

Local environment and place

Overview and key messages

The importance of clean, green and safer Neighbourhoods

Perceptions of 'liveability' affect people's physical and mental well-being in multiple ways

People's experiences and perceptions of public places have a major impact on their sense of well-being and how they feel about the places they and others live. Successful, thriving and prosperous communities are characterised by streets, parks and open spaces that are clean, safe, attractive and sustainable. There is a range of historical national and local data that supports the view that this is the case.

Neighbourhoods that are poorly managed, unsightly and unsafe will not attract and retain businesses, jobs and skills to the local area. The quality of public space, real or perceived, plays a vital role in the vicious or virtuous cycles which characterise communities on the up, in decline or in recovery. Degraded public spaces are not a sign of a vibrant community.

Poor local environmental quality, therefore, also affects the physical health of communities. Places that are strewn with litter and rotting rubbish attract vermin and disease. Noise, air and light pollution affect the physical and psychological well-being of residents, while traffic can

reduce the amount of exercise people take. Increasingly, the health benefits of good local environments are being realised. For example, high quality green spaces go a long way to encouraging people to pursue healthier lifestyles through exercise such as walking, cycling and active children's play.

Spending on neighbourhood services has significantly reduced

However, since 2010 spending on neighbourhood services has fallen more steeply than any other combined local authority budget area. Spending on Neighbourhood services fell £3.1bn (13%) between 2010/11 and 2015/16 while spending on social care rose 2.2bn. The most deprived areas have been hit the hardest with some authorities including Knowsley seeing their spending reduced by up to 50 per cent. A recent APSE national public survey showed the following levels of satisfaction with neighbourhood services:

Figure 1: APSE national survey results 2017 (Source: APSE)



Ongoing austerity and a volatile economic climate are likely to continue to have a direct impact on the resources available to maintain the local environment. Opinion surveys suggest that expectations are unlikely to diminish in respect to maintaining and even improving fundamental 'front-line' services such as street cleansing, waste collection and grounds maintenance. Unfortunately, due to financial constraints, Knowsley is no longer able to systematically measure the overall cleanliness of the Borough through a systematic monitoring system or routinely assess people's perceptions of the condition of their local environment.

This chapter therefore attempts to utilise sources of supplementary data to outline the extent to which Knowsley's neighbourhoods can be characterised as clean, safe and green, to assess the impact of significant funding constraints on the neighbourhood services which underpin environmental quality and what ongoing changes to the policy and funding landscape may have on future service delivery.

Sustainable Waste Management: Key Messages

- Positive perceptions of service delivery have been maintained despite reductions in collection frequencies
- Demand for service likely to increase due to projected increases in population & housing
- A 'plateau' in recent performance trends for recycling and residual waste following a longer term trend of continuous improvement
- Challenges associated with improving performance e.g. behaviour change including education re recycling
- Clear policy drivers at National and Regional level with increasing prominence
- need to identify local capability to respond (behaviour change) and wider solutions (LCR collaboration e.g. food waste)
- Future delivery models likely to be influenced by specific measures within national strategy around recycling and response to LCR collaboration work

Environmental Cleanliness: Key messages

- Perceptions of cleanliness and safety emerged as a key priority for residents & stakeholders and are less positive in areas with persistent issues.
- Demand for reactive services (fly tipping, waste, pests etc.) has increased over recent years in conjunction with reductions in cleansing frequencies and introduction of channel shift.
- Recent additional resource has supported a targeted response to problematic areas (enforcement and behaviour change).
- Currently no systematic / objective way of measuring general environmental cleanliness over time – potential data gap.
- Availability of data may constrain ability to assess impact of interventions and trends on general environmental cleanliness.
- Question as to whether behaviour change / enforcement approach has sufficient capability to meet longer term challenge should demand continue to increase?

Green Infrastructure: Key messages

- Substantial improvement to green space infrastructure and assets over life of successive green space strategies.
- All areas of Borough have access to local quality parks and open spaces.
- Clear methodology for improvement linked to functionality and ability to secure external grant funding.
- Underpinned by community engagement and volunteering – but are levels starting to plateau?
- Range of positive cross cutting benefits identified but lack of available data to understand benefit realisation / impact on wider outcomes.
- The potential benefits of local green spaces are not being fully realised – key Health and Well Being measures show significant gaps with the Regional average.
- There remains a need to identify a sustainable funding and delivery model for the development and maintenance of green infrastructure.

Environmental pollution: key messages

- On track to meet current Climate Change Strategy target for CO2 reduction (39% vs 31% target by 2020).
- Relatively high CO2 per capita emissions compared to LCR (impact of industrial and transport).
- Nature of deprivation means some areas of Borough more susceptible to future effects of climate change.
- Air Quality across the Borough is mostly below annual objective target levels (positive) – potential AQMA in Huyton (Cronton Rd) in near future.
- No land in the Borough is currently determined as contaminated - planning process is primary mechanism to assess risks & set remediation requirements when required.

Crime and Community Safety: Key Messages

- Trends show a plateau in long terms reductions in crime (since 13/14), with crime increasing more severely over last 18 months (as is LCR / NW).
- Increases in violence and sexual offences, in part linked to changes in recording practices.
- Some genuine increases in ‘high harm’ offences e.g. serious violence but ‘volume’ crime relatively stable.
- CSP priorities recognise changes in nature of threat – victim focussed, recognise hidden harm / under-reported e.g. domestic abuse, hate, child exploitation.
- Effective multi-agency risk processes in place to support victims.
- Challenging environment to provide consistency in offender management.
- Investment secured to tackle serious / persistent ASB, high demand generators etc.
- ‘Problem solving’ persistent area based issues an area of emerging priority.

A Cleaner Knowsley

Waste Management

Waste Collection is a highly visible service that is important to residents and underpins resident's perceptions of local authority service delivery

Waste collection is one of the most highly visible and routine activities carried out by the local authority and one that generates significant public interest. Many residents associate payment of Council Tax with the provision of waste collection services and regard timely bin collections as the most important thing their local authority does.

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council has retained its commitment to delivering a reliable, high quality, value for money household waste and recycling collection service that sustains and promotes Knowsley's neighbourhoods as attractive places to live, work and do business whilst supporting the Council in delivering a range of commitments relative to sustainable waste management, resource efficiency and the wider environment, i.e.;

- Maximising waste prevention;
- Maximising landfill diversion/recovery of residual waste;
- Achieving higher recycling rates;
- Reducing the carbon impacts of waste management; and

- Promoting positive behaviours across the borough with regard to sustainable waste management.

Sustainable Waste Management is increasing in importance both nationally and locally

The Government's new Resources and Waste Strategy's primary goal is to move to a more 'circular economy'. A more circular economy will see us keeping resources in use as long as possible, so that we extract maximum value from them in order to benefit both the economy and the environment.

The Governments 25 Year Environment Plan contains a pledge to leave the environment in a better condition for the next generation. Providing a sustainable waste management system is key to delivering on this pledge. Knowsley needs to play its part by using resources more efficiently and by reducing the amount of waste we create.

The 25 Year Environment Plan has more recently been underpinned by the 'Resources and Waste Strategy for England'. The strategy is in essence a blueprint for eliminating avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of the 25 Year Plan, doubling resource productivity, and eliminating avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050. Local Authorities will have a prominent role in its delivery.



Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership provides an outline vision for the future of Waste Management in the City Region

The Joint Recycling and Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside, '[RESOURCES Merseyside 2011-2041](#)', provides the headline strategic route map to deliver sustainable waste management on Merseyside, transform the waste agenda and move towards greater resource efficiency. The strategic focus is to move waste management higher up the Waste Hierarchy by supporting activities on waste prevention, re-use, recycling and composting whilst recognising the impact these actions have on the amount of residual waste requiring treatment or disposal. This programme of work will be cost effective, affordable and deliver value for money whilst optimising environmental benefits.

Key aims, objectives and targets for the Strategy include:

- Reducing the climate change/carbon impacts of waste management
- Maximise waste prevention by reducing the total amount of waste arisings produced per household
- Maximise landfill diversion/recovery of residual waste
- Promote behavioural/cultural change that delivers the Strategy objectives by raising awareness of waste and resource management issues
- Achieve high recycling rates with a target of 50% household waste recycling by 2020.

The Council's Waste and Recycling Policies ([click here](#)) emphasise the importance of householder's taking day to day responsibility for managing their household waste in a considerate, responsible and environmentally sustainable manner. The policies provide the framework for waste collection services to be delivered in a way that effectively engages residents, prompts positive behaviour change amongst householders with regard to waste minimisation and recycling, whilst balancing public satisfaction (provision of a timely, reliable, safe and cost effective service) and financial efficiency.

Resident satisfaction with waste collection services remains high in Knowsley despite reductions frequency of collections in recent years

Knowsley Council used to carry out a regular 'tracker' survey to gauge satisfaction levels amongst residents in respect of a range of services including waste and recycling. The survey ceased during 2014 however a recent resident satisfaction survey conducted during summer 2018 indicated that, despite a reduction in resources and a reduction in the frequency and choice of services (e.g. withdrawal of food waste recycling service in October 2013), satisfaction remains high amongst residents of Knowsley with over 79% of residents continuing to be satisfied with their residual waste (maroon bin collection) service and over 89% of residents being satisfied with their recycling (grey and blue bin collection) services.

Table 1: Residents satisfaction with refuse and recycling 2014 and 2018

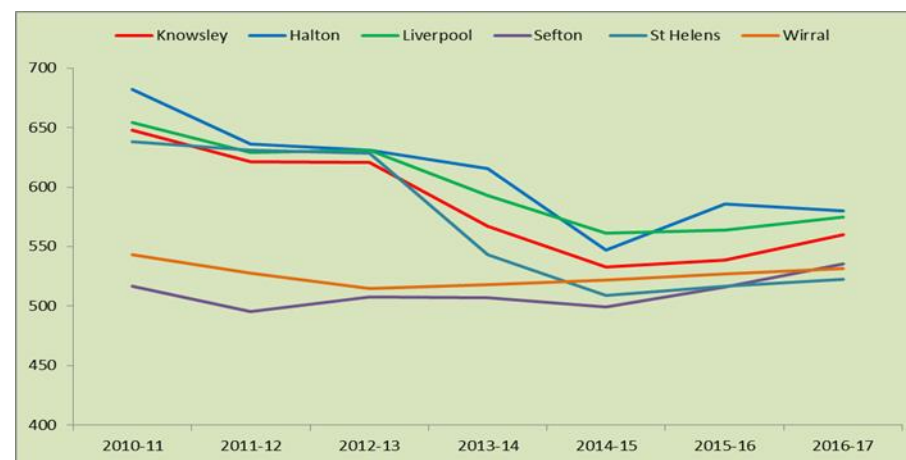
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with refuse collection	Tracker Survey Summer 2014	Overall how would you rate the service for the maroon general waste bin (collected fortnightly)?	2018 Survey
Very satisfied	24%	Very good	33.94%
Fairly satisfied	39%	Good	24.24%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3%	Average	21.21%
Fairly dissatisfied	13%	Poor	9.09%
Very dissatisfied	21%	Very poor	10.3%
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with recycling services	Tracker Survey Summer 2014	Overall how would you rate the service for the grey recycling waste bin (collected fortnightly)?	2018 Survey
Very satisfied	27%	Very good	40.61%
Fairly satisfied	53%	Good	28.48%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4%	Average	20%
Fairly dissatisfied	6%	Poor	6.06%
Very dissatisfied	9%	Very poor	3.03%

Source: Knowsley Council 2014 Tracker Survey and 2018 Waste Management Survey

Performance is largely positive over the longer term but challenges remain

It is evident that the provision of an enhanced recycling service, combined with a set of waste and recycling policies that promote positive behaviour change with respect to sustainable waste management have delivered positive environmental impacts in Knowsley with the a notable reduction in the quantity of residual waste per household (kg/household)' largely reducing during the period 2010/11 to 2016/17.

