



Prevention Strategy

A Joint Strategy for Preventing Crime and Harm
in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

2025 - 2029

Office of the Police and Crime
Commissioner for Leicestershire

and

Leicestershire Police

Our aim is to prioritise prevention, embedding it as a core policing function, and working in partnership to address the underlying causes of anti-social behaviour (ASB), crime and vulnerability so that there is less crime, less harm and less demand and increased trust and confidence in policing.

Police and Crime Plan Missions - National and Local Policing Priorities

Our Approach

Use data and insights from a range of sources to ensure we understand the extent and nature of a problem and its causes.

Empower communities to play their role in prevention through providing resources and co-producing solutions.

Draw on existing research and evidence to design responses which are most likely to have an impact.

Identify and reduce inequalities through tailoring and/or targeting resource to groups and communities most affected.

Seek to collaborate with other organisations and sectors to build purposeful and capable partnerships.

Monitor and evaluate our work to support continuous improvement and to contribute to the national and internal evidence-base.

Prevention Activity

Primary Prevention

Preventing offending and harm in the first place through education, designing out crime and/or tackling the root causes.

Secondary Prevention

Preventing escalation of offending and harm through targeted crime prevention, diversion and earlier intervention.

Tertiary Prevention

Preventing or reducing reoccurring offending and harm through specialist strategies/interventions.

Problem-Solving

Applying problem-solving methodology in relation to people and/or places to identify the causes of a specific problem and apply evidence-based, sustainable responses.

Key Enablers

Leadership & Support

Partnership Working

Data, Evidence & Evaluation

Outcomes and Impact

- Increase in use of data and evidence.
- Improved quality in problem-solving activity
- Increase in community and partnership-led prevention.
- Reduction in known drivers/causes of crime and harm
- Increase in successful completions of interventions
- Reduction in repeat victims, offenders and locations
- Improved feelings of safety
- Increased victim satisfaction
- Reductions in inequalities and disparity

- Less ASB
- Less crime
- Less harm
- Less demand
- Increased trust and confidence

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The [Police and Crime Plan 2024-2029](#) has prevention as a golden thread, recognising that the most efficient and effective way to reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB), crime and harm is to identify and tackle the root causes through pursuing an evidence-based, partnership-orientated approach. Empowering and involving communities is central to the Police and Crime Commissioner's commitment to prevention and core to all elements of this strategy.
- 1.2 Prevention has clear benefits for victims and wider communities as it ultimately results in less ASB, less crime, less harm and safer, healthier and more prosperous communities. Prevention, particularly when co-produced with communities, can strengthen trust and confidence. There is also a financial imperative. As well as prevention being more cost-effective in the long-term than reactionary responses, the current demand on policing and other services is unsustainable and requires a shift upstream to tackle the causes rather than the consequences of crime if demand is to be reduced in the long-term. Drawing on the wider expertise and capacity of communities and partners also strengthens overall capability and offers a more sustainable approach.
- 1.3 Nationally, the need to prioritise this approach is reflected in the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) [National Policing Prevention Strategy](#) and within the latest [HM Inspectorate's PEEL Assessment Framework](#). More recently the Police Reform programme includes a focus on prevention and evidence-based policing in recognition that a long-term preventative approach is essential to secure sustainable change to demand.
- 1.4 Both the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Leicestershire Police are in a position of strength having invested in prevention for many years. This joint strategy seeks to build on this, joining forces to put prevention first and to maximise the many benefits of prevention for our communities.

2. Our Aim

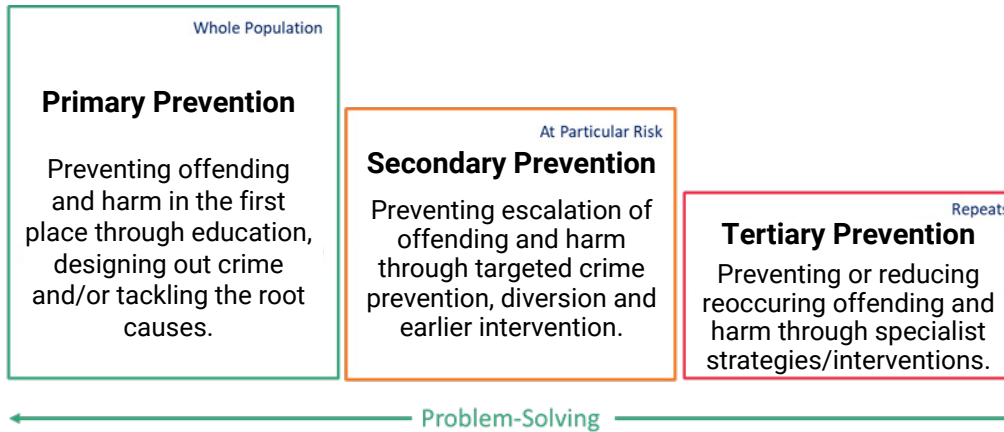
- 2.1 Our aim is to prioritise prevention, embedding it as a core policing function, and working in partnership to address the underlying causes of anti-social behaviour, crime and vulnerability so that there is less ASB, less crime, less harm and less demand and increased trust and confidence in policing.

