

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

2019-24



Draft Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan 2019-24

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Adopted:

www.fremantle.wa.gov.au

Introduction

The City of Fremantle's Strategic Community Plan 2015-25 aims for Fremantle to be an environment where people feel safe, with public spaces that encourage people to linger and interact, and places and spaces designed to be actively used throughout the day and night by everyone. As a destination city Fremantle also attracts visitors of all ages, which brings unique challenges and opportunities.

Community safety and crime prevention are complex issues and many aspects are not under the control of local government. Therefore, successful initiatives require a collaborative effort from all tiers of government, stakeholders and the community.

The City of Fremantle took a leadership role in local government when it introduced an in-house community safety team. The City carries out other community safety and crime prevention initiatives in partnership with government, organisations, community and business. For example actively using free technology to improve communication and sharing of information amongst business owners in the Fremantle city centre.

The City has also demonstrated an advocacy role to identify and highlight areas of need and interest and work with a range of stakeholders to find solutions.

Much of the City's core service delivery impacts on community safety, from strengthening communities through provision of facilities and services, to providing infrastructure such as lighting and maintenance of public spaces.

The development of this Plan is another reflection of the City's role as a leader, partner, advocate and service provider, and its capacity to continue to improve community safety and crime prevention

throughout Fremantle. The development, implementation and review of the Plan was overseen by the Community Safety Reference Group (CSRG) which includes senior members of WA Police, City of Fremantle elected members and staff.

Purpose of this Plan

The purpose of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan is to set priorities for community safety and crime prevention for the next five years across the City of Fremantle. This includes actions the City can lead and facilitate, or advocate where control sits outside local government.

Community Engagement and Statistics

The actions in this Plan have been developed based on community engagement, statistics, strategic priorities and relevant literature. These are outlined in more detail below.

Community and stakeholder engagement

Commencing in 2018 the City of Fremantle conducted an engagement process which included the local community, visitors, businesses and stakeholders including the social services sector. Nearly 500 people were engaged either online or face to face via workshops, school visits, forums or surveys.

Across all groups the main themes which emerged via community and stakeholder engagement were:

- Perception of safety, communication & knowledge (e.g. reporting pathways).
- Drug and alcohol use and associated issues.
- Anti-social behaviour in Fremantle city centre.
- Lighting, maintenance, and accessibility issues in Fremantle city centre.
- The need for broad social services working in partnership.

- Lack of awareness or visibility of community safety in suburbs.

Some more localised issues highlighted were:

- Petty theft and disengaged youth a concern for Fremantle city centre businesses.
- In Beaconsfield antisocial behavior, dead end streets, lack of lighting and high concentration of social housing.
- In Hilton drug use, lighting, localised crime.
- In North Fremantle drug and alcohol use, lighting, social housing.
- In South Fremantle stealing, bike theft,

Key locations needing attention were highlighted as:

- Queen St.
- North end of Market Street / Pioneer Park.
- Quarry / Parry / Queen Victoria Streets junction.

Residents ranked their overall feeling of safety in their suburb using the same scale as the City's biennial community perception survey. The overall ranking was okay, consistent with the findings of the most recent perceptions survey in 2017 under 'safety and security in your local area'. Results were split into those who identified as a victim of crime or not, see figure 1.

Further information is available in the community safety and crime prevention plan community engagement report, May 2019.

Evidence and statistics

The City of Fremantle Community Safety team record daily task statistics. Figure one shows statistics over the past three financial years. Based on statistics the most frequent issue attended to by the Community Safety Team from July 2016 to June 2019 in the Fremantle city centre was anti-social behavior, with an increase in attendance over the past three years. .

The City of Fremantle sits within the WA Police Fremantle District, which extends beyond the City of Fremantle boundary. Therefore, individual suburb data from 2018-19 has been collated to account for the variance across the City of Fremantle. Fremantle as a destination city has a unique set of challenges and does not reflect the wider local government.

It is important to note that crime statistics are a limited resource as not all incidents are reported and some crimes traditionally have a larger under-reporting than others. Historical comparisons should be done with caution due to differences in recording, for example 'stealing from motor vehicle (contents or parts)' and 'stealing from a dwelling and fraud (credit card)' did not exist before June 2017. All statistics below have been gathered from the WA Police Force website¹.

Figure three shows the 2018-19 crime statistics in the City of Fremantle's suburbs, with Fremantle presented outside of the City's average rate due to the difference in this location with the city centre.

