



14/05/2021

West Midlands Police

Birmingham City Centre PSPO official data response

Summary of Data:

The data used is from 2020 which is distorted by the Coronavirus pandemic and several lockdown and pandemic restrictions. However the data quality due to system changes is more accurate in relationship to incident and offence types. The incident dataset available for 2020 is 01/03/2020 – 31/12/2020 so has been adjusted proportionately to reflect a full 12 months. The crime dataset is for a full 12 month period with no adjustment.

Executive Summary:

Both datasets show reductions in numbers and activity primarily driven by Covid regulations and restrictions between 2019 and 2020.

ASB Incidents within the City Centre as a Sector (all four neighbourhoods) shows a reduction of 47% - 1670 2019; 877 2020.

Crime within the City Centre as a sector shows reductions equivalent to 37% 10745 2019; 6722 2020.

This is reflective of 'false' reductions seen across the force during the pandemic.

Supporting Data:

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – NON CRIME RECORDS 2020 (2021 related to report prior 1/1/2021)

Crime Number	Street	NPU	NPU Neighbourhood
20BW/51157A/21	SHERLOCK STREET	Birmingham West NPU	BWFC
20BW/203812W/20	PRIORY SQUARE	Birmingham West NPU	BWFA
20BW/202430V/20	DALE END	Birmingham West NPU	BWFA
20BW/160392W/20	GRANVILLE STREET	Birmingham West NPU	BWFD
20BW/148463D/20	BULLRING CENTRE	Birmingham West NPU	BWFA
20BW/120310Z/20	DEAN STREET	Birmingham West NPU	BWFC
20BW/119674F/20	WRENTHAM STREET	Birmingham West NPU	BWFC
20BW/58972F/20	COLMORE CIRCUS QUEENSWAY	Birmingham West NPU	BWFA
20BW/30806Q/20	JENNENS ROAD	Birmingham West NPU	BWFB

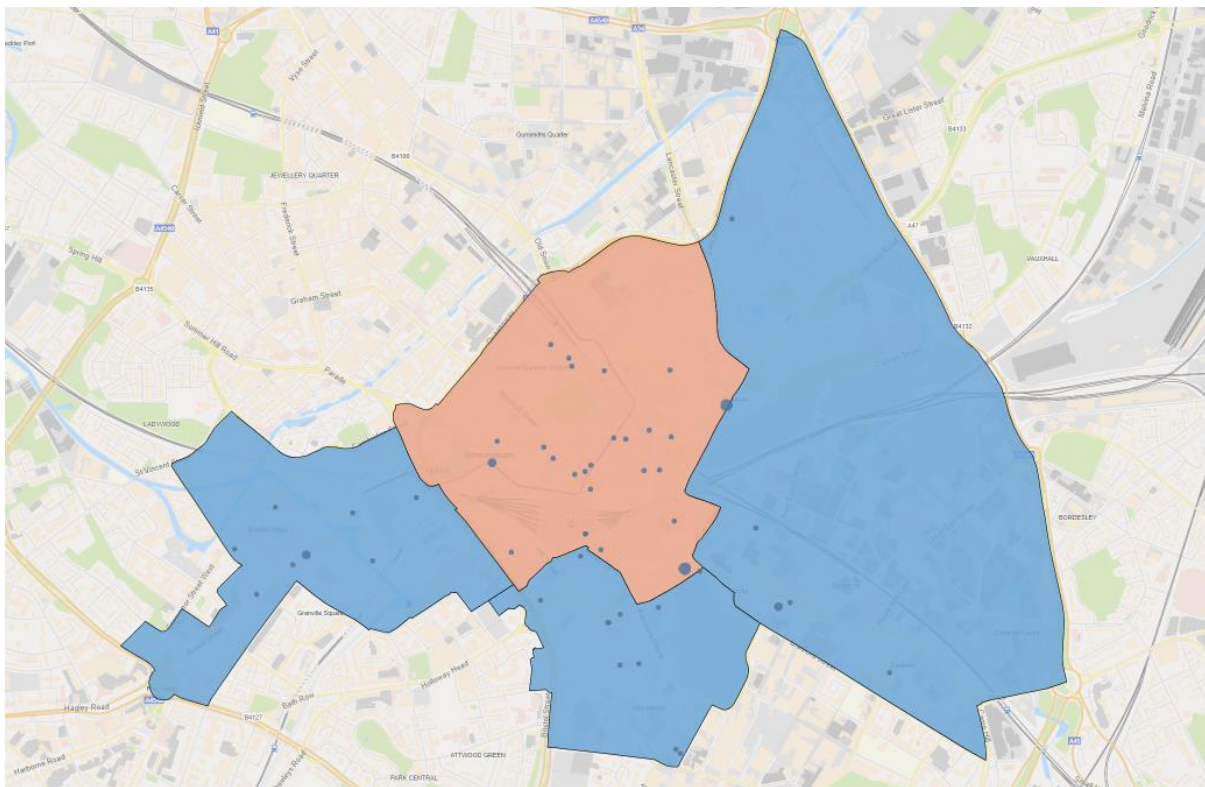
ALCOHOL & DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

The incident logs for the City Centre Neighbourhood total 13566 incidents during 2020 period once adjusted for available data. Of these incidents those closed within our Force Contact function with a final classification of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) totals 877. This equate to 6.5% of all incidents.

