

Safer Neighbourhoods

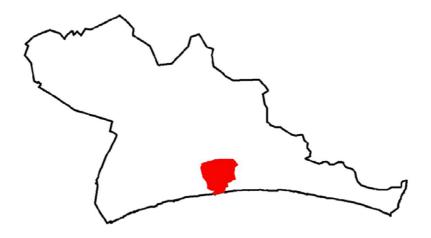
Bournemouth Division





Vulnerable Area Profile

Boscombe





Date of Profile
Period Covered

Area Covered

January 2006 2005 Boscombe





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1. An Overview of Boscombe

Introduction

The introduction of the Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Programme requires police to listen to and interact with the local community to a much greater degree than ever before. In order to police communities in the most effective way the approach to policing must be tailored to suit that particular area. For this to occur, an understanding of those communities must be gained, which will in turn help police to understand why certain communities experience certain problems, and help police to gain an acceptance from the community and forge close relationships with them. This profile is intended to enhance that understanding of Bournemouth BCU's most socially deprived area - Boscombe.

Boscombe is located just to the east of Bournemouth town centre. Sandwiched in between are the areas of St Pauls and the East Cliff. To the north is Springbourne, the boundary being marked by the railway line to London. East is Pokesdown and to the south is the sea. Boscombe is dissected in the middle by the main road route running west to east through the area, Christchurch Rd.. Half way along Christchurch Rd is the Precinct, the padestrianised part of this road between Palmerston Rd and Ashley Rd, which forms the centre of Boscombe. This is where most of the 'high street shopping' is located, and is very much the 'centre' of Boscombe. The Sovereign Centre, one of Bournemouth's largest shopping locations, is also located here.

Much of the following can be sourced from the work of the Dorset Police Drugs Analyst for Bournemouth Division, Mr Lee Griffiths. Lee has written a number of studies around the development and character of the drugs markets in Bournemouth and Boscombe in particular, and their effects on the community. Lee has kindly given permission for some of this work to form the basis of this overview of the Boscombe area.

The Boscombe Community

Boscombe is one of the more established areas in Bournemouth, with a community existing since the mid 19th Century. Between this time and the immediate post war period, Boscombe was one of the wealthiest areas in Bournemouth, being located close to the sea with a favourable climate and environment, it afforded an attractive retreat for wealthier middle class Victorian and Edwardian families seeking a more pleasant life away from the crowded industrial cities. By the late 1960s, many of these wealthier, established families were dying off and the large houses they left behind were sold off and subdivided into bedsits and flats, in order to meet the growing demand for low cost, rented single person housing. By the 1970s this transition in character was attracting vulnerable people, people on low incomes and those in receipt of benefits to the area. The large number of hotels, guest houses and holiday flats in Bournemouth also contributed to an influx of poorly paid workers, which also fed the need for low cost housing in the Boscombe area.

With this increase in less affluent, vulnerable people came an increase in transience in the population, a more 'chaotic' environment in Boscombe and the beginnings of a drug using community in the area. This was coupled with an influx of Liverpudlian drug users and dealers to Bournemouth in the 1970s. Bournemouth was becoming an importer of people with drug and alcohol problems, and the drugs market expanded around these circumstances. By the 1980s this was being further stimulated by the setting up and proliferation of treatment centres for drug misuse.

The majority of these services were located in Boscombe, where the problems were occurring. Therefore the majority of those subsequently coming to Bournemouth to access these services settled in the Boscombe area both during and after their treatment, and given the high relapse rate of recovering drug users, resulted in an ever increasing spiral of drug use and its effects impacting on the Boscombe area and local services.

By the 1990s Boscombe had a thriving and well developed drugs market, with the greatest density of drug users and dealers, the greatest number of drug related arrests and incidents and the highest level of drug related activity in Bournemouth. Boscombe's drugs market has also developed a reputation that means it now serves a far wider catchment area than the neighbourhood itself. Many problem drug users regularly travel to Boscombe from other areas of the county and beyond to access the drugs markets and commit low level acquisitive crime. Over time, users tend to gravitate to and settle in areas where drug supply is easy and plentiful, reducing the need to travel and resulting in an increase in the local drug using population - this has happened in Boscombe, thus compounding its problems further.

Boscombe today continues to experience some serious problems in relation to substance misuse, with significant levels of drug related activity, a high proportion of active drug users living in the area, a high proportion of people in recovery living in the area, and a poor level of health in the local population.

Boscombe's Population

A variety of interacting social and demographic circumstances developing over a relatively short period of time has meant Boscombe has become one of the most socially deprived areas in the country today. Multiple Deprivation levels according to the 2004 Deprivation Indices shows the Boscombe area is by far the most socially deprived in Bournemouth. 70% of Boscombe's population live within the top 10% of most deprived areas in England, with the area just north of Christchurch Rd around Walpole Rd ranking within the top 2% of most deprived nationally. The least deprived areas are in the east (Crabton Close Rd) and south (the Marina, Percy Rd & Michaelgrove Rd). The area of Boscombe along the sea front is actually one of the more affluent parts of Bournemouth.

Modern Boscombe is however a vibrant, cosmopolitan, diverse, and very transient community. Boscombe has a 'young' population, with a high proportion of those in the 18-30 age bracket. Relatively few Boscombe residents have lived there for more than five years. Persons in ethnic minority groups are higher at 4% of the population than for Bournemouth as a whole, at 3%. Areas with the greatest ethnic diversity are in Wharncliff Rd (15%), St Clements & Walpole Rd (10%) and Boscombe Precinct (10%). In the main, Boscombe is not an area where young families concentrate - just 10% of the population are aged under 16, as opposed to 16% for Bournemouth overall. The 'family' areas of Boscombe where the greatest concentrations of children exist appear to be in the north-east of Boscombe - Shelley Rd East & Gladstone Rd (34%), Haviland Rd & Gladstone Rd (21%) and Gloucester Rd & Wolverton Rd (21%)

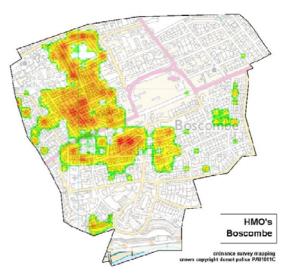
Only 44% of households in the Boscombe area actually own their own home, and 45% rent from a private landlord. This reflects the high degree of transience that exists in the population in Boscombe, and the lower levels of income. Renting from a social landlord is less common in Boscombe. Most areas have very few council or housing association properties. The concentrations of these types of housing can be found mainly in the north of Boscombe - Hamilton Close (60%), Shelley Rd East & Gladstone Rd (40%), and St Clements Rd & Gardens (37%).

Households who do not own a car in Boscombe are higher than the Bournemouth average. Around 41% of Boscombe households don't own a car, compared to 25% for Bournemouth as a whole. The areas with the highest proportions not owning a car are Grosvenor Gardens (59%), Carysfort Rd (59%) Aylesbury Rd (59%) and St Clements Rd & Gardens (55%). Those who have received less than 'level 2' education (GCSE level or less) are also slightly higher than the Bournemouth average, but this varies - the greatest proportions with less than level 2 eductation are Hamilton Close (48%),and Windsor Rd & Cecil Rd (43%). The lowest proportions are found in Shelley Rd East & Gladstone Rd (24%) and Boscombe Spa Rd (23%). Boscombe residents have some of the lowest income levels and highest unemployment rates in Bournemouth, although their access to services is relatively good.

Poor housing quality is a major contributing factor to the conditions in which high social deprivation has developed in Boscombe. Over 80% of all the housing stock in Boscombe is flat-type accommodation, with 50% of all housing being converted flats or bedsits. 30% of all council-registered houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs) are found in Boscombe. This is small, cheap and often poor quality housing, with poor security features and an environment in which residents are at a very high risk of being a victim of crime.