Figure 2: residual waste per household (kg/household) – Liverpool City Region



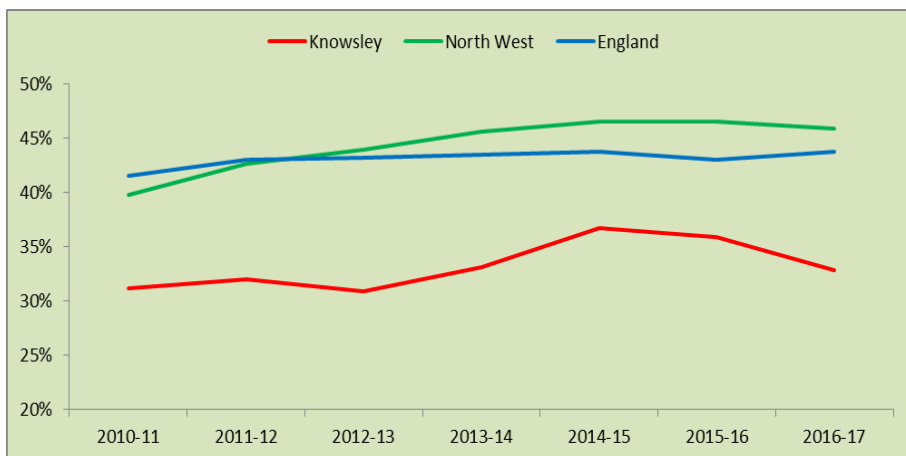
Source: ONS Waste Statistics



Similarly, the quantity of household waste recycled, measured as a percentage of household waste has a more variable trend. The amount of waste recycled in Knowsley has increased significantly since the introduction of the co-mingled grey bin recycling service in 2008 however since 2015, the quantity of waste recycled has plateaued and more reduced.

This trend is consistent with that being observed across the Liverpool City Region and England where the quantity of residual waste produced per household has increased over recent year whilst the amount of waste recycled has reduced.

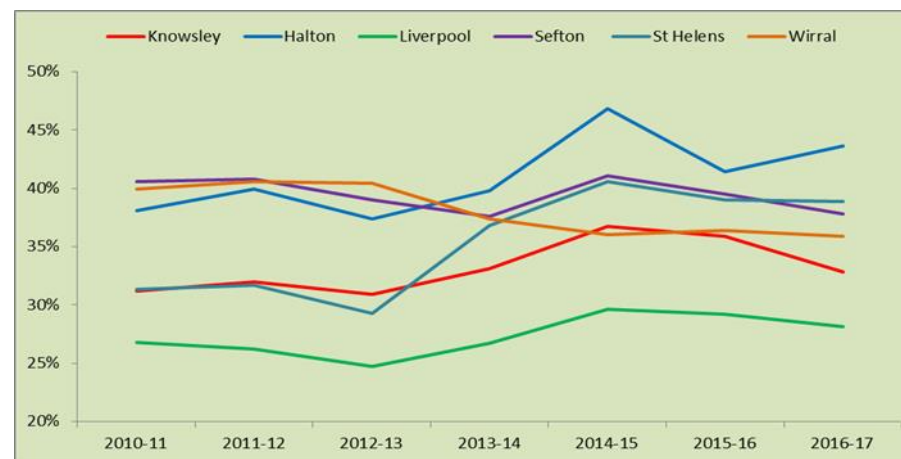
Figure 3: Residual waste per household (kg/household) – North West & England



Source: ONS Waste Statistics

The ‘[Digest of Waste and Resource Statistics](#)’ produced by DEFRA in May 2018 indicates that total waste from households in England amounted to 22.8 million tonnes in 2016, an increase of 2.5 per cent on 2015

Figure 4: Residual waste per household (kg/household) – Liverpool City Region



Source: ONS Waste Statistics

A number of key challenges remain

It is evident from the data above that whilst the residents of Knowsley have significantly increased their recycling efforts over the last decade and have a greater understanding of the ‘value’ of waste and its negative environmental impacts if not managed sustainably, more needs to be done to deliver Knowsley’s contribution to the aims and objectives of the Joint Recycling and Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside. During the next decade, the Council, along with its City Region partners will also



need to respond to the Governments 'Resources and Waste Strategy for England'.

There are challenges associated with responding effectively to a number of the measures contained within the National Strategy, with DEFRA currently consulting on a number of key measures including '*a consistent set of materials be collected for recycling by local authorities*'. The government has sought views on developing a consistent set of materials to be collected for recycling by all local authorities in England – in a bid to reduce confusion for householders and increase the country's recycling rate, which has been stagnating at circa 44-45% for the past five years. The provision of separate food waste collections for all householders and free garden waste collections were also proposed as part of this consultation, as was the standardisation of different collection models.

Whilst Liverpool City Region authorities are broadly in favour of this measure, alignment with the current LCR co-mingled recycling collection service and approach to the use of food waste as a renewable energy source in the City Region illustrate the difficulty in aligning local approaches and infrastructure with the aims of the national strategy without funding from government to support any required transformation.

Other measures proposed within the National Strategy are less reliant on standardisation of local waste collection and treatment methods, and therefore the intent of the proposals can be more easily supported without significant caveat. The intent for measures regarding '*Extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging waste*' and introducing '*a*

deposit return scheme (DRS) for beverage containers' are in alignment with local strategic objectives to get further upstream in the 'waste hierarchy'. Similarly the proposed introduction of a 'plastics tax' on packaging containing less than 30% recycled plastic is well aligned to local strategic objectives and should help to drive up recycling, cut the amount of new plastic being used and protect the future of the environment.

Behaviour Change:

During a period which will inevitably see a further reduction in public sector funding the effective provision of these services can only be made if Knowsley's householders take day to day responsibility for managing their household waste in an environmentally responsible manner. It is clear from the Governments Resources and Waste strategy that more needs to be done to remove the uncertainty that continues to prevail with regard to what can and can't be recycled. In a 2017 survey of UK households, almost two thirds of households (66%) express uncertainty over what can be put in the recycling bin.

At the same time residents need to take responsibility for the waste they produce and to recognise its value as a resource having regard to the principles of resource efficiency and the requirement to establish a circular economy.

At least 60% of an average household's waste is recyclable, but at the moment, too much of this waste is still being placed in the residual waste bin. It is important therefore that householders in Knowsley understand how they can recycle their waste using the Council's recycling and waste

collection services and undertake this activity in a routine and consistent manner.

The '[Recycle Right](#)' campaign, developed by Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority, is a recently launched communications vehicle to support the delivery of a wide scale behavioural change programme.

Funding Sustainable Waste Management:

One of the biggest challenges facing the Council over the coming years is delivering services in a financially sustainable manner, particularly when funding constraints on local government are tightening. The anticipated growth in population and therefore new homes, whilst generating additional council tax receipts, will also place further demand on existing resources.

Capturing food waste, which accounts for approximately 37% of the content (by weight) of the residual bin in Knowsley, remains a challenge. The Governments 'Resources and Waste Strategy for England' includes a target to eliminate food waste to landfill by 2030 (noting that the City Region's residual waste is managed via the Resource Recovery Contract referred to above) and a requirement to provide a weekly separate food waste collection to all households and businesses by 2023.

This will have significant financial and operational implications but equally provides opportunities with respect to renewable energy and improved recycling performance. The commissioning of a food waste service presents an opportunity for collaboration across the Liverpool City

Region and could be a significant first step in designing and delivering an integrated waste management solution for the region.

Table 2: Summary data by waste type

Year	Refuse Kg/ household per year	Recycling Rate	Household Waste Sent for Recycling/ Composting/ Reuse (tonnes)	Household dry recycling/ reuse (tonnes)	Household Green Waste Sent for Recycling/ Reuse (tonnes)
2010-11	648.0	31.2%	18,788	10,368	8,420
2011-12	621.6	32.0%	18,958	10,308	8,650
2012-13	620.7	30.9%	18,088	10,748	7,340
2013-14	567.3	33.1%	18,302	11,255	7,077
2014-15	532.6	36.7%	20,164	11,963	8,201
2015-16	539.0	35.9%	19,807	12,482	7,324
2016-17	559.7	32.8%	18,096	10,687	7,409

Source: ONS Waste Statistics

Environmental cleanliness

Knowsley Council recognises that maintaining high quality public places is an important issue and the cleanliness of the local environment is a major concern for local residents. The way streets and other public spaces are cleaned has an impact on every household within Knowsley, the success of businesses operating in the locality and the attraction for visitors to the area. The quality of the local environment, in particular the standard of street care and the maintenance of green spaces of our main gateways in to the borough will continue to be used by the public to judge how well the area is being managed and its suitability as a place in which to live, work or visit.

A wide range of political, economic, environmental, social and technological factors influence and shape service delivery. Planned housing development and subsequent population growth will significantly increase demand for core universal public services such as recycling and waste collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance. An aging, perhaps less able population is likely to increase demand for easier or 'facilitated' access to services and public spaces.

Litter and Bins

The Council is a principal litter authority with a statutory duty under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to ensure that relevant land in its area is, so far as is practicable, kept clear of litter and refuse. In broad terms relevant land is defined as all 'open land to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without

payment'. This includes cleaning responsibilities for adopted highways, but not private land. The '[Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse](#)' published by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs gives guidance to responsible bodies such as Knowsley Council on how these duties should be discharged.

The recently published [Litter Strategy for England](#) provides for enhanced enforcement for litter thrown from cars and focuses on local area 'binrastructure'. Knowsley Council's Litter Bin Policy comprehensively sets our approach to managing and providing appropriate facilities to dispose of litter across the borough.

Litter is unsightly, unhealthy, and in some circumstances, potentially dangerous. Litter has repeatedly been in the top three concerns of residents' surveys and therefore is high on the council's agenda for improvement. Litter can range in size from a single sweet wrapper/drinks can or cigarette butt, to a full bag of rubbish or multiple lorry loads of fly tipped waste. Litter bins are an important tool for reducing litter but their location needs to be carefully considered alongside operational and financial constraints. In 2012/13, the litter bin replacement budget reduced to £0.017m and Cabinet approved a Litter Bin Replacement Policy.

Streetscene Services aims to provide, maintain, empty and cleanse litter bins throughout the borough, which is part of its statutory duty as a Principal Litter Authority; to keep its relevant land clear of litter if it is open to the air and under their control to which the public have access. Examples of how this is met are as follows:



- To provide sufficient bins to meet the needs of the local community, whilst minimising the impact on the surrounding environment;
- To maintain bins to a standard by which they are deemed to be fit for purpose which is not detrimental to the local environment; and to replace damaged / stolen bins as appropriate;
- To empty and cleanse bins on such a frequency as to prevent them from becoming a nuisance or giving reasonable grounds for complaint.

There are 716 litter bins located on the public highway and on public open spaces across the borough. Litter bins form an integral part of the council's street cleansing service, which aims to keep Knowsley clean and tidy.

