-year average. These crime areas were also scored as 'high risk' to the victim and organisation in the 2022 CSP MoRiLE scoring sessions. Further analysis relating to rape and other sexual offences is at the end of this report with recommendations relating to whether to adopt these crime areas as a CSP priority for the remainder of the Strategic Assessment period.
- 2) **Violence with injury** has seen high volume increases compared to last year and the three-year average. Analysis suggests that the reasons for this increase differs between districts:
 - **Violence in Stratford-on-Avon District** - The higher volumes of offences in Stratford-on-Avon District this year are largely due to **domestic related violence with injury** offences. This appears to be a return to the higher volumes seen prior to the pandemic, with volumes of reports last year being at unusually low levels. The increased volumes during 2022 may signify

¹ *Management of Risk in Law Enforcement, Warwickshire CSP Process 2022.*

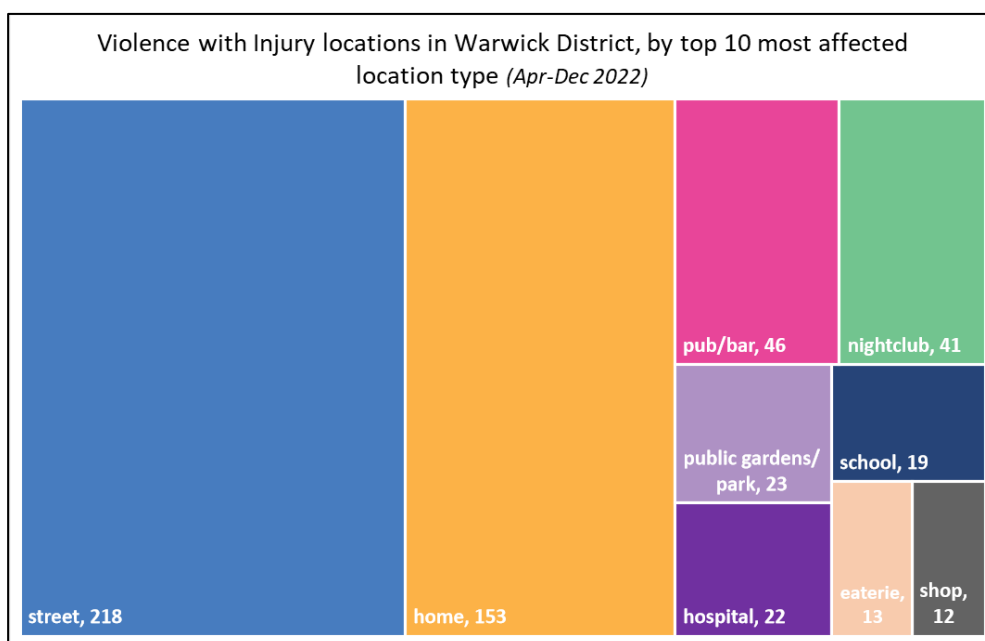


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an increase in confidence of victims to report offences. Indeed, reports to Refuge reflect this, with a 21% increase in referrals in the district compared to the previous 12-month period. A strategic analytical report was produced for Stratford-on-Avon District at the end of 2021 to help to tackle this theme. *Domestic abuse (and domestic violence) is MoRiLE scored as 'high risk' to the CSP.*

- **Violence in Warwick District** - The increase in **violence with injury offences in Warwick District** appears to suggest an emerging trend for more **serious violence** in the district, with higher volumes of knife related violence and possession of related items, compared to the three-year average. Hospital admissions data also suggests that assaults requiring hospital treatment are highest in Warwick District² with victims tending to be aged between 10 and 39 years old.
 - **Non-domestic violence with injury** is most likely to occur in the street, as well as in the home, and in drinking establishments in the district. The chart below shows the most common location types for offences in Warwick District during the last 9 months:



Source: Business Objects Crime Information System, Warwickshire Police

- Repeat locations with more than 10 offences include Smack Nightclub, St. Michael's Hospital, Tavistock Street and Neon Nightclub.
- **Knife related violence with injury** offences in Warwick District have occurred in higher volumes in the main Leamington Spa town centre wards, mainly in the street or other public place locations, including three schools in the district.
- Analysis of partnership data suggests that suspects are more likely to be those over 18 years old. Young people's involvement in this type of behaviour does not appear

² However, this is heavily caveated and based on coding which can differ widely between each area. Source: 'All A&E attendances coded as "assault" (Patient Group Description) July 2021 - June 2022', WCC Business Intelligence Public Health Analyst, Oct 22.