Drug Supply

Drug Possession



11.3

3.4

The above table shows rates and counts of police recorded offences of drug supply
and possession in 2005. Although these figures are only really a measure of police
activity around drugs, and police activity here will naturally be greater in Boscombe,
they still emphasise the prominence of Boscombe within Bournemouth BCU for this
type of offence. Rates per 1000 of the population for both types of offence are well
above BCU averages - drug supply offences are eight times higher in Boscombe,
while possession offences are over three times higher. Boscombe saw 74.1% of all
offences of drug supply in the BCU in 2005. 18.1% of offences for possession

18.4

The misuse of drugs has had an enormous impact on the community in Boscombe and where drug markets have become established they have been recognised as damaging community confidence, adding to the poor reputation of the area, and being a significant impediment to regeneration. Some of the main drug dealing Locations in Boscombe, based on recent Dorset Police intelligence, are as follows:

occurred in Boscombe. These figures have been influenced by Operation Rake (see

Rear of Sainsbury's backing onto the Hawkwood Rd Car Park

2005

83

105

- The Crescent
- Walpole Rd
- Bus terminus behind Sovereign Centre Car Park

below), and were not as high in previous years.

	Den	nographics						
٦					% < Level			% in
					2	No	% aged	ethnic
		Area	Hholds	Pop	education	Car %	under 16	minority
	W7	Crabton Close Rd	117	211	27.0	45.3	11	4
	W10	Haviland Rd & Gladstone Rd	146	319	31.3	38.4	21	7
	W27	Gloucester Rd & Wolverton Rd	146	357	29.7	21.2	21	5
	W32	North Rd & Portman Rd	134	280	38.6	30.6	15	3
	W33	Wolverton Rd & Haviland Rd	151	297	35.7	42.4	16	5
	X1	Hamilton Rd	134	234	34.6	44.8	11	2
	X2	Florence Rd	130	409	33.3	39.2	14	6
	Х3	Gordon Rd & Drummond Rd	139	291	37.8	37.4	11	3
	X4	Sea Rd	310	448	25.7	48.7	2	2
	X5	St Johns Rd & Adeline Rd	148	265	33.6	33.1	8	6
	X6	Argyll Rd	139	223	36.8	45.3	8	5
	X7	Wharncliffe Rd	129	298	26.2	47.3	10	15
	X8	Owls Rd	138	200	30.5	49.3	3	0
	Х9	St Clements Rd & Gardens	140	249	35.7	55.0	16	3
		Hengist Rd	112	221	26.2	19.6	10	9
		Westby Rd	103	258	28.3	39.8	5	3
		Xchurch Rd & Drummond Rd	127	188	40.4	52.0	10	6
		Wilfred Rd	87	206	34.0	25.3	7	0
		Glen Rd	74	166	28.3	51.4	0	5
		Percy Rd & Michaelgrove Rd	98	177	25.4	21.4	5	6
		Boscombe Spa Rd	109	245	23.7	26.6	4	1
		The Marina	134	232	30.6	29.1	6	2
		Tower Rd	98	254	33.5	33.7	16	1
		Churchill Rd	101	166	39.2	50.5	6	3
		St Clements Rd & Walpole Rd	123	271	32.8	38.2	13	10
		Borthwick Rd	123	224	39.7	39.8	17	5
		Shelley Rd & Gladstone Rd	107	274	24.8	37.4	34	2
		Campbell Rd	116	155	42.6	41.4	4	3
		Hamilton Close	78 100	152	48.7	43.6	12	0
		Hawkwood Rd	109	216	33.8	49.5	8 10	4
		Grosvenor Gdns	129	243	41.2	59.7	10	4
		Heathcote Rd & Xchurch Rd Carysfort Rd	144 125	233 198	35.2 42.9	43.1 59.2	9 10	8 3
		Aylesbury Rd	125 117	178	42.9 37.6	59.2 59.8	6	3 8
		Salisbury Rd & Carnarvon Rd	117	206	37.6 37.4	39.6 41.7	11	4
		Windsor Rd & Cecil Rd	142	260	43.5	50.0	12	0
		Boscombe Precinct	129	256	36.3	48.8	18	10
	-X02	BOSCOMBE	4701	9060	34.1	41.6	10.8	4.4
		BMTH BCU	163444	72212	28	25	16	3

Den	nographics						
				Owner-		%	
				Occupancy	% social	private	IMD
	Area	Hholds	Pop	%	renting	renting	
W7	Crabton Close Rd	117	211	58	0	41	16089
W10	Haviland Rd & Gladstone Rd	146	319	51	13	34	6368
W27	Gloucester Rd & Wolverton Rd	146	357	72	4	23	6368
W32	North Rd & Portman Rd	134	280	66	2	31	6368
W33	Wolverton Rd & Haviland Rd	151	297	52	24	23	6368
X1	Hamilton Rd	134	234	39	8	52	1935
X2	Florence Rd	130	409	43	0	56	2744
Х3	Gordon Rd & Drummond Rd	139	291	51	0	48	1935
X4	Sea Rd	310	448	29	6	64	6453
X5	St Johns Rd & Adeline Rd	148	265	56	0	43	1935
X6	Argyll Rd	139	223	36	0	63	6453
X7	Wharncliffe Rd	129	298	41	18	39	1935
X8	Owls Rd	138	200	62	10	26	6453
Х9	St Clements Rd & Gardens	140	249	32	37	29	1610
	Hengist Rd	112	221	52	4	42	1935
	Westby Rd	103	258	35	2	61	2744
	Xchurch Rd & Drummond Rd	127	188	29	9	61	1935
	Wilfred Rd	87	206	72	0	27	2744
	Glen Rd	74	166	43	7	48	2744
	Percy Rd & Michaelgrove Rd	98	177	64	0	35	6453
	Boscombe Spa Rd	109	245	51	2	46	6453
	The Marina	134	232	82	4	13	6453
	Tower Rd	98	254	64	6	28	1610
	Churchill Rd	101	166	19	0	80	1610
	St Clements Rd & Walpole Rd	123	271	38	4	57	1610
	Borthwick Rd	123	224	36	2	60	1610
	Shelley Rd & Gladstone Rd	107	274	43	40	15 40	1610
X23 X24	Campbell Rd	116	155	41	12	46 7	477
	Hamilton Close Hawkwood Rd	78 109	152 216	32 43	60 2	7 54	1610 2744
	Grosvenor Gdns	129	243	43 29	2	67	2744 477
	Heathcote Rd & Xchurch Rd	144	233	45		50	2744
	Carysfort Rd	125	233 198	45 22	4 7	70	2744 477
	Aylesbury Rd	117	178	29	9	61	477 477
	Salisbury Rd & Carnarvon Rd	115	206	33	3	62	477
	Windsor Rd & Cecil Rd	142	260	33	2	64	477
	Boscombe Precinct	129	256	32	12	54	477
	BOSCOMBE	4701	9060	44.7	8.5	45.4	3323.3
	BMTH BCU	163444	72212	69	11	17	of 29000

The test purchase operation in Boscombe (Operation Rake) that took place in April, May and June 2005 showed that there is still a thriving open market for heroin based around the precinct in Boscombe. While the existence of this open market is in no doubt community intelligence suggests that it is significantly less visible to the general public than it has been in previous years.

Renewal & Regeneration in Boscombe

Boscombe has for some time been recognised nationally as having some of the highest levels of social deprivation in the country. The Government has allocated millions of pounds in funding for the long-term renewal and regeneration of the most deprived areas identified through deprivation statistics. Boscombe has received some of this regeneration funding, and in the last five years or so a variety of initiatives and programmes have been established in Boscombe that aim to address the problems the area faces, with the long term goal of improving the quality of the area and the standard of living for the people who live in it.

Single regeneration Budget Boscombe

SRB provides resources to support regeneration initiatives in England carried out by local regeneration partnerships. Its priority is to enhance the quality of life of local people in areas of need by reducing the gap between deprived and other areas, and between different groups. It supports initiatives that build on best practice and represent good value for money.