Table 3: Litter Bins in Knowsley 2016-19

	01/04/2016 - 31/03/2017	01/04/2017 - 31/03/2018	01/04/2018 - 31/03/2019
Litter Bins	749	749	716 Including 81 Double bins so 797 in total

Source: Knowsley Council Streetscene service local data

It is an offence to drop litter of any kind. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 states that "if a person drops, throws, deposits, or leaves anything that causes defacement in a public place," they commit an offence of littering. Authorised Officers of the Council, can issue an on the spot fine of up to £75 if a person is caught dropping litter. If brought

before the court a fine of up to £2,500 can be administered if found guilty. Through working with the council's Enforcement Team in relation to litter and bins, the service:

- Ensure that where litter bins are abused, appropriate action is taken in line with fly-tipping powers;
- Issue Street Litter Control Notices to businesses, where appropriate;
- Issue on the spot fixed penalty notices to those individuals witnessed dropping litter.

Cleansing

In terms of functional activities, street cleansing involves sweeping and other cleaning operations such as pavement washing, litter collection, removal of graffiti and fly-posting, responding to fly-tipping, removal of animal faeces, dead animals and weed removal/control. The specification and standards for both street cleansing and grounds maintenance have undergone significant change over the last few years.

Frequencies moved from weekly to fortnightly in 2014/15, followed by a further reduction in cleansing frequencies in 2015/16 to monthly, as part of the Council's Three Year Spending Plan. This was achieved by a staffing and plant/machinery reduction of over 50% resulting in £1.230m of permanent annual savings. The service has seen a total overall budget reduction of £2.230m, which equates to 42% against the original operating budget in 2010.



The introduction of the Council's 'App' during 2016-17 has created additional demand for service in addition to introducing the potential for inaccurate and /or duplicate requests which has had an initial impact upon performance and productivity. The service continues to monitor changes in performance and data trends and responds effectively through its deployment models, however changes to waste collection, cleansing frequencies and legislation have all contributed to a significant increase in the service requests in relation to domestic and commercial waste, rodent infestations, and fly tipping, littering and dog fouling as evidenced by figure 5 below.

Figure 5: Service request data 2016-2018

Enquiry Type	01/04/2016 - 31/03/2017	01/04/2017 - 31/03/2018	01/04/2018 - 31/03/2019
Fly Tipping	1680	1585	1457
Fly Tipping With Enforcement	80	47	40
Waste on Land	530	1097	1295
Litter	662	494	388
Dog Fouling	440	397	380
Fly Posting	8	10	5
Graffiti	45	22	13
Offensive Graffiti	24	23	10
Abandoned Vehicles	114	119	125

Source: Knowsley Council Streetscene service records

The varying demands of each area across the borough currently have a tendency to pull at competing resources. This is acknowledged nationally by Defra in their report 'Local Environmental Quality: Valuing the neighbourhood in which we live' – this states "At a local level it is fundamentally correct that resources are allocated in response to residents' needs. A key role for provision is both judging the demand for local services and then balancing the competing demands."

The current status of each aspect of the local environment is used to prioritise between areas on the basis of the area of greatest need / rate of deterioration.

Areas with highest demand and footfall receive an increased frequency to ensure that environmental cleanliness standards are maintained;

- Town/Village Centres – dedicated on-site presence Mon to Sat;
- Knowsley Business Park – dedicated daily presence Mon – Fri;
- Shopping Parades and School Frontages – daily litter pick and litter bins emptied;
- Main routes and lay-bys – daily check of litter bins.

The borough is made up of a 'patchwork quilt' of land ownership which impacts on the council's ability to maintain appropriate levels of cleansing. This includes private land owners, RSL's, unadopted land, Highways England (responsible for a proportion of the high speed road network).

Inspection Monitoring

There is no longer a national indicator for street cleansing performance following the closure of the Audit Commission; however the grading structure and monitoring criteria used to calculate the previous national indicators NI195 continues to be used by the Council to monitor the effectiveness of cleansing operations and to identify trends and fly-tipping hot-spots. The table below highlights 3 year trends;

Table 4: Street Cleansing inspection monitoring data 2016-19

Inspection Area	01/04/2016 - 31/03/2017					01/04/2017 - 31/03/2018					01/04/2018 - 31/03/2019				
	A	B	C	D	Total	A	B	C	D	Total	A	B	C	D	Total
Total Inspections	3900	960	84	11	4955	5480	1215	107	7	6809	6734	1523	69	3	8329
	78.71%	19.37%	1.70%	0.22%		80.48%	17.84%	1.57%	0.10%		80.85%	18.29%	0.83%	0.04%	

Inspection Area	01/04/2016 - 31/03/2017				01/04/2017 - 31/03/2018				01/04/2018 - 31/03/2019						
	A	B	C	D	Total	A	B	C	D	Total	A	B	C	D	Total
Dog Fouling	750	214	1	0	1065	240	5	0	0	245	1288	311	0	0	1599
Fly Posting	916	36	1	0	953	53	1	0	0	54	1577	31	1	0	1609
Fly Tipping	944	18	3	3	968	35	1	3	3	42	1558	37	12	1	1608
Graffiti	785	172	2	4	963	127	1	3	3	133	1415	191	16	1	1623
Litter	505	520	77	4	1106	665	760	99	1	1525	896	953	40	1	1890

Source: Knowsley Council Streetscene service records

Behaviour Change and Environmental Enforcement

Ultimately, the overall impact of the frequency reductions and service improvements need to be managed within the context of a behavioural change approach and the [Council's Enforcement Strategy](#) and actions.

The Council recognises that targeted enforcement activity needs to link to changes in the behaviour of both residents and road users, in order to reduce the amount of litter and debris on the public highway. Residents

and local businesses need to be encouraged to take immediate responsibility for the cleanliness of their local community with a continued programme of behaviour change activities and targeted enforcement where appropriate.

In recognition of the importance of environmental cleanliness to local residents, a number of new posts have been created focussed on encouraging behaviour change and targeted enforcement activity in identified areas which were coupled with an 'Environmental Challenge Fund' of £300k to encourage and support community groups to develop projects in support of the cleanliness and maintenance of their local environment.

In the last 12 months:-

- 1,000 incidents of fly tipping and household waste issues have been investigated
- 5,144 warning letters have been issued
- 607 notices have been served
- 41 fixed penalty notices have been served
- There have been 9 prosecutions (44 other cases are currently being investigated)
- 39 other interventions including action weeks/days, roadside operations, and school education events



Road Maintenance

The highway network is one of the Council's most valuable assets and is vital to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough and indeed the wider Liverpool City Region. It provides access for business and communities, as well as contributing to the Borough's character and to the quality of life for those who live and work in Knowsley. The Council work with both Highways England and neighbouring local authorities to coordinate highway investment and management of the main road network. The importance of good highway asset management practice is central to this approach as it is recognised that highway network is the backbone of the economy with virtually all freight movements, locally, nationally and internationally, relying on the network for at least the first and final parts of their journey. A well maintained strategic road network and its associated bridges and structures are essential to a prosperous and sustainable economy. A high quality, safe, efficient and reliable road network is essential both for a successful passenger transport system and for encouraging more people to walk or cycle.

Growth in travel demand is continuing, along with an expectation by network users of high maintenance standards. Streets are places where people interact and go about their daily business; often serving functions beyond providing transport links and shaping the desirability of areas as places to live. The condition of highway infrastructure continues to be a key issue for local residents and informs their perception of their local community and ultimately the Council.

Although there has been a slight downward trend in the last few years, resident satisfaction with the maintenance of the Borough's Highways compares favourably with regional and national averages. The following figure shows the results of the most recent National Highways and Transport Network (NHT) public satisfaction survey results for Knowsley:

Figure 5: 2018 NHT Survey Results for Knowsley (Highway Maintenance)



Source: National Highways and Transport Network

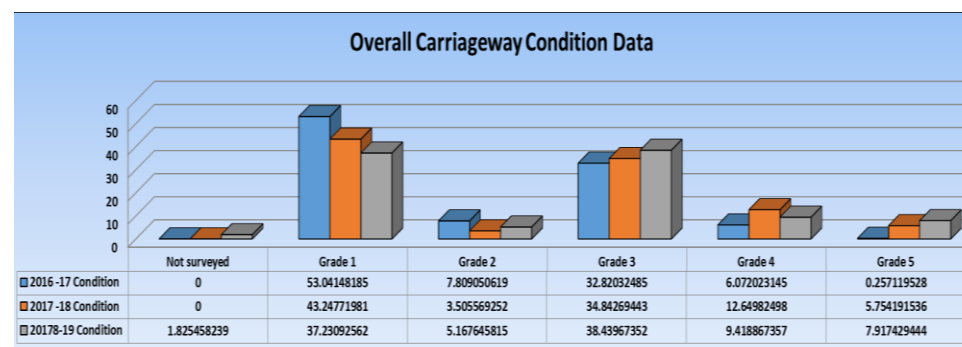
The significant deterioration in perception of road condition seen in Knowsley mirrors a trend being seen nationally, with 85% of participants in the 2018 National Survey seeing reductions of more than 4% in their Satisfaction with Condition of Highways indicator scores.

Poor and declining conditions on roads, footways and their associated structures (such as signs and lighting) can:

- contribute to an increase in the accident rate and accident compensation claims rate;
- add to congestion, increase traffic emissions and reduce air quality;
- act as a significant barrier to the promotion of cycling, making walking journeys, and walking to public transport for onward travel;
- cause lower air quality and challenge carbon reduction targets due to increased congestion;
- increase disproportionately the future financial liabilities for maintenance; and
- result in short term and costly repairs which add carbon outputs as a result of repeated material production and transportation.

Overall, Knowsley's road condition has shown some significant deterioration over recent years; however this is aligned with many Local Authority areas that have reduced investment in Highways Maintenance as a necessary response to reducing resources. The following figure 6 shows a summary of overall carriageway condition in Knowsley in the last three years:

Figure 6: Knowsley Overall Carriageway Condition data 2016-18



Source: Knowsley Highways Service records

A Greener Knowsley

Green Infrastructure

Knowsley has an abundance of green space assets that provide multiple benefits to the local community

Knowsley's Green Spaces provide multiple, significant benefits to the local community. They encourage health and well-being, provide social value, have a positive impact on the economic prosperity of the area, can support and deliver a broad range of curriculum, wider learning and training opportunities, reduce the impact of climate change, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and improve the biodiversity of our local environment.

Knowsley's Green Space story

Knowsley's publicly accessible parks and green spaces have been rejuvenated over recent years. Protecting and enhancing green space has formed a central part of the Council's place making approach to help make Knowsley an attractive place to work, live and visit.

This has been brought about primarily through the ambition and leadership shown by members of the borough's communities, harnessed by the Council to secure a wealth of infrastructure and asset improvements. As a consequence all of Knowsley's residents now have good, and in many cases excellent, quality parks and open spaces on their doorstep.

Knowsley hosts 161 public parks and green spaces covering 593 hectares, including:

- Parks and gardens including 28 urban parks, formal gardens and country parks;
- Natural and semi-natural green spaces including 35 woodlands, grasslands and wetlands;
- Children's and young people's facilities with 37 equipped play areas, multi-use game areas and skate parks;
- Eight statutory allotment sites;
- Outdoor sports provision including playing pitches and bowling greens;
- Cemeteries and churchyards;
- Four green corridors.

There are approximately 200,000 trees in Knowsley's Parks and Green Spaces, and the borough is commonly referred to as the green lungs of the Liverpool City Region.