Key issues in individual suburbs in 2018-19 were:

- Fremantle – Offences higher than suburbs due to city centre. Top offences stealing, fraud and drug offences.
- Beaconsfield – Higher than other Fremantle suburbs in: sexual offences, family assault, non-family assault, family and non-family threatening behaviour, dwelling burglary, stealing of motor vehicle, property damage, drug offences.

¹ Western Australia Police Force (2019) Crime Statistics. Retrieved on 16 June 2019 from: www.police.wa.gov.au/Crime/CrimeStatistics#/

- Hilton - Breach of restraining order above average compared to other Fremantle suburbs.
- South Fremantle - Property damage, graffiti and stealing above average compared to other Fremantle suburbs.
- O'Connor - Fraud and non-dwelling burglary above average compared to other Fremantle suburbs, reflecting the commercial focus in this suburb.

Across the City of Fremantle the highest frequency offences were:

- Stealing (mainly items from vehicles).
- Fraud (e.g. credit card).
- Drug offences.
- Property damage.

At the state level, the Western Australian five year averages also show an increase in drug offences, see figure 4.

Approaches to crime prevention

Crime prevention literature describes four interdependent models of crime prevention:

- Developmental (early intervention, identifying early causes of criminality).
- Social (strengthening neighbourhoods and enhancing social capital to prevent crime).
- Situational (increasing risks of detection, increase difficulty of offending).
- Criminal justice (police, courts and prisons).²

Each model employs different approaches to prevent or lower crime. Some bring quick results, others can take many years. Criminal justice sits outside the control of local government,

² Clancey, G. Crime Prevention Fact Sheets. Accessed from: www.gclancey.com/fact_sheets.php

however the City can contribute some components of the other three models and has incorporated this approach into the actions in this plan.

Plan conclusions and recommendations

Based on the engagement and statistics the actions in this plan have been grouped around three key themes:

Topic 1 - Stakeholder partnerships and internal capacity. The City will develop and maintain its relationships with WA Police and other government departments as well as stakeholders in social services and business to share knowledge and resources for the benefit of the community. The City will also ensure it improves and maintains internal staff capacity and skills and actively promotes positive initiatives.

Topic 2 - Community participation and awareness. The City will use developmental and social crime prevention methods to engage young people, strengthen its neighbourhoods to support crime prevention and community safety.

Topic 3 - Crime prevention and urban design. The City recognises the role the built environment can play in situational crime prevention, by increasing the risk of detection and increasing the difficulty of offending. A range of actions can assist to support active transport, improve lighting to encourage enjoyment of the city at night, and ensure regular maintenance to improve perception of safety.

Figure 1: Community Perception of Safety in their Area (Overall), My Say Freo responses

	Excellent	Good	Okay	Poor	Terrible
Total – Non Victim	9	14	20	7	2
Total - Victim	5	12	34	29	11
TOTAL	14	26	54	36	13