The Boscombe Working Community Partnership was established in 2000 to oversee the SRB (Single Regeneration Budget), a "pot" of money allocated through the SWRDA (South West Regional Development Agency). 1.457 million pounds was allocated to the Scheme to address Social and Economic Regeneration in the two Boscombe Wards. The Scheme is scheduled to run until March 2007. Its aim is to actively involve all parts of the community in activities that address Social Exclusion by tackling the issues and problems at the heart of this disengagement.

The Partnership was tasked to deliver this regeneration through a number of mechanisms. Matched funding from Partner organisations either in kind or real, brings the funding to the SRB Scheme up to 4.68 million pounds. The programme is overseen by a "Community Partnership" led by a Board. The Board is currently made up by a majority of Community Members. The Board meet on a quarterly basis to review progress and look to approve further projects that have come through the Theme Groups. there are four main themes namely:

- Community responsible for the Community Grants programme
- Environment looking at environmental projects
- Support looking at "people" based projects
- Enterprise and Employment looking at issues around the Social and Economic Economy/Employment and responsible for overseeing the Business Grants programme

These Theme Groups meet on a monthly basis and are made up from members of the Community/residents and officers from organisations working in Boscombe. The Scheme works closely with both the Management and Boards of the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder along with the Healthy Living Centre Programme.

Neighbourhood Management in Springbourne and Boscombe West

Neighbourhood Management is a resident-centred scheme to improve the areas of Boscombe West and Springbourne. It is funded by the Government as part of their National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal beginning in 2002, and running until 2009. Neighbourhood Management is a tool for neighbourhood renewal, working to ensure mainstream and voluntary service providers work in partnership with residents to improve local outcomes. The objective is to "join up" and improve services (including health, housing, the environment, job opportunities, education, community safety and leisure) in the Springbourne and Boscombe West area and to engage with residents. NM are based at 22 Sea Rd. The main areas Neighbourhood Management concentrate their efforts on are:

- Education
- Community Safety
- Housing & Environment
- Primary Care Trust
- Employment Prospects
- Leisure and youth Facilities

Neighbourhood Management is run by a Board containing eight local residents plus representatives from the Police, Health Trust, Bournemouth Council, Voluntary Sector, Business and Faith communities and an Elected member. Community Involvement is at the heart of everything that Neighbourhood Management is involved in. The community has to play a central role in the development and shaping of service delivery and planning, so that the area can become a better place to live in, work in, and visit. To ensure community involvement is meaningful a number of opportunities and initiatives have been developed. There are a number of topic based groups now established through NM including:

NM Tenants Forum (for the tenants of private landlords) Youth Action Group 50+ Group Street Reps Traders Association

Every year NM produces a **Service Level Agreement** between themselves and various partners (listed below). Its purpose is to set out the standards for working together to improve service delivery, focusing on the areas that local people have identified as priorities, and also sets out the targets used to gauge progress, and judge service changes planned over the next year. The agreement reflects NM's commitment to working together to improve local services.

The agreement sets out the standards that will create a safer community and increase peoples feeling of safety in the area, including:

- Actual levels of crime
- Reduction of Accidental and Deliberate fires
- Feelings of confidence in the area
- Satisfaction with the services dealing with and preventing crime
- The areas image and reputation

The agreement sets out what each partner contributes and focuses on issues of concern to people living and working in the area It sets out what all members of the community can do to contribute to community safety. It also explains how the impact of these efforts will be monitored. At its heart the agreement acknowledges that community safety is enhanced not only by the efforts of the police, but by the quality of housing and the state of the environment. In addition providing accurate information about actual levels of crime will go some way to changing public perception of the area.

The following organisations all contribute to the safety of the community and have signed up to this agreement, Many of whom work together through the Community Safety Action Group to ensure that the commitments in this agreement are upheld.

- Police
- Dorset Fire and Rescue Service
- Street Wardens
- The Council
- The Drug and Alcohol Action Team
- Community, Residents, Tenants and Neighbourhood Watch Groups
- Boscombe Traders
- Street Representatives
- Neighbourhood Management

The 'Safe & Clean' Project

This project has brought together the Neighbourhood Wardens scheme and elements of cleansing within the Neighbourhood Management area to achieve a clean, safe and attractive local environment, with a dedicated crew exclusively serving the NM area. The work comprises three key elements:

- Scheduled work cleaning/litter picking on specific roads on designated days
- Collection of bulky goods, free of charge to NM area residents
- The steam cleaning of streets within the NM area once a week

The project commenced in November 2002, and was originally set up and funded by Neighbourhood Management. The projects overall aim is to enhance the environmental quality of the NM area, and to improve the visual quality of the area., which is intended to have a knock-on effect of reducing both the incidence of crime and the fear of crime. Other specific aims include:

- To create a safe and clean environment
- Build up relationships with local residents and action groups
- Remove graffiti and fly tipping on a daily basis
- Improve the general cleanliness of local streets
- Improve levels of pride in the local community
- Addressing problems associated with abandoned vehicles, fly tipping and litter in the NM area

The project was deemed to be an overwhelming success when it was evaluated in the autumn of 2004. Residents felt that the project had made a major impact on the quality of life in the NM area.

2. Neighbourhood Management Residents Survey 2004

As part of the ongoing evaluation of the Springbourne and Boscombe West Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder, WM Enterprise Consultants were tasked with evaluating the NM residents survey undertaken in the summer of 2004. The survey is undertaken bi-annually with the next one due to be carried out in 2006, and provides a benchmark for progress being made in the NM area, as perceived by local residents. The survey also provides an invaluable source of information to serve as the basis of future planning of NM activities and resource targeting.

The survey, of 512 residents in the Springbourne and Boscombe West areas (around 3% of its population), collected information on the demography and economic status of residents, crime and community safety, health, local environment and community involvement. In terms of the sample surveyed, the population matched 2001 Census figures quite closely with similar characteristics for gender, age and ethnicity. This meant that the chosen sample should theoretically be fairly representative of the overall population.

Some of the findings were not entirely surprising for the area - around 32% of residents lived alone, and 34% lived in private, rented accomodation, 35% of whom having lived in the area for less than a year. This reinforces the notion of Boscombe having a very 'transient' population, where people are constantly moving in an out of the area. This makes the community slightly more 'hard to reach' than one that is settled, where links can more easily be forged. Residents average income of £13,000 pa was significantly lower than the Bournemouth average of £17,000. 1 in 10 derived all of their income from benefits, and unemployment rates were higher than Bournemouth averages. These are important issues given that there is an established link between low incomes and health, crime, worklessness and low educational attainment.

In terms of crime and community safety, 26% of residents had been the victim of a crime in the previous two years - most commonly burglary, vehicle crime and vandalism. 29% felt crime had increased in the NM area in the previous year, with more than 40% believing that drug related crime had increased. Of course, the majority of 'acquisitive crime' had actually fallen drastically according to recorded crime figures for the area. 47% were very worried or reasonably worried about drug related crime in the area, one of the highest proportions for this type of crime for NM areas nationally. Around 40% of residents did not let the fear of crime affect their lives, but almost half were worried about going out alone at night. Areas where people felt particularly unsafe were The Crescent, Boscombe Precinct and Walpole Rd. Drugs and alcohol abuse were considered to be the main causes of crime in the area, and the key priorities for the area to be addressing according to the residents are drugs problems and anti-social behaviour.

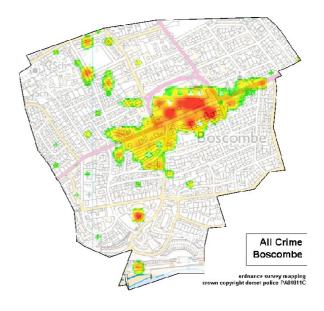
The survey evaluation points to the residents key priority in targeting crime as addressing drug use, drug dealing and drug related crime. This validates the emphasis that NM has been placing on this issue over the last few years. The issue around the high degree of fear of crime in the NM area, and that more could be done to improve residents perceptions was also emphasised. This is difficult given that the area does indeed have some of the highest crime rates in Bournemouth, but equally, crime rates are falling faster in the area than anywhere else in Bournemouth. Means of reassurance have since been pursued by NM, such as utilising the Neighbourhood Wardens and PCSOs to a far greater degree, and increasing publicity about falling crime rates and the general improvement of the area. Initiatives such as the Safe and Clean team will also have had a positive impact in this area.