Securing improvements to these public assets was the overarching ambition of the Council's first Green Space Strategy 2010-2014 which focussed on improving the quality and public accessibility of Knowsley's green spaces. Over £8m of external investment was utilised to make infrastructure improvements between 2008/09 and 2014/15.

Examples of the improvements in green space condition secured are detailed in the following table:



Table 5: Improvements in condition and satisfaction with green space

Indicator	Baseline	Value	Latest data	Value
public satisfaction with parks and open spaces			13/14	82%
resident satisfaction with open play facilities			13/14	73%
Parks with Green Flag Status	2008/09	6	18/19	18
Number of parks and gardens (by typology)	2005	18	14/15	28
quality of park and garden typology sites - ratings	2007/08	49 rated 'fair'	14/15	64 rated 'good'
quality of play facilities	2007/08	49 rated 'fair'	2014/15	67 rated 'good'
natural and semi-natural typology sites	2007/08	46 rated 'low fair'	2014/15	54 rated 'high fair'
quality of allotment sites	2007/08	52 rated 'fair'	2014/15	65 rated 'good'

Source: Knowsley Environmental Sustainability Service local data

In 2015 Knowsley's second Green Space Strategy was published – The Natural Approach to a Thriving Borough 2015-20. The main aim of this strategy is to:

'Maximise the value of Knowsley's publicly accessible green space assets to the benefit of people, the economy and the environment'

The strategy identifies that this will need to be delivered through innovation, partnership and community spirit in order to sustain and enhance Knowsley's green space offer, with tangible outcomes secured helping to highlight Knowsley as a fantastic place to live, work and do business in the North West of England.

Green Space Engagement Projects have boosted volunteer numbers

A key driver over recent years has been to increase levels of community engagement and volunteering in the Borough to support behaviour change, drive community ownership of local green spaces and improve health and well-being. The numbers of volunteers active in the Borough over recent years are detailed in the following table:

Table 6: Volunteering and Participation in Green Spaces

Indicator	Baseline	Value	Latest data	Value
green space interest community groups	2007/08	30	2014/15	52
volunteering and participation in green space events and healthy activities	2007/08	35,000	2012/13	70,000
Number of volunteer hours donated by local community	2015/16	16,372	2017/18	29,342
Number of Active Friends Groups	2015/16	52	2017/18	47(target 40)
Number of people participating in health and wellbeing activities in green spaces	2015/16	16,054	2017/18	16,788
Number of residents engaging through behaviour change campaigns and initiatives	2015/16	4518	2017/18	3,013 (target 2,500)
Number of residents engaging in environmental activities in their local neighbourhood	2015/16	36603	2017/18	46,036 (target 20,000)

Source: Knowsley Environmental Sustainability Service local data

Green spaces are assessed and appraised according to their functionality in Knowsley

The 2015 strategy introduced the concept of the Green Space Functionality Principle which analyses how Knowsley's multi-functional green spaces contribute to addressing the pressing social, health and economic growth challenges that the Borough faces. Though assessment of both facilities and potential benefits, each site is prioritised according to one of 3 objectives:

Objective 1 - Retain existing functionality: comprises a range of prioritised activities that are deliverable in the short term on the basis of currently available Council resources.

Objective 2 - Improve functionality: provides a summary of prioritised activity which can ensure improved functionality and productivity of each site, but will require additional / alternative funding via a collaborative commissioning approach in order to ensure potential benefits are realised; and

Objective 3 - Transformative projects: provides an overview of activity identified which could provide a more fundamental transformation of a site's potential, often where significant capital investment or the development of an alternative model of delivery is required.

As a result of this model, a considerable volume of Green Space Development Projects have been delivered between 2015 to 2019

Working with local communities to secure external grant funding has been key in the delivery of projects. Funds such as Landfill Communities Funds and the Heritage Lottery Fund have been successfully secured, in addition to the utilisation of Section 106 Developer Contributions secured through the Planning process. Completed projects include:

- Henley Park – toddler play area;
- Henley Park – maze and sensory garden;
- Hillside – play area;
- Mill Dam – footpath and landscaping improvements;
- Stadt Moers Park – wetland improvements;
- The Pasture – playing field improvements;
- Eaton Street – new pavilion;
- Court Hey Park – new cricket pavilion and drainage to the cricket pitch;
- Court Hey Park – new play area;
- Green Gyms at 15 sites;
- Jubilee Park – improved football facilities;
- Swanside Community Centre – new play area;
- KGV Huyton – entrance improvements;
- Prescot St Mary’s Cemetery – new interpretation boards.

In addition, the following infrastructure projects are currently in progress:

- Bowring Park – restoration of historic buildings and gardens
- Lord Derby’s Playing Fields – redevelopment of sports facilities
- Eddie McArdle Playing Fields – redevelopment of sports facilities
- Field Lane Park – entrance closures
- Halsnead – green space development
- Jubilee Park – play hub and park improvement
- Knowsley Cemetery – new remembrance building
- Mill Dam Park – new Environment Centre
- Charlotte’s Pagsy – pathway improvements
- Stadt Moers Park – flood alleviation scheme
- Thingwall – cycleway
- Towerhill – green space development
- Bowring Park – new play area
- Halewood Doorstep Green – drainage improvements
- Jubilee Park – sports hub
- Halewood Park – green space improvements

Knowsley recognises the cross-cutting benefits of Green Spaces and that more can be done to maximise these benefits for the local population

The current Green Space Strategy highlights the cross-cutting and unique benefits that Green spaces provide to the Council, its partners and the businesses and communities of the borough. These are outlined below:

Encouraging health & wellbeing

Currently, the Council's Green Space assets are extensively utilised for a range of health interventions, in line with national health objectives and targets that aim to improve both physical and mental well-being in the borough. These interventions include:

- Physical activities including walking, Nordic Walking, cycling, Forest Schools;
- Mental well-being activities including experiencing the green environment through community events and programmes including Eco therapy, and skills; and
- Building capacity for the development of social skills and confidence by encouraging involvement in Green Spaces through participation in activities such as Friends groups and volunteering.

There is a recognition that more could be done to maximise health benefits of green spaces in Knowsley, however many options are constrained by available resources. The council continues to engage partners to promote utilisation of green space for health and wellbeing and to look for innovative solutions to increase utilisation.

Providing Social Value

Currently, the Council's Green Space assets and interactive programmes provide extensive opportunities for enhancing their social value. These include:

- Providing people from different backgrounds opportunities for social interaction through public events and health and well-being programmes;
- Strengthening social ties, inclusion, leadership and community cohesion through friends groups and volunteering; and
- Promote self-value and reliance, civic pride, and social and employment skills through volunteering and being engaged with their community through their local Green Space.

Economic Growth

- High-quality green spaces can have a significant impact on the economic prosperity of an area and green space improvement projects in Knowsley have acted as a significant source of inward investment in the Liverpool City Region.

Improving educational attainment, motivation & behaviour

- Parks and green spaces provide a living, breathing and fully interactive and continually changing outdoor classroom; a wonderful asset with which to support and deliver a broad range of curriculum, wider learning and training opportunities, for example Forest School Sessions and Learning in the Natural Environment (LINE).



Mitigating against & adapting to climate change

- Green spaces can help to reduce carbon emissions and also help local communities adapt to the impacts of climate change. They are also a source of biomass, regarded as a renewable energy source.

Reducing crime & anti-social behaviour

- Safe, welcoming and attractive green spaces encourage high levels of positive use, which in turn helps to reduce any incidences of crime and anti-social behaviour. Provision of activity can also provide diversion from anti-social behaviour. Conversely poor quality sites can attract crime and anti-social behaviour.

Biodiversity

- With a rich biodiversity and notable geodiversity Knowsley benefits from an excellent resource that can safeguard our natural heritage. Significant proportions of this land already support a rich biodiversity and geodiversity or have potential for habitat creation.

Challenges remain to ensure green space benefits are maximised for the local community

However not withstanding this positive improvement, the full potential to green spaces to positively contribute to wider strategic outcomes and objectives of the Council and its partners has yet to be fully realised. In terms of 'whole population' outcomes, the following table shows

Knowsley's current trends for a selection of key health and well-being indicators:

Table 7: 'Whole population' outcomes linked to use of Green Space

Indicator	Baseline	Value	Latest data	Value
% of adults classified as overweight or obese	2015/16	69.1% (North West 63%)	2016/17	74.9% (North West 63.3%)
% of physically active adults	2015/16	61.1% (North West 64.6%)	2016/17	61.2 (North West 63.3%)
Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise / health reasons			2015-2019	21.0% (North West 17.5%)

Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework

The borough's Green Space assets have capacity to provide more of Knowsley's residents with the opportunities outlined above and the Council continues to look at innovative solutions to increase participation.

Climate Change

Knowsley has a vision to be a Borough of low carbon emissions

[The current vision is for Knowsley](#) to be a borough with low carbon emissions from its businesses, organisations, communities and homes, will have prepared for the effects of climate change and have in place a strong and thriving low carbon economy by 2023.

The Knowsley Partnership Climate Change Strategy 2012-2016 states that Knowsley will aim to reduce CO₂ by 31% from 2005 levels by 2020 from the following:

- Energy use in domestic, industrial and commercial properties (excluding those within the EU Emission Trading Scheme); and
- Road transport (excluding motorways).

Some examples of what Knowsley has done to reduce levels of CO₂:

- Replaced old fleet including waste vehicles thereby reducing emissions;
- Building Schools for the Future - reduced energy consumption from school estates;
- New Builds and Energy efficiency housing programmes – overall energy efficiency of Borough housing stock has improved;
- Carbon reduction – council buildings. Review of opportunities to improve energy efficiency of Council estate through building modifications and improvements;

- The latest data (2016) shows that Knowsley has achieved a 39% reduction since 2005. See table 8 below:

Table 8: carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2016.

Local Authority/Area	Per Capita CO ₂ Tonnes 2016	% reduction from 2005 levels (per capita)	Total CO ₂ emissions kTonnes (2016)
Halton	5.2	47%	661
Knowsley	4.9	39%	721
Liverpool	3.8	40%	1,835
Sefton	3.9	26%	1,073
St Helens	4.7	40%	843
Wirral	3.7	36%	1,192
North West	4.5	37%	-
UK	4.7	37%	-

Source: Gov.uk National Statistics CO₂ emissions

When compared to other authorities in the Liverpool City Region, Knowsley has relatively high per capita CO₂ emissions, however in terms of total CO₂ Knowsley emitted the second lowest amount in the city region. This may be due to the fact that although emissions from domestic energy use are directly relevant to a “per capita” calculation, industrial and transport emissions are not (for example a borough with a small population but disproportionately large industrial sector based there will have high per capita emissions).



Some areas of Knowsley are identified as more at risk of the effects of climate change

Preliminary work was undertaken by Manchester University for Knowsley Council to analyse socio-spatial flood vulnerability and disadvantage in the Borough. The research indicated that Knowsley is associated with three relatively disadvantaged neighbourhoods with respect to flooding (based on Middle Layer Super Output Areas) – two areas in North Kirkby and one in Stockbridge Village. Examples of characteristics that influence the ability to prepare/respond/recover from a flooding event that are relevant to Knowsley include low incomes, social isolation, disability, access to private transport, single elderly persons and lone parents with dependent children.

