

Shire of Northam

2022-2026



Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan



INTRODUCTION

The Shire of Northam's vision for the future is to be a vibrant growing community that is safe, caring, and inclusive. Over recent years the Shire has experienced significant growth with a number of new private and public developments, offering the community several new and improved experiences including shopping, dining, entertainment, culture, play and relaxation. With more on offer than ever, one of the Shire's biggest challenges remains its perception of safety.

The Shire recognises that partnership based strategies are the key to improving Community Safety outcomes. Community safety and crime prevention is a complex issue with multiple social and environmental drivers impacting on both actual crime rates and perceived crime. Many aspects of community safety and crime prevention fall outside the control of the Shire of Northam. Therefore, the Shire works in partnership with government, stakeholders, and the community to deliver initiatives of the Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan. A partnership approach is viewed by the Shire of Northam as particularly important to deal effectively with the variety of factors that influence Community Safety.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2022 – 2026 is a four year strategic outlook for the Shire that aims to map the issues of primary concern to the community and document the strategies and partnerships to deal with these issues. This plan replaces the Shire of Northam Community Safety Plan 2017 – 2021.

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan considers the perception of crime as well as the actual crime. A safe community is one where community members are able to



pursue the fullest life possible without fear or hindrance from crime and disorder, making their feelings of safety as important as their actual level of safety.

Together with key partners, the Shire of Northam is committed to ensuring continual improvements to community safety with a particular emphasis on minimising the occurrence and opportunity for antisocial and criminal activity.

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan relates to the following strategic direction identified within the Shire of Northam's Strategic Community Plan 2017 – 2027.

SAFETY & SECURITY: A community without fear of crime or antisocial behaviour.
OUTCOME: Shire of Northam residents are able to pursue the fullest life possible without fear of or hindrance from crime and disorder.

- OBJECTIVES:**
- Plan and implement strategies to address crime and safety within the Shire of Northam
 - Increase community participation in identifying and reporting of crime
 - Increase community awareness and understanding of how to prevent crime and improve community safety
 - Work with key stakeholders and community groups to plan and implement community safety and crime prevention initiatives
 - Engage with all segments of our population to understand their challenges and coordinate services to meet those challenges
 - Inform community of long term crime trends and comparisons

KEY INDICATOR OF SUCCESS: A continuous downward trend in crime and antisocial behaviour, and concern about these issues, as evidenced by crime statistics and shire community surveys.

THE SHIRE'S ROLE IN COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

Local government has an important role to play in ensuring residents feel safe to live a quality life. The Shire of Northam provides direct service delivery and support within a range of areas relating to the community's safety, such as:

- Emergency management
- Ranger services
- Environmental health
- Road safety
- Risk management
- Community health
- Crime prevention

The Shire of Northam coordinates a Community Safety Committee that includes representatives from the Shire of Northam, WA Police, state government agencies, youth service providers, key stakeholder groups and community representatives. Members of the committee share a commitment to improving the actual and perceived safety of the community. This committee is a formally appointed committee of Council.

DEVELOPING THE PLAN

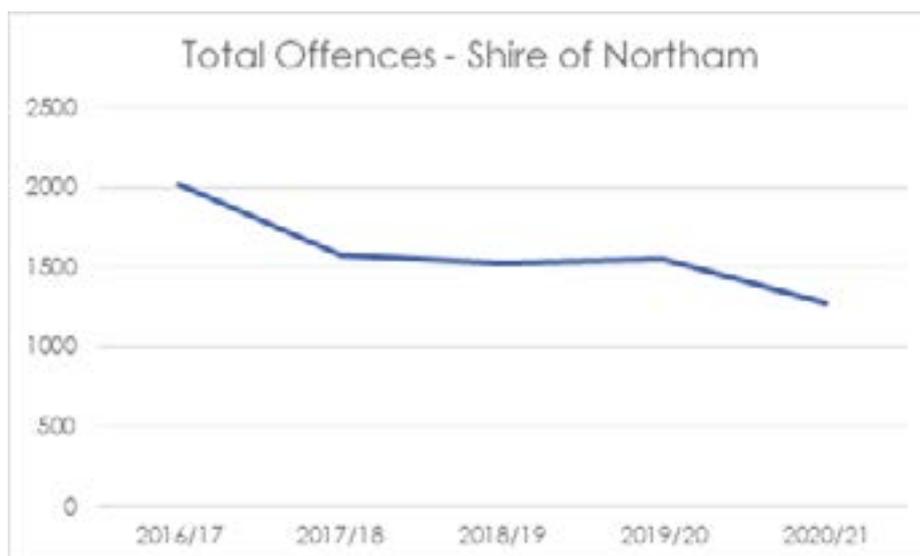
To develop the actions in this plan the Shire engaged in a process of building a picture of the Shire of Northam to understand the key crime and safety issues. This involved the analysis of crime statistics, community and stakeholder engagement, and research, including best practice in local government.



