

Community safety survey 2016



REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY 2016

INTRODUCTION

The Community Safety Survey 2016 was conducted by the Local Government Association's Research and Information team between 24th October and 18th November 2016 to gather information about how community safety partnerships (CSP)/county strategy groups (CSG) and councils' community safety services currently operate, some of the key challenges for effective delivery, and the response of the sector to these challenges to date.

The survey was sent to all 375 local authorities in England and Wales. The response rate was 29 per cent as shown in the table below:

Type of authority	No. of respondents	
	Number	Response rate Per cent
Counties	14	52%
Shire districts	54	27%
Single tier	39	27%
- of which:		
- London boroughs	8	24%
- metropolitan districts	14	39%
- unitaries	17	22%
Total	107	29%

General notes

1. Given the response rate of between a quarter and a third, the results should be taken to be very broadly indicative, rather than fully representative, of the views of authorities as a whole. It should be borne in mind that response varied widely by type of authority and by region (the latter between 9 per cent and 42 per cent).
2. A number of CSPs are merged across two or more councils so the base on which the response is calculated may be less than 375, but it is not possible to quantify precisely.
3. The results are broken down by type of authority as slightly different arrangements are in place in counties. These figures should be treated with particular caution due to the relatively small numbers of respondents.
4. Further to note 1, not all users answered, or were required to answer, every question, so the response to individual questions varies. In each table, the 'Total' row indicates the total number of respondents to the question, but note that this includes those who answered 'don't know'.
5. In all tables, 'single tier' covers London boroughs, metropolitan districts and unitaries.

SUMMARY

The main findings were as follows:

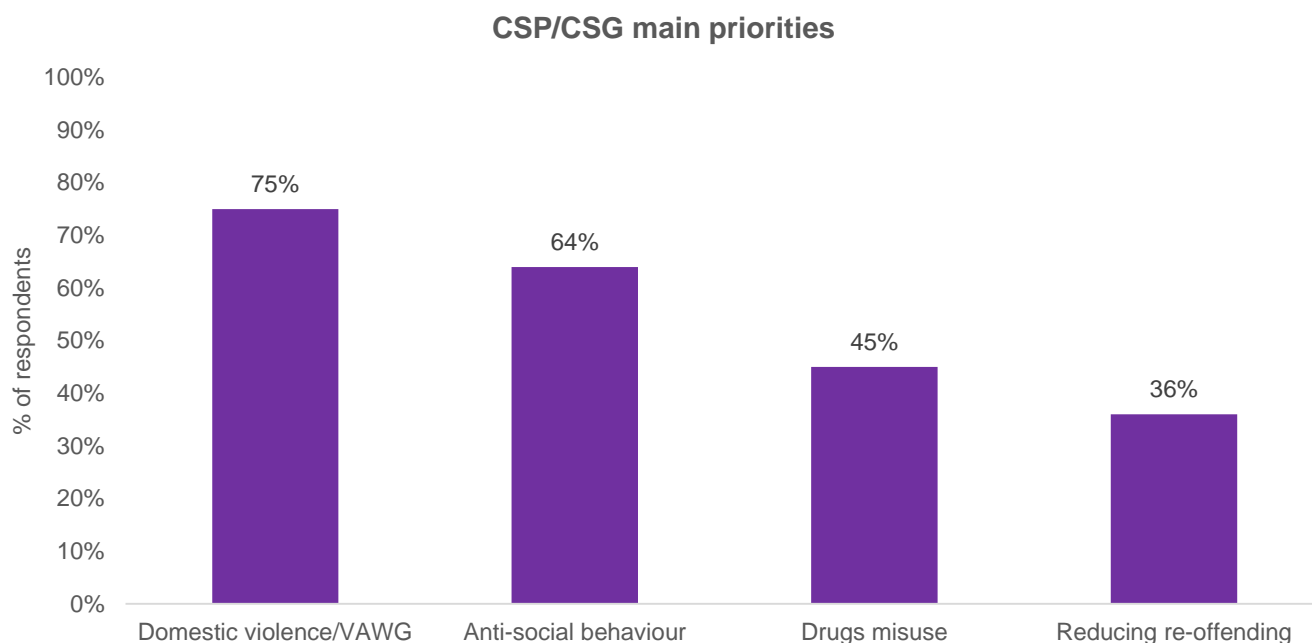
- 75 per cent of respondents identified domestic violence/violence against women and girls as one of the five main priorities of their CSP/CSG. This was followed by 64 per cent for anti-social behaviour and 45 per cent for drug/alcohol/substance misuse.
- 99 per cent of respondents indicated that the police service had influenced their CSP/CSG's current priorities to either a great or moderate extent. The proportion was also high for their own local authority (98 per cent) and police and crime commissioners (76 per cent).
- Community rehabilitation companies, clinical commissioning groups, and children and adult safeguarding boards were each regarded by around a quarter of respondents as having had no effect on the setting of CSP/CSG priorities.
- The factors most likely to have had a great or moderate influence on CSP/CSG priorities were intelligence/data capture/strategic assessment (99 per cent), national strategies (86 per cent), public engagement (68 per cent), and people resources/capacity (68 per cent).
- 97 per cent of respondents indicated that they directly employed staff engaged in community staff functions. The median average number was 3.4 full-time equivalents. Just over two-thirds of respondents (68 per cent) indicated that the number of staff had decreased since 2010.
- 33 per cent of respondents indicated that staff spent at least 75 per cent of their time on operational duties (25 per cent or less on strategic duties), 38 per cent indicated that staff spent between 25 per cent and 74 per cent of their time on operational duties (26 – 75 per cent on strategic duties), and 24 per cent indicated that staff spent less than 25 per cent of their time on operational duties (more than 75 per cent on strategic duties).
- 84 per cent of respondents were either very or fairly confident that their CSP/CSG would deliver against its priorities in its current partnership plan/county community safety agreement.