There are 4 areas within the ASB final classification – ASB Personal, ASB Environmental, ASB Disorder and ASB Nuisance. This figure includes all 4 classifications.

Of the ASB logs reported, 211 (after adjustment for datasets) are alcohol related; equating to 24% of ASB logs. 144 of the incidents are drug related and account for a further 16% of the incidents.

This data is from the closing qualifiers within our incident management system and is again provided via Force Contact upon update and closure of incidents. There are 32 separate qualifiers and for ASB incidents in the City Centre 40% are related solely to alcohol and drugs.



This first map shows incidents that are alcohol related, by qualifier, across the City Centre where there is a cluster and more than one reported incident. The larger the point on the map the larger the cluster of reported incidents. The two largest clusters reflect the Dale End triangle and the area of Edgbaston Street and the Bull Ring Markets. The City Centre core is highlighted as a hotspot by itself for alcohol related ASB. In relation to drug incidents they are more sporadic but with the City Centre core still a relative hotspot.

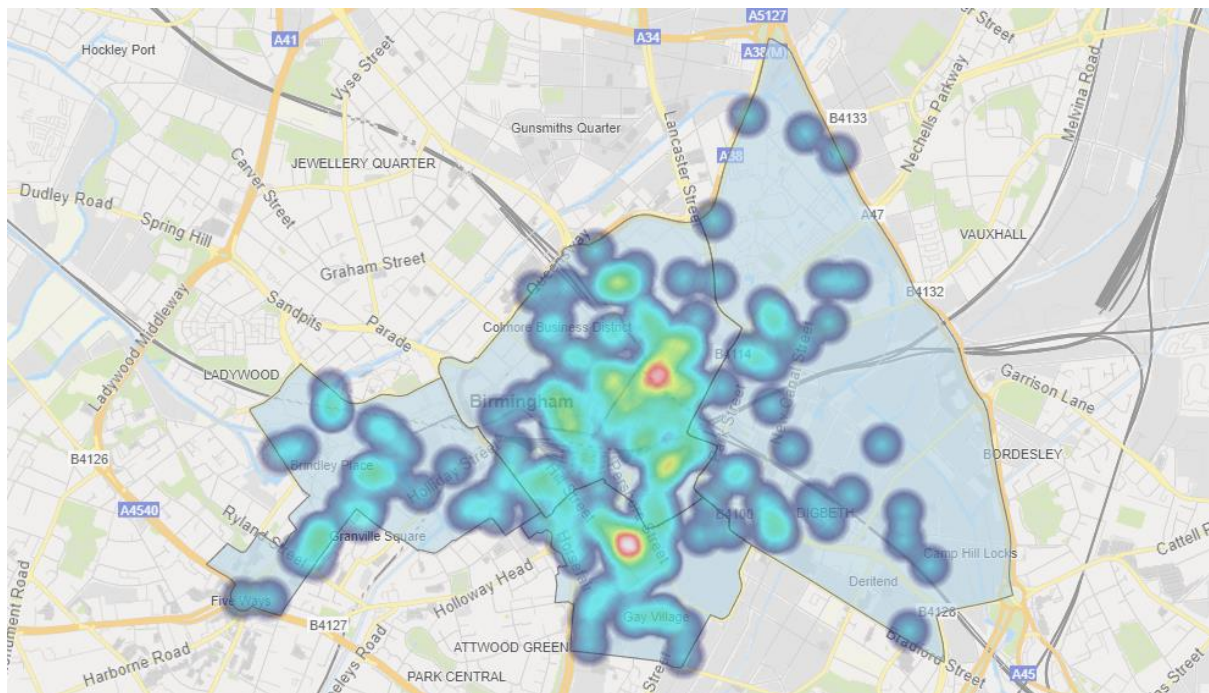
When recording crimes the qualifiers change to reflect the crime type – such as Domestic Related, Hate, Business Related, Violence with Injury et al and therefore it is not possible to reflect upon the crime committed due to alcohol consumption.