CRIME STATISTICS

The following WA Police Statistics show the reported offences across the Shire of Northam over the past 5 years.

Type of Offence	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Homicide	0	1	2	0	0
Sexual Offence	27	32	32	123	41
Assault (family)	166	136	122	167	166
Assault (non-family)	90	123	102	99	105
Threatening Behaviour (family)	15	22	23	39	28
Threatening Behaviour (non-family)	43	43	27	36	29
Deprivation of Liberty	3	5	1	3	1
Robbery	7	4	3	1	2
Dwelling Burglary	244	85	115	95	66
Non-Dwelling Burglary	73	55	49	56	25
Motor Vehicle Theft	25	19	35	14	18
Stealing	411	358	331	283	236
Property Damage	383	304	238	242	211
Arson	19	8	5	12	7
Drug Offences	323	257	225	180	192
Graffiti	28	7	22	17	4
Fraud & Related Offences	176	55	62	64	71
Breach of Violence Restraining Orders	159	60	111	117	74
Total Offences	2022	1573	1520	1548	1276



The statistics show an overall downward trend in crime over the past 5 years.

The most problematic crime categories within the Shire are assaults (predominantly family related), burglaries, stealing, property damage and drug offences.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In May 2021 the Shire conducted the biennial Community Perceptions Survey to gauge the opinions of the community about issues that they perceive to be affecting them. The results of this survey identified safety and crime prevention as the highest community priority.

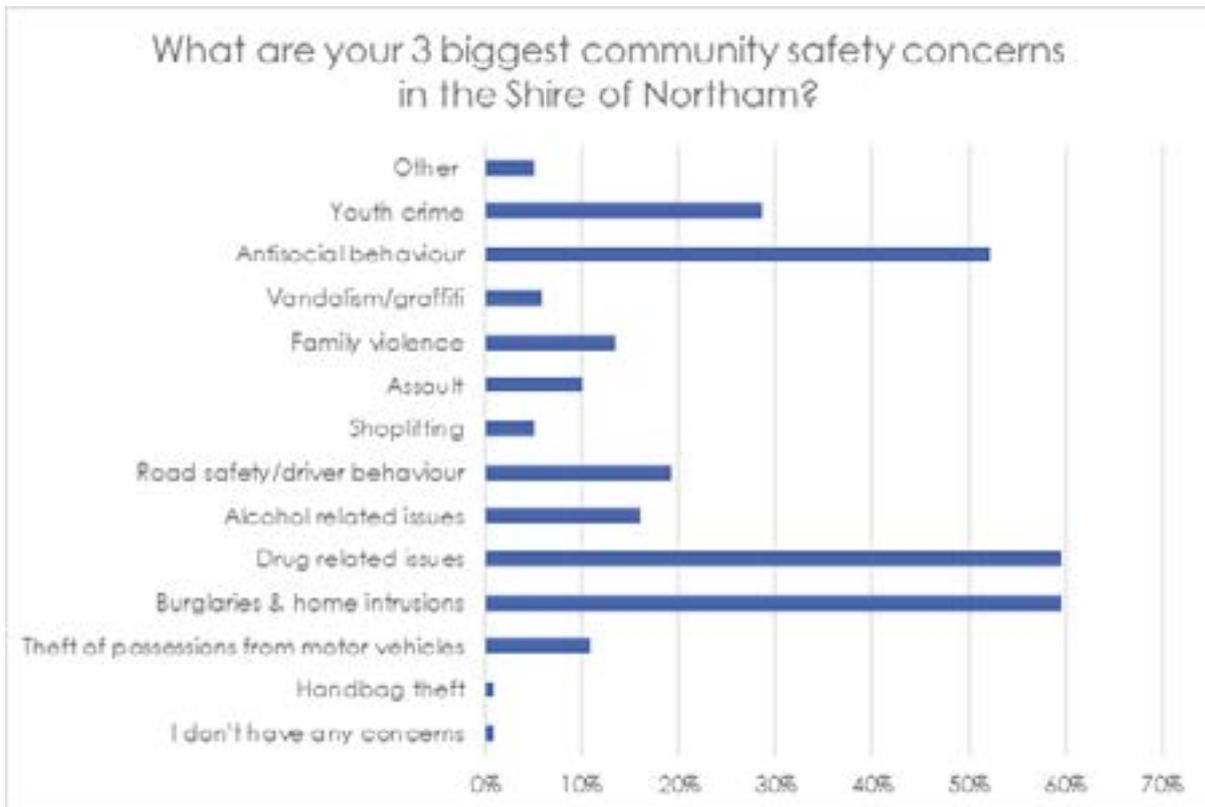
Markyt Shire of Northam Community Scorecard – priorities identified by the Shire of Northam Community (in order)

