

Equality Impact Assessment

Title	Reducing Reoffending Strategy – 2018-2021 (2019/20 Refresh)		
Release	TBC	Version No.	3
Revision History	V1 – June 2019 V2 – August 2019 V3 – August 2019		
Type of strategy, policy, project or service			
Existing	Annual Refresh of a three year strategy		
New or proposed			
Changing, update or revision			
Other			
Is this an internal or external Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	Internal assessment of a partnership strategy		
Officers involved in the screening	Andy Frost, Ian Grant, Kay Wilson White		

This report was created by	
Name	Andy Frost
Email address	Andy.Frost@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Directorate or Service	ACS
Version No	3

Aims

What are the aims of your strategy, policy, project or service?

Our vision, as set out in the Strategy, is:

‘To cut crime, reduce harm and protect victims by reducing re-offending through joint working and rehabilitation’.

The strategic principles set out in the Strategy are:

- Localised
- Integrated
- Targeted
- Holistic
- Restorative
- Evidence-based
- Preventative

The objectives set out in the Strategy are:

- Promote joint working and assess the effectiveness of services

- Develop the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) approach
- Reduce the number of prisoners being released with no suitable accommodation
- Monitor the supervision and rehabilitation of offenders

What is the background or context to the proposal?

Section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 places a statutory duty on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce reoffending by adult and young offenders.

CSPs bring together the police, local authorities, fire authorities, health services, probation services and youth offending services to tackle crime and community safety issues in their area.

This joint strategy is owned by the CSPs in the Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole areas and by the Dorset Criminal Justice Board, for whom reducing reoffending is a priority. The strategy runs from 2018 to 2021.

The Council is one of the statutory partners on the CSP and should adopt the Reducing Reoffending Strategy.

Intelligence and Communications

What data, information, evidence and research was used in this EqlA and how has it been used to inform the decision-making process?

Statistics, information and evidence has been gathered from a range of local and national studies and work (including the sources listed below).

By way of background, general findings relating to equality, crime and the criminal justice system taken from [Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System](#) (Ministry of Justice, 2016) reveal:

- That non-White ethnic groups appear to be over-represented at most stages throughout the criminal justice system (CJS), compared with the White ethnic group, though this is not universal and does not appear to increase as they progress through the CJS. Among non-White ethnic groups, Black and Mixed individuals were often the most over-represented.
- The Mixed ethnic group was the most likely to be a victim of personal crime (7.4%), and the Asian or Asian British ethnic group were the least likely (2.6%). Since 2008/09, the White ethnic group and the Asian or Asian British ethnic group experienced statistically significant falls in the likelihood of being a victim of personal crime, but the falls for other ethnic groups were not statistically significant.
- Prosecution rate relative to the population was highest for Black juveniles (12 juveniles per 1,000 people in the population), followed by Mixed (4 per 1,000), Chinese or Other (2 per 1,000) and White (2 per 1,000) and Asian (2 per 1,000).

In addition:

Between October 2015 and December 2015, 130,092 adults and young people were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court or were cautioned. Of these, 38,524 reoffended giving a reoffending rate of 29.6%. There were 147,518 proven reoffences; with an average of 3.83 offences per reoffender. 83% of the October 2015 to December 2015 cohort were male, and 17% were female. Females were less likely to reoffend, 23.4% of females committed a proven reoffence compared with 30.9% of males.

The vast majority of offenders in the October 2015 to December 2015 cohort were adults (93%, 120,687). However, juveniles were more likely to reoffend, 41.8% of offenders aged 10-17 reoffended compared with 28.7% of the adult cohort.

Ethnicity has been taken from the Police National Computer and does not correspond with self-reported ethnicity. Where ethnicity information was recorded, offenders classified as white comprised 83% of the October 2015 to December 2015 cohort, followed by those classified as Black and Asian at 10% and 6% respectively, and 1% for the Other ethnic group. Reoffending rates were highest for those classified as Black, followed by White (33.9% and 30.7% respectively).

(National Offender Management Service Annual Offender Equalities Report 2016/17, Ministry of Justice)

In terms of local offender data collected between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019 across Dorset County the majority of offenders

- were male (75%)
- did not define themselves as having a disability (88%)
- were white British (77%)
- were aged between 22 to 40 years old (47%)

Findings and information relating to specific groups are captured in the relevant sections below.

Sources:

ONS

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/publications>

Safe Lives

<http://www.safelives.org.uk/policy-evidence/about-domestic-abuse/who-are-victims-domestic-abuse>

The information, evidence and statistics demonstrate the positive impact work to reduce reoffending has on specific groups.

What data do you already have about your service users, or the people your proposal will have an impact on?

The statistics and information presented in this report have come, predominantly, from national research and studies. It has been used to help determine the local picture in Dorset.

What engagement or consultation has taken place as part of this EqlA?

The Reducing Reoffending Strategy has been written by a wide range of partners including Dorset Police, Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service, Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, local authorities and the National Probation Service. The Strategy includes a summary of the reasons for reoffending including poor accommodation and a lack of education, training and employment.

The refresh of the three year Strategy is being presented to the multi-agency pan-Dorset Community Safety & Criminal Justice Board at their next meeting for agreement.

This EqlA has been written by members of the Council's Community Safety Team.

Is further information needed to help inform this proposal?

No further specific information is needed. However, as part of the implementation of the Strategy partners will be asked to regularly assess the impact of work to reduce reoffending on specific groups.

How will the outcome of consultation be fed back to those who you consulted with?

Any comments and views received have been used to revise and shape the Strategy. The results of the EqlA have also be made available to all partners.