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to be of specific concern, with schools data showing that incidents involving possession of a weapon occurring in schools in the South Warwickshire districts is lower than the volumes seen in other areas of the county. In addition, the number of young people in the YJS (Youth Justice Service) cohort for Warwick District who have committed an offence involving a weapon this year has halved compared to the previous year. Victims and suspects are most likely to be males, aged under 40 years old.

Serious violence is MoRiLE scored as 'high risk' to the CSP. It is therefore suggested that targeting of this CSP priority continues.

3) Personal Robbery in Warwick District has emerged as a possible area of concern for the CSP in relation to Warwick District, based on the 'medium risk' to the victim and organisation and the increasing volumes of offences year on year.

- Offences were most likely to occur in a public place (i.e. in the street or in a green space area) and in the summer months (April to August). The most affected wards were Clarendon Ward in Leamington Spa (around the town centre) and Warwick Saltisford Ward.
- Suspects and victims were mainly males, with the most prominent age group being 12 to 30 year old suspects, targeting victims of the same age. In a third of offences, the suspects were in a group and were not known to the victim. These groups of unknown suspects were most likely to be involved in offences in Leamington Spa town centre wards and Warwick Saltisford Ward.
- Offences involved verbal threats to the victim, often mentioning or showing the victim a knife. Items most likely to be stolen were small portable items (e.g. airpods, phone, money), electric scooters and bikes. Delivery drivers have also been targeted where they have left their vehicles unattended and insecure, and the vehicle then stolen. Some offences involved injury to the victim.
- Over a third involved a knife (22 offences) and the majority of these occurred in the street.
- It is therefore suggested that the South Warwickshire CSP consider focusing on 'Personal Robbery in Warwick District' as part of the existing Serious Acquisitive Crime priority.
- *Personal Robbery is MoRiLE scored as 'moderate risk' to Warwick District.*

4) Residential burglary offence volumes continue to increase since the very low levels recorded after the pandemic started. Although the volumes have not yet reached the levels seen prior to the pandemic, it is evident that this is an emerging area of concern for the CSP, specifically in Stratford-on-Avon District. Indeed, prior to the pandemic it was noted that volumes were reducing as offenders were stealing higher value items (such as vehicles) and did not need to commit as many offences to reap the same rewards.

- Hotspots this year are the main residential areas of Stratford (with higher volumes in Welcombe, Bishopton, Avenue and Clopton Wards), Studley and Tanworth in Arden.
- Nearly a third of offences involved a vehicle being stolen suggesting a specific area of concern.



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- Analysis does not suggest that offences are likely to involve violence.
- It is therefore suggested that the South Warwickshire CSP consider focusing on Residential Burglary in Stratford-on-Avon District as part of the existing SAC priority.
- *Residential burglary is MoRiLE scored as 'moderate risk' to the CSP due to the risk specifically to the victim of this offence.*

5) **Vehicle crime incorporating thefts from and of vehicles** in South Warwickshire are now occurring in much higher volumes than last year and prior to the pandemic. Vehicle crime is part of the existing SAC CSP priority and the higher volumes during the last 12 months is a countywide trend. However, it is *MoRiLE scored as 'low risk' for the CSP, due to the low risk to the victim and the organisation*. It is recommended that the CSP take this into consideration when deciding how to prioritise resources over the remainder of the strategic assessment period.