Priorities		Safety and crime prevention
		Local roads
		Streetscapes and verges
		Economic development
		Footpaths, trails and cycleways
		Seniors' services and care
		Festivals, events, art and culture
		River and waterways
		Youth services and facilities
		Housing

To obtain a clearer picture of the community's safety and crime prevention concerns a more detailed and specific community safety survey was subsequently undertaken during August and September 2021. The survey measured how safe people feel in the Shire of

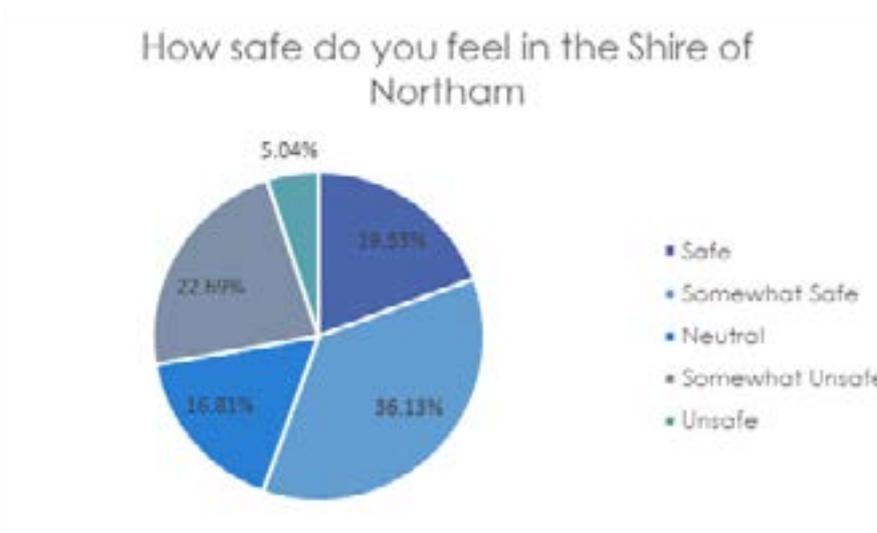


Northam and asked for input regarding what could be done to make the Shire of Northam safer. The survey was promoted through a variety of channels including the Shire website, social media and community facilities. A total of 119 responses to the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Survey were received and are summarised below.



The top three community safety concerns were identified as

- Burglaries & home intrusions
- Drug related issues
- Antisocial behaviour



More people feel safe or somewhat safe, than feel unsafe.