SURVEY FINDINGS

Note that community safety partnerships (CSP) cover all types of local authority except counties whose equivalent is county strategy groups (CSG).

Main priorities (Table 1)

Authorities were invited to indicate up to five main priorities of their CSP or CSG from a list of nineteen. Across all respondents, domestic violence/violence against women and girls was the most common main priority (75 per cent of respondent authorities), followed by anti-social behaviour (64 per cent) and drug/alcohol/substance misuse (45 per cent).



These three were generally top across all types of authority, although the precise order varied. Reducing re-offending was more likely to be mentioned in single tier authorities (59 per cent) and counties (50 per cent) than shire districts (15 per cent).

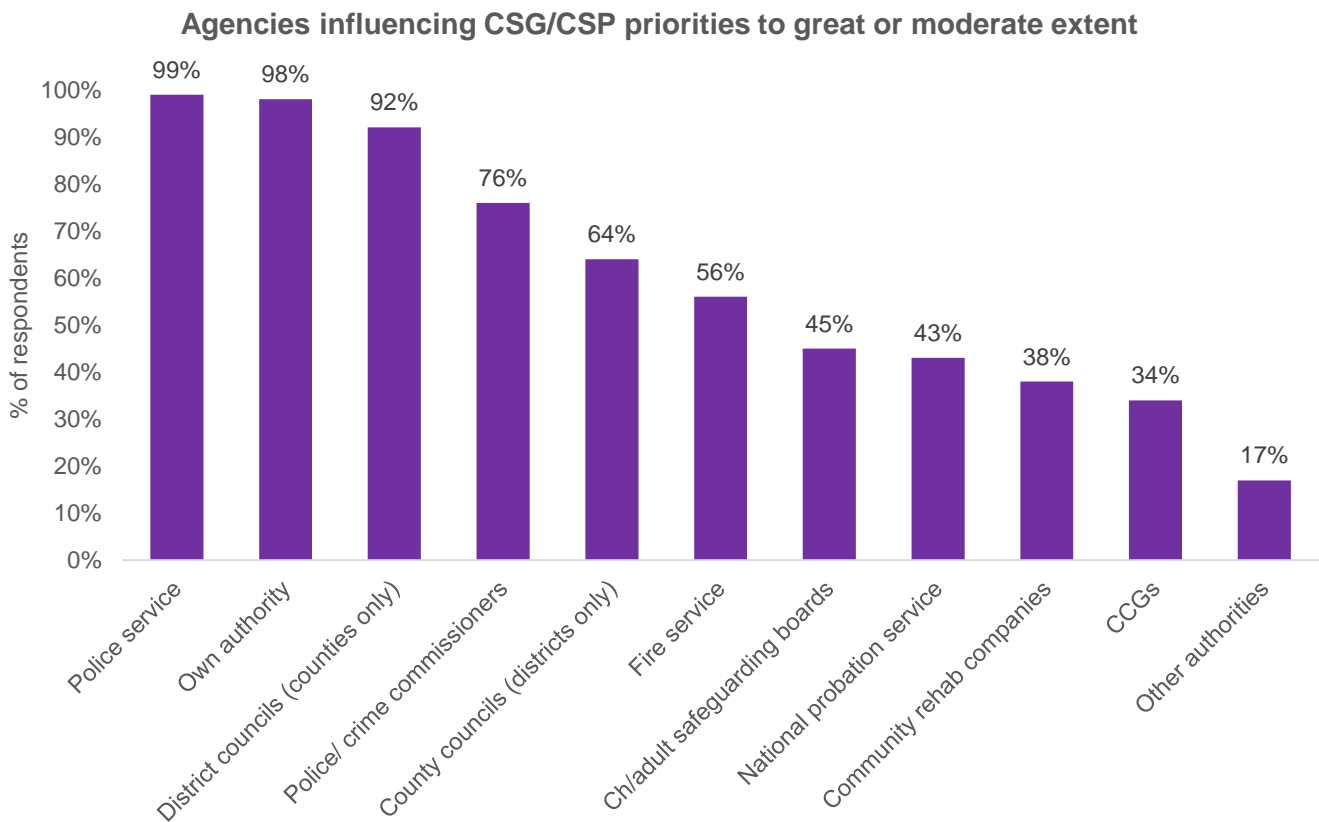
Table 1: what are your local CSP/CSG's main priorities, as identified in the current partnership plan/county community safety agreement?