3. Our Approach

- 3.1 Core to our strategy is our underpinning approach which we will continuously champion and adhere to when designing and implementing prevention-focused activity. We will:
 1. **Use data and insights** from a range of sources to ensure we understand the extent and nature of a problem and its causes.
 2. **Empower communities** to play their role in prevention through providing resources and co-producing solutions.
 3. **Draw on existing research and evidence** to design responses which are most likely to have an impact.
 4. **Identify and reduce inequalities** through tailoring and/or targeting resource to groups and communities most affected.
 5. **Seek to collaborate** with other organisations and sectors to build purposeful and capable partnerships.
 6. **Monitor and evaluate our work** to support continuous improvement and to contribute to the national and internal evidence-base.

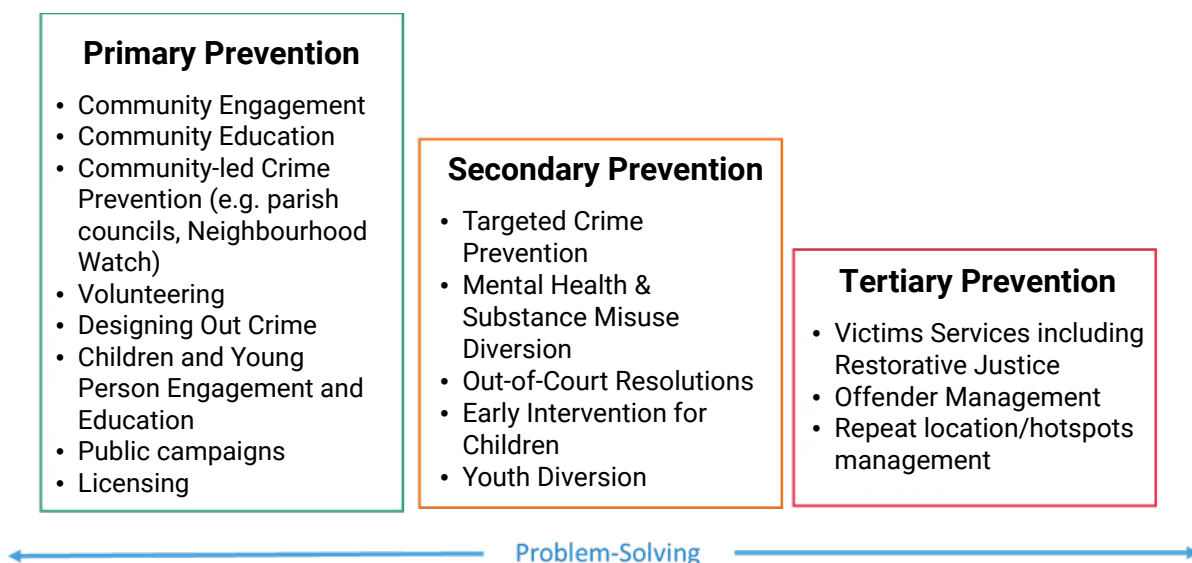
4. Prevention Activity

4.1 Our prevention activity will be located across three levels of prevention outlined in the model below and it will focus on both people and places including repeats. Communities will be at the heart of all prevention activity with a particular emphasis on equipping and empowering communities with the confidence and resources to deliver community-based crime prevention activity.



4.2 Evidence-based problem-solving is the methodology we will follow routinely regardless of the level of prevention an activity falls within. Applying the discipline of problem-solving will ensure we are continuously adopting a data-driven, evidence-based, community and partnership orientated approach to prevention activity, thereby maximising our impact.

4.3 Examples of the type of prevention activities which fall within each level of prevention is outlined below. In line with the Police and Crime Plan, there will be a focus on ensuring planned activity addresses preventing the crime types outlined within the missions and delivery strategies within the Police and Crime Plan. Planned activity for each year will be captured in Delivery Plans (see section 7).



5. Key Enablers

5.1 There are several enabling factors which are essential to embedding prevention in policing so to ensure all activity is efficient and effective and promotes a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

- **Leadership and Support.** We will ensure there is strong and committed leadership which models the importance of prevention and empowers others to prioritise prevention in their everyday work. Importantly we will ensure leaders from across both organisations are responsible and accountable for this strategy and are equipped to lead collaboratively and courageously to secure long-term change. We will embed prevention into relevant learning and development programmes and promote a culture of continuous learning and improvement.
- **Partnership Working.** We will adopt a collaborative approach, drawing on local, regional and national resources, to build and/or support partnerships which have the combined capability to tackle the drivers and causes of ASB, crime and harm. We will pursue the 'most appropriate agency' wherever appropriate but will also collaborate where a multi-agency, cross-sector approach is required. Importantly, we will operate beyond statutory partnerships, involving communities and the voluntary and business sectors to maximise impact and secure sustainable change.
- **Data, Evidence and Evaluation.** We will co-invest in this critical enabler to secure a shared understanding of problems and underlying causes and ensure that resources allocated to prevention are used in the most efficient and effective way. We will equip our teams and partners with accessible data and evidence so they can deliver effective and sustainable problem-solving. We will also invest in monitoring and evaluation so we can track progress and understand the impact of our investment in prevention.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