- **Thefts from vehicles** were slightly more likely to occur in a public place, with hotspots around the main town centres and residential areas of Stratford and Leamington Spa town centre, as well as the M40 Warwick motorway services, Siskin Parkway and Kenilworth. Hatton Country World was also of note for a multiple offences between April and December 2022.
- **Thefts of vehicles** were more likely to occur at a home address. Similarly to thefts from vehicle offences, hotspots were also around the main town centre and residential areas of Stratford and Leamington Spa town centre, as well as Henley in Arden. Repeat locations were not of note. Where known, the most targeted vehicle makes in South Warwickshire are Fords Range Rovers, BMWs and Land Rovers. Vans and motorbikes are specific types of vehicles stolen in high volumes in the area³. Access to vehicles has been noted as via keyless entry in just over a quarter of offences during the nine-month period⁴.

6) **Hate crime** has been occurring in high volumes across the county over the last 18 months, with volumes much higher than the three-year average in South Warwickshire. However, it is evident that this is a crime area where increased volumes are likely to be a direct result of raised awareness through media campaigns, as well as key national events. Hate crime is already a priority for the CSP and as such, no new recommendation is made here. *Hate crime is MoRiLE scored as 'Standard Risk' to the CSP.*

7) **Exploitation in Warwick District** is a possible emerging risk area to the South Warwickshire CSP due to volumes of CSE related offences in Warwick District remaining the same as the previous year in contrast to reductions at county level. This has led to an increased MoRiLE risk score in the district compared to elsewhere in the county. This crime area is scored as 'high risk' to the victim and organisation in the 2022 CSP MoRiLE scoring sessions. Further analysis relating to exploitation in Warwick District is at the end of this report with a recommendation relating to whether to adopt this crime area as a CSP priority for the remainder of the Strategic Assessment period.

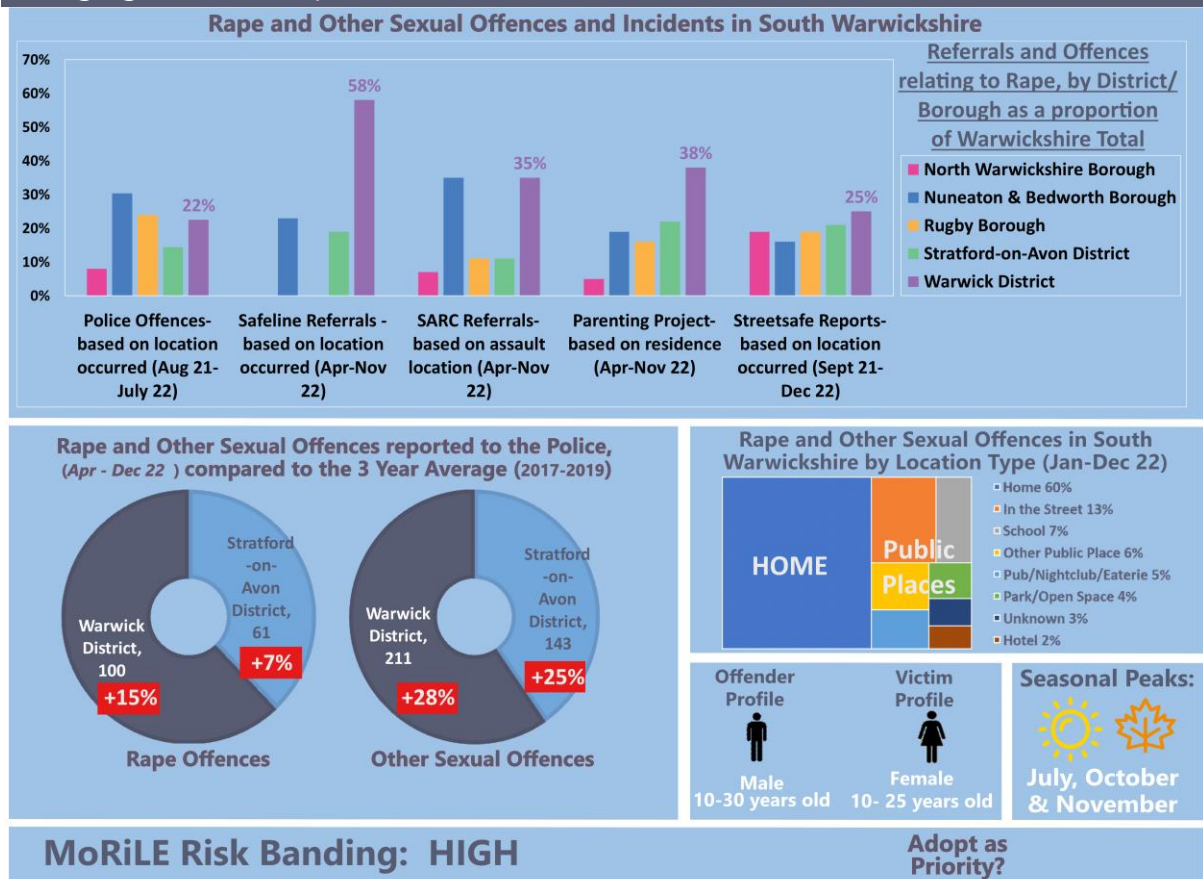
³ Based on manual searching of the MO for vehicle type.