	Total		Counties		Shire districts		Single-tier	
	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent
Domestic violence / violence against women and girls	80	75%	11	79%	36	67%	33	85%
Anti-social behaviour / street drinking	69	64%	5	36%	39	72%	25	64%
Drugs / alcohol / substance misuse	48	45%	7	50%	23	43%	18	46%
Reducing re-offending	38	36%	7	50%	8	15%	23	59%
Child sexual exploitation	36	34%	3	21%	22	41%	11	28%
Safeguarding vulnerable people	34	32%	4	29%	19	35%	11	28%
Community cohesion / resilience / hate crime	25	23%	4	29%	10	19%	11	28%
Reducing violence	22	21%	4	29%	8	15%	10	26%
Counter-extremism / Prevent	21	20%	5	36%	8	15%	8	21%
Gangs / county lines / youth violence	19	18%	2	14%	8	15%	9	23%

Table 1 (continued)								
	Total		Counties		Shire districts		Single-tier	
	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent
Acquisitive crime	18	17%	0	0%	12	22%	6	15%
Early intervention / prevention	17	16%	2	14%	12	22%	3	8%
Fear of crime / re-assurance	12	11%	0	0%	9	17%	3	8%
Road safety	11	10%	3	21%	6	11%	2	5%
Serious and organised crime	10	9%	4	29%	4	7%	2	5%
Night-time economy	9	8%	0	0%	7	13%	2	5%
Modern slavery / trafficking	8	7%	4	29%	3	6%	1	3%
Cybercrime / fraud	6	6%	3	21%	3	6%	0	0%
Environmental (e.g. fly-tipping, dog fouling)	3	3%	0	0%	3	6%	0	0%
Other	14	13%	2	14%	6	11%	6	15%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	107	100%	14	100%	54	100%	39	100%

Influence of agencies in setting priorities (Table 2)

The proportion of respondents indicating that agencies had influenced their CSP/CSG's current priorities to either a great or moderate extent varied between 99 per cent for police services (76 per cent indicated 'great extent'), 98 per cent for their own local authority (75 per cent), 76 per cent for police and crime commissioners, 56 per cent for fire services, 45 per cent for children and adult safeguarding boards, 43 per cent for the national probation service, 38 per cent for community rehabilitation companies, and 34 per cent for clinical commissioning groups.



Among county respondents, 92 per cent indicated that districts in their area had influenced priorities to a great or moderate extent. Among shire district respondents, 64 per cent indicated that their county council had done likewise. Among all types, 17 per cent indicated that other authorities had influenced priorities to a great or moderate extent (this excludes the previous two items).

The national probation service was more likely to be a great or moderate influence in counties (61 per cent) and single-tier respondents (62 per cent) than shire districts (24 per cent). Community rehabilitation companies were also more likely to be a great or moderate influence in counties (54 per cent) and single-tier respondents (59 per cent) than shire districts (20 per cent).