3. <i>A</i>	3. All Crime (Source: Dorset Police MIS System)														
					% of BCU total	Boscombe	Bmth BCU								
					in Boscombe	2005 p1000	2005 P1000								
		2003	2004	2005	2005	pop	рор								
	ALL Crime	2484	2332	2410	11.3	259.4	127.4								

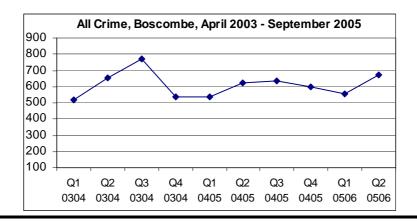
The total number of recorded crimes occurring in Boscombe fell between 2003 and 2004, but rose again between 2004 and 2005. However, this only represents a 3% rise between the last two years, although all crime in Bournemouth BCU fell by 4% over the same period.

11.3% of all recorded crime in Bournemouth BCU in 2005 occurred in Boscombe Centre. The share of Bournemouth's population for Boscombe is 5.5% - this means that Boscombe's share of crime in the BCU is more than twice that of its resident population. This is reflected in the overall crime rate, where Boscombe had 259.4 crimes per 1000 of the population in 2005. This is more than twice as high as the BCU rate of 127.4.

Overall crime hotspots are shown on the map. It is clear that crime is very concentrated in one area - Boscombe Precinct, and along Christchurch Rd. The volume of offences decreases the further away from this area, with much lower levels in the more residential areas. The hotspot begins at one end around the Crescent, and follows the length of Christchurch Rd through Central Boscombe. This pattern would be expected in an area such as Boscombe, where the particular hotspot area reflects an area that sees a high volume of 'padestrian traffic' Boscombe Precinct is the second largest 'high street shopping' area in Bournemouth after the town centre itself.



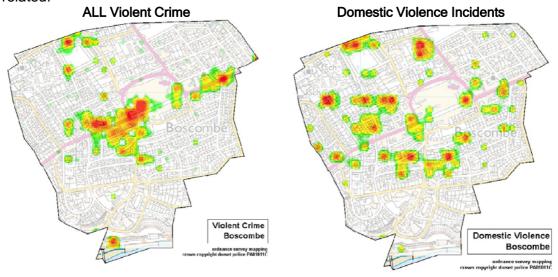
Overall crime in Boscombe is reflected in the graph below, showing quarterly levels since April 2003. This shows fairly static levels, with no sustained long term rise or fall. The peak in Qtr 3 of 2003/04 represents a well-publicised spate of tyre slashings.



				% of BCU total Boscombe Bmth BCU in Boscombe 2005 p10002005 P1000												
	2003	2004	2005	2005	рор											
Serious Assault	6	19	7	7.6	8.0	0.5										
Minor Assault	295	372	337	11.9	36.3	16.9										
Public Order	26	71	54	6.9	5.8	4.7										
Other	60	53	61	8.7	6.6	4.2										
All VAP	387	515	459	10.4	49.4	26.3										
Domestic Violence	235	205	339	15.2	36.5	13.3										

Overall levels of violent crime in Boscombe reduced between 2004 and 2005 by 11%. By contrast, violent crime in Bournemouth BCU rose by 11%. The trend in Boscombe is a unique one, as violent crime in most areas continues to rise. Although this type of offence is falling in Boscombe, rates are still in some cases well above those for the BCU area. In particular, minor assaults, which make up the biggest number of offences, are well above average at 36.3 per 1000 of the population compared to the BCU figure of 16.9. Boscombe sees 10.4% of all violent crime in the BCU.

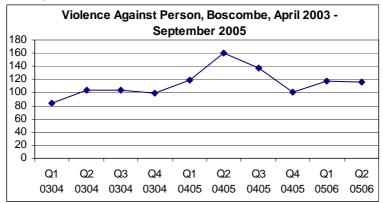
Incidents of domestic violence are also extremely high in Boscombe. The rate of 36.5 is well above the BCU rate of 13.3, and reflects the fact that Boscombe has the highest rates of DV in the BCU area - 15% of all incidents in the BCU occur in Boscombe. Of all recorded offences of violent crime in Boscombe, 26% are domestic-related.



The two maps above show hotspots for all violent crime (left) and incidents of domestic violence (right). Whilst a quarter of all offences shown in the map on the left are domestic-related, the map to the right showing domestics only shows a very different pattern. The violent crime map highlights areas around Boscombe Precinct and Christchurch Rd, particularly around the junction with Palmerston Rd and the Crescent. Around 12 months ago the Opera House Night Club was the source of many problems in this area, with numerous offences of alcohol-related disorder. Once this premises was brought under control, the problems have since been much reduced.

Domestic violence incidents are much more spread out. There is no concentration on the precinct area, as might be expected, with the main hotspots dotted around the more residential parts of Boscombe.

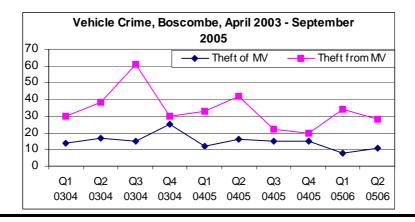
The graph below shows that on a quarterly basis since April 2003, violent crime saw a big increase between Qtr 4 2003/04 and Qtr 2 of 2004/05. This was when the Opera House was seeing problems with alcohol-related disorder. After this time, problems were brought under control and a subsequent reduction occurred. The issue of domestic violence is still very much the biggest influence on violent crime figures in Boscombe. DV incidents are increasing, but this is likely to be due to an increase in reporting rates rather than an actual increase in incidents.



V	ehicle Crime	(Sourc	e: Dorse	et Police	MIS System)		
		2003	2004	2005	% of BCU total in Boscombe 2005		Bmth BCU 2005 P1000 pop
	Theft of MV	67	68	42	7.8	4.5	3.2
	Theft from MV	172	127	108	5.8	11.6	11.2
	All Vehicle Crime	239	195	150	6.2	16.1	14.4

All types of vehicle crime have been showing a steady decrease in offences in Boscombe over the last three years. Although rates of vehicle crime in Boscombe are slightly higher than BCU averages, the fact that levels have been falling consistently means that vehicle crime is not one of the major issues affecting the Boscombe area. 6.2% of all vehicle crime in the BCU occurred in Boscombe during 2005, which is not a large share when compared to other crime types.

There are no particular hotspots for vehicle crime in Boscombe. Certain locations such as the Hawkwood Rd and Sovereign Centre Car Parks have been targeted in the past but there is no consistent vehicle crime hotspot in Boscombe. Many of the offences occur in the more residential areas.



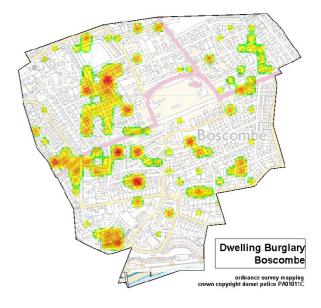
E	Burglary (Source:	Dorset F	Police MI	S Syste	em)			
		2003	2004	2005	% of BCU total in Boscombe 2005			
	Burglary Dwelling*	168	194	145	16.3	30.1	12.1	
	Burglary Other	131	73	138	12.4	14.9	6.6	

* Burglary Dwelling rates are measured per 1000 households not population

Levels of dwelling burglary have been steadily decreasing year upon year in Boscombe since 2003. However, burglary other has increased between 2004 and 2005. Whilst dwelling burglary in Boscombe has fallen by 33% in the last year, burglary other has risen by 50%. Both types of burglary have fallen in the same period on a BCU level, therefore the increase in burglary other in Boscombe is against the trend seen for the BCU.