Figure 2: Community Safety Officer Attendance July 2016- June 2019

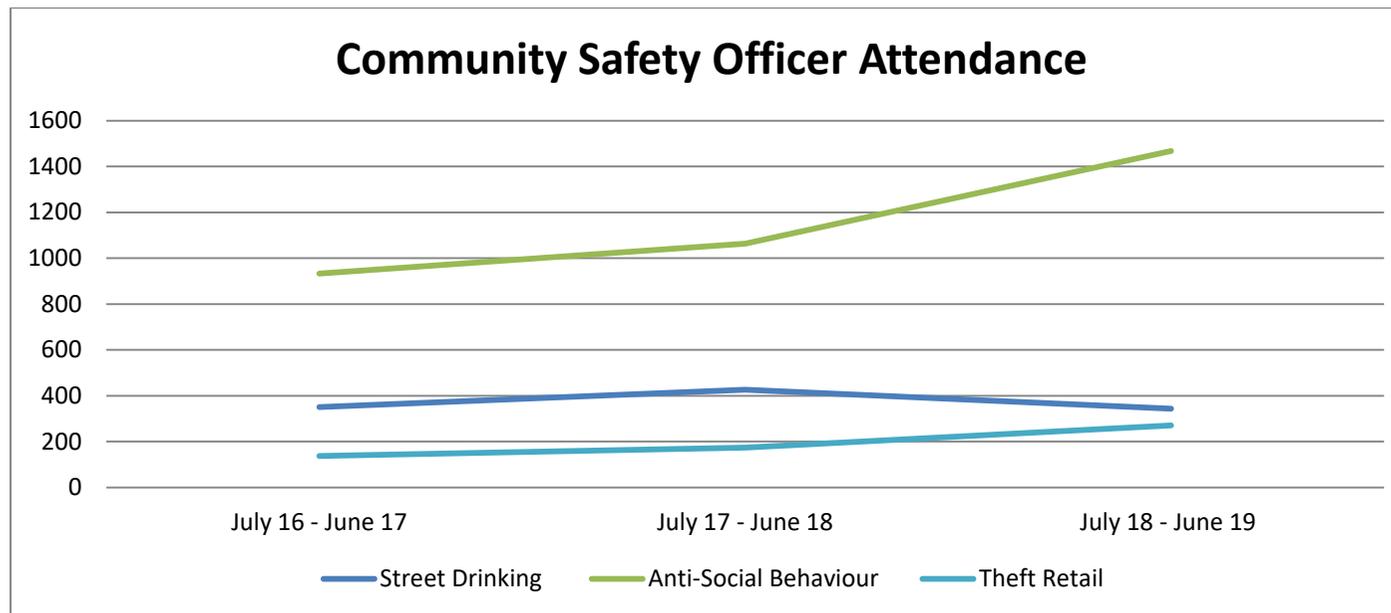


Figure 3: Crime Statistics 2018-19 City of Fremantle Suburbs (blue denotes highest for suburbs or more than double suburb average)

Statistics correct at time of printing.

	Beacons field	Hilton	Samson	North Fremantle	South Fremantle	O'Connor	White Gum Valley	Total for all suburbs except Fremantle	Average rate for all suburbs except Fremantle	Fremantle
Sexual Offences	10	9	3	4	3	1	3	33	4.7	37
Assault (Family)	45	37	4	28	9	4	10	137	19.5	98
Assault (Non-Family)	32	16	2	12	17	12	3	94	13.4	260
Threatening Behaviour (Family)	5	2	2	4	2	2	2	19	2.7	11
Threatening Behaviour (Non-Family)	10	4	1	5	11	2	1	34	4.8	62
Robbery	2	1	1	2	5	3	1	15	2.1	17
Dwelling Burglary	58	42	10	41	24	11	35	221	31.5	96
Non-Dwelling Burglary	24	9	4	11	15	35	6	104	14.8	61
Stealing of Vehicle	26	11	6	12	12	9	8	84	12	63
Stealing	160	144	53	203	309	182	39	1,090	155.7	1,449
Property Damage	90	42	10	53	91	21	22	329	47	330
Arson	2	0	3	1	1	1	1	9	1.2	4
Drug Offences	114	27	1	73	27	22	38	302	43.1	461
Graffiti	4	1	0	7	12	5	0	29	4.1	52
Fraud & Related Offences	85	56	5	91	74	99	15	425	60.7	806
Breach of Violence Restraint Order	18	28	6	11	9	2	11	85	12.1	89
Total of Selected Offences	685	429	111	558	621	411	216	2176	311	3,896
*Estimated resident population	4,985	3,934	1,921	3,340	3,081	463	2,960	28,295	-	8,211

*Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017) Census Quick Stats, ABS

Figure 4: WA Five Year Averages (Selected Offences)³

Summary Offence Categories	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	5 year average (2013-14 to 2018-19)	% Change from 5 year average
Selected Offences Against the Person (excluding Family Related Offences)	23,219	23,517	21,974	22,049.2	-0.3%
Family Related Offences (Assault and Threatening Behaviour)	22,749	21,565	21,974	20,402.0	+7.7%
Selected Offences Against Property	164,462	153,838	155,205	162,797.6	-4.7%
Drug Offences (Possess or Dealing)	34,604	32,756	30,760	29,884.4	+2.9%

Monitoring, Reporting and Review

The actions in the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan will be reported annually through the Corporate Business Plan reporting and the Plan will be reviewed within five years.

³ Western Australia Police Force (2019) Crime Statistics Year to Date Comparison. Retrieved on 1 August 2019 from: www.police.wa.gov.au/Crime/CrimeStatistics/#/

Community Safety and Crime Prevention Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total Cost
Topic 1 – Stakeholder partnerships and internal capacity							
<i>Recommendation 1 – Maintain and strengthen relationship with WA Police to share knowledge and resources.</i>							
1.1.1 Maintain representation of City of Fremantle Elected Members, Staff and WA Police on Community Safety Reference Group. Meet at least four times per year.	Community Safety	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational
1.1.2 Create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with WA Police to support and share knowledge.	Community Safety	Deliver	To deliver over each year once implemented.				Operational
1.1.3 Support WA Police with campaign targeting stealing from cars (e.g. 'look, lock, leave') by placing signs and stickers in car parks and on ticket machines.	Field Services	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational
1.1.4 Maintain active membership of the Local Government Alliance. Local Governments include Cockburn, Mosman Park, Cottesloe, East Fremantle, Peppermint Grove.	Community Safety	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational

