

Lichfield District

Draft Community safety strategy

Building everyday safety through people, places, policies, and programmes

Foreword

Community safety is not just a policy – it's a promise. A promise that where we live, work, and raise our families should be places of trust, belonging, and wellbeing. In Lichfield District, we are not standing still. We are taking bold, decisive action.

Our communities are resilient, but we know the challenges they face are real and evolving – from the rise in car theft, break-ins and youth disengagement, to the hidden harms of domestic abuse and exploitation. These are not abstract issues. They affect real people, every day. And so must our response.

That's why the Lichfield Community Safety Partnership is laser-focused on action. Working with Staffordshire Commissioner, Bromford, police, fire, health services, schools, voluntary organisations and most critically – local people – we are prioritising prevention, early intervention, and visible enforcement.

This strategy outlines clear objectives: increase safety and the feelings of safety and build stronger communities and tackle the root causes of crime. Through coordinated intelligence-sharing, targeted interventions, and stronger support networks, our aim is to make every ward and every street in this district feel safer.

But this is not just our strategy. It's yours. Community safety is a shared mission. We need residents, businesses, schools, and services pulling in the same direction. When communities feel empowered, change becomes unstoppable.

We are committed. We are prepared. And with this strategy, we are acting.

Let's get to work.

Councillor Richard Cox

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement at Lichfield District Council and Chair of the Lichfield District Community Safety Partnership

1. Introduction

This strategy sets out the building blocks for a safer, more connected Lichfield District – one where people feel secure not just in emergencies, but in the daily rhythm of life. Based on research conducted across the district and guided by the voices of residents, the strategy centres on four key priorities:

- **People** – Safety through relationships and connection
- **Places** – Safety through design and care
- **Policies** – Safety through communication and accountability
- **Programmes** – Safety through consistency and presence

The priority areas and target interventions (set out in section 3) are practical, place-aware, and people-led, shaped by what residents said makes them feel safe, seen, and supported.

2. Strategic focus

Our strategy will cover all areas of our district, however our community safety research identified some key geographic and demographic priorities, where we need to ensure a particular focus:

Geographic priorities

Target areas for initial delivery include:

- **Chasetown & Boney Hay** – antisocial behaviour, youth disconnection
- **Curborough** – weak infrastructure, poor visibility of services
- **Summerfield & All Saints** – low intergenerational cohesion, night safety concerns
- **Lichfield City Centre** – emerging youth safety and nightlife issues

Demographic priorities

Priority support should target:

- **Young people (11–24)** – especially those disconnected from services
- **Older adults** – particularly isolated or long-standing residents
- **Women** – reporting disproportionate fear in public spaces after dark
- **Community volunteers** – vital but under-resourced
- **New arrivals and renters** – often lacking trust and local ties

Read our: [Community safety research: The findings and strategic building blocks](#) to find out more.

3. Priority areas and target interventions

The following table sets out the **priority areas** and associated **actions** that the community safety partnership will aim to deliver against on an annual basis. The recommended actions will be fed into CSPs annual delivery plan for the community safety partnership, which ensures funding provided by the Staffordshire Commissioner is spent effectively in the district.

The priorities and proposed actions will also be used to inform projects delivered independently by members of the partnership.

People	
Proposed action	Example projects
Fund and sustain neighbourhood spaces that foster informal interaction	Use community cafés, benches, multi-use hubs
Support mentoring and intergenerational projects	Link youth projects with older adults and invest in peer support structures
Treat social connection as infrastructure	Track and invest in social networks the way we do in roads or buildings
Places	
Proposed action	Example projects
Audit and improve public realm particularly in target wards	Deliver schemes to improve lighting, hedges, signage, upkeep
Launch safe routes and streets audits with community members	Co-produced audits using walking interviews, results inform planning, PSPOs, and lighting upgrades
Clean and care days in priority areas	Community events, mobile units, pop-ups to increase presence and oversight (for example Be Proud of your Community Days)
Use emotional geography as design input	Design spaces not just for function, but for how they make people feel
Policies	
Proposed action	Example projects
Create participatory local forums for policy design and feedback	Local level community wellbeing workshops, particularly in target wards
Rebuild communication and accountability loops	Regular updates on feedback, action taken, and who's responsible
Blend digital and offline communication tailored to residents	Multi-channel, accessible communication - flyers, local WhatsApp groups, service noticeboards.

Programmes	
Proposed action	Example projects
Support service continuity through small grants and coordination funds	Support groups to stay visible, e.g. toddler groups, food clubs, warm hubs
Invest in long-term local delivery rather than short pilots	Offer and encourage partners to build long-term resourcing pathways with wraparound capacity building
Build visibility of existing services through better mapping and signage	Service maps, posters in community hubs, improved digital visibility

View [this year's delivery plan](#).

4. Delivery and monitoring

To ensure these priorities are implemented, monitored and refined over time:

Delivery structure

Community Safety Partnership: District Council, Police, community researchers, voluntary sector representatives, and local residents.

Responsible for:

- Agreeing an annual action plan in response to the strategy and updated data
- Coordination across services
- Ensuring consistent local presence
- Feeding back results to residents

Monitoring tools

- **Delivery plan monitoring** – progress against the delivery plan will be monitored ongoing by the community safety partnership
- **KPI monitoring** – a set of highlight KPIs will be developed against which the partnership will track activity and impact
- **Safe & secure dashboard** – tracks delivery, incidents, participation
- **Social Progress Index (SPI)** – evaluates safety perception, cohesion, wellbeing across wards

5. How we built our strategy

This strategy was built not just for communities, but with them. Recognising that safety is rooted in trust, presence, and lived experience, the project began by listening deeply. With support from Lichfield District Council's Community Safety Team, sixteen local residents were trained as community researchers using [Impera Analytic's](#) citizen-led impact (CLI) model. These researchers – including Antony Jones, Claire Crompton, Claire Ferris, Lianne Mollineux, Olivia Chapman, Lucy Fletcher, and Sarah Hughes – held more than 100 conversations across every corner of the district, from the alleyways of Chasetown to the village halls of Elford. Their insights helped uncover the everyday realities of safety: what supports it, where it breaks down, and how it can be rebuilt.

This grassroots approach was strengthened by a district-wide survey of 161 residents, reaching both urban and rural communities, and by triangulating insights with key local strategies and tools – including the Lichfield District 2050 Plan, the Public Perception Survey, and the Social Progress Index (SPI). This blend of data and dialogue ensured the strategy was not just evidence-based but experience-led.

Special thanks go to the Impera Analytics research team for designing and guiding this inclusive methodology, and to the Lichfield District Council Community Safety Team for their ongoing partnership, coordination, and leadership throughout the process. Together, these efforts built a strategy rooted in lived experience, co-produced insight, and shared local ambition.

Read our: [Community safety research: The findings and strategic building blocks](#) to find out more.

6. Final thoughts

Safety isn't a single intervention – it's the result of everyday care, visible presence, and trusted systems. This strategy prioritises conditions for safety – relationships, environments, transparency, and stability. By investing in what people say works, and removing the friction that stops them engaging, we build not just safer communities, but stronger ones.

This is not a finished blueprint, but a working strategy. Its power lies in how it is used: with residents, with consistency, and with care.

View our progress in our [community safety dashboard](#).