Also the health impacts of climate change will disproportionately affect people who are living in areas with high levels of deprivation. As Knowsley has the second highest proportion of deprived neighbourhoods in England, it is likely that the health of Knowsley residents will be affected more by climate change impacts than other areas of the country.

The table to the right shows vulnerability to flooding and heat in Knowsley:

Table 9: Areas at risk from flooding and heat (temperatures)

	No. of MLSOAs
Total in Knowsley	20
Flooding	
Number with extremely high inability to prepare for flooding	0
Number with extremely high inability to respond to flooding	3
Number with extreme high inability to recover after flooding	5
Number with extremely high flood vulnerability	3
Heat	
Number with extremely high inability to prepare for high temperatures	0
Number with extremely high inability to respond to high temperatures	7
Number with extreme high inability to recover after high temperatures	1
Number with extremely high heat vulnerability	5

Source: Knowsley Study by Sarah Lindley, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Future impact of climate change in Knowsley

In July 2009, the UK Climate Projections 2009 were released. The projections contain probabilistic information on the likely effects of climate change and the likely changes in weather patterns. Key findings for 2020 for the North West include:

- Warmer winters with increased precipitation;
- Hotter summers with decreased precipitation; and
- Increased severe weather events and storminess.

By 2080 the same trends continue but with higher temperatures, and steeper changes in precipitation patterns. The projections are very detailed and training has been received in order that the specific data for Knowsley can be analysed and fed into our on-going work on adapting to climate change.

Air Quality

Local Air Quality Management

Poor air quality is a significant public health issue and can be a result of vehicle emissions, industrial process emissions and bonfires. Air pollution is associated with a myriad of health problems including respiratory diseases such as emphysema and bronchitis, asthma, impaired lung development in children, premature births and low birth weight, lung cancer and heart disease.

Since 1997, all local authorities have been assessing the air quality in their area, under the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) framework, and where a problem is found, action plans have been developed to address the situation. The Clean Air Strategy which was published by the government in January 2019 proposes a review of the LAQM framework.

Figure 7 shows the Fraction of annual all-cause adult mortality attributable to anthropogenic (human-made) particulate air pollution (measured as fine particulate matter, PM2.5*).

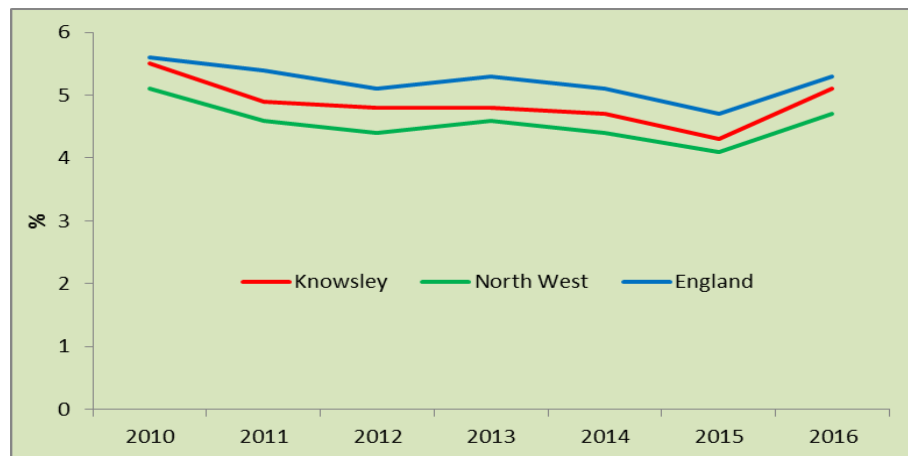
* PM2.5 means the mass (in micrograms) per cubic metre of air of individual particles with an aerodynamic diameter generally less than 2.5 micrometres. PM2.5 is also known as fine particulate matter.

Knowsley Council, as well as all other local authorities, is required to

examine air quality in its boundary to identify any problems that they may have in relation to certain pollutants including nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulates. If monitoring shows that air quality in a particular area is poor, the local authority can declare an air quality management area and take measures to improve the air quality.

Local monitoring data, the planning system, traffic information and control of industries by Environmental Permits have been utilised so that there is a continuing examination of the local air quality to ensure that all Air Quality Objectives set by the Government are met.

Figure 7: Fraction of annual all-cause adult mortality attributable to anthropogenic (human-made) particulate air pollution (measured as fine particulate matter, PM_{2.5}*). Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework

Air quality monitoring locations in Kirkby and Halewood have shown pollutants are at levels below the Air Quality Objectives. However, the annual mean level for NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide) for the Cronton Road automatic site is very close to the annual objective of 40µg/m³. The annual mean can vary across years and there is a significant risk that the objective could be exceeded. Some passive monitoring sites exceed 40µg/m³; however we do not have a full year of data to make a full assessment. Therefore, there is a significant risk that the council will be required to declare an AQMA in the near future.

The Environmental Health and Consumer Protection Service will continue to monitor the air quality of Knowsley and are increasing the number of monitoring locations in the borough in order to gain as much data as possible, which in turn will assist us in categorising the borough's air quality. Currently, there are two automatic monitoring stations at Cronton Road, Huyton and Higher Road, Halewood. A third station is due to begin monitoring on County Road, Kirkby in February 2019 to replace the station on Briery Hey Avenue, Kirkby that was decommissioned in December 2017. These all monitor NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. In addition, we also have 32 passive monitoring locations that use diffusion tubes to monitor NO₂ levels. These are split in three clusters centred around Tarbock Island motorway junction, Kirkby town centre and Prescot town centre.

Data on Air Quality in Knowsley

A range of data and intelligence is also available at the local level, including local monitoring data, traffic information and control of

industries by Environmental Permits. The quality of local data is good although there are some gaps, as it is not possible to monitor air quality levels in all locations of the Borough.

The data from the Kirkby monitoring location had shown that concentrations of NO₂ had slightly declined following a noticeable peak in 2014, however levels were consistently and significantly below the limit. The data from the Kirkby monitoring location shows that concentrations of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} have been steady for the last 5 years of monitoring and have not been close to exceeding statutory limits. This was considered as a reason to decommission the Kirkby monitoring site in November 2017 in favour a new site closer to the town centre.

Less than two years of automatic monitoring at the Huyton and Halewood monitoring locations exists and therefore no trends in the data can be identified. NO₂ at Cronton Road, Huyton are close to exceeding the air quality objective and are a cause for concern.

Air quality is also a material consideration within the planning regime. National Planning Policy Framework, Part 124, states the “Planning Policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan

Contaminated Land

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 defines contaminated land as 'any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by means of substances in, on or under the land that:

- significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; or
- pollution of controlled waters is being, or is likely to be, caused.'

This legislation adopts the “suitable for use” approach in order to ensure that remedial action is taken only where contamination presents an unacceptable risk to human health or the wider environment assessed in the context of the current use and circumstances of the land.

Local authorities have four main duties under the legislation, these are:

- To produce a Contaminated Land Strategy (to be reviewed April 2019 – provide link)
- To inspect the borough to identify contaminated land
- To ensure that contaminated land is remediated
- To record certain prescribed information regarding regulatory actions on a public register

Contaminated land in Knowsley

There is currently no land in Knowsley that is determined as “contaminated land” as defined under part 2A of Environmental Protection Act 1990. However, in common with other areas, Knowsley has a legacy of land contamination arising from industrial development and other uses.

The primary tool for remediating land affected by contamination and the council discharging its duties under the act is the Planning regime. The planning regime is the most widely used means of managing and regulating land contamination and ensuring that it does not become a risk to human health and therefore cannot be legally declared contaminated land. The responsibility and costs for site investigation and remediation rests with the developer with the local authority acting as a regulator.

Risks associated with future land development in Knowsley are mitigated by the Planning Regime and Development Control

Under the Town and Country Planning legislation, the Council’s Planning Service already considers the potential implications of contamination when developing planning policy and when it is considering individual applications for planning permission. The planning process will continue to be the primary mechanism to assess risks and set appropriate remediation requirements, on the basis of both the current and proposed land use.

A Safer Knowsley

Crime and Community safety

Many of Knowsley’s Community Safety Partnership (CSP) strategic priorities do not change significantly from year to year as they reflect long term trends in crime and community safety.

The current priorities of the community safety partnership are outlined in the current [CSP strategic plan 2017-20](#).

The CSP acknowledge however, that from time to time there is the need to re-focus priorities in response to:

- Emerging or changing trends in crime and ASB
- Emerging changes to the Community Safety legislative, funding and policy landscape
- The impact of previous interventions and learning gained through the delivery of existing priorities

Continual monitoring and analysis of longer term trends relating to crime and community safety is important to direct the work of the Council and its partners in the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and wider Local Strategic Partnership. It allows the CSP to understand and prioritise emerging and ongoing threats to community safety in Knowsley without reacting unnecessarily to short term ‘spikes’ in certain types of crime.

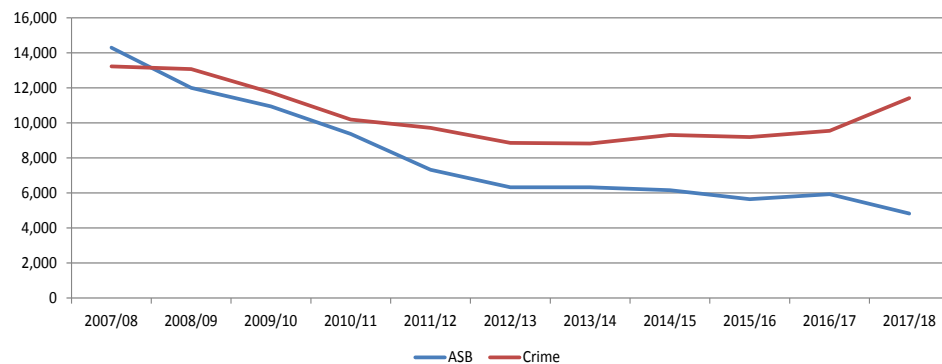


Long term trends in crime show reductions in police recorded crime and ASB have plateaued and are beginning to rise, both nationally and in Knowsley

Despite overall crime reducing by around 13% since the high point of 2007/08, crime in Knowsley has been increasing for the last four years. The gradual increase seen between 2014 and 2017 has accelerated during 2017/18 with an increase of 16%. Over the same period crime has risen across England and Wales by 13%, in the Northwest by 23% and in Merseyside by 14%.

Figure 8 below shows the rolling 12-month figures (to account for seasonal variations impacting upon trends) show the long term levels of crime and ASB in the Borough. Whilst ASB reductions have plateaued, levels of recorded crime have increased over recent years, and the rate of increase is now accelerating.