Action	Responsibility	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total Cost
Recommendation 2 – Work with partners to increase social support available in the Fremantle community.							
1.2.1 Support the research component for the ‘20 Homes 20 Lives’ Fremantle project, delivered through RUAH & St Patrick’s Community Centre to exit homelessness and achieve a better quality of life.	Community Development	\$40,150	\$47,080				\$87,230
1.2.2 Continue to advocate with local providers for culturally appropriate health and social services.	Community Development	To be delivered over each year of Plan.					Operational
1.2.3 Continue working relationships with Alma Street Mental Health Clinic outreach workers.	Community Safety	To be delivered over each year of Plan.					Operational
1.2.4 Continue to improve the current working relationship with the Nyoongar Outreach Service and assist them to provide targeted intervention.	Community Safety	Provide a list of at-risk individuals. \$30,000 funding	\$30,000 funding	\$30,000 funding	\$30,000 funding	\$30,000 funding	\$150,000 funding
1.2.5 Continue working relationship with the Department of Communities.	Community Safety	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational

Action	Responsibility	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total Cost
1.2.6 Work with state government agencies to explore strategies to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour through social services, intervention strategies, restorative justice and mental health services.	Community Development	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational
1.2.7 Create a homelessness plan/strategy for the City of Fremantle	Community Development	To be delivered	Implementation and delivery of the plan/strategy each year thereafter				Operational
Recommendation 3 – Work with key stakeholders in the Fremantle business community.							
1.3.1 Attend key business group meetings (e.g. Fremantle CCI, Freo Now) to discuss relevant community safety or crime prevention topics.	Community Safety	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational
1.3.2 Proactively promote the Liquor Accord amongst all licensed premises to ensure responsible service of alcohol within Fremantle.	Field Services	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational

Action	Responsibility	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total Cost
1.3.3 Raise awareness about the Community Safety team and reporting pathways (e.g. City/WA Police) as part of regular business communication channels.	Economic Development	<i>Contribute to Fremantle Crisis Support Service Brochure</i>	To deliver over each year of Plan.				Operational
1.3.4 Facilitate an annual community safety briefing for businesses based on current topics, in collaboration with Economic Development. <i>Retail theft will be a concentrated topic, providing evidence based crime reduction strategies to increase the theft prevention abilities of businesses.</i>	Community Safety	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational - minimal
1.3.5 Explore options on reducing opening times of retail liquor outlets in the Fremantle city centre in conjunction with WA Police.	Field Services	Implement					Operational

Recommendation 4 – Improve and maintain internal City staff capacity and promote positive staff initiatives.

1.4.1 Promote awareness of the ‘Eyes on the Street’ program internally.	Community Safety	Develop training in conjunction with WA Police.	Deliver to existing and new staff who work across the City of Fremantle.				Operational
1.4.2 Review current Community Safety resourcing and effectiveness.	Community Safety	Investigate and recommend.					
1.4.3 Promote proactive initiatives or activities of the Community Safety team at least once per quarter.	Communication	To deliver over each year of Plan.				Operational	

Topic 2 – Increase community participation and awareness

Recommendation 1 – Increase community understanding or awareness of social issues affecting the Fremantle community.

2.1.1 Continue to deliver the ‘Donate without Doubt’ campaign aiming to help homeless people by diverting funds to St Patrick’s Community Centre.	Community Safety	To deliver over each year of Plan.				Operational
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2.1.2 Continue to work in collaboration with community partners through Homelessness Week to raise community awareness.	Community Development	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational
2.1.3 Promote community awareness of mental health issues as part of Mental Health Awareness Week.	Community Development	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational
Recommendation 2 – Engage with children and youth as a form of early intervention and to build ongoing relationships.							
2.2.1 Evaluate and formalise community safety school visit lesson plan, based on approach used during community engagement in 2019. Community Safety team to deliver school visits.	Community Safety	Evaluate and finalise with community engagement. <i>Offer at least one visit.</i>	<i>Offer at least two visits.</i>	Operational			
2.2.2 Work with stakeholders such as WA Police, youth service organisations and neighbouring local governments to address relevant youth crime issues in the Fremantle district.	Community Safety	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational

2.2.3 Community Safety Team to present at Fremantle Youth Network meeting to explain the function of their team.	Community Safety	Deliver		Deliver		Deliver	Operational
2.2.4 Hold a stall or participate in the City's annual Youth Week event to engage with young people.	Community Safety	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational
Recommendation 3 - Strengthen crime prevention and community safety in the City's neighbourhoods.							
2.3.1 Review the home security checklist against best practice and update on City of Fremantle website.	Community Safety		Review and update		Review and update		Operational
2.3.2 Brand selected City field vehicles to be a visible presence in Fremantle suburbs. Selected vehicles also to be equipped with CCTV.	Field Services		Implement \$10,000	Implement \$10,000			\$20,000
2.3.3 Attend one community event or neighbourhood activity annually to promote community safety or crime prevention, depending on current issues or interest (e.g. UV property marking).	Community Safety	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational

2.3.4 Encourage and support Neighbourhood Watch WA to share information with the Fremantle community.	Community Safety	To deliver over each year of Plan.				Operational
2.3.5 Attend at least three City precinct group meetings per year, or as required, to discuss relevant community safety topics.	Community Safety	To deliver over each year of Plan.				Operational
Topic 3 – Role of the built environment in crime prevention and community safety						
<i>Recommendation 1 – Support active transport and public transport by increasing security.</i>						
3.1.1 Deter bike theft by installing ‘Go Green’ bike safety parking zones linked to existing CCTV, in conjunction with Technical Services.	Community Safety	Identify locations. Request budget for delivery 20/21.	\$40,000 if approved			\$40,000
3.1.2 Support the City’s Bike Week activities by promoting or running bike theft prevention and bike safety activities.	Community Safety	To deliver over each year of Plan.				Operational

3.1.3 Communicate and work with the Public Transport Authority (PTA) on a holistic approach to balance community safety with convenient public transport at bus stop locations in the Fremantle city centre.	Strategic Planning	Queen Street / Adelaide Street outbound bus movements.	To deliver over each year of Plan.				Operational
Recommendation 2 – Provide electronic surveillance of the City’s public spaces.							
3.2.1 Install an additional 25 CCTV cameras and 5 ANPR cameras at key locations identified in conjunction with WA Police.	Community Safety	Deliver					Funded by Federal government.
3.2.2 Seek State and Federal funding opportunities to expand the CCTV network and other crime prevention or community safety initiatives.	Community Safety		Apply for external funding as available.				
3.2.3 Investigate the use emerging technology in the community safety environment in collaboration with Information Technology.	Community Safety	Auror (CCTV monitoring software) trial \$20,000. Evaluate and recommend whether to continue.	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000 per year for Auror or a comparable software

3.2.4 Continue to support the use of the Whatsapp Community Circles in the CBD to facilitate the sharing of intelligence between Police, the City and stakeholders.	Community Safety	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational
3.2.5 Deploy portable CCTV trailer to known hot spots across the City of Fremantle.	Community Safety	Trailer purchased. To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational
Recommendation 3 – Apply crime preventative measures in public spaces.							
3.3.1 Prioritise public safety and anti-terrorism at large events by actively working with WA Police and event organisers.	Field Services	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational
3.3.2 Apply Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) in City parks in an operational approach (landscape maintenance) and as part of capital projects (e.g. playground renewal).	Parks and Landscapes	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational
3.3.3 Progress the Heart of Beaconsfield masterplan process to guide redevelopment of the area.	Strategic Planning	Finalise master plan					Operational

Recommendation 4 – Improve lighting to enable night-time use of appropriate areas and maintain graffiti policy.							
3.4.1 Audit City owned lights (e.g. parks, carparks) and action required maintenance.	Infrastructure Directorate	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational
3.4.2 Complete lighting audit in all suburbs and advise Western Power of poles out of service. Prioritise suburbs identified in community engagement.	Infrastructure Directorate	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
3.4.3 Undertake a Lighting Strategy for Fremantle city centre to connect night-time destinations. Incorporate infrastructure, heritage and economic development to cover aspects such as improved night-time legibility and wayfinding, linking safe paths of travel and connecting the night-time economy.	Urban Design				Undertake strategy		\$50,000
3.4.4 Ensure timely removal of graffiti in line with graffiti policy.	Facilities and Environmental Management	To deliver over each year of Plan.					Operational
COST per year		\$95,150	\$152,080	\$65,000	\$105,000	\$55,000	\$472,230