DRUG RELATED CRIMES

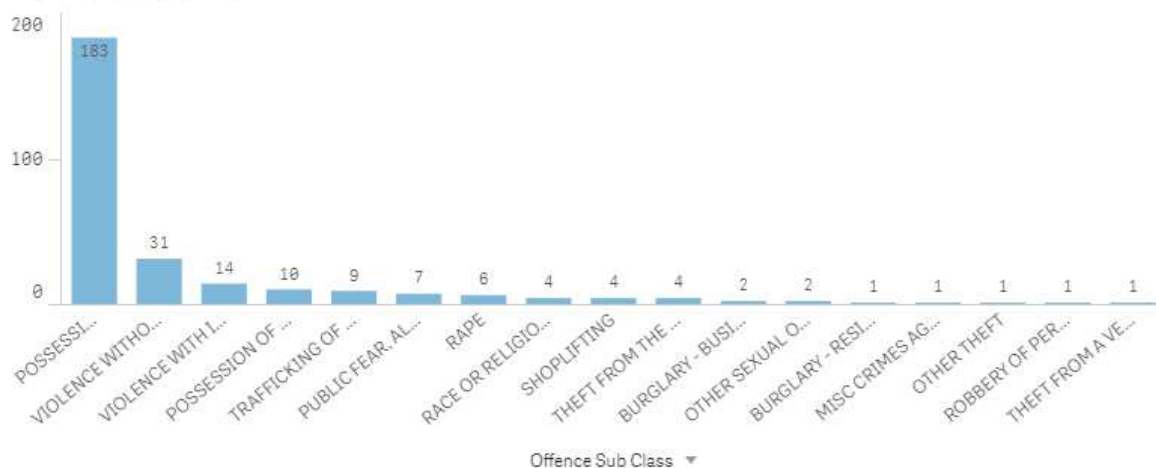
We can reflect on the Drug Related crime recorded within the City Centre and this dataset reflects substantive offences recorded under the Home Office Crime Recording standards.

The following map and table shows drug related crime across the City Centre Neighbourhood (all 4 sectors) and its hot spots.



Breakdown

Weekly Data (Upto 27/12/2020)



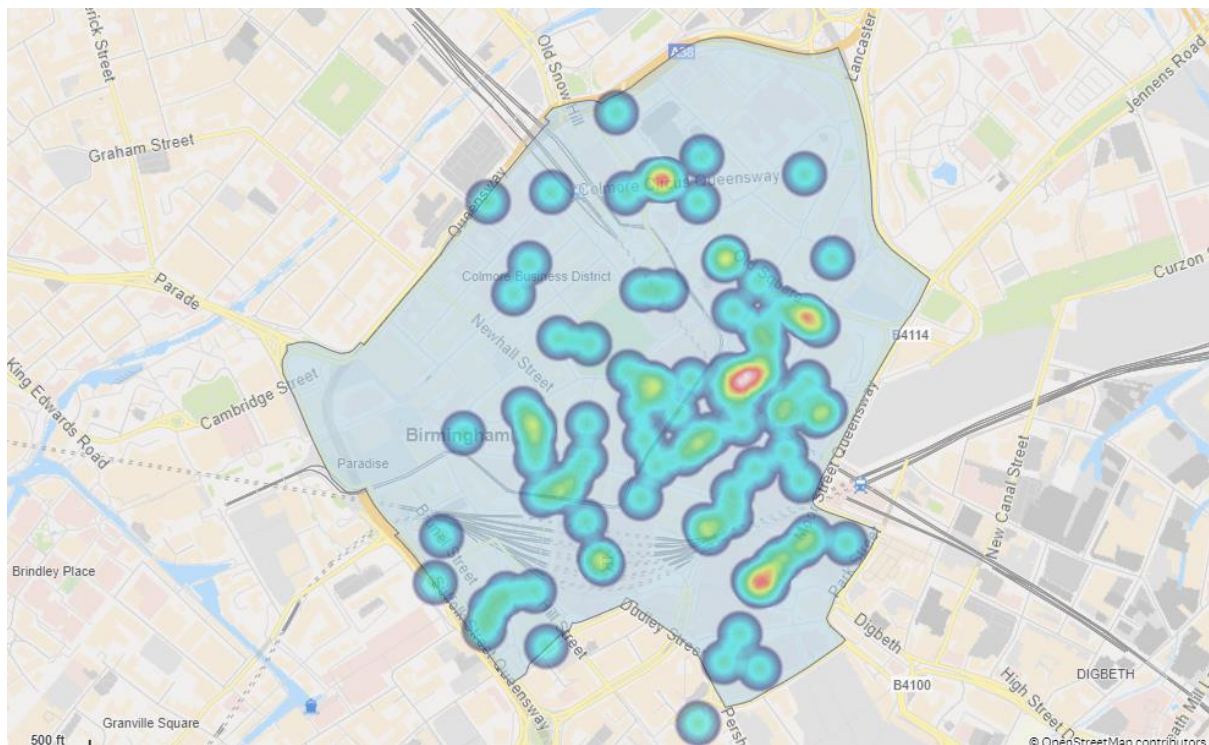
As would be expect directly linked drug offence make the majority of all recorded crime across the city centre and the hotspots are again Dale End and the markets general area but also highlighted is Arcadian area within Southside (BWFC)



However it is also clear that the relationship between drugs and crime type is evident with violent crime, trafficking and public order offences registering quite highly on the drug related crimes dataset. Rape and other Sexual offences also appear in the list for the city centre.