⁴ Based on manual searching of the MO for 'keyless' and 'without keys'.



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Emerging Theme – Rape and Sexual Offences in South Warwickshire



Infographic Sources: Warwickshire Police, Reported Rape Offences April 20-July 22; Safeline Referrals relating to Rape, Apr 22-Nov 22; SARC, Apr 22-Nov 22; Parenting Project families assessed where sexual assault and abuse is an identified theme, Apr 22-Nov 22; Streetsafe Reports relating to feelings of safety, Sept 21-Dec 22; Refuge Referrals April 2020-Dec 2022.

What – MoRiLE Scoring at district level has identified ‘Rape and sexual offences’ as an area of specific concern to the South Warwickshire CSP. This theme is scored as ‘high risk’ due to the severe risk to the victim and moderate to high risk to the organisation⁵. Volumes of reported rape offences in Warwick District and other sexual offences in Stratford-on-Avon District have seen greater increases than those at county level for the last 12 months. Volumes of both offence types are higher than the three-year averages recorded prior to the pandemic and it is well known that this type of offence is widely unreported. Since September 2021, responses to the **Streetsafe tool** in Warwickshire show the highest proportion of responses to be from residents of South Warwickshire, although this may be reflective of the higher volumes of population here. These respondents highlighted that ‘feeling like you are being followed’ was the top response. Although this tool is specifically designed to identify locations where residents feel unsafe, it is also intended to be used to identify trends in violence against women and girls. Referrals to most support services for rape and sexual offences in the county show the highest volumes to be from residents in Warwick District. **Safeline** (a specialist sexual

⁵ Based on Warwickshire CSP MoRiLE Scoring, 29/9/22.



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violence and abuse charity) recorded the highest number of their referrals so far this year⁶ from residents residing in Warwick District, with nearly half of those referrals relating specifically to incidences of rape (24 referrals). The majority of the other referrals in this district related to sexual assaults. Data from the **Parenting Project** shows that the number of assessments/families⁷ dealt with by the project in Warwickshire in the last 12 months is highest in Warwick District, followed by Stratford-on-Avon District, where sexual abuse/assault is an identified theme (although in small volumes). Referrals to **SARC** (Sexual Assault Referral Centre) for sexual assaults between April and November 2022 were also highest from Warwick District (as well as from Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough).

Also of note is the identified trend of **drink-spiking** in the latter part of 2021. Nightclubs in Leamington Spa were the main hotspots in the county. This type of offence is likely to be a precursor for a sexual offence, continuing to highlight this district specifically as an area of concern for sexual offences.

Rape offences were much more likely to be **domestic abuse related** than sexual offences in South Warwickshire (41% of all rapes). **Knives** were noted in four offences over the 12 month period and almost all were rape offences in Warwick District, with two offences being domestic related. With these small volumes it is not possible to draw any inferences in relation to usage of knives in these types of offences.