Assessment

Who does the service, strategy, policy, project or change impact?

If your strategy, policy, project or service contains options you may wish to consider providing an assessment for each option. Please cut and paste the template accordingly.

For each protected characteristic please choose from the following options:

Positive Impact

Negative Impact

Neutral Impact

Unclear

Please note in some cases more than one impact may apply – in this case please state all relevant options and explain in the 'Please provide details' box.

Age	Positive
What age bracket does this affect?	See below
Please provide details	<p>The Reducing Reoffending Strategy aims to cut crime, reduce harm and protect victims by reducing reoffending.</p> <p>Although anyone can be a victim of crime, some crimes affect certain groups more than others. For example, studies have shown that young women are more likely to have experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months than older women (ONS).</p> <p>Younger people are also more likely to be subject to interpersonal violence (Safe Lives) and 64% of high and medium risk victims of abuse have children, on average 2 each (Safe Lives).</p> <p>Younger adults (aged 16 to 34) tend to be more likely victims of robbery than older adults (35 and over).</p> <p>Adults aged 16 to 24 are more likely to be victims of violence than those in older age groups. Older people and the very young were less likely to be victims of violent crime (based on Crime Survey for England and Wales – CSEW- figures on ONS and The Home Office data hub).</p>
Disability	Positive
Does this affect a specific disability group?	See below for details.
Please provide details	<p>The Reducing Reoffending Strategy aims to cut crime, reduce harm and protect victims by reducing reoffending.</p> <p>Although anyone can be a victim of crime, some crimes affect certain groups more than others. For example, women who had a long-term illness or disability were more than twice as likely to have experienced some form of partner abuse (12.4%) in the last 12 months than women who did not (5.1%) (ONS).</p>

Gender Identity	Neutral
Please provide details	N/a
Pregnancy and maternity	Positive
Please provide details	Domestic abuse is one of the outcome measures in the Reducing Reoffending Strategy. Pregnancy can be a risk factor for domestic violence. 20% of women in Refuge services are pregnant or have recently given birth. It is estimated that four to nine in every 100 pregnant women are abused during their pregnancy or soon after the birth and there is a link between abuse during pregnancy and a woman's chance of being killed by her perpetrator (Refuge).
Race and Ethnicity	Positive
Please provide details	<p>The Reducing Reoffending Strategy aims to cut crime, reduce harm and protect victims by reducing reoffending.</p> <p>Although anyone can be a victim of crime, some groups are more affected than others. For example, an ONS study published in December 2013, indicated a higher percentage of adults who identified themselves as non-white were victims once or more of a Crime Survey England & Wales (CSEW) personal crime in 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13.</p>
Religion or belief	Neutral
Please provide details	N/a
Sexual orientation	Positive
Please provide details	<p>The Reducing Reoffending Strategy aims to cut crime, reduce harm and protect victims by reducing reoffending.</p> <p>Although anyone can be a victim of crime, some crimes affect certain groups more than others. For</p>

	<p>example, bisexual women were nearly twice as likely to have experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months than heterosexual women (10.9% compared with 6.0%) (ONS).</p>
Sex	Positive
Please provide details	<p>The Reducing Reoffending Strategy aims to cut crime, reduce harm and protect victims by reducing reoffending.</p> <p>Although anyone can be a victim of crime, some crimes affect certain groups more than others. For example, women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse: 95% of those going to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) or accessing an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (Idva) service were women (Safe Lives).</p> <p>The number of male victims of homicide has increased at a faster rate than females in recent years with male victims of homicide increasing by 33% in the year ending March 2015 (ONS). The homicide rate for males was more than twice that for females (ONS).</p> <p>The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated that 20% of women and 4% of men have experienced some type of sexual assault since the age of 16, equivalent to an estimated 3.4 million female victims and 631,000 male victims (ONS).</p> <p>Males tend to more likely be victims of robbery (ONS). Men are more likely to be victims of violent crime than women (Based on CSEW figures on ONS).</p> <p>Perpetrators of violent crime are most likely to be male (ONS).</p>
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral
Please provide details	N/a
Other Socially Excluded Groups For example:	Low income / economically disadvantaged, substance misuse, mental health

<p>Carers, rurally isolated, low income, economically disadvantaged, single parents, armed forces.</p>	
<p>Please provide details</p>	<p><u>Low income / economically disadvantaged</u></p> <p>Although anyone can be a victim of crime, some crimes affect certain groups more than others. For example, women living in households with an income of less than £10,000 were more than four times as likely (14.3%) to have experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months than women living in households with an income of £50,000 or more (3.3%).</p> <p>Adults who were unemployed are more likely to be victims of violent crime than those who were employed (ONS).</p> <p><u>Substance Misuse</u></p> <p>Victims of abuse have a higher rate of drug and/or alcohol misuse (whether it starts before or after the abuse): at least 20% of high-risk victims of abuse report using drugs and/or alcohol (Safe Lives).</p> <p><u>Mental Health</u></p> <p>40% of high-risk victims of abuse report mental health difficulties (Safe Lives)</p>

Action Plan			
What plans do you have in place, or are developing, that will mitigate the likely identified negative impacts?			
Objective/Outcome	Action to be taken	Lead Officer	Deadline

EqIA Signatories		
EqIA role	Name	Date
Lead Manager / Project Sponsor	Andy Frost	7 June 2019

		Revised 13 August 2019 Revised 16 August 2019
Directorate Chair on behalf of the Directorate Diversity Action Group	Sharon Kirkpatrick	16 August 2019