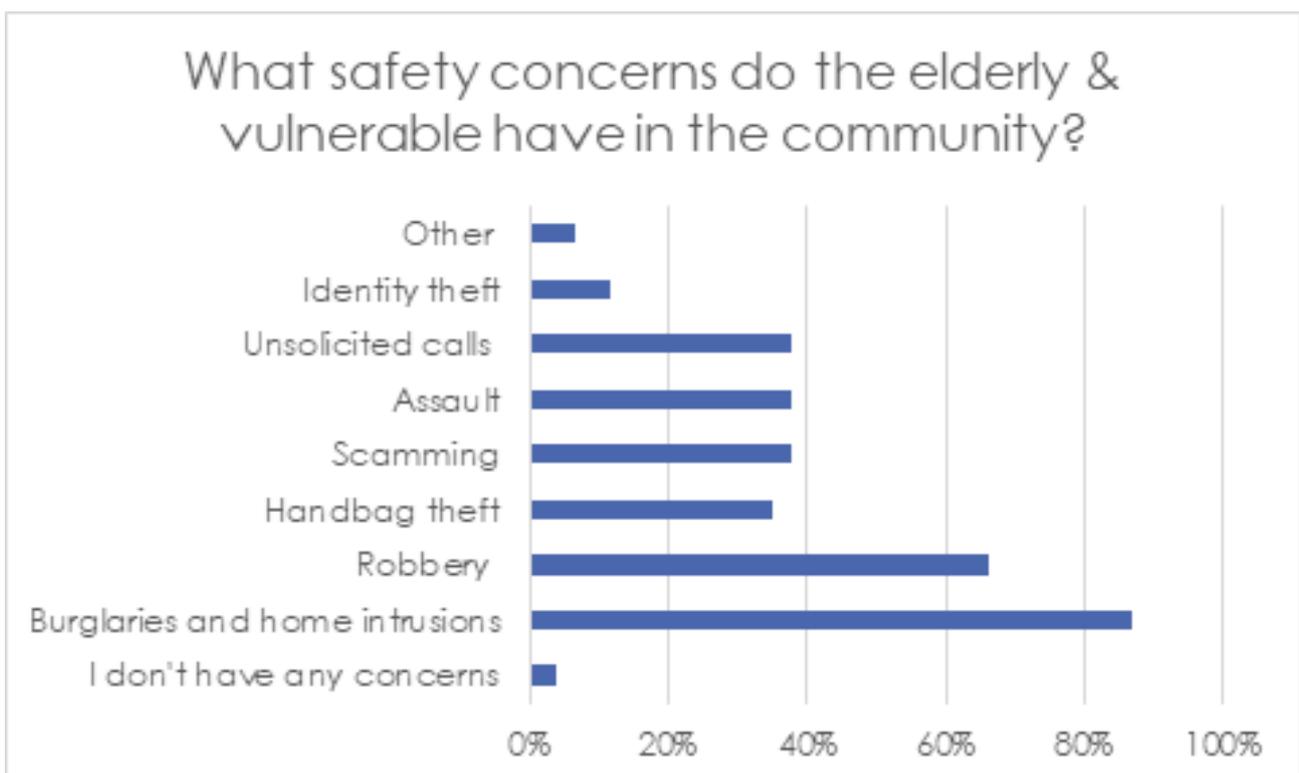
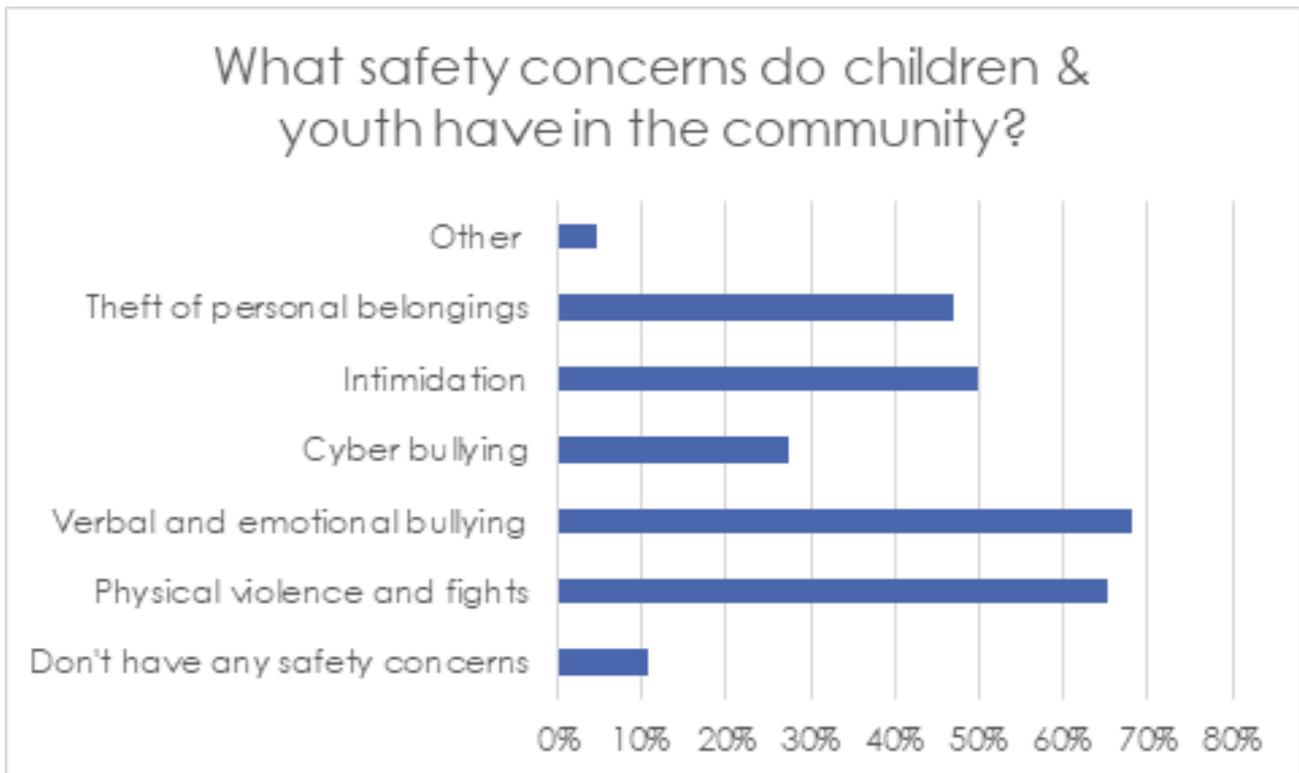
The places where people feel most unsafe are:

- Poorly lit streets at night
- Shopping centre carpark & entries
- Northam CBD

To improve community safety the top suggestions were:

- More police patrols
- Increased lighting
- Increased CCTV

The survey also tried to gauge how safe children and youth, and the elderly and vulnerable feel within the Shire. The responses indicate that these groups feel slightly more unsafe than the general population. For children and youth their biggest safety concerns as seen below are verbal and emotional bullying, physical violence and fights, and intimidation. For the elderly and vulnerable the biggest concerns are burglaries and home intrusions, and robberies.





UNDERSTANDING THE PLAN

To reach our vision, the plan will concentrate on four focus areas:

1. Building Partnerships & Internal Capacity

This includes the governance and functioning of the committee, maintaining relationships with the Police and key stakeholders.

2. Safer Places & Spaces

This includes Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), infrastructure such as CCTV, lighting, footpaths, and improving the perception of crime in an area.

3. Community Education & Awareness

This area is about the key messaging and increasing community engagement in community safety, such as reporting of crime and target hardening.

4. Addressing or Combatting Anti-social Behaviour

This area focuses on reducing antisocial behaviour and youth crime and supporting initiatives that help reduce drug and alcohol use in the community.

A series of objectives sit under each of the focus areas. These objectives have been developed based upon the data and consultation. Each objective has a series of actions describing the approach the shire will take in practical terms to achieve the objective.

The Community Safety & Crime Prevention Action Plan is summarised on the following page.

AIM: To reduce crime and antisocial behaviour, and concern about these issues in the Shire of Northam.



COMMUNITY ISSUES

Alcohol & Other Drugs	X	X	X	X
Antisocial Behaviour	X	X	X	X
Vandalism & Graffiti	X	X	X	X
Assault	X	X	X	X
Road Safety/Driver Behaviour	X		X	
Burglary	X	X	X	
Shoplifting	X	X	X	
Family & Domestic Violence	X		X	X
Perception of Crime	X	X	X	

OBJECTIVES

1.1 Work with WA Police Force & key stakeholders to share knowledge resources, plan & implement community safety & crime prevention initiatives.	2.1 Reduce opportunities for crime 2.2 Improve the perception of crime in the Shire of Northam	3.1 Encourage community participation & awareness 3.2 Increase awareness of home safety 3.3 Educate the community on scams, identity theft, cyber bullying & online criminal behaviour 3.4 Improve road safety on Shire of Northam roads	4.1 Support youth engagement to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour 4.2 Improve community wellbeing
--	---	---	--

ACTION PLAN

1. BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS & INTERNAL CAPACITY

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	STAKEHOLDERS
1.1: Work with WA Police Force & key stakeholders to share knowledge, resources, plan & implement community safety & crime prevention initiatives	Committee to maintain representation from Shire of Northam Elected Members, Staff, Northam and Wundowie Police and the most relevant representation in the area of crime prevention and community safety.	Shire of Northam Office of the CEO & Community Development	Shire of Northam Council All of Community Safety Committee
	Yearly schedule of committee meetings is established in advance ensuring the Community Safety Committee meets at least 4 times per year (quarterly) to monitor the implementation of the Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan 2022 – 2026.	Shire of Northam Community Development	All of Community Safety Committee
	The committee is to be informed of the latest crime statistics and trends to ensure they maintain an up to date understanding of the issues within the Shire of Northam and to identify areas of concern.	Shire of Northam Community Development Northam & Wundowie Police	All of Community Safety Committee WALGA Crime Statistics
	Identify relevant existing networking or advisory groups and connect with these to collaborate on activities to target specific issues (for example youth offending).	Shire of Northam Community Development	All of Community Safety Committee
	Where no key networking or advisory group exists, identify the key stakeholders for the area of concern and establish working groups or partnerships to initiate action.	Shire of Northam Community Development	All of Community Safety Committee
	Support and enable Council Plan Objectives, 1: Play our role in promoting a safe and crime free community 2: Provide accessible and safe public spaces.	Shire of Northam Community Development	Shire of Northam Council All of community Visitors to the Shire of Northam