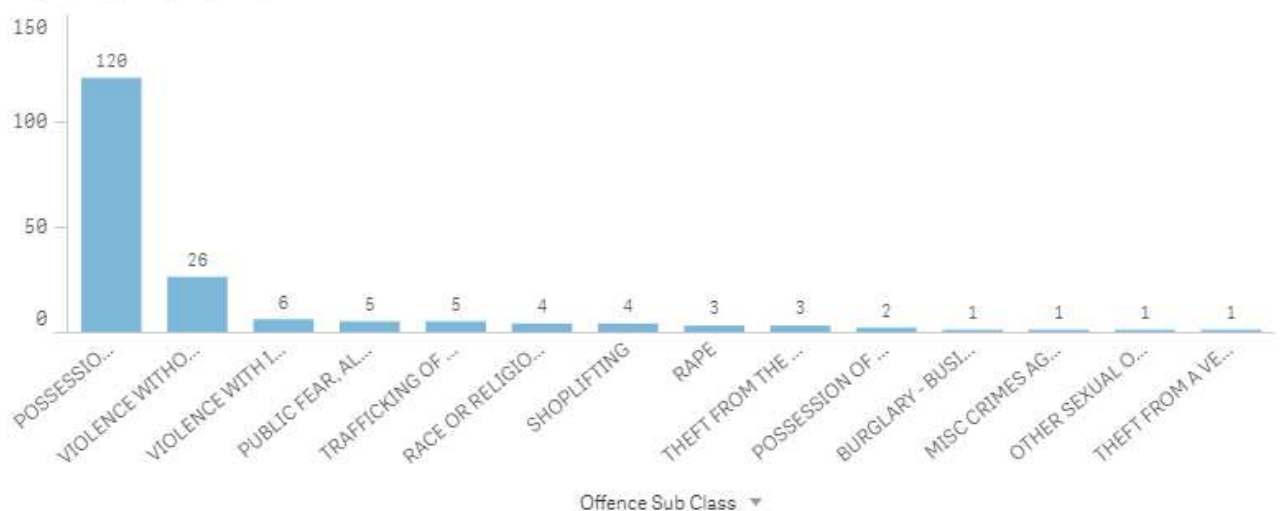
The following maps breakdown the overall City Centre into its constituent sectors

City Centre core - BWFA



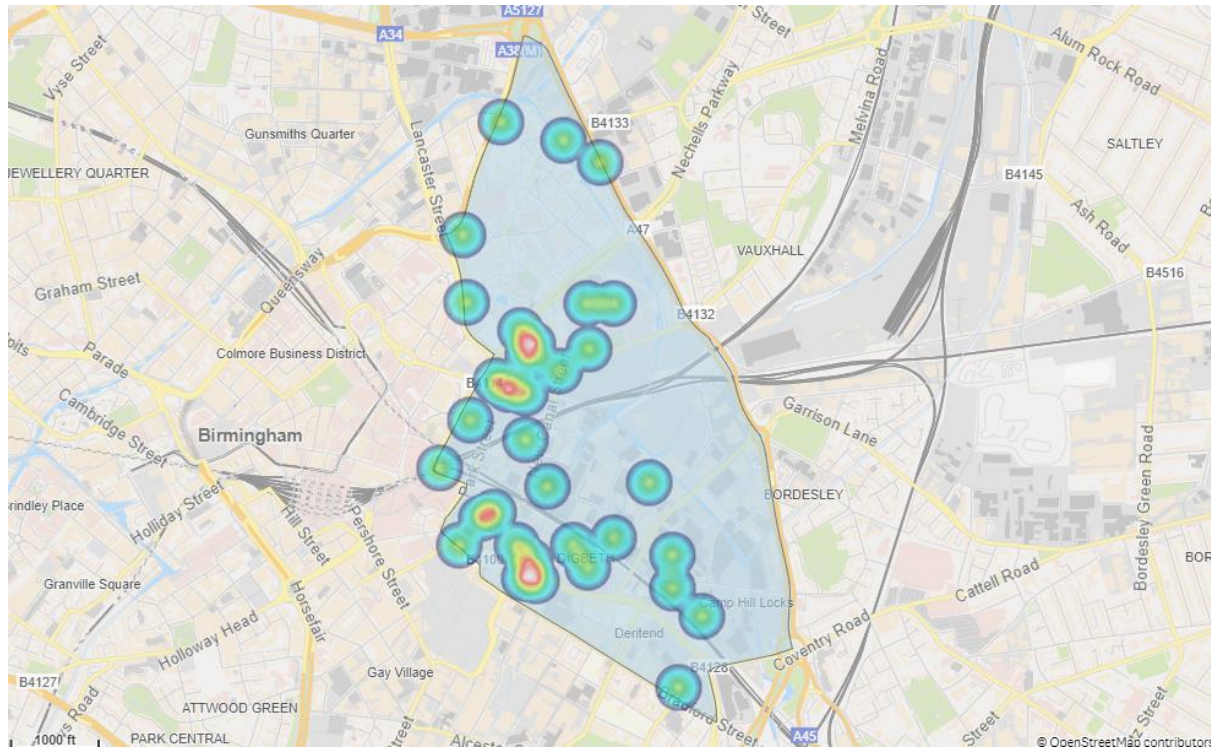
Breakdown

Weekly Data (Upto 27/12/2020)