Caveats to this trend:

- One discrepancy in the data is the low proportions of referrals to **RoSA** from South Warwickshire compared to the high proportions of referrals to **Safeline**. Consultation suggests that this is likely to be due, in part, to the landscape of services. RoSA operates from within Rugby Borough and historically referrals from the north of the county tended to be referred to RoSA, whereas referrals from South Warwickshire tended to be made to Safeline.
- Just over a quarter of the offences (29%) reported between April and December 2022 in South Warwickshire occurred prior to this time, with around 16% occurring longer than two years ago. This is a reduction compared to the previous 12-month period and suggests that residents are now reporting offences soon after they occur, which may indicate an increased confidence and willingness to report offences. This is likely to have contributed to the raised volumes of offences this year and is a positive trend.

Where – 70% of rapes and 56% of other sexual offences that were committed in South Warwickshire in the last 12 months occurred in the **home**. Although these proportions differed slightly between the districts, the overall trend shows that rape and other sexual offences were most likely to occur in the home. The exception to this is other sexual offences in Warwick District, where almost equal amounts occurred in the home and in a **public place**⁸. Of note here are other sexual offences occurring in the street (39 offences) and in schools (18 offences) in this district⁹. Schools were also locations of note in Stratford-on-Avon District.

⁶ April-December 2022

⁷ Term used in the data, Parenting Project

⁸ Any location that isn't a home address, including eating establishments, public houses, schools, hotels and in the street. Based on manual filtering of address.

⁹ During 2022.



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Analysis indicates that **Leamington Spa** is the main area for rape and sexual offences to occur in South Warwickshire, with highest volumes in **Leamington Clarendon Ward**. It is evident that offences are more likely to occur in a **public place** (including public houses, nightclubs, in the street and in green spaces specifically) in wards covering a town centre area in both districts. This suggests a link to the night-time economy in these areas.

When – Offences and reports to support services peaked in **July, August, October** and **November** over the last 12-month period. Responses from the **Streetsafe** data suggest **evenings** to be a specific period of the day when residents feel unsafe in the districts.

Who – Although only limited information is available, **victims** of reported rape and other sexual offences in South Warwickshire were most likely to be **female**, aged between 10 and 25 years old. This is consistent with victims reporting to most support services. Referrals to **Refuge** in South Warwickshire suggests that **older victims** are likely to report domestic related sexual violence. However, volumes of reports of sexual violence from these older age groups (55 years and over) remain very low and research¹⁰ suggests that this is a national trend, due to many factors including societal influences, dependency on their perpetrator and fear of disclosure.

Analysis suggests that **male victims** in South Warwickshire were more likely to report offences to the police than other support services, with many victims being in the 10-20 years old age group. Ethnicity of victims was predominately described as **'white'**.

Suspects of rape and sexual offences and incidents were predominately **males** aged 10 to 30 years old. A high proportion of offences had a linked suspect suggesting that the victim and offender were **known to each other**. This is also supported by a recent investigation into increased volumes of rape offences in Warwick District during Q2 2022/23 which highlighted that *"the vast majority of these offences (91%) were incidents involving persons known to the victim and in a current or former relationship"*¹¹. Indeed, 41% of rape offences in South Warwickshire were domestic abuse related. However, information relating to the relationship between offender and victim in reported rape and sexual offences over a longer time period has not been made available to the analyst and as such it is not possible to identify any emerging issues relating to possible 'stranger' incidents. Of note is that reports to Safeline between April and November 2022 highlight 9 incidents where the victim did not know the offender, and all but one of the incidents occurred in Leamington Spa. This may represent a worrying trend and highlights the need to understand this issue further.

Why – The increased reports and referrals to support agencies predominately in South Warwickshire suggests that one of the main reasons for higher volumes of offences is an **increased confidence to report offences** here. Indeed, the increased proportion of offences being reported soon after they occur is also an indication of this. In addition, in early 2021, the tragic murder of Sarah Everard led to **significant public concern** and interest in this issue, which in turn led to targeted campaigns and

¹⁰ 'The Chilling Silence' highlights the reasons why older women are more likely to find it difficult to report rape and sexual offences, January 2020, <https://www.sarsas.org.uk/projects/the-chilling-silence-older-women-and-sexual-violence/>

¹¹ Source: Agenda item 2 at VAWG Q3 Meeting, February 2022 – 'Rape Offences in Warwick District Q2' produced by DI Simpkins, Warwickshire Police.