2. SAFER PLACES & SPACES

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	STAKEHOLDERS
2.1: Reduce opportunities for crime	Attend at least one business focused meeting per year to promote measures businesses can take to improve their security and minimise crime related risk.	Shire of Northam Community Development Northam Chamber of Commerce	Business & shop owners/operators Northam Chamber of Commerce WA Police Force
	Promote the registration of private and business CCTV with the WA Police Cam-Map initiative.	Shire of Northam Community Development Northam Chamber of Commerce Northam & Wundowie Police	WA Police Force Shire of Northam Information Technology Northam Chamber of Commerce
	Embed Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles within planning and development process.	Shire of Northam Planning, Engineering & Parks & Gardens	Shire of Northam Development Services & Engineering Services Private Developers & Builders
	Implement additional CCTV infrastructure in line with the Shire of Northam CCTV Needs Analysis and adopt innovative technology solutions.	Shire of Northam ICT	Shire of Northam ICT & Building Maintenance
	Conduct lighting audit of Shire's priority public places and spaces (e.g. parks, carparks).	Shire of Northam Building Maintenance	Shire of Northam Engineering Services, Building Maintenance

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	STAKEHOLDERS
2.2: Improve the community perception of crime in the Shire of Northam	Promote positive communications across relevant external platforms to address the negative perceptions.	Shire of Northam Community Development & Communications	Shire of Northam Communications Northam Advertiser Northam Town Team Community & Progress Associations Espin Capital (El Cabello Digital Billboard)
	Promote the importance of reporting graffiti, its cost to the community and aim to remove the graffiti within 5 days of it being reported or 3 days if it is offensive.	Shire of Northam Community Development, Communications & Parks & Gardens Northam & Wundowie Police	Shire of Northam Community Development, Communications & Media, Ranger Services and Parks & Gardens WA Police Force – local Police & Graffiti Team
	Facilitate and support targeted place activations and projects across the Shire based on intelligence from the Committee.	Shire of Northam Community Development & Events	All of Community Safety Committee
	Reduce the perception of crime in the area by maintaining tidy surroundings reducing litter, removing abandoned vehicles within 24 hours of them being reported, reporting abandoned shopping trolleys, regularly mowing grass and verges in public spaces, and educate private owners to do the same Removing graffiti within 5 days of it being reported Promote and encourage community participation in Clean Up Australia Day and Adopt a Spot Programs.	Shire of Northam Parks & Gardens, Ranger Services & Community Development	Shire of Northam Communications & Media, Events, Ranger Services and Parks & Gardens All Shire residents WA Police Force - Graffiti Team Northam Share & Care Avon Valley Environmental Society Local volunteer maintenance groups such as STRYKA, Bridgeley Northam Town Team Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Up Australia

3. COMMUNITY EDUCATION & AWARENESS

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	STAKEHOLDER
3.1: Encourage community participation & awareness	Implement annual program of communications and messaging regarding community safety & crime prevention informed by data and yearly events, such as a targeted campaign on home burglary and theft prevention around the Christmas / New Year holiday period.	Shire of Northam Community Development & Communications	Shire of Northam Communications Northam Advertiser Espin Capital (El Cabello Digital Billboard) WA Police Force – local Police Crimestoppers WA
	Provide at least one community safety & crime prevention forum in the Spring each year with local police, Council and Committee members to listen to the community issues and concerns around safety & crime prevention, answer questions and inform them of the initiatives of the committee.	Shire of Northam Community Development Northam & Wundowie Police	All of Community Safety Committee Shire of Northam Council Residents and community members
	Actively promote the need for the reporting of crime and suspicious activity through Crimestoppers, calling 131 444 where assistance is required and other official channels rather than on social media or not at all.	Shire of Northam Community Development & Communications Northam & Wundowie Police	Shire of Northam Community Development, and Communications WA Police Force Crimestoppers WA
	Promote Crime Stoppers WA initiatives, such as Bikelinc and Dob in a Dealer.	Shire of Northam Community Development & Communications Northam & Wundowie Police	Shire of Northam Community Development, and Communications
	Promote positive perceptions of minority groups within the community to improve social cohesion.	Shire of Northam Community Development, & BKB Coordinator Nyoongar Cultural Advisory Committee	Aboriginal Elders and community Nyoongar Cultural Advisory Committee Bilya Koort Boodja Centre WA Police Force – local Police NACHA – Northam Multicultural Heritage Festival



OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	STAKEHOLDER
3.1: Encourage community participation & awareness (CONT.)	Promote the use of the Snap Send Solve App to report safety concerns.	Shire of Northam Community Development & Communications	Shire of Northam
	Support local Police to implement quarterly Coffee with a Cop sessions at venues throughout the Shire including those specifically targeting key groups (e.g. senior citizens).	Northam & Wundowie Police Northam Chamber of Commerce	Shire of Northam Community Development WA Police Force – local Police Northam Chamber of Commerce Senior Citizens Groups
	Promote the inclusion of specific community safety messaging at all Shire events	Shire of Northam Community Development & Events	Shire of Northam Events, and Communications
	Attend at least one community event or activity, such as the Northam Agricultural Show, Wundowie Iron Festival or Bilya Festival annually based on priority demographic audience to promote community safety and crime prevention initiatives.	Shire of Northam Community Development & Events	Shire of Northam Events, and Community Development Event Organisers & Community Groups WA Police Force – local Police
	Promote the programs that are being offered by other service providers and community groups that offer programs aiding in community safety and crime prevention.	Shire of Northam Community Development & Communications	All of Community Safety Committee Community Service Providers Shire of Northam Community Development, and Communications

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	STAKEHOLDERS
3.2: Increase awareness of home safety	Provide and promote up to date home safety and security information and online resources via the Shire of Northam website.	Shire of Northam Community Development & Communications	Shire of Northam Community Development, and Communications WA Police Force
	Develop initiatives in collaboration with local Police that increase home safety awareness and target hardening for vulnerable residents.	Shire of Northam Community Development Northam & Wundowie Police	Shire of Northam Community Development, and Seniors & Disability Services WA Police Force – local Police Senior Citizens Groups Disability Support Services Northam Share & Care WA Seniors Card Seniors Security Rebate Volunteer maintenance groups, e.g. STRYKA, Bridgeley
	Implement a “Get to Know Your Neighbour” campaign to encourage neighbourhood community connections to reduce the level of burglaries and increase awareness and support amongst neighbours.	Shire of Northam Community Development	Shire of Northam Community Development, and Events Residents and ratepayers





OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	STAKEHOLDERS
<p>3.3: Educate the community on scams, identity theft, cyber bullying & online criminal behaviour</p>	<p>Facilitate the promotion of services and tools that provide community education, particularly targeting the vulnerable on protecting themselves against scammers and identity theft.</p>	<p>Shire of Northam Library Services</p>	<p>Shire of Northam Community Development, Library, Seniors & Disability Services, and Communications</p> <p>WA Police Force</p> <p>Senior Citizens Groups</p> <p>Disability Support Services</p>
	<p>Include a cyber safety information stall at the Back to School event and workshop at the library to complement existing school based education on the subject.</p>	<p>Shire of Northam Recreation & Youth, & Library</p> <p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Shire of Northam Community Development</p> <p>All local primary schools and high schools</p> <p>Department of Education</p> <p>Northam PCYC</p> <p>Avon Community Services</p>

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	STAKEHOLDERS
3.4: Improve road safety on Shire of Northam roads	Support and enable initiatives of the Northam RoadWise Committee towards the aspirational goal of reducing killed and serious injury road crashes in the Shire of Northam.	Shire of Northam Engineering & Community Development RoadWise Committee	Shire of Northam RoadWise Committee, Engineering, Works, and Technical Services
	Partner with local Police, Northam RoadWise and relevant stakeholders to promote safe and considerate road use.	Shire of Northam Community Development, Communications & Engineering Northam & Wundowie Police RoadWise Committee	Shire of Northam RoadWise Committee, Engineering, Works, and Technical Services WA Police Force – local police
	Ensure road safety outcomes are accounted for in the Council Plan or Public Health Plan.	Shire of Northam Office of the CEO & Environmental Health	Shire of Northam RoadWise Committee, Engineering, Works, Technical Services, and Environmental Health
	Advocate for Safe System road safety improvements and traffic calming infrastructure.	Shire of Northam Engineering	Shire of Northam Engineering, Works, Technical Services, and Community Development RoadWise Committee Main Roads WA All road users within the Shire of Northam

“Drop 5 and
SAVE LIVES”



4. ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	STAKEHOLDERS
4.1: Support youth engagement to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour	Support and promote initiatives to increase parental/ carer responsibility for ensuring that their children do not participate in antisocial or criminal behaviour.	Shire of Northam Recreation & Youth Northam PCYC Northam & Wundowie Police	Shire of Northam Community Development, Recreation & Youth WA Police – local Police Department for Communities – Child Protection Department of Education Department of Justice – Youth Justice Northam PCYC WANSLEA Avon Community Services Northam Youth Wellbeing Plan Wheatbelt District Leadership Group
	Establish or partner with existing working groups comprising of appropriate staff and volunteers working with young people to develop practical initiatives to re-engage at risk youth and their families.	Shire of Northam Recreation & Youth Northam PCYC Bridgeley Youth Group	Shire of Northam Community Development, Recreation & Youth Wheatbelt District Leadership Group WA Police – local Police Department for Communities – Child Protection Department of Education Department of Justice – Youth Justice Northam PCYC WANSLEA Avon Community Services Northam Youth Wellbeing Plan

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	STAKEHOLDERS
4.1: Support youth engagement to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (CONT)	Partner with the Northam Chamber of Commerce to drive the “Keeping Kids in School” program.	Shire of Northam Community Development Northam Chamber of Commerce	Shire of Northam Community Development Northam Chamber of Commerce WA Police Force Retail outlets
	Integrate and align with the priority objectives within the Northam Youth Wellbeing Plan	Northam Youth Wellbeing Plan Representative Shire of Northam Recreation & Youth	Shire of Northam Recreation & Youth Services, and Community Development Northam Youth Wellbeing Plan Committee
	Identify and deliver collaborative youth diversionary initiatives across the Shire, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban art projects that make young people feel a part of their community and contribute positively Interagency coordination of school holiday activity programs for children and youth each school holidays. 	Shire of Northam Recreation & Youth, & Community Development Northam PCYC	Shire of Northam Recreation & Youth Services, Community Development, and Events Northam PCYC Avon Community Services Northam Youth Wellbeing Plan Committee
	Establish partnerships to deliver and/or support early intervention initiatives.	Shire of Northam Recreation & Youth Northam PCYC Northam Youth Wellbeing Plan Representative	Local primary and secondary schools WA Police Force – Youth Crime Intervention Officers
	Promote the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries Kids Sport Program and investigate additional measures to engage at risk children and youth in sport.	DLGSC Shire of Northam Recreation & Youth	Shire of Northam Recreation & Youth Services Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries
	Seek opportunities for young people in outlying communities to access transport to participate in youth events in Northam.	Shire of Northam Recreation & Youth, & Community Development	Shire of Northam Recreation & Youth Services, Community Development, and Events

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	STAKEHOLDERS
4.2: Improve community wellbeing	Support campaigns that promote alcohol & other drugs prevention and harm minimisation, and raise awareness of mental health and suicide prevention, such as "Turn Up in Blue Day".	Shire of Northam Community Development Local Drug Action Group Holyoake	Shire of Northam Community Development Local Drug Action Group Holyoake Wheatbelt Suicide Prevention Coordinator Wheatbelt Mental Health
	Continue to provide & maintain secure sharps disposal units in public places and educate the community on safe removal and reporting of needles in public places (e.g. parks and playgrounds).	Shire of Northam Building Maintenance, Health & Community Development	Shire of Northam Building Maintenance Officer, Environmental Health, Community Development, and Communications
	Support and enable the Shire's Public Health Plan, including alcohol & other drug prevention, mental health & suicide prevention.	Shire of Northam Health & Community Development	Shire of Northam Environmental Health, and Community Development Holyoake Wheatbelt Suicide Prevention Coordinator Wheatbelt Mental Health Local Drug Action Group
	Proactively support the Northam Liquor Accord amongst all licensed premises to ensure responsible service of alcohol within Shire of Northam.	Shire of Northam Community Development	WA Police – Liquor Enforcement Unit Shire of Northam licensed venues
	Promote the Good Sports Program to local sporting clubs and associations. Work with clubs to reduce alcohol consumption.	Shire of Northam Club Development Officer Holyoake	Shire of Northam Club Development Officer Holyoake Dept. Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

REVIEWING THE PLAN & MONITORING PROGRESS

The Shire of Northam Community Safety Committee will have primary responsibility for the monitoring and review of the plan. The desired outcomes of the plan will be delivered in partnership with key stakeholders. The outcomes of actions within the plan will be reviewed and measured annually in line with Councils Corporate Business Plan.

It is to be noted that the plan is a living document and as such additional strategies may be added, and further stakeholders seconded to assist with the implementation of these strategies.

Any financial requirements for implementing the plan will be sought through Councils annual operating budget process with external funding for specific projects also to be pursued.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information regarding the Shire of Northam Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan 2022 – 2026 please contact the Shire of Northam Community Development Officer on telephone (08) 6608 0234 or email records@northam.wa.gov.au