Community rehabilitation companies, clinical commissioning groups, and children and adult safeguarding boards were each regarded by around a quarter of respondents as having had no effect on the setting of priorities.

Table 2: to what extent did each of the following agencies influence the setting of your CSP/CSG's current priorities?								
	Total		Counties		Shire districts		Single-tier	
	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent
Police service								
Great extent	78	76%	7	54%	41	80%	29	78%
Moderate extent	23	23%	6	46%	9	18%	8	22%
Small extent	1	1%	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%
No extent	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	102	100%	13	100%	51	100%	37	100%
Fire service								
Great extent	32	32%	2	15%	15	31%	15	41%
Moderate extent	24	24%	7	54%	11	23%	6	16%
Small extent	30	30%	2	15%	14	29%	13	35%
No extent	13	13%	2	15%	8	17%	3	8%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	99	100%	13	100%	48	100%	37	100%
National probation service								
Great extent	19	19%	2	15%	3	6%	14	38%
Moderate extent	24	24%	6	46%	9	18%	9	24%
Small extent	35	35%	5	38%	19	39%	10	27%
No extent	21	21%	0	0%	17	35%	4	11%
Don't know	1	1%	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%
Total	100	100%	13	100%	49	100%	37	100%
Community rehabilitation company								
Great extent	19	19%	1	8%	3	6%	15	42%
Moderate extent	19	19%	6	46%	7	14%	6	17%
Small extent	36	36%	6	46%	19	38%	10	28%
No extent	25	25%	0	0%	20	40%	5	14%
Don't know	1	1%	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%
Total	100	100%	13	100%	50	100%	36	100%
Clinical commissioning group								
Great extent	15	15%	1	8%	4	8%	10	28%
Moderate extent	19	19%	2	15%	11	23%	6	17%
Small extent	39	40%	5	38%	19	40%	15	42%
No extent	24	24%	5	38%	13	27%	5	14%
Don't know	1	1%	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%
Total	98	100%	13	100%	48	100%	36	100%

Table 2 (continued)								
	Total		Counties		Shire districts		Single-tier	
	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent
Children and adult safeguarding boards								
Great extent	15	16%	3	23%	4	8%	8	24%
Moderate extent	28	29%	4	31%	7	15%	16	47%
Small extent	29	30%	4	31%	17	35%	8	24%
No extent	23	24%	2	15%	19	40%	2	6%
Don't know	1	1%	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%
Total	96	100%	13	100%	48	100%	34	100%
Police and crime commissioner								
Great extent	40	40%	9	69%	21	41%	9	26%
Moderate extent	36	36%	4	31%	18	35%	14	40%
Small extent	18	18%	0	0%	9	18%	9	26%
No extent	6	6%	0	0%	3	6%	3	9%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	100	100%	13	100%	51	100%	35	100%
Your local authority								
Great extent	77	75%	10	77%	36	71%	30	81%
Moderate extent	23	23%	2	15%	14	27%	7	19%
Small extent	2	2%	1	8%	1	2%	0	0%
No extent	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	102	100%	13	100%	51	100%	37	100%
Districts in your county area								
Great extent	9	69%	9	69%	0	0%	0	0%
Moderate extent	3	23%	3	23%	0	0%	0	0%
Small extent	1	8%	1	8%	0	0%	0	0%
No extent	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	13	100%	13	100%	0	100%	0	100%
County council								
Great extent	14	29%	0	0%	14	29%	0	0%
Moderate extent	17	35%	0	0%	17	35%	0	0%
Small extent	11	22%	0	0%	11	22%	0	0%
No extent	7	14%	0	0%	7	14%	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	49	100%	0	100%	49	100%	0	100%
Other local authorities								
Great extent	2	4%	0	0%	2	7%	0	0%
Moderate extent	7	13%	0	0%	5	17%	2	11%
Small extent	17	31%	2	29%	7	24%	7	39%
No extent	28	51%	5	71%	14	48%	9	50%
Don't know	1	2%	0	0%	1	3%	0	0%
Total	55	100%	7	100%	29	100%	18	100%
Other								
Great extent	7	33%	1	25%	1	11%	5	63%
Moderate extent	9	43%	2	50%	5	56%	2	25%
Small extent	4	19%	1	25%	2	22%	1	13%
No extent	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Don't know	1	5%	0	0%	1	11%	0	0%
Total	21	100%	4	100%	9	100%	8	100%

Influence of factors in setting priorities (Table 3)

The proportion of respondents indicating that various factors had influenced their CSP/CSG's current priorities to either a great or moderate extent varied between 99 per cent for intelligence/data capture/strategic assessment (85 per cent 'great extent'), 86 per cent for national strategies, 68 per cent for public engagement, 67 per cent for people resources/capacity, and 57 per cent for funding.