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awareness raising which again is likely to have led to increased reports and victims seeking support. The high proportion of offences being reported as occurring in the home also suggests that residents are more willing to report these previously 'hidden' incidents. This points to a positive trend in South Warwickshire. However, the lack of reports from older residents in South Warwickshire may suggest many offences continue to be unreported.

There is a well-established **night-time economy** in Warwick District centred around Leamington Spa town centre. The demographic of those frequenting the town centre is consistent with the victim profile for rape and sexual offences, suggesting that many offences may be the end result of a night out. Indeed, the previous drink-spiking issue in the nightclubs supports this. Also, the student population of nearby **Warwick University** is likely to be a contributing factor to the increased volumes of offences reported in the district, with several known reports to the police and support services from students at this university during the last 12 months. The peaks in reports of rape and other sexual offences in October and November may coincide with this **student** demographic, with students returning to university in late September.

One further factor possibly contributing to raised volumes of reported rape and sexual offences includes police recording practices. The investigation into increased volumes of rape offences in Warwick District during Q2 2022/23 concluded that *"a contributing factor to the uplift noted are issues with recording practices relating to Reported Incidents of Rape. Removing those incidents incorrectly recorded means Warwickshire Police supported 10 additional victims in this district in Q2 22 compared to Q2 21"*¹². This therefore suggests an additional possible reason for higher volumes of rape and sexual offences this year in South Warwickshire.

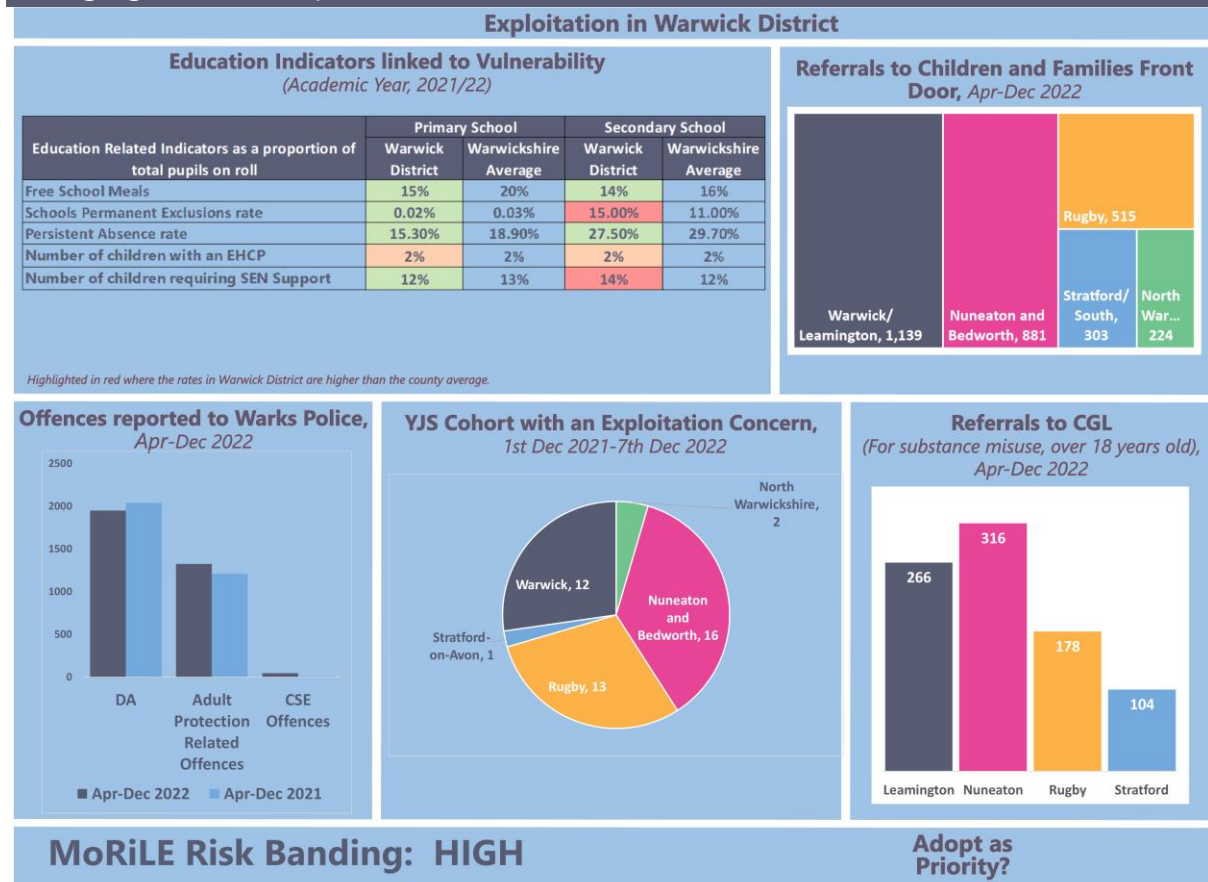
In summary, the overall trend suggests that the higher volumes may not necessarily be due to a negative trend and is likely to be due to a number of explainable factors specific to South Warwickshire. However, the lack of information relating to the victim and offender relationship in the incidents is a cause for concern as it may hide any possible emerging issue relating to 'stranger' related incidents or any possible emerging series. It is therefore recommended below that this further information is needed in order to make a full assessment of whether rape and other sexual offences should be adopted as a priority for the remainder of the strategic assessment period.