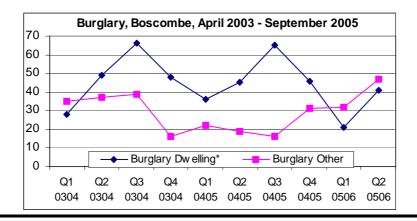
Despite a falling trend in dwelling burglary, the rate seen in Boscombe is still three times higher than the BCU average - 30.1 per 1000 of the population compared to 12.1. This means that Burglary remains one of Boscombe's major issues, despite the continued success in reducing levels in recent years. Burglary other rates are also more than twice as high as the BCU rate. In 2005, 16% of all dwelling burglaries, and 12% of all burglary other in Bournemouth BCU, occurred in Boscombe.

The map to the right shows overall hotspots for dwelling burglaries. Unlike crime, burglary overall hotspots are well spread out. The majority are occurring in the western half of Boscombe, particularly around the far western end of Christchurch Rd and also in the roads directly around Walpole Rd. The link between burglary and the high number of bedsits and HMO's (Houses of Multiple Occupancy) in Boscombe is well established. The hotspots shown here are in some of the most deprived and vulnerable parts of Boscombe, where low value rented housing is common.



The graph below shows that while there have been yearly reductions in dwelling burglary, quarterly trends indicate a 'cycle' of peaks and troughs. The 'peaks' tend to occur in Quarter 3 of a given year (Oct/Nov/Dec), while the 'troughs' occur in Quarter 1 (Apr/May/Jun). This pattern has occurred every year in the last three years, meaning that dwelling burglary in Boscombe is following an almost predictable pattern. It is not clear why this occurs, although it is characteristic of burglary trends for the whole BCU over this period also.

Burglary Other meanwhile saw a more sustained 'dip' in offences between Qtr 4 2003/04 and Qtr 3 2004/05, in between two periods of higher offence levels. Levels currently are continuing to increase, having been doing so since Qtr 4 2004/05.

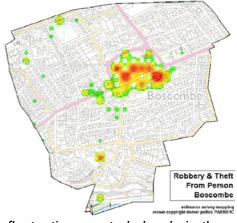


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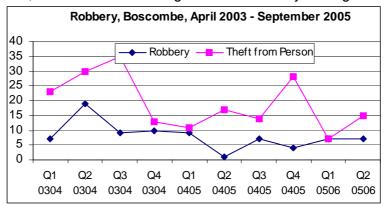
				% of BCU total	Boscombe	Bmth BCU
				in Boscombe	2005 p1000	2005 P1000
	2003	2004	2005	2005	рор	рор
Robbery	46	27	20	12.1	2.2	1.0
Theft from Person	106	55	68	13.9	7.3	2.9
Theft (Other)	814	722	752	12.0	80.9	37.4

Robbery offences have halved between 2003 and 2005. However, Theft offences have increased in the last year after initial reductions between 2003 and 2004. Robbery, Theft from Person and general 'theft' offences however remain at rates well above the BCU average - 12% of all robberies and 14% of all thefts from a person in Bournemouth BCU occurred in Boscombe in 2005. Theft Offences accounted for 34% of all crime that occurred in Boscombe in 2005.

The map to the right shows hotspots for robbery and theft from person in Boscombe. Like many crime types, offences are concentrated in the Boscombe Precinct area - almost all offences occur in this short stretch of Christchurch Rd between Palmerston and Ashley Rd. As stated previously, this is the part of Boscombe where there are high flows of 'padestrian traffic', representing numerous opportunities for offenders.



Both robberies and thefts from person show fluctuating quarterly levels in the graph below. In general, levels were at their highest for both two years ago.



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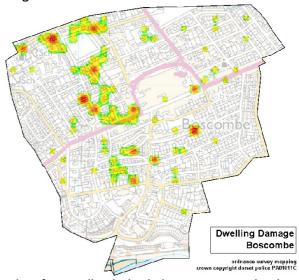
				% of BCU total Boscombe Bmth BCU in Boscombe 2005 p1000 2005 P1000												
	2003	2004	2005	2005	рор рор											
CD Dwelling*	59	88	98	13.4	20.3	9.9										
CD Non Dwelling	59	70	77	11.6	8.3	4.0										
CD Vehicle	270	126	117	7.2	12.6	9.7										
CD Other	28	27	36	6.8	3.9	3.1										
Arson	7	5	26	12.6	2.8	1.2										
All Criminal Damage	424	320	358	<i>9.4</i> 38.5 22.6												

^{*}Criminal Damage to Dwelling rates are measured per 1000 households not population

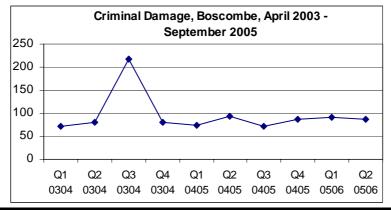
Criminal Damage fell between 2003 and 2004 but increased between 2004 and 2005. Only Criminal Damage to Vehicles has reduced in the last year. The large increase in Arson offences is mainly due to a change in police recording of these offences. Increases in other areas have been slight.

The rate of criminal damage in Boscombe is well above the BCU average, at 38.5 per 1000 of population compared to 22.6. Criminal Damage to Dwellings is more than twice the rate in Boscombe over the BCU, at 20.3 compared to 9.9. 13.4% of all criminal damage to dwelling offences in Bournemouth BCU occurred in Boscombe in 2005, while 9.4% of all BCU criminal damage occurred in Boscombe.

Criminal Damage to Dwelling Hotspots are shown in the map. The spread of offences Is quite wide, unlike the general crime pattern for Boscombe. The main concentrations can be found in the north-west part of Boscombe around the Crescent, Walpole Rd, Campbell Rd and St Clements Rd. There are few hotspots in the eastern and southern parts of the area. The hotspot areas reflect some of the most deprived and vulnerable parts of Boscombe.



The graph below shows fairly static levels of overall criminal damage over the last few years. The peak in Qtr 3 of 2003/04 represents a well-publicised spate of tyre slashings that occurred in Boscombe, Bournemouth Town Centre and Christchurch. Over 500 of these offences occurred in December 2003.

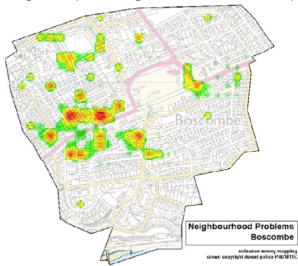


Anti-Social Behaviour (Source: Dorset Police MIS System)							
				% of BCU total in Boscombe			
	2003	2004	2005	2005	pop	pop	
ASB General	1394	1413	1405	9.5	151.2	88.1	
Neighbour Proble	ms 177	204	181	13.0	19.5	8.3	
Hate Crime	5	16	14	8.5	1.5	1.0	

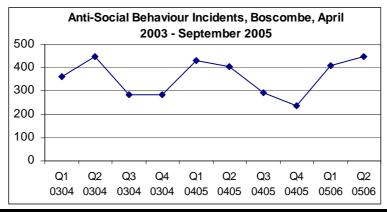
All incidents of anti-social behaviour and hate crime reduced in number between 2004 and 2005. This is not consistent with BCU trends, which have seen a constant increase in ASB incidents over the last three years. Whilst the reductions in Boscombe are slight, they mirror the trend seen for violent crime, where a reduction has also occurred in the last year - this may be because the majority of ASB incidents in Boscombe are disorder-related.