Public engagement was more likely to be a great or moderate influence in shire districts (69 per cent) and single-tier respondents (78 per cent) than counties (31 per cent). People resources was also more likely to be a great or moderate influence in shire districts (76 per cent) and single-tier respondents (67 per cent) than counties (46 per cent).

Table 3: to what extent did each of the following factors influence the setting of your CSP/CSG's current priorities?								
	Total		Counties		Shire districts		Single-tier	
	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent
National strategies								
Great extent	22	22%	5	38%	10	21%	7	19%
Moderate extent	63	64%	7	54%	28	58%	27	73%
Small extent	14	14%	1	8%	10	21%	3	8%
No extent	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	99	100%	13	100%	48	100%	37	100%
Intelligence / data capture / strategic assessment								
Great extent	87	85%	12	92%	42	82%	33	89%
Moderate extent	14	14%	0	0%	9	18%	4	11%
Small extent	1	1%	1	8%	0	0%	0	0%
No extent	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	102	100%	13	100%	51	100%	37	100%
Funding								
Great extent	23	23%	3	23%	12	24%	8	22%
Moderate extent	34	34%	3	23%	17	34%	14	39%
Small extent	20	20%	1	8%	10	20%	8	22%
No extent	23	23%	6	46%	11	22%	6	17%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	100	100%	13	100%	50	100%	36	100%
People resources / capacity								
Great extent	20	20%	0	0%	15	31%	5	14%
Moderate extent	47	47%	6	46%	22	45%	19	53%
Small extent	21	21%	6	46%	7	14%	7	19%
No extent	11	11%	1	8%	5	10%	5	14%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	99	100%	13	100%	49	100%	36	100%
Public engagement								
Great extent	18	18%	1	8%	7	14%	10	27%
Moderate extent	50	50%	3	23%	27	55%	19	51%
Small extent	27	27%	9	69%	12	24%	6	16%
No extent	3	3%	0	0%	2	4%	1	3%
Don't know	2	2%	0	0%	1	2%	1	3%
Total	100	100%	13	100%	49	100%	37	100%
Other								
Great extent	1	25%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%
Moderate extent	1	25%	0	0%	1	50%	0	0%
Small extent	1	25%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%
No extent	1	25%	0	0%	1	50%	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	4	100%	2	100%	2	100%	0	100%

Employment of community safety staff (Table 4)

Almost all respondents (97 per cent) indicated that they directly employed staff engaged in community staff functions, and this proportion varied little across types of authority.

Table 4: does your local authority directly employ staff engaged in community safety functions (even if for only part of their time)?								
	Total		Counties		Shire districts		Single-tier	
	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent
Yes	96	97%	13	100%	49	96%	33	97%
No	3	3%	0	0%	2	4%	1	3%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	99	100%	13	100%	51	100%	34	100%

Number of community safety staff employed (Table 5)

Those authorities employing staff were asked to indicate the number of full-time equivalent staff directly employed at 1 September 2016. A total of 90 provided a figure.

The overall median average was 3.4 FTE staff, lower in counties and shire districts (each 2.0) than single tier respondents (8.0).

Overall, 31 respondents employed up to two staff, 29 employed more than two and up to five, 14 employed more than five and up to ten, and 16 employed more than ten. Note that, if anything, the figures are likely to slightly understate the total number of staff engaged in community safety functions as in larger authorities they could be spread across a wide range of departments, and not all may have been captured by the survey.