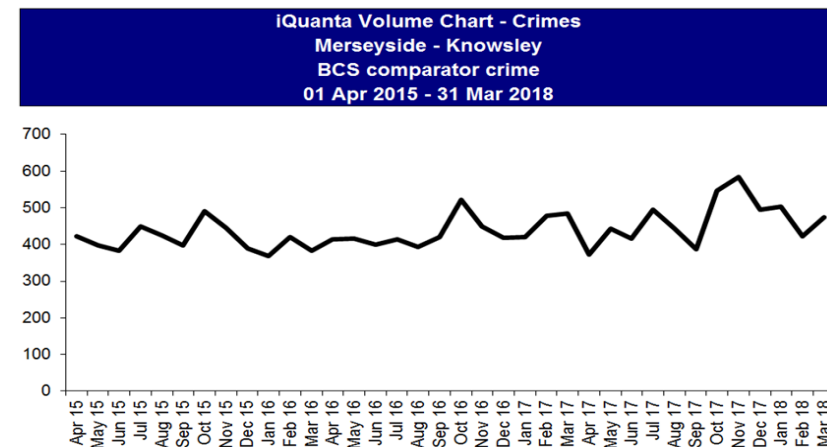
Figure 8: Long term crime and ASB trends 2010-18 (rolling 12 month totals)



Changes to police recording practises have affected crime data – the Crime Survey of England and Wales (CESW) is a more reliable indicator of overall trends

Due to recent changes in recording practices increases seen in the number of crimes recorded by the police does not necessarily mean that overall levels have crime have increased. The Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) provides a more reliable assessment of long term trends in crime as it is not subject to changes in police recording practices. Figure xx below shows Knowsley’s medium term trend for ‘all crime’ according to the CSEW, which acknowledge an increase in recent years, although less pronounced than that of the rise in recorded crime:

Figure 9: Trends for ‘all crime’ in Knowsley according to the CSEW



Source: iQuanta Home Office Crime Recording System



The CSEW shows a more modest increase over the last financial year of 7% for 'all crime' in Knowsley. Nationally a 4% increase was seen in the CSEW for the same period, whilst Merseyside as a whole saw no significant change compared to the previous year.

Despite reductions in police recorded ASB, supplementary data and community perceptions suggest ASB remains a high priority issue locally

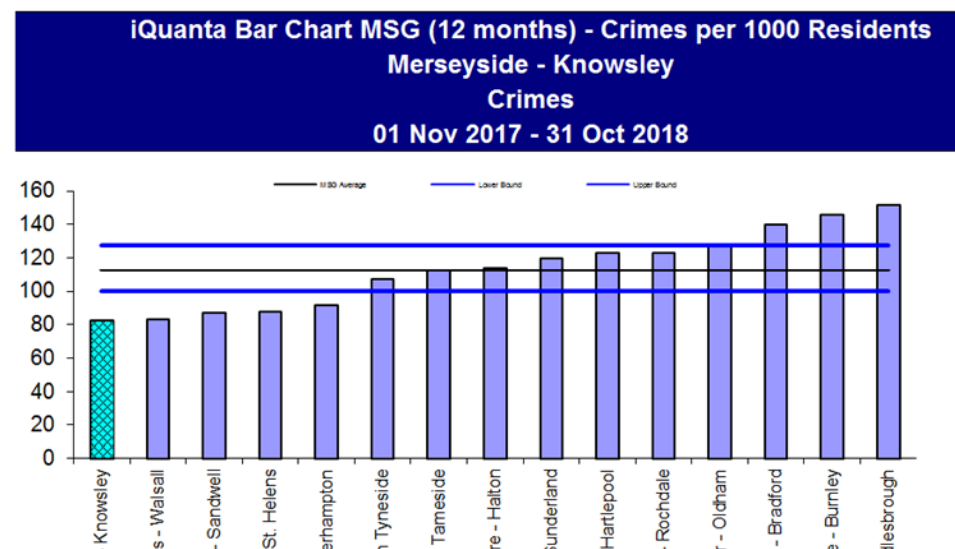
Police recorded ASB data shows reductions in last few years; however community perceptions of ASB as a high priority issue remain and supporting data suggests ASB remains an issue for agencies such as housing providers and the Council. Detailed analysis of ASB is provided later in this chapter.

Comparisons with other areas show Knowsley 'catching up' with other areas in terms of the rate of increase in crime

Figure 10 below shows how Knowsley compares when looking at 'all crime' offences during the period 01 Nov 2017 through to 31th October 2018. The data is based on the number of offences per 1,000 population and compares the Borough with iQuanta most similar group (MSG) of local CSPs. The average for Knowsley's group is just over 113 crimes per 1,000 residents and Knowsley is well below this level with just over 82 crimes per 1,000 residents.

Similar trends are apparent across the Merseyside region which has seen an increase of 11% in the last 12 months (Nov 17 to Oct 18) compared to the same period last year.

Figure 10: iQuanta Most Similar Group (MSG) comparison: 'all crime rate per 1000 popn' November 2017 – October 2018



Source: iQuanta Home Office Crime Recording System

The nature of offences committed in Knowsley has changed over time with significant increases in violent crime driven by changes to police recording seen in recent years

In percentage terms, Violence without Injury accounts for the highest proportion of crimes committed over the last financial year. Almost 18% of all crime during 2017/18 was categorised as violence without injury followed by Criminal Damage at 16%. This is a shift from the figures of previous years where Criminal Damage always showed the highest share.

Changes to recording practices around violent crime are likely to underpin this shift.

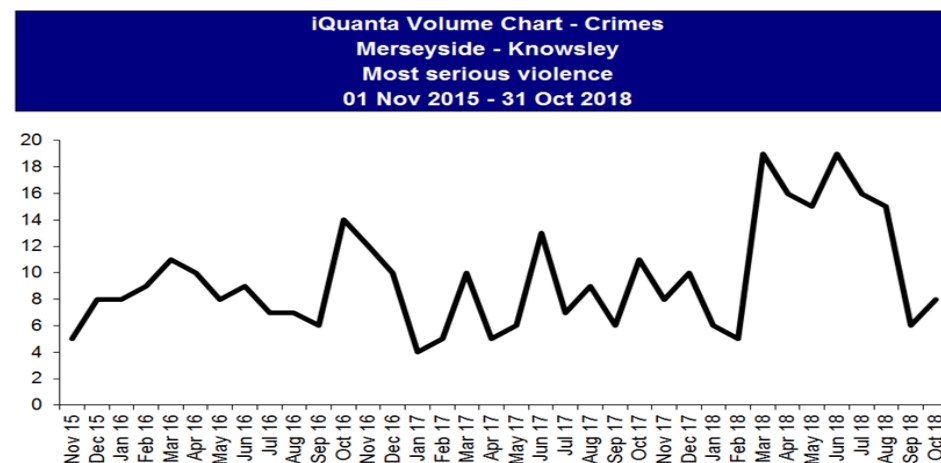
National CSEW estimates show much lower in levels of violence with injury compared with the previous survey year (a 1% increase), with the underlying trend fairly flat over the last few years. It's important to recognise the differences in the two measures of crime; the CSEW tends to record high numbers of less harmful crimes while police recorded crime provides a better measure of the more serious, low volume offences such as homicide and GBH, as these tend to have higher levels of reporting to the police.

Knowsley has seen a 'spike' in serious violence recently but appears to now be returning to previous levels

Although over the longer term overall violent crime remains relatively stable, Knowsley has seen an increase in levels of serious violent crime over the last year which peaked in the summer months of 2018.

Detailed analysis of violent crime over this period identified some sporadic incidents of serious violence linked to disputes and tensions within local organised crime groups, and overall levels of violence and public order are likely to have been exacerbated by relatively hot weather and the world cup which might have been expected to increase the risk of alcohol related violence, public order and also domestic abuse offences.

Figure 11: Most serious violence (MSV) in Knowsley Nov 2015 – October 2018



Source: iQuanta Home Office Crime Recording System

National trends for police recorded violence over the same period show a rise in some higher-harm violent offences and an increase of 12% nationally in violent crime involving the use of knives and sharp implements during the last year, leading to high profile media coverage of 'knife crime' as an emerging issue.

Sexual offences have also seen increases, driven by 'non recent' offences and improvements in recording

Knowsley's trends with regard to sexual offences also mirror national trends in terms of the types of offences increasing and the drivers behind the increases. Police recorded sexual offences increased by 24% nationally during the last financial year, whilst Knowsley increased by 11%

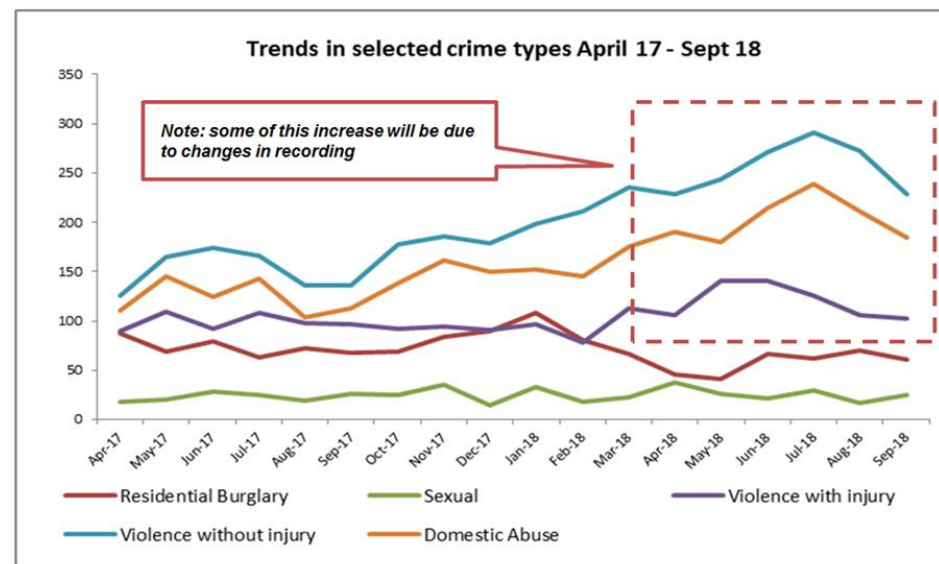
over the same period. Nationally offence categories that directly relate to sexual offences against children contributed to over one third (37%) of the total increase in the number of sexual offences recorded by the police.

In addition to improvements in recording, the rise in sexual offences is thought to reflect a greater willingness for victims to come forward and a significant increase in 'non-recent' sexual offences (over 12 months between incident and date reported). Both increases are reflected in current national trends. 'Non recent' sexual offences have increased from 25% of all sexual offences in 2014/15 to 33% in 2017/18.

Other crime types have remained relatively stable over recent years

As demonstrated by figure 6.5 below, analysis of other crime types over the medium term shows increases but no significant areas of concern. Serious Acquisitive Crime trends, including offences such as burglary and robbery, are increasing, as are other local 'volume crimes' such as vehicle crime but not to the same extent as violence and sexual offences.

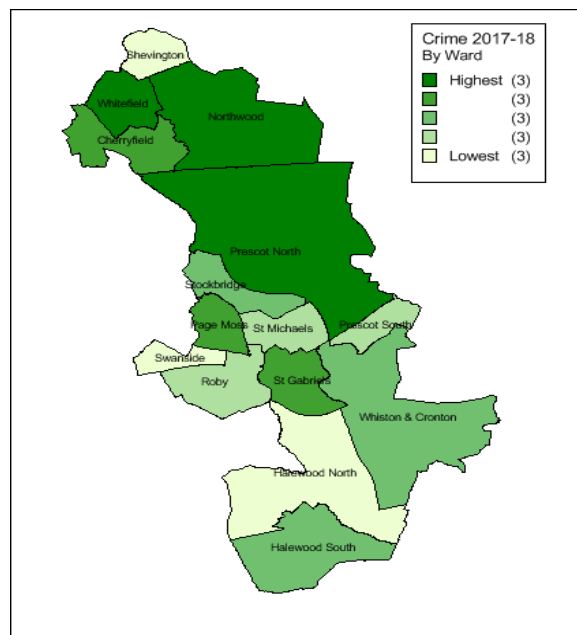
Figure 12: Medium term trends in key crime types



Source: iQuanta Home Office Crime Recording System

Crime is distributed fairly evenly across the Borough when taking ward population size into account

Figure 13: Crime rate per 1000 population mapped for Knowsley wards



Source: iQuanta Home Office Crime Recording System

Figure 13 above shows crime recorded in Knowsley during 2017/18 mapped at 'new' ward level in terms of crime per 1000 population. Looking at volume of crime over the last financial year the wards with the highest crime rates ('all crime' per 1000 population) are Prescot North (108.2), Whitefield (100.6) and Northwood (98.3). The wards with the

lowest volume crime rates over the same period are Swanside (51.3), Halewood North (41.6) and Shevington (52.3). The national rate currently stands at 83 crimes per 1000 popn, North West rate at 98.1 and Merseyside 88.9.