6.1 Understanding progress and impact of the delivery of this strategy is essential to sustain on-going commitment and enable continuous learning and improvement. Given that prevention has a long-term focus and it can be challenging to demonstrate causal relationships between prevention activity and impact, we will take a 'building block' approach to monitoring and evaluation. This entails designing prevention initiatives and activities using a framework (a logic model or theory of change) to map and show the relationships between the problem, the response and expected outputs and outcomes. Importantly, all prevention-focused activity should align with the overall intended impacts outlined below.

6.2 Whilst outputs and outcomes will vary depending on the prevention activity, below is a summary of common outcomes and our intended impact which we will continuously monitor and evaluate.

Outcomes:

- Increase in use of data and evidence.
- Improved quality in problem-solving activity.
- Increase in community and partnership-led prevention.
- Reduction in known drivers/causes of crime and harm.
- Increase in successful completions of interventions.
- Reduction in repeat victims, offenders and locations.
- Improved feelings of safety.
- Increased victim satisfaction.
- Reductions in inequalities and disparity.

Impact:

- Less ASB.
- Less crime.
- Less harm.
- Less demand.
- Increased trust and confidence.

6.3 In the first year of this strategy, the Prevention and Problem-Solving Hub will draw up a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) which will be adopted across the OPCC and Police.

7. Leadership, Governance and Delivery Infrastructure

7.1 Delivery of this strategy requires a shared system of leadership and governance which spans across both organisations. The table below outlines the different leadership positions, roles and responsibilities.

Position	Roles	Responsibilities	Main Governance Forum
Police and Crime Commissioner Chief Constable	Strategic and Operational Leads To set the strategic and operational annual and longer-term objectives for our Prevention Strategy.	Annually set and agree, as part of the budget setting process the amount of funding allocated to prevention and the strategic and operational activities that will take place.	Corporate Governance Board
Deputy Chief Constable Chief Executive (OPCC)	Executive Leads To ensure teams have the capacity to fully collaborate and to hold Senior Officers to account for delivery. Co-chairs of the Prevention and Partnerships Board.	To hold the Senior Officers to account for delivery of the joint Prevention Strategy and ensure that delivery is leading to desired impact.	Prevention and Partnerships Board
Director of Prevention	Senior Responsible Officer – system leadership of prevention internally and across the local partnership.	To provide system leadership and expertise across the OPCC, Police, VRN and wider partnership to drive our shared aims and ambition.	Prevention and Partnerships Board (Strategic Partnership Board for VRN/partnership elements)
Director of Prevention Director of Strategy Partnerships & Commissioning	To lead the day-to-day delivery of their relative parts of the Prevention Strategy.	To deliver the Prevention Strategy, through their teams, organisation and partnerships, in line with strategy and delivery plans.	Prevention and Partnerships Board Co-Commissioning Group

7.2 First-line governance will be provided through the Joint Prevention and Partnerships Board, co-chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable and OPCC Chief Executive. This will report progress and performance to the Corporate Governance Board chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Where appropriate, internal structures within each organisation will remain in place to ensure sufficient oversight and accountability of operational delivery.

7. Leadership, Governance and Delivery Infrastructure

- 7.3 Delivery of this strategy will require a whole organisation approach with prevention featuring in all relevant strategies and plans. However, the principal way that delivery against this Strategy will be managed and tracked is through the Police and Crime Plan Delivery Strategies and the following Annual Delivery Plans in place within Leicestershire Police:
- Prevention and Problem-Solving Delivery Plan
 - Crime Prevention and Community Safety Delivery Plan
 - Diversion and Youth Justice Delivery Plan
 - Child-Centred Policing Delivery Plan
 - Offender Management Delivery Plan
- 7.4 Progress and performance in relation to these plans will be reported to the Joint Prevention and Partnerships Board and the Corporate Governance Board.
- 7.5 In relation to the delivery infrastructure, whilst a whole organisation approach will again be necessary, a significant proportion of delivery will be through the Police's Prevention Directorate and the Partnership and Commissioning Team within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. To support the data, evidence and evaluation and problem-solving elements of this strategy, the Prevention and Problem-Solving Hub within the Prevention Directorate will provide a service to both organisations as well as to relevant prevention-focussed programmes such as the Violence Reduction Network (VRN).
- 7.6 As outlined throughout, partnership is an essential feature of effective prevention and therefore we will seek to also draw on partnership delivery infrastructures wherever relevant. This includes supporting and connecting different prevention-focussed programmes and initiatives (for example, the Violence Reduction Network (VRN), The Families First and Young Futures Programmes).
- 7.7 This Strategy is for four years (2025 - 2029). However, an annual health-check will be undertaken to ensure it remains consistent with evidence, best practice, policing requirements and national policy.