Table 5: number of such staff engaged in community safety functions at 1 September 2016 in full-time equivalent terms.				
	Total	Counties	Shire districts	Single-tier
No. of staff (median FTE)	3.4	2.0	2.0	8.0
Base no. of respondents	90	10	47	33

Change in number of community staff employed (Table 6)

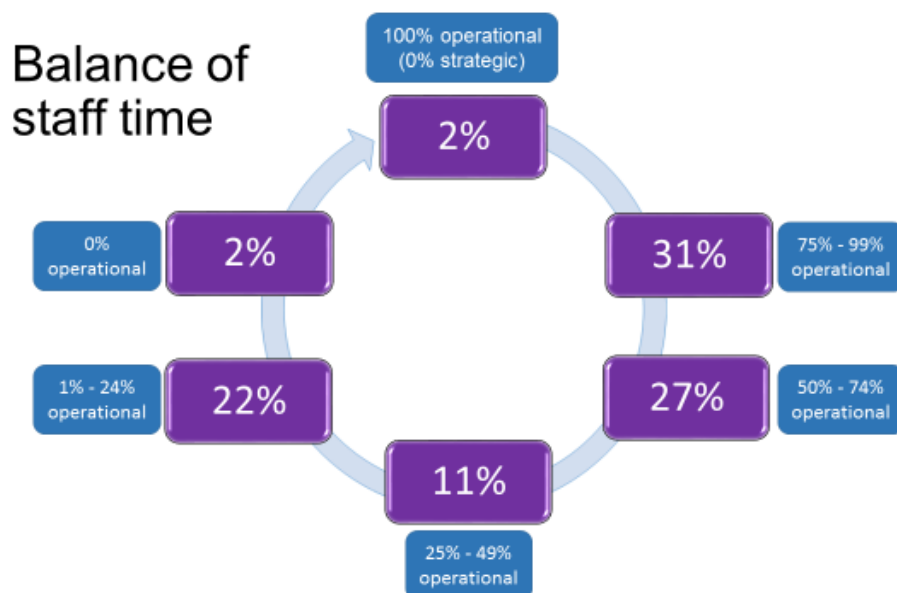
Those authorities currently employing staff were asked to indicate how the number of staff had changed since 2010.

Just over two-thirds (68 per cent) indicated that the number had decreased, with most of the remainder (24 per cent) indicating that it had stayed about the same, and 9 per cent indicating an increase in staff numbers. By type of authority, 92 per cent of counties and 82 per cent of single tier respondents indicated a decrease, compared with 51 per cent of shire district respondents.

Table 6: since 2010, how has the number of community safety staff employed by your authority changed?								
	Total		Counties		Shire districts		Single-tier	
	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent
Increased	8	9%	1	8%	6	13%	1	3%
Stayed about the same	22	24%	0	0%	17	36%	5	15%
Decreased	63	68%	11	92%	24	51%	27	82%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	93	100%	12	100%	47	100%	33	100%

Balance of staff time (Table 7)

Those authorities currently employing staff were asked to indicate the approximate balance of time spent by community safety staff on operation/enforcement duties (e.g. receiving and resolving complaints from residents, issuing fines, running operational groups) and strategic duties (e.g. commissioning services, supporting collaboration, developing policy).



Overall, a third of respondents (33 per cent) indicated that staff spent at least 75 per cent of their time on operational duties (25 per cent or less on strategic duties). This proportion varied between 0 per cent in counties, 27 per cent in single tier, and 45 per cent in shire districts.

Just over a third (38 per cent) indicated that staff spent between 25 per cent and 74 per cent of their time on operational duties (26 – 75 per cent on strategic duties). This proportion varied between 16 per cent in counties, 41 per cent in shire districts and 42 per cent in single tier respondents.

Around a quarter (24 per cent) indicated that staff spent less than 25 per cent of their time on operational duties (more than 75 per cent on strategic duties). This proportion varied between 13 per cent in shire districts, 24 per cent in single tier, and 66 per cent in counties.

Table 7: which statement best reflects the overall balance of time spent by community safety staff in your authority on operation/enforcement duties and strategic duties?

Per cent of time	Total		Counties		Shire districts		Single-tier	
	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent
100% operational duties (i.e. 0% strategic duties)	2	2%	0	0%	1	2%	1	3%
75% - 99% operational duties (i.e. 1% - 25% strategic duties)	29	31%	0	0%	20	43%	8	24%
50% - 74% operational duties (i.e. 26% - 50% strategic duties)	25	27%	1	8%	12	26%	12	36%
25% - 49% operational duties (i.e. 51% - 75% strategic duties)	10	11%	1	8%	7	15%	2	6%
1% - 24% operational duties (i.e. 76% - 99% strategic duties)	20	22%	7	58%	6	13%	7	21%
0% operational duties (i.e. 100% strategic duties)	2	2%	1	8%	0	0%	1	3%
Don't know	5	5%	2	17%	1	2%	2	6%
Total	93	100%	12	100%	47	100%	33	100%

Confidence in CSP/CSGs delivering against priorities (Table 8)

Just over four-fifths of respondents (84 per cent) were either very confident (29 per cent) or fairly confident (55 per cent) that their CSP/CSG would deliver against its priorities in its current partnership plan/county community safety agreement. Around one in eight (13 per cent) were either not very or not at all confident.