(Note: crime levels in Prescot North contain higher levels of acquisitive offences such as shop-theft due to presence of Prescot Retail Park in this ward)

Risk of being a victim of crime in Knowsley is higher for certain population groups

Crime and anti-social behaviour can pose risks to everyone, regardless of where people live, their socio-economic background, their age, their gender or their race. However some specific population groups and certain demographics incur greater risks to becoming victims of specific forms of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The impact of public sector reform and the associated reductions in available partner resources means that partnership efforts to tackle crime and community safety issues are increasingly prioritised according to seriousness of threat, harm and risk. The following section provides an overview of the nature of victimisation in Knowsley for those population groups where the risk of harm is judged to be most significant.

Vulnerable Victims

Domestic abuse is estimated to be highly prevalent in Knowsley

Establishing local prevalence of Domestic Abuse is notoriously difficult. Evidence suggests that almost a third of women and a fifth of men have experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16 (Flatley, 2013). Table xx to the right provides estimates of national prevalence of Domestic Abuse. If these estimates were applied locally, about 17,000 women and 8,500 men have experienced domestic abuse in Knowsley since the age of 16. In the last year alone approximately 3350 females and 1720 males will have been victims of Domestic Abuse. However, given the characteristics of the Borough and that the national estimates do not include under 16’s and over 60’s, it is likely to be an underestimation.

Table 10: National prevalence of Domestic Abuse

	England and Wales			Adults aged 16 to 59		
	Since the age of 16			In the last year		
	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All
Any domestic abuse (partner or family non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)	14.7	26.2	20.5	4.3	7.5	5.9
Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)	11.0	22.9	16.9	3.0	5.9	4.5
Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)	6.0	9.0	7.5	1.6	2.0	1.8

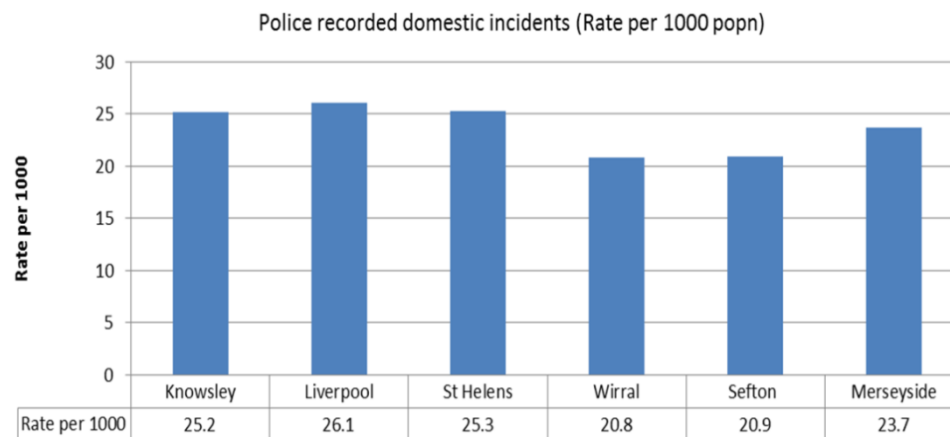
Source: ONS Crime in England and Wales

Police recorded data suggest a high prevalence of Domestic Abuse reported incidents compared to most of Merseyside

Figure 14 below shows the current incident rate across the Merseyside Region.

Knowsley’s rate of 25.2 incidents per 10000 population is one of the highest in the region and above the Merseyside average.

Figure 14: Domestic Abuse ‘incidents’ 2017/18 – regional comparison



Source: Merseyside Criminal Justice Board regional statistics

Whilst DA crime has increased, reported incidents have remained stable

Analysis of Merseyside Police data for 2017/18 show that just under 17% percent of all crimes are domestic incident related. This percentage has increased year on year since 2011 and has more than doubled since



2011/12. This could suggest a massive spike in domestic abuse offences, however this is not borne out in the number of police recorded domestic incidents.

Table 11 below shows that between 2011 and 2018 the police deal with approximately 3,500 domestic incidents on average each year in Knowsley and this has been relatively consistent. The main explanation for the change is the conversion rate of incidents to crimes which has risen consistently in each of the last five years from 12% in 2011/2012 to 31% during 2016/17 and an unprecedented 46% in 2017/18.

Table 11: Domestic Abuse incidents/crimes ratio 2011/12 to 2017/18

Year	all crimes	Domestic abuse crimes	DA % of all crimes	DA incidents	Conversion rate incidents / crimes (%)
2011-12	9710	440	4.5	3805	11.5
2012-13	8854	496	5.6	3537	14
2013-14	8822	553	6.2	3356	16.4
2014-15	9238	947	10.2	3406	27.8
2015-16	9253	910	9.8	3480	26.1
2016-17	9548	1224	12.8	3928	31.2
2017-18	9654	1610	16.7	3449	46.7

Source: Merseyside Police local systems data download

One significant factor underpinning the rise is the increase in offences is the recording of harassment offences as crime. Local analysis conducted in 2017 (table 6.3 below) shows an increase generally in harassment offences, and a particular increase in harassment (sec 2) offences from 44

in 2014/15 to 128 in 2016/17, an increase of around nearly 200% in Sec 2 offences and over 90% in harassment offences overall in three years.

Table 12: Increase in Harassment Offences 2014/15 – 2016/17

Harassment Offence	14/15	15/16	16/17	Vol increase 14-17	% increase 14-17
Harassment sec 2	44	73	128	84	190
Harassment sec 4 (13	20	28	15	115
Harassment (breach of restraining order)	50	35	58	8	16
Harassment (other)	10	16	15	5	50
Total	117	144	229	112	96

Source: Merseyside Police local systems data download

There is increasing recognition of the harm caused to children in households where domestic abuse is present

Referrals for children in social care in Knowsley have seen an increase of domestic violence as a contributing factor, with MASH data evidencing a high and increasing demand for early help / social care support for DA related concerns. The highest category of all Contacts made to MASH is for Domestic Violence with the majority of these being referred by the Police.

Previous analysis has shown significant proportion (45%) of children identified as living in households affected by domestic abuse were aged 0-5 yrs., and that children were present in around 45% of police reported

incidents of Domestic Abuse in Knowsley (Local Children Safeguarding Board Data 2016).

Hate related incidents and crimes are often under-reported

The number of cases of reported hate crime had risen year on year since 2006, however 2017/18 has seen a reduction of around 50 offences compared to the previous year. The first 6 months data for 2018/19 suggests a return to previous levels is likely for this financial year and that the trend over the long term is stable at around 230-250 crimes per year.

Racist incidents predominate, although a rise in disability hate incidents has been seen over the last two to three years partly due to partner activity in this area to raise awareness of what constitutes a hate crime. Latest available data from iQuanta shows a 4% drop in racially/religiously aggravated offences over the last 12 months (Nov 2017 to October 2018).

Victim analysis indicates that workers from BRM backgrounds working in convenience stores, takeaways and petrol stations are most at risk, with 32% of historical incidents recorded at business premises, often within ASB 'hot-spot' areas. This risk has been mitigated to a significant extent by the introduction of 'body cameras' to those judged to be most at risk which often prevents escalation of nuisance and personal ASB from progressing to more serious crimes including hate related incidents.

Reassuringly, whilst many areas nationally saw an increase in reported hate crimes following the terrorist incidents in Manchester and London in 2017, Knowsley did not experience a similar increase.

Anti-Social Behaviour continues to remain a high priority within communities and across partners

Results from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) at Merseyside 'Force' level to March 2018 show that:

- An estimated 33% of respondents reported experiencing or witnessing ASB in their local area (42% Merseyside). The national trend has remained fairly stable since data were first collected in March 2012; however Merseyside's perception of ASB as a problem has increased over recent years from around 36% in 2015/16 to 42% this year.
- 9% of adults perceived there to be a high level of ASB in their local area nationally, with the same percentage perceiving a high level of ASB in Merseyside (a 5% decrease on the previous year). Therefore whilst perceptions of ASB as a problem in the region have increased, perceptions of ASB as a serious issue have remained stable.
- The top 3 ASB issues in Merseyside are people using / dealing drugs (25%), litter/rubbish lying around (28%) and teenagers hanging around on the streets (21%).

Local data provided from partners suggests increasing reports of incidents of ASB and related disorder. Housing Association tenancy case management data suggests a general increase in ASB issues and, although not directly comparable with police recorded ASB data, taken together

these sources of data do suggest that ASB is increasing within local communities both in terms of its prevalence and impact on resident's perceptions of ASB as an issue of significance. Data provided by Knowsley Housing Trust shows an increase across a number of ASB tenancy management categories as demonstrated in table xx above.

KHT's customer satisfaction survey in 2017/18 evidenced very high levels (and a small rise) in tenant's ranking of Safety and Security in their Community as an issue of importance (from 9.5/10 in 2016 to 9.6/10) in 2017 and also a reduction in satisfaction with the same issue (down to 7.4 in 2017 compared to 7.6 in 2016). From the range of specific comments provided by tenants as part of the survey a lack of visible police presence to reassure communities suffering issues of ASB emerged as a prominent theme.

Villages Housing Association Neighbourhoods Promises survey 2017/18 showed 25.87% of respondents selected ASB as the most important issue where they live. This was the largest single group, closely followed by 24.48% Crime/Fear of Crime.

Table 13: KHT ASB case numbers and categories annual comparison

ASB Category	16/17	17/18	Vol	%
Alcohol related	16	22	6	38%
drug misuse / dealing	79	114	35	44%
Verbal abuse / harrassment / intimidation	167	226	59	35%
garden nuisance	105	164	59	56%
Vandalism / property damage	71	86	15	21%
Misuse of communal areas / public space	39	56	17	44%
Litter / Rubbbish / Fly tipping	335	104	-231	-69%
Vehicle Nuisance	16	17	1	6%
Noise	210	237	27	13%

Source: KHT case management local system data

Analysis of Merseyside Police 'call out' data¹ over the medium term suggests reducing calls for service, particularly related to 'personal' ASB. Table 14 below shows the extent to which calls for service have decreased over the last 3 years. Analysis shows that overall 'calls for service' to the police related to 'personal' ASB have decreased by 55% between 15/16 and 17/18 financial years.

¹ Merseyside Police 'call-out' data is an unmoderated provisional data set sourced from local police data systems and should not be confused or conflated with official crime data for recorded offences

It should be noted that the overall proportion of incidents where a police response was not dispatched has increased significantly over the three years, which may account for a proportion of the overall reduction in ASB incidents seen over the period.