Eastside – BWFB



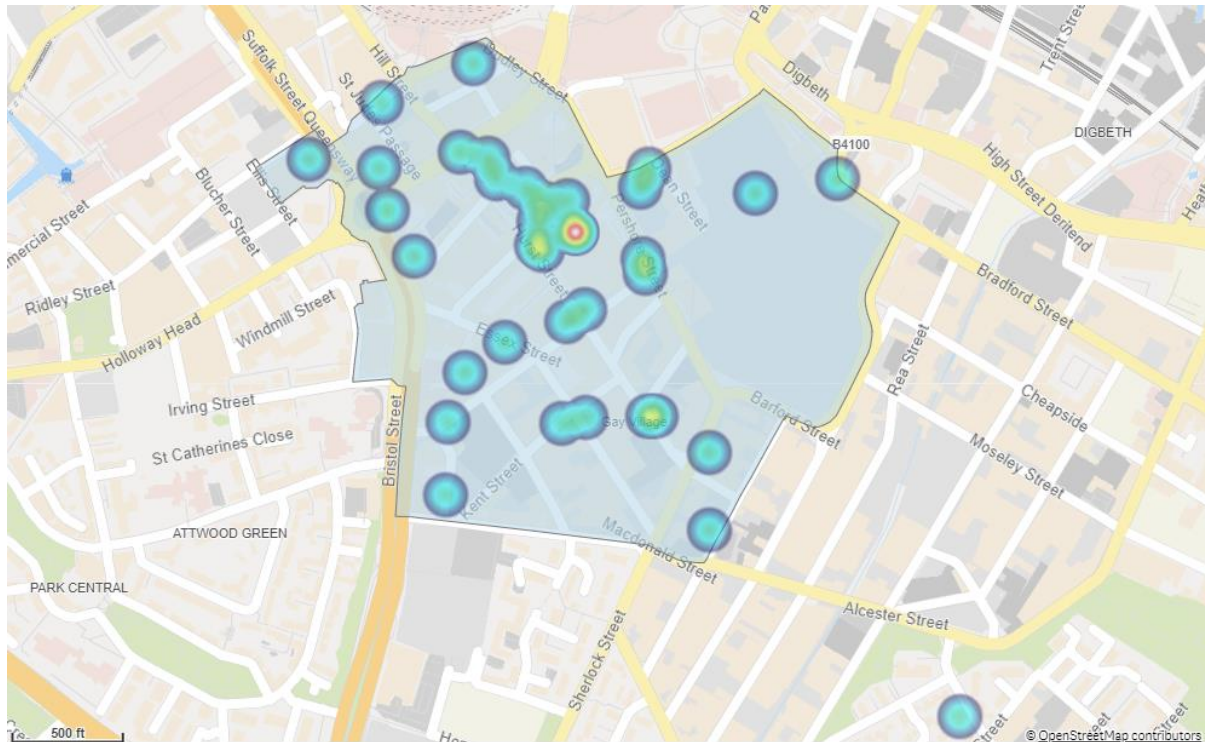
Breakdown

Weekly Data (Upto 20/12/2020)