Despite reductions, all types of ASB incident rates are well above the BCU averages. Neighbour Problem rates are at 19.5 per 1000 of population, over twice the BCU average of 8.3. 13% of all neighbour problem incidents in the BCU in 2005 occurred in Boscombe. Hate Crime rates are also above the BCU averages, however these incidents are heavily influenced by reporting rates (an even greater extent than ASB)

Neighbourhood Problem ASB can be seen on the map. Whereas overall ASB would highlight the precinct area as the main hotspot, the specific type of ASB shown here highlights hotspots in the more residential parts of Bosombe. Most of this is occurring in the streets to the west, either side of Christchurch Problem areas Rd. include Aylesbury Rd, the Crescent and St Johns Rd. Once more, these hotspots reflect areas suffering from high deprivation and vulnerability.



The graph below shows quarterly levels of overall ASB since April 2003. This shows a seasonal pattern, where ASB increases during the summer months (quarters 1 & 2) and is much lower during the winter months (quarters 3 & 4). This pattern occurs on a BCU level also.



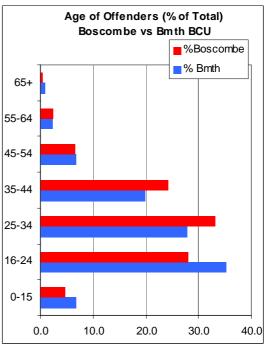
Offender Population (Source: Dorset Police VCS System)

	% of BCU total in Boscombe 2005	Boscombe 2005 p1000 pop	Bmth BCU 2005 P1000 pop
Offenders in Custody	14.7	143.8	54.2

Examining Dorset Police custody records in 2005 reveals that 14.7% of all those arrrested for all offences, who were residing in Bournemouth BCU, gave a Boscombe address. This is almost three times the share of the general resident population Boscombe has within the BCU, of 5.5%. This is the greatest share of offenders in the whole BCU. This may be expected, due to the character of Boscombe and its very transient, mobile population. A rate of 143.8 offenders per 1000 of the population is well above the BCU average of 54.2.

Arrested		
Age	% Bmth	%Boscombe
0-15	6.7	4.8
16-24	35.3	28.0
25-34	27.9	33.2
35-44	19.8	24.3
45-54	6.9	6.7
55-64	2.3	2.5
65+	0.9	0.4

An age breakdown of offenders in 2005 comparing Boscombe with the BCU average shows higher than average proportions of 25-44 year-olds being arrested in Boscombe than the BCU average. Proportions of those aged under 24 are lower than the BCU average. This may reflect the fact that Boscombe sees a high degree of which 'acquisitive crime', is most commonly committed by offenders in this age bracket.



Of all crime committed in Boscombe in 2005 where the offender was known, 30% of offenders were from the Boscombe area. 68% were from the Bournemouth area.

Crime Overview

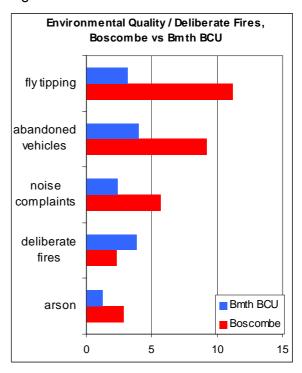
Crime rates in Boscombe are almost invariably above the averages for Bournemouth. Despite this, crime rates have risen only slightly in the last year, by 3%. Whilst many crime types are well above BCU average rates, a number of crime types in the Boscombe area have seen a reduction in the last year, against the trend seen for the whole BCU. Most notably violent crime, which although still well above BCU average rates, fell by 11% in the last year. Vehicle crime is down and on a par with BCU averages, Burglary is down but still well above the BCU average, Robbery is down but still above the BCU average, Criminal Damage is up and above the BCU average, and Anti-Social Behaviour is down although still above the BCU average. Crime types with the highest rates in Boscombe relative to Bournemouth are Minor Assaults, Domestic Violence, Burglary Dwelling, Burglary Other, Robbery, Theft, Criminal Damage and Anti-Social Behaviour. Offender data reveals that Boscombe has higher numbers of offenders relative to Bournemouth in the 25-44 age bracket, and also had the greatest share of offenders entering police custody in Bournemouth in 2005.

$oldsymbol{A}$	Livina	Environment	W	Lagerirae	(Course Droth	Council	DEB6/
	Liviliy		W	icasui cs	(Source: Dillill	Council,	DEKO)

		% of BCU total in Boscombe	Boscombe 2005 p1000	Bmth BCU 2005 P1000
	2004/05	2005	pop	рор
Arson	26	12.6	2.8	1.2
Deliberate Fires	21	3.3	2.3	3.8
Noise Complaints	53	13.4	5.7	2.4
Abandoned Vehicles	54	8.0	5.8	4.0
Fly Tipping	39	7.5	4.2	3.1

Living environment measures consist of records collected by Bournemouth Borough Council Departments, and also deliberate fires attended by Dorset Fire and Rescue Service and police recorded crimes of arson. Noise complaints are recorded by Environmental Health, whilst abandoned vehicles and fly tipping records are collected by Cleansing and Waste. The council records can be quite inconsistently recorded and are also influenced heavily by reporting rates.

Boscombe in the main sees higher levels and rates of these measures than the BCU averages. It is interesting to note that police arson are figures higher than corresponding figure for fire servicerecorded deliberate fires. This is probably the effect of a recent change in crime recording standards. which has affected arson figures considerably. Although deliberate fires are not a particular issue for Boscombe, there is a very significant problem with accidental property fires in the area. This is due to the proliferation of low quality flats and bedsits with poor safety and security features. The fire hazard in these premises is often apparent and indeed life threatening.



Boscombe also sees higher than average rates of abandoned vehicles and fly tipping, with some of the highest rates for both in Bournemouth. These issues are some of the major contributers to the negative image of the area. Subsequently, Neighbourhood Management have done a significant amount of work to encourage residents to report fly tipping and abandoned vehicles and sign up to the environment service level agreement - This may go some way to explain the higher levels in the Boscombe area. The graph above confirms rates in 2004/05 for these incidents comparing Boscombe and the BCU.

5. The ACORN Consumer Classification



ACORN (acronym for A Classification Of Residential Neighbourhoods) is a geodemographic tool used to identify and understand the UK population and the demand for products and services. Businesses use this information to improve their understanding of customers, target markets and determine where to locate operations.

Developed by a company called CACI, the classification categorises all 1.9 million UK postcodes, described using over 125 demographic statistics and 287 lifestyle variables. It uses a vast array of data sources including the UK Census and other government data sources to categorise each postcode in the UK. This can be a powerful tool for identifying the types of people who live in each area. ACORN has five main categories, essentially describing levels of affluence and resulting consumer habits -

- 1. Wealthy Achievers
- 2. Urban Prosperity
- 3. Comfortably Off
- 4. Moderate Means
- 5. Hard Pressed

There are a further 18 ACORN groups, broken down into 57 ACORN types.

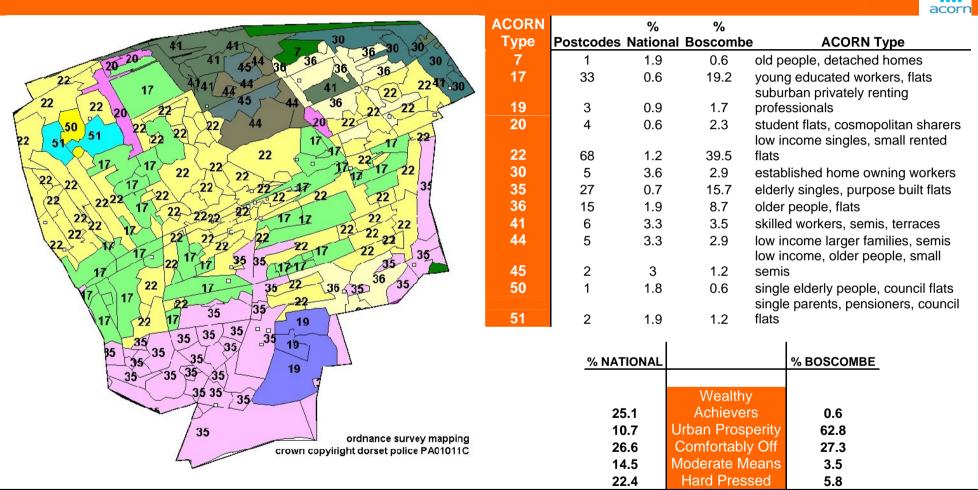
For the purpose of this profile, the ACORN characteristics of the areas of Boscombe have been compared with National averages as an alternative means of measuring the characteristics and potential vulnerability of the population. The map and tables overleaf highlight the ACORN types of each postcode in Boscombe, and compare proportions for Boscombe with national averages.

