

Area Committee ACCY Report

Youth crime and violence in the Anderston, City Centre, and Yorkhill areas of Glasgow reflect broader trends in youth-related antisocial behaviour and violence across the city. Below is our overview of key insights:

Trends in Youth Crime and Violence

- **High Crime Rates in Anderston/City/Yorkhill:** These areas are amongst the Glasgow wards with the highest crime rates per 1,000 population as of 2022. Violent crimes, theft, and antisocial behaviours are prevalent, contributing to community concerns about safety and quality of life. (<https://datamap-scotland.co.uk/scotland-reported-crime-data/glasgow-city-council-wards-crime-map/>)
- **Types of Offenses:** Across our communities common youth offenses include disorder-related activities (e.g., breach of the peace, street drinking) and crimes of dishonesty (e.g., theft). Violent crimes involving young people are primarily common assaults and threatening or abusive behaviour- Sept 2024 (<https://www.spa.police.uk/publication-library/deep-dive-analysis-of-violence-18-september-2024/key-insights-children-young-people/>)
- **Youth Antisocial Behavior (ASB):** Youth-related ASB incidents accounted for approximately 16% of all ASB reports in Glasgow during earlier years. While there has been a significant reduction in ASB since 2006/07, hotspots like the City Centre continue to experience challenges. (<https://www.understandingglasgow.com/childrens-indicators/safety/community-safety/youth-crime>)

Factors Contributing to Youth Crime

- **Social and Environmental Influences:** Overcrowding, economic disadvantage, and lack of social support are contributing factors in areas like Yorkhill and Anderston. Additionally, societal issues such as substance misuse and exposure to violence exacerbate youth crime rates (<https://www.spa.police.uk/publication-library/deep-dive-analysis-of-violence-18-september-2024/key-insights-children-young-people/>)
- **Technology and Social Media:** The increased use of social media platforms has amplified issues such as cyberbullying and the sharing of violent incidents online, creating a culture that normalises certain behaviours. (<https://young.scot/get-informed/what-can-i-do-if-im-being-bullied-online/>)

Initiatives in the area to Address Youth Crime

- **Scottish Violence Reduction Unit (SVRU) Pilot:** A public health approach is being piloted in Glasgow City Centre to reduce youth violence. This initiative focuses on early intervention, safeguarding vulnerable youth, and engaging them in shaping solutions. Volunteers are deployed during peak hours to de-escalate tensions and provide support- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/report-independent-working->

[group-antisocial-behaviour/pages/23/](#) This needs to be reviewed, updated and reported on, perhaps the Health and social Care Partnership can highlight progress on this issue?

- **Police Scotland's Strategies:** A coordinated partnership approach has led to reductions in youth crime across Scotland. Specific measures include increased enforcement against violent crimes, community engagement, and addressing alcohol-related violence (<https://www.theyworkforyou.com/sp/?id=2025-01-07.2.1>) Where are we at on this issue now within ACCY? It is unclear, to our communities, of its impact and promotion.

Challenges

- **Severity and Frequency of Violence:** Reports indicate worsening severity in youth violence incidents, including unprovoked assaults and weapon-related crimes. This trend is concerning for public safety and quality of life. (<https://www.parliament.scot/~media/committ/9444/Petition-PE1947>) We need reporting and visible improvement.
- **Barriers to Prevention:** Issues such as funding constraints for schools and community programmes limit the effectiveness of education-based prevention strategies. What has taken place to redress these issues to date: it is unclear again.

Recommendations: Efforts to address youth crime in Anderston, City Centre, and Yorkhill require a combination of enforcement, community-based interventions, and addressing underlying socioeconomic factors. This requires social investment at a time when investment is being curtailed. Without a shift in funding little is likely to be achieved: this is worrying for our community as the quality of life and public safety diminishes.

Stuart Duffin, March 2025