¹² Source: Agenda item 2 at VAWG Q3 Meeting, February 2022 – 'Rape Offences in Warwick District Q2' produced by DI Simpkins, Warwickshire Police.



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Emerging Theme – Exploitation in Warwick District



Sources: Warwickshire Police, Reported Offences Jan 23; Education Indicators, WCC, Jan 23; Children and Families Front Door, WCC, Jan 23; YJS, WCC, Jan 23; CGL, Jan 23; Refuge Referrals, Jan 23; Warwickshire Insights, Jan 23.

What – Exploitation is highlighted as a possible emerging area of concern to Warwick District in the MoRiLE risk scoring. This is due to volumes of CSE related offences in 2022 remaining the same as the previous year, in contrast to reductions at county level. This has led to an increased risk score in the district. The most recent trends show that between April and December 2022, volumes of reported **CSE offences** and non-crimed investigations in the district have increased significantly and are at much higher volumes than the three-year average. However, the volumes remain small and this is a countywide trend. Warwick District has the highest number of referrals to **Children and Families Front Door** (previously MASH) and this could be an indicator of increased awareness and identification which can be a positive trend. Indeed, proactive targeting of **County Lines** activity as part of the South Warwickshire CSP Strategic Assessment Priority in the district, is likely to identify vulnerable individuals which will then lead to increased referrals. Reported adult protection related offences have increased in the district compared to the previous year and this is also likely to be a result of increased identification of vulnerable adults.

In contrast, volumes of reported **modern slavery offences** in Warwick District have more than halved over the last 9 months compared to the previous year, although again the numbers are very small. **Domestic abuse** is another identified vulnerability indicator and volumes of offences in the district are



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level with the three-year average, and among the lowest rates for the county. Referrals to Refuge also show average volumes for the county. Offences relating to **drugs and alcohol** (including violence, trafficking and possession) remain at volumes below the three-year average for the district, but this is a countywide trend. Referrals to CGL¹³ continue to be among the highest volumes in the county in Warwick District, suggesting a willingness to seek treatment for these addictions. Alcohol and Heroin are the main substances for adults in Warwick District who are engaging with CGL.

Where and Where– Exploitation can occur anywhere and anytime, including **online**. With this type of behaviour being largely hidden and unreported, it is difficult to identify any trends in location or time.