The classification shows a rather surprising profile of the Boscombe area, given its high levels of social deprivation. A 'consumer classification' reveals the area to be reasonably affluent - 63% of postcodes are classed in the 'urban prosperity' categorty, well above the national averages. The proportion of those in the 'hard pressed' category is well below the national average and much lower than would be expected for an area such as Boscombe. The most common ACORN types reveal Boscombe to be an area of predominantly young, single people renting flats. These types of area cover all of the southern and western parts of Boscombe. Almost 40% of postcodes fall into ACORN type 22 - 'Low income singles, small rented flats'. Type 17 is the next most common (20% of postcodes) - 'Young educated workers, flats'. ACORN reveals a more elderly population living in flats (type 35) by the sea. This is probably a reasonable reflection of Boscombe.

Only ten postcodes are classed in the 'Hard Pressed' category. These are almost exclusively located in the north of Boscombe, north of Centenary Way around Shelley Rd, Tower Rd, and also Palmerston Rd. Hamilton Close and St Clements Gdns are also in this category. These are mostly the areas of Boscombe where lower income, young families exist. The high degree of privately rented flats and bedsits in most other parts of Boscombe, where some of the highest social deprivation exists, are identified by ACORN but not identified by its crieteria as areas of low affluence.

ACORN Consumer Classifications - Boscombe (Source: CACI ltd)





6. The Vulnerable Localities Index

Introduction

The Vulnerable Localities Index is a single statistical measure that consists of six individual measures of data on crime and indicators on social exclusion combined to form an overall score for every one of the 592 Census Output Areas that cover the Bournemouth BCU area. The 'vulnerability' of an area is determined by how high its overall Index score is within the BCU. The higher, the score, the greater the degree of vulnerability. The score can then be converted into a rank for each of the 592 Output Areas, to determine the highest ranking (ie most vulnerable) areas in Bournemouth.

Measures Used

The Index for Bournemouth was originally calculated in May 2004, using Centrex guidelines as to data and indicators used. Although the principles of the Index as devised by Centrex have remained the same, it has been developed using more customised, local data from a greater variety of sources and adding in some differerent datasets. The latest version of the Index, used since the Autumn of this year, is described further in the table on page 26. The most recent update of the Index was done in December 2005, using data between 1st December 2004 and 30th November 2005.

The indicators above are those considered to be the best indicators for identifying vulnerable communities. In the past there were problems with the Index in that it was too crime-orientated (hence the inclusion of more multi-agency data) or too census-orientated (figures for which are only updated every ten years). A balance needed to be struck between making the Index reflect problems that are happening or developing now, but without making it an indicator of areas that merely see the greatest volume of crime. or multiple deprivation. The indicators and the weighting given to them create a much more balanced overall index and reflect current 'vulnerable areas' much more accurately.

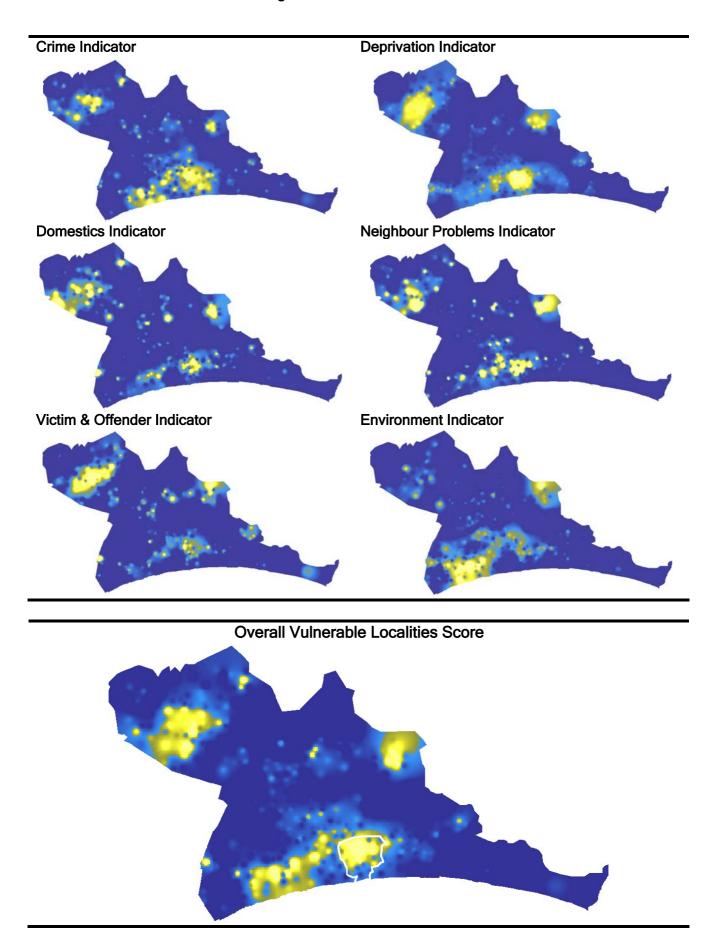
Vulnerability in Boscombe

The vulnerability table lists the 37 Output Areas covering Boscombe, and their rankings of 592 within the BCU for each of the six indicators and the overall vulnerability ranking. Boscombe has some of the highest levels of vulnerbility in Bournemouth, with 51.4% - over half of all OA's in Boscombe - in the top 10% of most vulnerable areas in the BCU. Furthermore, 67.6% of all OA's are in the top 10% most vulnerable for the Deprivation score, and almost 40% are in the top 10% for the Crime and Neighbour Problems Scores. The areas in the top 10% highest ranking in the BCU are highlighted in the table in yellow.

The highest scoring (and ranking) areas for overall vulnerability include Windsor Rd/Cecil Rd (7 of 592), Campbell Rd (8 of 592) and Boscombe Precinct (13 of 592). These areas all score consistently highly for all six indicators, with Carysfort Rd having the highest ranking in the BCU for Deprivation, and Campbell Rd having the highest BCU ranking for Crime. Windsor Rd/Cecil Rd ranks in the top 10% in the BCU for all six indicators and the overall VL score. Haviland Rd/Gadstone Rd and Boscombe Precinct score in the top 10% in the BCU for five of the six indicators and the overall VL score. The lowest overall scores can be found in the areas of Percy Rd/Michaelgrove Rd and the Marina - these are reasonably affluent areas without the social deprivation problems of the rest of Boscombe.

The maps of the BCU for each of the indicators confirms how prominent Boscombe is for high scoring areas (Boscombe shown with white outline).