This proportion who were very or fairly confident was slightly higher in counties (93 per cent) than single tier authorities (77 per cent).

Table 8: how confident are you that your CSP/CSG will be able to deliver against the priorities in its current partnership plan/county community safety agreement?

	Total		Counties		Shire districts		Single-tier	
	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent
Very confident	28	29%	4	31%	16	32%	8	24%
Fairly confident	54	55%	8	62%	27	54%	18	53%
Not very confident	12	12%	0	0%	5	10%	7	21%
Not at all confident	1	1%	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%
Don't know	3	3%	1	8%	1	2%	1	3%
Total	98	100%	13	100%	50	100%	34	100%

Obstacles to CSP/CSGs delivering against priorities (Table 9)

This data should be treated with particular caution as it is based only on the relatively small number of respondents (13) who were either not very or not at all confident that their CSP/CSG would deliver against its current priorities.

The main obstacle to delivering against priorities was a lack of people resources/capacity (92 per cent of this sample of respondents). The next most common was lack of funding (54 per cent).

Table 9: what, in your opinion, are the main obstacles to your CSP/CSG delivering against the priorities in its partnership plan/county community safety agreement?

	Total		Counties		Shire districts		Single-tier	
	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent	Numbers	Per cent
Lack of people resources / capacity	12	92%	0	0%	5	83%	7	100%
Lack of funding	7	54%	0	0%	2	33%	5	71%
Lack of partner engagement	4	31%	0	0%	3	50%	1	14%
Partnership structure / governance	3	23%	0	0%	3	50%	0	0%
Insufficient access to analytical capacity	2	15%	0	0%	1	17%	1	14%
Difficulty in demonstrating impact of work/ intervention	2	15%	0	0%	1	17%	1	14%
Ineffective leadership	2	15%	0	0%	2	33%	0	0%
Lack of shared priorities with external partners	2	15%	0	0%	0	0%	2	29%
Lack of skills / expertise	1	8%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%
Lack of community engagement	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Lack of intelligence about victims and/or perpetrators	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Reluctance of agencies to share data	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Lack of shared priorities with internal partners	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other	2	15%	0	0%	0	0%	2	29%
Total	13	100%	0	100%	6	100%	7	100%

General comments

Respondents were invited to write-in comments on the topics covered by the survey. Most related to cuts in budgets and staff numbers both in local authorities and partner organisations, and the challenges this posed to the work of authorities and CSPs. A few quotes are given below:

“We have seen a reduction in staffing in partner organisations dedicated to the work of the CSP. We have also seen a change in the data that we use to set priorities; there has been a clear shift to using calls for service data. This reflects the need for partners to tackle strands of crime and ASB. Engagement around this priority setting focusses on other areas of work supporting the plans. I think the landscape around community safety is changing, especially with the CSP teams being based in councils.”

“We have had to make savings – we are funded by public health ring-fenced grant and that has had a significant cut. CS is seen as an important duty and close links are being made to public health – commissioning of services such as domestic abuse and drugs and alcohol will be under significant pressure. There is no longer a specific community safety budget. We continue to take a county strategic lead in key areas such as domestic violence, prevent, police and crime panel and the county is well placed to lead on many issues relating to safeguarding bodies/CSE etc. The debate about structure and governance continues in the two tier context in terms of capacity of agencies to service the current arrangements at county and district level.”

“We will be moving away from themed priorities from April 2017. Our new priorities will be reducing victimisation, violence prevention, reducing re-offending. Areas of particular focus/delivery will be informed by our annual strategic assessment to provide a more targeted and agile approach depending on changing need over the 3 year period of the new strategy.”



Local Government Association

Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

Telephone 020 7664 3000
Fax 020 7664 3030
Email info@local.gov.uk
www.local.gov.uk

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