Who – Analysis of indicators of exploitation relating to children and young people suggests that those who are **excluded from secondary schools**¹⁴ or **those requiring SEN support** are of specific note to Warwick District. The risk appears to increase between primary and secondary school, suggesting a need to support older children in the district as well as providing preventative support to those children in primary schools. **Mental health and family relationships** are also the most prevalent areas of concern for families engaging with the Parenting Project in the district, and mental health is also the main reason for homelessness in the district, as well as a history of domestic abuse.

Other indicators of exploitation amongst younger age groups include children and young people **going missing or at risk of trafficking**. Warwick District shows some of the highest levels with an increasing trend¹⁵, although volumes remain very low in the county. This continues to indicate unreported exploitation amongst young people, as victims of CSE experience a higher rate of missing episodes, spending time with exploiters instead of attending school or the family home. In addition, there were 12 young people within the Warwick District Youth Justice Service Cohort with exploitation concerns identified during 2022. This is the higher than the county average¹⁶.

Victims of offences with an adult protection flag were most likely to be females between the age of 20-30 years old. Suspects were most likely to be males aged between 40 and 50 years old, although this is based on very small volumes of offences and may not be an accurate representation of the true profile.

Why – It is evident that the COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated some aspects of vulnerability linked to **exploitation**, with residents now more reliant on technology and the online community, as well as the long-term effects of mental health, with some children still not returning to school. These factors all provide more opportunities for exploitation to occur, and in particular to remain unseen. In addition, the impending recession is likely to lead to increased unemployment and deprivation, making residents vulnerable to exploitation by offenders giving them money or a 'job'. A large proportion of this activity is hidden and therefore the true volumes are unknown. Other data suggests

¹³ *Change Grow Live, The Warwickshire commissioned substance misuse service.*

¹⁴ *Exclusions may lead to 'a lack of feeling of belonging' which could lead to a child being vulnerable to exploitation.*

¹⁵ *104 children and young people reported missing in Warwick District in quarter 3 22/23 compared to 58 in quarter 1 22/23, Children and Families (Mosaic), WCC, Jan 23. Less than 5 children/young people identified at risk of trafficking in Warwick District in any month during FY 22/23 so far, Children and Families (Mosaic), WCC, Jan 23.*

¹⁶ *The county average is 9, YJS, Jan 23.*



Analysis as part of the Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment Process,
2021-2025

February 2023

that loneliness in the district could be a risk area with higher rates of loneliness than the county and national rates¹⁷. This is likely to be another issue aggravated by the pandemic. However, analysis suggests that there is a good level of awareness and identification of exploitation in Warwick District, with increased reports to support services and the police possibly a result of proactive activity linked to the existing South Warwickshire CSP priority of 'County Lines'. Therefore, it is likely that increased volumes of reports and referrals linked to this type of behaviour is likely to continue in the district and can be an indicator of a positive trend linked to awareness and identification.

Other vulnerability indicators which may lead to exploitation include deprivation, young people claiming universal credit, children in care plans, suicides, income related issues, education attainment and free school meals. Analysis of data relating to these areas does not suggest that they are current risks for the district. Therefore, it is not recommended that the CSP adopt a new priority relating to exploitation but instead consider focusing support and prevention activity towards permanent exclusions, missing children, and mental health, under the current County Lines priority.

Strategic Recommendations for South Warwickshire CSP:

- South Warwickshire CSP to continue focusing the **SAC priority** on residential burglary, vehicle crime and personal robbery for the remainder of the Strategic Assessment period.
- South Warwickshire CSP to consider commissioning further research to identify the proportion of offences involving a 'stranger'. This may help to inform decisions around whether to adopt '**Rape and Other Sexual Offences**' as a priority for the remainder of the Strategic Assessment period.
- South Warwickshire CSP to continue providing prevention and support relating to **sexual offences**, specifically targeted towards young females frequenting Leamington town centre, with an additional focus on Warwick University students.
- South Warwickshire CSP to consider ways to encourage reporting of **sexual offences** from older residents, and consider providing specialist support.
- South Warwickshire CSP to consider focused support and prevention activity towards **permanent exclusions, missing children**, and those with **mental health issues**. It is suggested that this forms part of the action plan under the current **County Lines priority**.

¹⁷ Source: Sport England via Warwickshire Insights