Vul	nerability Rankings	(Source: D	orset Police	/ONS/B	mth Counci)		
		VL Banking						
		Ranking Bmth Nov	VL		٧L	٧L	VL Victim &	. VL
Code	Area Covered		Deprivation	VL Crime				Environment
W7	Crabton Close Rd	115	257	110	68	166	242	216
W10	Haviland Rd & Gladstone Rd	25	98	17	37	57	53	58
W27	Gloucester Rd & Wolverton Rd	183	152	184	141	288	141	353
W32	North Rd & Portman Rd	164	110	127	329	386	73	163
W33	Wolverton Rd & Haviland Rd	105	84	94	113	278	54	149
X1	Hamilton Rd	34	21	125	7	18	372	511
X2	Florence Rd	138	39	63	409	162	205	360
X3	Gordon Rd & Drummond Rd	43	31	74	17	74	245	249
X4	Sea Rd	196	73	247	246	247	293	138
X5	St Johns Rd & Adeline Rd	32	44	46	12	188	55	236
X6	Argyll Rd	88	72	75	184	54	118	85
X7	Wharncliffe Rd	76	26	62	63	259	206	214
X8	Owls Rd	244	109	131	415	450	482	471
X9	St Clements Rd & Gardens	35	10	76	38	43	119	74
X10	Hengist Rd	124	57	99	182	94	483	423
X11	Westby Rd	92	37	83	139	63	100	402
X12	Xchurch Rd & Drummond Rd	91	12	58	151	70	484	570
X13	Wilfred Rd	45	91	2	404	444	246	363
X14	Glen Rd	116	33	187	136	60	247	171
X15	Percy Rd & Michaelgrove Rd	188	175	71	411	447	84	540
X16	Boscombe Spa Rd	103	135	96	85	104	101	279
X17	The Marina	322	186	480	294	172	373	195
X18	Tower Rd	20	27	7	90	61	31	56
X19	Churchill Rd	57	8	50	134	285	11	158
X20	St Clements Rd & Walpole Rd	17	14	11	43	111	7	79
X21	Borthwick Rd	19	11	25	25	96	74	43
X22	Shelley Rd & Gladstone Rd	26	18	40	53	3	207	361
X23	Campbell Rd	8	7	1	121	16	102	47
X24	Hamilton Close	63	9	122	66	34	208	215
X25	Hawkwood Rd	90	30	59	408	25	32	399
X26	Grosvenor Gdns	36	2	44	201	103	15	16
X27	Heathcote Rd & Xchurch Rd	21	36	82	11	17	103	21
X28	Carysfort Rd	52	1	216	25	33	62	162
X29	Aylesbury Rd	54	3	109	39	149	166	356
X30	Salisbury Rd & Carnarvon Rd	39	6	107	10	248	374	110
X31	Windsor Rd & Cecil Rd	7	4	55	3	6	33	57
X32	Boscombe Precinct	13	5	23	40	62	41	20
	% in top 10% of most vulnerable	51.4	67.6	37.8	37.8	29.7	27.0	21.6
	vuillelable	J1.4	07.0	31.0	J1.0	43.1	21.0	41.0



Indicator (weighting)	Data Used	Source		
DEPRIVATION (30%)	Income Deprivation	Indices of Deprivation 2004		
_	Employment Deprivation	Indices of Deprivation 2004		
_	Owner Occupancy Tenure	2001 Census		
	No Car Households	2001 Census		
CRIME (25%)	Burglary Dwelling	Dorset Police Crimes		
	Criminal Damage Dwelling	Dorset Police Crimes		
NEIGHBOURHOOD (25%)	Neighbourhood Problems	Dorset Police Incidents		
DOMESTICS (5%)	Repeat Victim Dom. Violence	Dorset Police Incidents		
VICTIM/OFFENDER (5%)	Persons Arrested Aged u21	Dorset Police Custody Records		
	Repeat Victims of All Crime	Dorset Police Crimes		
ENVIRONMENT (10%)	Abandoned Vehicles	Bmth Council Cleansing Dep		
	Graffitti	Bmth Council Cleansing Dep		
	Fly Tipping	Bmth Council Cleansing Dep		
	Noise Nuisance	Bmth Council Envir Health Dep		

7. The Way Forward for Boscombe

Boscombe's problems have long been recognised and are well documented. The multimillion pound regeneration initiatives have already begun to have an impact, and they have identified the priorites and major issues that need to be addressed in Boscombe, and how best to go about tackling them.

It is known that there is an over-concentration of drug and alcohol treatment services in the Boscombe area. Whilst it is understandable that these services need to be provided in the areas that experience the greatest problems, it is also accepted that these services have in some ways exacerbated the problems in Boscombe further. The Bournemouth Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) has worked with partner agencies to try to strike a balance and manage future development in the Boscombe area carefully. A joint partnership forum was established through the DAAT to address these issues in 2004. So far, their work has been around the following:

- Encouraging neighbouring DAAT's to develop local services for their own residents
- Raising the issue of Bournemouth being a net importer of people with drug and alcohol misuse problems, both regionally and nationally
- Discouraging the development of any new drug services in Boscombe unless there is community support
- Encouraging the development of new services across Bournemouth
- Rigorously applying residence criteria to access existing local services
- Working with the Supporting People initiative and the cross authority group to try to reduce the movement of people from other areas into Bournemouth.
- Working closely with the homelessness services to provide treatment for Bournemouth residents while supporting non-Bournemouth residents to return to their home area.
- Maximising use of local services by Bournemouth residents to reduce use by non-Bournemouth residents.
- Continuing to develop aftercare services to ensure that people living in Bournemouth who have achieved stability in their drug use do not relapse
- Influencing local planners to be more sensitive to the needs of deprived areas.

In January 2004 a seminar was organised by the Boscombe Community Safety Action Group (CSAG) and Neighbourhood Management, to discuss issues surrounding community safety and neighbourhood regeneration in the Boscombe and Springbourne areas. The event was attended by key personnel from a number of different agencies, all of whom considered to be stakeholders in the future development of the area. The objectives of the seminar were to establish key priorities and identify key tasks which could lead to the development of an action plan for the Boscombe CSAG.

One of the questions posed at the seminar was what the key stakeholders in Boscombe considered to be the most important priorities for community safety in the Boscombe area. Drugs was a major theme, with issues around enforcement by police, the effects of drug misuse on the reputation of Boscombe and the existence of an 'open market' for drugs. Issues around the effects of drugs on local accommodation and environment, particularly houses of multiple occupation were discussed, as well as the treatment of drug addicts, their rehabilitation and subsequent engagement to re-integrate them into mainstream society.

The importance of engaging the wider Boscombe community with what other agencies were doing, was also emphasised, as was the key issue around improving the 'public perception' of Boscombe. The effects of issues such as poorly kept housing, abandoned vehicles and grafitti on the general environment were considered to attribute to this image. Tackling prostitution was also identified as a priority.

Some of the other ideas suggested included cleaning up the environment, directing police patrols to identified problem areas, and a more visible 'authority' on the streets (street wardens, PCSO's etc), working with landlords to improve the housing stock, and considering various options for post drug treatment (eg providing a work secheme for those no longer using drugs, ex-addicts visiting schools to talk about their experiences).

The millions of pounds injected into the regeneration of the Boscombe area through various schemes and initiatives over the last five years or so, has no doubt had a major positive impact in turning around the fortunes of Boscombe. However, the funding for the highly successful Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder and Boscombe Working Community Partnership will end in the next few years, and it is essential that the momentum created in regenerating Boscombe through these schemes is maintained long after they have ended. There is still clearly work to do in Boscombe as this assessment has shown, but this work is made much easier by progress gained so far.

Data Sources

Demographics data is sourced from the UK 2001 Census, courtesy of ONS

Crime and Custody data is sourced from Dorset Police FWS, MIS and VCS systems

Deliberate Fire data is sourced from Dorset Fire and Rescue Service

Living Environment data is sourced from the Bournemouth Borough Council Cleansing and Waste and Environmental Health Departments

ACORN data is sourced from CACI

NM area Residents Survey and evaluation is sourced from the WM Enterprise Consultants NM Residents Survey Report, 2004

Background to Neighbourhood Management, Boscombe Working Community Partnership and the Safe and Clean Project is sourced from Neighbourhood Management and Bournemouth Borough Council Websites

Much of the material in the Overview of Boscombe and the Way Forward for Boscombe sections is sourced from the work of Lee Griffiths, Police Drugs Analyst for Bournemouth. In particular the reports

'Bournemouth Drugs Audit 2004', 'Boscombe Strategic Assessment 2004' and the 'Bournemouth Drugs Market Mapping Project 2006'

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