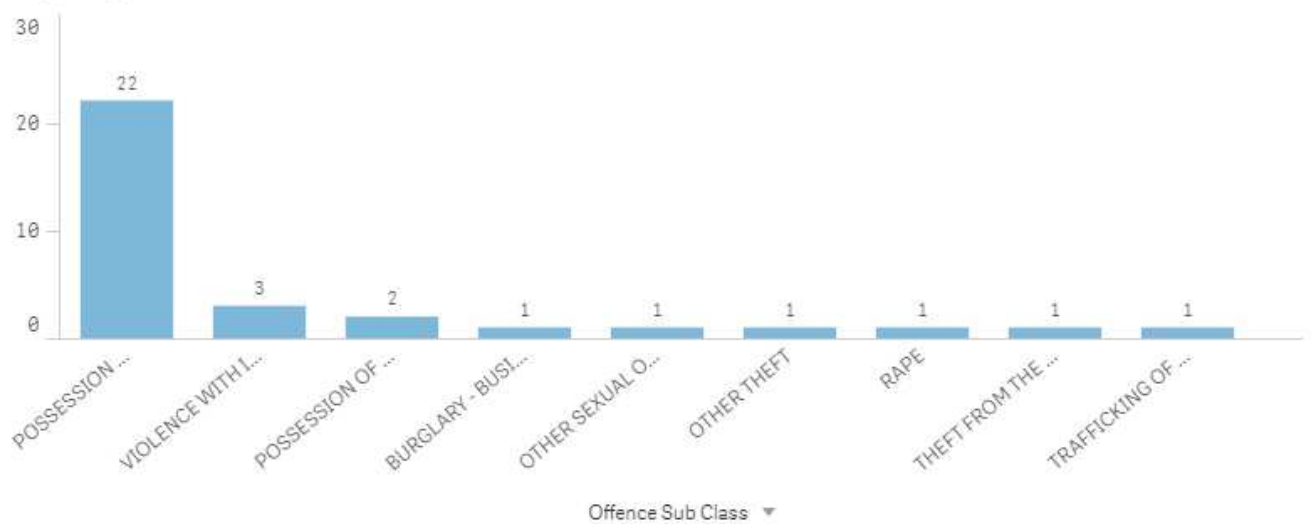


Southside – BWFC

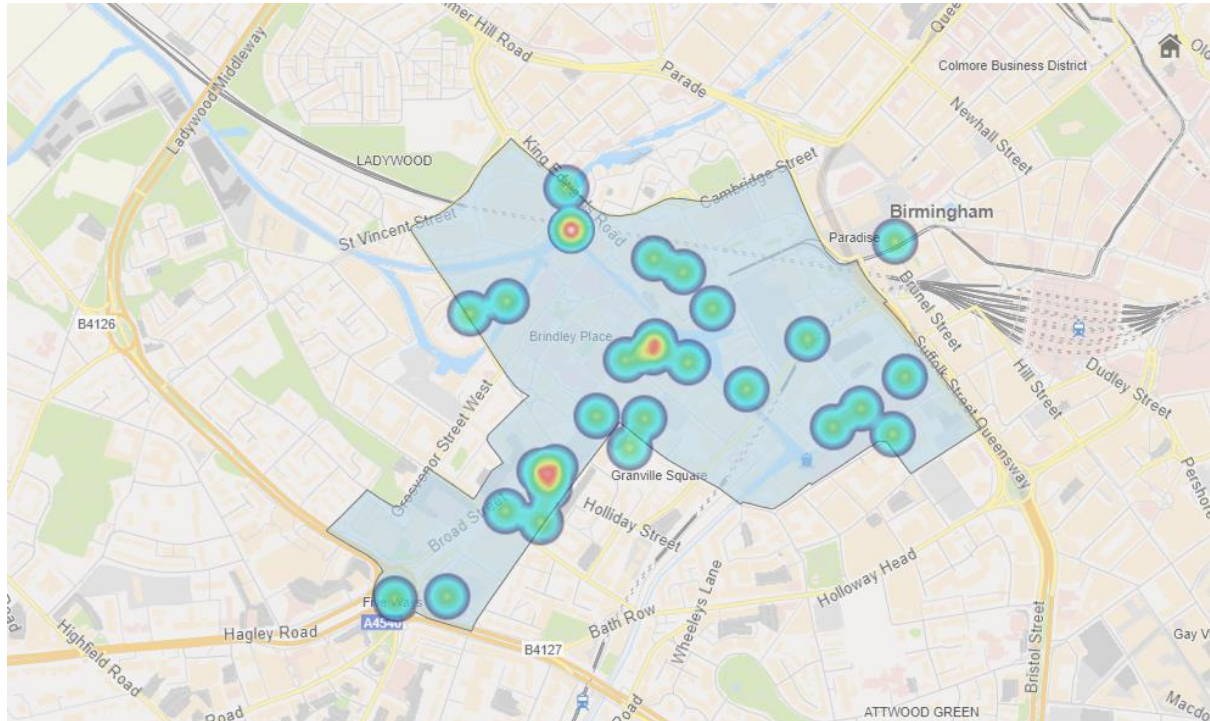


Breakdown

Weekly Data (Upto 06/12/2020)

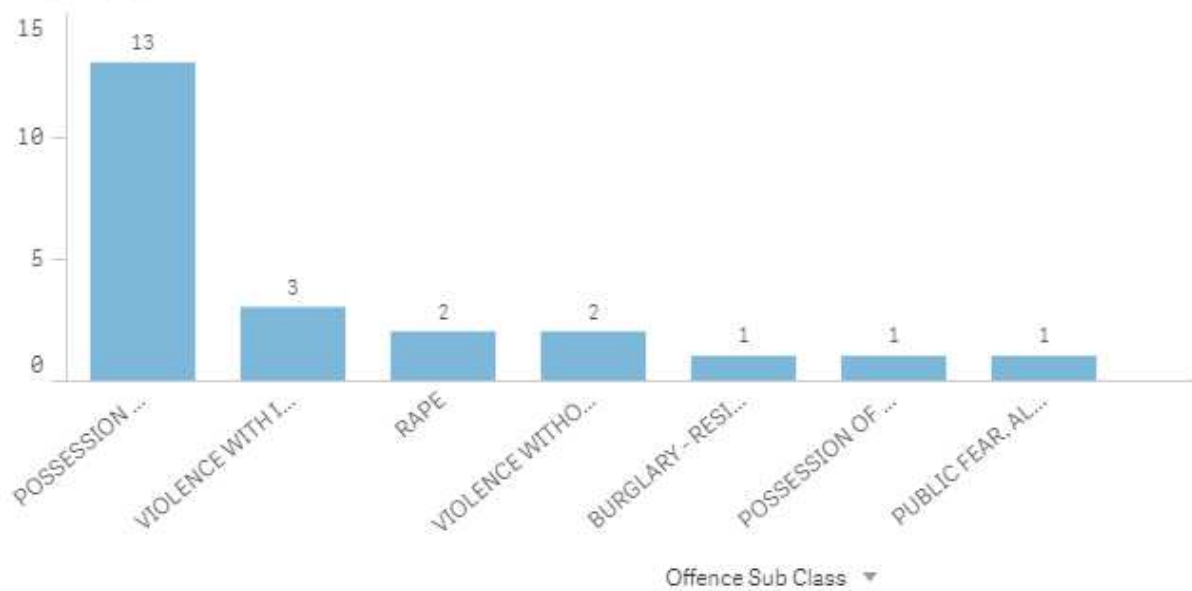


Westside – BWFD



Breakdown

Weekly Data (Upto 06/12/2020)



The hotspots and offences type are consistent across the sectors and reflect violent crime as related primarily to drug offences when possession of a drug is removed. The impact on crime and ASB from alcohol and drugs is demonstrated within the data above.