Table 14: Police 'call out' data for personal (228) and nuisance (229) ASB Categories 2014/15 – 2017/18

'Call out' types	Vol 15/16	% 15/16	Vol 16/17	% 16/17	Vol 17/18	% 17/18	Vol Diff 15-18	% Diff 15-18
Total calls (all crime inc NPR etc)	48343		45432		45164		3179	-7%
Total ASB	5645	11.7%	6026	13.3%	4825	10.7%	820	-17%
Personal	969	2.0%	840	1.8%	627	1.4%	342	-55%
Nuisance	4493	9.3%	4997	11.0%	4028	8.9%	465	-12%
Environmental	183	0.4%	189	0.4%	170	0.4%	13	-8%
Not dispatched	1707	30%	3118	51.7%	2864	59.4%	n/a	n/a

Source: Merseyside Police local systems data download

Last year, data provided via Knowsley's Community Police Team's 'Have Your Say' website showed that between February and September 2017 just over 50% of reports concerned Anti-Social Behaviour, with nuisance ASB attributed to groups of young people and vehicle misuse showing as key concerns of local residents.

An additional issue to emerge strongly during the development of previous year's threat assessments is the anti-social, illegal and often dangerous use of off road bikes, both within Knowsley and across Merseyside. Whilst previous local threat assessments had picked this up

as a particular issue within the summer months in Knowsley, evidence suggests the issue had become more widespread and regular throughout 2017 and apparent across the City region.

Criminal exploitation of children and young people has emerged as a key priority over recent years

The identification and prevention of child exploitation is an emerging threat of significance, and much work has been undertaken over recent years by local partners to improve understanding of this issue which was captured in the [2016 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) report](#).

The report brings together the current intelligence and understanding of issues of both criminal (CCE) and sexual (CSE) exploitation of children and young people. Knowsley has a high prevalence of the common risk factors associated with Child Exploitation including high levels of missing from home or care, evidence of mental ill health and high levels of school absences. Merseyside Organised Criminal Groups (OCGs) are identified as the second highest exporters of drugs in the UK. There are 155 OCGs operating across Merseyside, of these 38 are known to be based in Knowsley. There is substantiated evidence that local children are being exploited by both the Merseyside and Knowsley based OCG's.

Practitioner insight and local intelligence suggests links between local organised crime groups and child criminal exploitation

Children within our local community including those at home, care homes, and in pupil referrals units are being groomed and subjected to debt bondage, threats and violence and used for both in borough drug

dealing, commissioning of serious violence and for [county lines](#) purposes. They are trafficked across the country to courier (often internally) and distribute drugs, cash and firearms. Children from Knowsley have been found in areas including Newquay, Lincolnshire, Norwich, Cumbria, Scotland, North Wales and Lancashire.

The profile which emerged in 2015 does not differ significantly to the current picture of CCE, other than the actual numbers which continue to rise each year and the increase in numbers of cases now open to children's services

There are currently 61 children assessed as medium/high risk CCE on the MACE register (excluding low risk CCE). This does not reflect the full extent of CCE with children remaining undetected and unreported. The demand for CCE services now far outstrips the demand for CSE services in Knowsley.

77% of CCE cases are open to level four statutory services as Children in Need, or Children Protection Plan or are looked after. This is markedly different to those at risk of CSE, the majority of who are open to Early Help and not level 4 CSC which demonstrates the complexity of CCE.

Whilst the profile has not changed significantly we are now able to apply further knowledge and understanding of the CCE picture in Knowsley:

- Predominantly white male aged between 14-17 years
- Those with special educational needs and either poor or non-school attendance. PRU's and alternative education provision often feature
- Family breakdown and a history of poor parenting

- Users of cannabis, which leads to accrual of debts to drug dealers and gangs
- There is evidence that young exploited people can become exploiters themselves, getting their peers and younger children involved in drug activity. There are also significant connections between young people in Knowsley and young people in other Merseyside authorities
- Rapid escalation from being based locally and selling cannabis into distribution of Class A / cross border / internal concealment
- Location hotspots around Liverpool city centre drinking establishments
- Local taxis paid for by OCGs used to collect and transport children; similarly for train travel
- Children made aware of consequences of non-cooperation
- Arrest and asset seizures present a risk to children as debt owed to the OCGs
- Increasingly unknown children selected to avoid police attention
- Key indicator is children 'missing' from home and education, particularly those unreported by parents.

For Child Sexual Exploitation evidence suggests a younger cohort engaged in exploitation through social media and online in addition to a significant cohort engaged in exploitation via the 'boyfriend model' as described in Barnardo's 'Puppet on a string' research.



Local partners understanding and response to CCE has improved significantly in recent years

2017 was something of a watershed for national recognition of the issues of child criminal exploitation with responses being considered and supported on a national and regional basis, via the Home Office, Titan and the Liverpool City Region. Knowsley CSP has played an integral part in the development of a regional action plan that has been developed by the Liverpool City Region Serious and Organised Crime Group and seeks to ensure a coordinated and aligned response to an issue that has a regional and national impact.

The Shield Team is now an established multi-agency team comprising of social care, police, health and education along with commissioned specialist services, and has been specifically designed to lead on issues of child exploitation and children missing from home and care. Through close partnership working, significant child exploitation cases have been identified and there is ongoing work through the police to safeguard and protect young people and prosecute perpetrators.

Partnership work has continued to develop to address the threat of child criminal exploitation (CE) and attempt to raise the understanding of the issue to equal that now in place regarding Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). 2017 saw significant regional collaboration under the umbrella of the City Region Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) sub-group. The group has developed a [Pan-Merseyside Protocol in relation to Children Missing from Home and Care](#). A joint commission has been developed with the PCC around missing from home and care services. Understanding of CE as a

regional issue has increased. Screening tools, risk management plans and referral mechanisms have been aligned across the region to enable swifter responses to cross border activity. A Pan Merseyside data set has been established and is being developed to enable comparison in activity, trends and outcomes.

Emerging evidence suggests increasing risk of exploitation of young people via social media / online sites

Some evidence is emerging that the nature of threat, harm and risk associated with vulnerability is beginning to change. A recent Health Related Behaviour Survey conducted in Knowsley schools shows that 43% of Year 10 girls surveyed stated they spent 5 or more hours using social media the night previous to the survey being conducted. 26% of Year 10 girls had been asked for nude / partially nude pictures / video from someone they know, and a high proportion of Year 10 boys had been encouraged to view/ share inappropriate online content (29% pornography and 26% extreme violence).

The function of the internet and mobile technologies are changing 'pathways to risk', particularly for children and young people. The myriad risks posed online and the direct consequences, both in terms of children and young people's social and emotional wellbeing and the criminal justice response are emerging as an area for which partner agencies in Knowsley need to develop a robust response.



Serious and organised crime is also a significant threat in Knowsley

In recognition of the relatively high levels of organised crime perceived to be present in the Borough a problem profile was developed by partners that seeks to understand the nature and prevalence of organised crime in Knowsley. This profile established the key characteristics of Organised Criminal Groups in Knowsley which included:

- Involvement in the supply and dealing of drugs (predominantly cannabis) in their communities but also with other areas which is known to be the source of disputes and tensions with other groups within Knowsley and with neighbouring areas of Liverpool
- Access to firearms and from intelligence reports a willingness to use them to assist them in their criminality
- No fear in the use of violence to resolve disputes/tensions with many of the known members or associates
- Offending includes not only supply of drugs (and any associated violence) but burglary, robbery, HGV theft and vehicle crime to supplement their lifestyle
- Offending occurs in Knowsley, cross border into Liverpool North in particular and also on a regional, national and international scale
- Groups are territorial and many located in some of the key 'hot spot' locations for crime and ASB throughout North Huyton and Kirkby
- Organised Criminal Groups often have large number of members and associates which will involve younger members committing "lower level offending" to help maintain groups' control and influence in areas

- Recent evidence suggests an emerging threat concerning exploitation of young people, previously unknown to services, by organised criminal groups to commit drug dealing and firearms offences, often outside of the Borough.

The changing nature of the threat posed by Serious and Organised Crime in Knowsley and the links to child exploitation (CE) has focussed partnership attention on the relationship between the two. Significant work has been undertaken by partners with regard to the criminal exploitation of children by organised criminal groups which has meant increasing collaboration between the CSP and Local Children's Safeguarding Board. In Merseyside, the Police and Crime Commissioner has taken the lead in developing local organised crime profiles and uses the Merseyside Community Safety Partnership (MCSP) as the vehicle by which partnership activity is conducted in response to the issues highlighted.

Summary of significant changes to the Community Safety legislative, funding and policy landscape

In addition to the monitoring and analysis of trends relating to crime and community safety, this chapter also sets out significant changes to the national and local policy and delivery landscape and the implications of these changes for the local Community Safety Partnership's current approach to delivery.

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner's crime priorities were refreshed as part of the development of a new four year Policing and Crime Plan in early 2017 and Knowsley has sought to align the priorities within our own local Strategic Plan to the refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 as far as possible.

Given the role of OPCC as victim's commissioner for the Liverpool City Region, Knowsley continues to work with the OPCC at regional and local level to influence commissioning decisions which impact on available CSP funding. Areas of regional work have included Domestic Abuse, Child Exploitation and Serious and Organised Crime.

Merseyside Police 'Community First'

In January of 2017, Merseyside Police moved to a new operating model 'Community First', which removed existing boundaries between Local Authority areas and centralised a number of resources including a single Command Team for local policing. Knowsley's CSP continue to work with Merseyside Police to mitigate any potential adverse impact caused by the changes to neighbourhood policing and have invested in/supported an "Early Help" approach, co-locating four officers within the Safer Communities Service to pick up and respond to bronze domestic abuse cases, community issues and "high demand generators" and have now agreed to re-establish a local unit to address anti-social behaviour as part of the wider partnership response to these issues.

Counter terrorism and the 'Prevent' duty.

The introduction of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 created a duty on specified authorities (local authorities, police, education, probation, prisons and health) whilst exercising their functions to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Channel (the multi-agency approach to support individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorist or extremist activity) has also been placed on a statutory footing and seeks to safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Knowsley developed a Prevent Steering Group which sits beneath the CSP and has agreed a Prevent Action Plan 2016-18 to ensure robust governance, effective multi-agency processes and an effective communications strategy to raise local awareness of the plan in order to better identify and reduce risks associated with violent extremism. These duties impose additional responsibilities upon partners which must be met from existing budgets. At a time of reducing budgets this creates additional pressures upon the Community Safety Partnership.

Changes to ASB legislation, tools and powers.

Legislative changes to the tools and powers available to tackle anti-social behaviour brought about through the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 required Knowsley CSP to develop alternative approaches to tackling local ASB issues and concerns. Recently, the Council has decided to reintroduce key elements of the former Anti-Social Behaviour Unit to address local issues of ASB and allow the current Safer Communities Service to focus on domestic abuse.



Wider criminal justice and public sector reform

The Coalition Government's Transforming Rehabilitation agenda including Probation Service Reform presented a significant challenge to existing offender management arrangements in Knowsley. The recent announcement concerning the cutting short of current CRC contracts and the re-organisation of boundaries to be co-terminus with National Probation boundaries presents further uncertainty and challenge regarding local offender management arrangements.

Significant statutory partner cuts and reductions in core funding to the Youth Offending Service continue to present risks to the capacity of that service to deliver statutory functions and preventative activity. There remains a lack of clarity as to the intentions of the Youth Justice Board with regard to future reform of Youth Offending Services.

The transfer of responsibility from DCLG to the Home Office for Fire and Rescue Services and the ongoing implications of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 cast a degree of uncertainty around the future of local governance for the Fire Service within a context of significant planned changes to the determination of emergency response options.