Intelligence Reports

Dataset questions used; and findings

Dataset ; Criteria	Outcome
Begging Only	273
Street Community Only	2147
Begging; ASB / Anti-social Behaviour	572
Begging ; ASB / Anti-social Behaviour; Alcohol	639
Street Community; ASB / Anti-social Behaviour	2361
Street Community; ASB / Anti-social Behaviour; Alcohol	2393
Begging; ASB / Anti-social Behaviour; drugs	1334
Street Community; ASB / Anti-social Behaviour; drugs	2851

Intelligence reports for 2020 reveal that begging and interactions with the street community would seem to be based around alcohol or drug consumption / use.

As can be seen numbers increase when firstly ASB is added to the query and then is further escalated by the addition of alcohol or drug into the query; which tends to prove a link between ASB, alcohol & drug use and begging and the street community.

Response:

I have reviewed this application and the data summary as part of my role as the Neighbourhood Manager for Birmingham City Centre and I am the Inspector with responsibility for the City Centre within West Midlands Police. I am authorised to respond on behalf of West Midlands Police Chief Constable and the Office of The Police and Crime Commissioner.

On behalf of West Midlands Police I have assessed this application based on the likely impact on prospective local residents; given the residential developments currently under construction and the increased number of planning applications for residential properties within the City Centre under the planned expansion of residential property portfolio within the City Centre Big Plan; commercial and retail premises and businesses within the city centre and the resources of both the local authority and police. I would draw attention to the following: paragraphs 58 and 69 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) where it recommends and encourages local planning authorities to ensure their policies and decisions aim to create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. The PSPO application if successful would complement the City Councils planning obligations in relation to building a safer future within the city centre.

Furthermore in providing this data, advice and by supporting the PSPO application West Midlands Police has paid due regard to section 17 Crime & Disorder Act - The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which introduced a wide range of measures for preventing crime and disorder. Section 17 (as amended by Schedule 9 of the Police and Justice Act 2006), imposes an obligation on every police



authority, local authority and other specified public bodies to consider crime and disorder reduction in the exercise of all their duties. The PSPO would add considerably to the arsenal of both WMP and BCC in tackling and reducing or preventing crime and disorder in our day to day duties and their execution.

At present most of the premises within the immediate proposed PSPO area are commercial and retail premises with many national and international conglomerates or retailers and local bespoke boutique type independent traders. When there is a high incidence of ASB and drink and drug related matters we know from anecdotal evidence from our retail stakeholders that they are directly affected. The footfall within certain areas of the City Centre is adversely affected. BCC's own historic Bull Ring Markets are within a WMP Impact Area. This is a high crime and ASB area and regularly flags as a hotspot – see data maps above. Not only does the ASB and the footfall reduction impact on traders but the reputation of the City Centre. Similarly Dale End area of City Centre face the same issues. They are both resource intensive area for policing that are due to see massive investment related to HS2 and City Centre redevelopment. Attracting that investment may be difficult with high crime and ASB levels.

There are a number of other crimes not mentioned within this report that are suspected of, but evidentially cannot be directly linked to, being committed to fund drug or alcohol addiction. The overwhelming majority of the vehicle related offences within the city centre are theft from a motor vehicle whereby low value items are taken. Gone are the offences targeting car stereos as many are in built, as are Sat Nav systems; now loose change in centre compartments, small sellable, easily removed and passed on electronic devices are targeted. The value of these items suggests that the proceeds of these crimes are going toward alcohol and drugs to be used and consumed within the City Centre; linking, through available data our Street Community to this volume crime. With the inability to drink openly; or act in an anti-social manner within the city centre not only would we see reductions in the directly related incidents of crime, disorder and ASB we would also see reductions in indirectly associated criminality affecting the City Centre.

Shop theft is the highest demand generator within the City Centre in many incidences can also be related to the purchase or theft of alcohol and drugs. Our partners Citysafe; a Business Crime Reduction Partnership under the umbrella of Retail Birmingham provide assistance to stores in relation to crime and crime reporting and they are able to prove the incidents where low cost; easily concealed sold one items as well as alcohol directly are stolen from their member stores within the city centre. The table below is from the SentrySiS platform used by the BCRP and lists the top 7 items stolen. With the exception of clothing, alcohol and food; the other item types stolen mirror those from the thefts from motor vehicle again suggesting used for low level purchase of alcohol and / or drugs consumed within the city centre.

Item type	Number of incidents
Clothing General	823
Fragrance	389
Cosmetics	270
Clothing Accessories	222
Food and Drink – non alcoholic	191
Electrical	117
Alcohol	104



Conclusion:

The PSPO will offer reductions in crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour related matters for our largest partner, our largest Business Improvement District ; their levy payers – and our biggest community.

With the PSPO granted it will give all officers the ability to directly and positively affect the confidence within our business and residential community, enhance the reputation of the city centre and importantly reduce and prevent crime within its boundaries.

Evidence added following stage one consultation. (added on 31st August 2021)

I have been asked to take a look at the current proposed map for the PSPO and consider whether there is evidence to support the extension of the boundaries into certain parts of Ladywood.

Having done a deep dive into our intelligence, data, crimes and logs relating to the specific conditions for this year, I have attached a map of where I believe Ladywood would benefit from the stipulations within the PSPO. All of the locations mentioned are featured within the top five biggest demand generators relating to ASB across Ladywood.

Ryland Street/Alfred Knight Way

With the re-opening of the licensed premises along Broad Street within night time economy hours, we have started to see an increase of logs relating to ASB within the area proposed, as well as seeing an increase throughout the pandemic. Extending off of Broad Street, Ryland Street alone has seen a total of 16 phone calls from the beginning of April, all of which would have satisfied a ticket for a PSPO breach. A dip sample reveals as follows:

1. Log 4415/20/07/2021 at 2134hours – Female resident living on Ryland Street reporting ongoing ASB in relation to males using and discarding nitrous oxide canisters, making loud noise and congregating in the street.
2. Log 2763/16/06/2021 – Caller reporting that there were numerous youths in the play area shouting and generally acting in an anti-social manner, swearing at passers-by and riding motorbikes in the play area. Caller describes this is a regular occurrence.

Ryland Street also has the only licensed liquor store off of Broad Street with operating hours after 0000hours, drawing in a large and already intoxicated clientele who are disruptive and more susceptible to disorder and ASB related behaviour. Ladywood NHT have in the past reduced the operating hours for the premises and removed the 24 hour licence due to the amounts of problems related to the premises.

Sheepcote Street/Canals

The conditions also describe the management of football related events. During the recent showing of the Euro 2020, five logs were received by call handlers in the space of one hour stating that there were 300 people queuing down the canals in order to enter The Distillery, a licensed premises with an access on the canals. Upon arrival, officers were faced with a situation whereby over 600 people



were queueing for entry into the location, which is proof that the licensed premises off of Broad Street are also drawing in a large crows and are also vulnerable to loitering and disorder.

The canals themselves have several access routes within the area proposed and we have recently seen evidence of loitering taking place close to locations of robbery offences. A PSPO covering this area would allow officers to actively engage with these groups and potentially disperse them before violent offences have a chance to occur.

St Vincent Street West

St Vincent Street historically has been subject to a PSPO in the past which was very successfully used to deter street drinkers from congregating outside the local shops and engaging in ASB. Since the finalisation of that PSPO we are not seeing an increase once again in older males publicly drinking alcohol, refusing to engage with police and blocking entrances to shops which is intimidating local residents.

1. Log 126/11/06/2021 is a log from a shop keeper who reported suspicious behaviour from a group of males congregating along the street. This caused her to feel as if she was going to be burgled and she felt very distressed.
2. Log 4488/23/07/2021 – A report of around 100 people gathered in the street for an illegal party. It was described as a DJ set up with four calls in total in relation to the incident

There is also a primary school along St Vincent Street west and it is vital that we are taking the safeguarding of our local children into account when considering the extension of the PSPO.

Chamberlain Gardens/Alston Street

Alston Street is the third top demand generator across Ladywood, specifically relating to number 1. The resident at the location uses his address to harbour various people, all known to engage in ASB related behaviour, work is ongoing around an eviction.

Numerous emails and logs have been received in relation to loud music and gatherings taking place in the large open spaces across this Chamberlain gardens. The tennis courts are being used frequently as a place for young people to gather, play loud music and to smoke cannabis. Whilst we do have a substantive offence here the extension of the PSPO into this area would allow officers to proactively deploy preventative measures without having to establish grounds for stops and searches and would allow us to target the group as a whole as opposed to individuals. Within the last three weeks I have had a total of five emails from various residents in relation to the ASB taking place at this location and have a face to face meeting with councillors and residents to discuss the matter moving forward. The extension of the map into this area would bring some relief to residents and show that partner agencies are taking concerns serious and progressing to address them.

Broadway Plaza

Broadway Plaza hosts a number of licensed premises alongside the Odeon Cinema. The premises has only been open for a number of weeks given the easing of lockdown and previous experience would dictate that when they are operating at full capacity and full hours we will again start to see the increase in loitering, public drunkenness from the night time economy and potential violence offences. The area has also been a hotspot for robbery in the past with three robbery offences taking place within the parameters in the last four months.



Aside from the main areas highlighted above, the geographical zone in general will no doubt suffer from displacement if not covered by the conditions within the PSPO, which we have already seen from the CPW's and CPN's issued within the boundaries of the city. I am thrilled to see that both Lee Bank and Peace Gardens have already been included within the original proposed map, but I believe that through a small extension we will be able to proactively prevent a number of issues to improve the quality of life of residents living in Ladywood.