

## Location Area Risk Assessment



# **LYMINGTON LODGE**

**August 2023.**

## **Lymington Lodge.**

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### **Introduction**

All children, whether they are looked after by the state or their parents, need to feel safe in the area surrounding their home. Just as any parent would want to their child to live in a safe area so too will a corporate parent who places children in a children's home. Recent public and media attention has focused on the physical environments of children's homes and the ever-changing risks associated with living in villages, towns and cities all round the UK. However, it is not always straightforward to define a 'safe' area. A place that was previously deemed safe can change rapidly and may cause a risk to vulnerable children in particular. Equally, in some individual cases, children may themselves heighten risks in an area if they have particularly risky behaviours and this is not managed appropriately.

A home may be located in an area with some local risks, and still be 'safe', if these are managed well, arrangements are made to keep children safe, and careful consideration is taken in particular around placement decisions. Risks associated with the location and the environment surrounding the home must always be considered along with the steps that should be taken to manage, limit, prevent and reduce to possibility of a young person being harmed whilst in a children's home and as mentioned previously, this puts additional emphasis on the placement decisions and in particular the providers matching process.

All Placing Authorities are equally as responsible for assessing local risks and making judgments about a location of a children's home before placing the child and in doing so should ensure that all relevant information about a young person has been shared with a provider to ensure that all risk factors have been considered and discussed. It is not only the risks that are considered when placing a young person in a certain location but also the accessibility for all young people to access external services such as education, health, CAMHS/Therapeutic services and age-appropriate activities



LYMINGTON LODGE is situated in a residential road located in the medium sized town of Bishops Stortford which is an area located in Hertfordshire. The home is located in a quieter area of Bishops Stortford, whilst still located very local to the town centre. It is considered an affluent area.

**Bishop's Stortford** is a historic market town in Hertfordshire, England, just west of the M11 motorway on the county boundary with Essex, 27 miles (43 km) north-east of central London, and 35 miles (56 km) by rail from Liverpool Street station. Bishop's Stortford was documented to have an estimated population of 41,088 in 2020

### History

Nothing is known of Bishop's Stortford until it became a small Roman settlement on Stane Street, the Roman road linking Braughing and Colchester. The settlement was probably abandoned in the 5th century after the break-up of the Roman Empire.<sup>[3]</sup>

A new Saxon settlement grew up on the site, named *Steort-ford*, the ford at the tongue of land.<sup>[4]</sup> In 1060, William, Bishop of London, bought Stortford manor and estate for £8, leading to the town's modern name. At the time of the *Domesday Book* the village had a population of around 120. The Normans built a wooden motte-and-bailey edifice known as Waytemore Castle (see below).

Only the baptismal font survives from the Norman Church of St Michael, which was rebuilt in the early 15th century and altered and restored in the 17th and 19th centuries. Its conspicuous belfry and spire were built in 1812.

### St Michael's Church

Despite outbreaks of the plague in the 16th and 17th centuries, the town continued to grow, reaching a population of about 1,200.

The River Stort is named after the town, and not the town after the river.

When cartographers visited the town in the 16th century, they reasoned that the town must have been named after the ford over the river and assumed the river was called the Stort.<sup>[5]</sup>

After 1769, the River Stort was made navigable, and the town became a stop on the mail coach road between Cambridge and London.

By 1801, Bishop's Stortford was a market town, and a corn exchange had been established, while the main industry was malting. In 1842 the railway came to Bishop's Stortford. Another Victorian advance was the opening of a hospital in 1895.

In 1901 the population exceeded 7,000. The 1901 house known as Carfield Castle was used as an officers' billet in World War I.

During World War II, Bishop's Stortford was the evacuation centre for many Britons, including Clapton Girls Technology College. By 1951, Bishop's Stortford's population had reached 13,000, and growth as a commuter town continued through the second half of the 20th century. The M11 motorway, Stansted Airport, and rail links to London and Cambridge contributed to its rise in population to almost 38,000 at the time of the 2011 census.<sup>[1]</sup>

There are local transport links available for the town and local surroundings, which is positive for promoting independence in the young people.

### **About the demographic Information**

- Population: 41,088
- Median age: 36.0
- Retirees: 15.93%
- Unemployed: 1.63%
- Educated to degree level: 25.83%
- Full-time students: 2.27% (864)
- Total migrants: 12.68% (4,829)
- Average distance travelled to fixed place of work: 19.18 km

## **Role of the Provider**

Regulation 46 of the *Children's Homes Regulations 2015* introduced a requirement in January 2014 for providers or managers to:

- Ensure that premises used for the purposes of a children's home are appropriately and suitably located so that children cared for by the home are: effectively safeguarded, & able to access services to meet the needs identified in their care or placement plans;
- Review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the premises at least once in every calendar year. Taking into account the requirement in regulation 12(2)

Although it's difficult to predict the ever-changing local environment and the associated risks that come with change, the homes management have a responsibility to access all potential risks in the local area and implement strategies to limit, prevent and reduce the risk of a young person being harmed. The home's management will implement a Location Risk Assessment which will be kept under review and amended periodically depending on changes to the local environment and taking into account any new risks as these are identified.

As part of the home's responsibility, ensuring that young people have the opportunity to share their views about the home's location, to establish whether they feel safe and to offer feedback on the quality of care and support that they are offered by not only the home but local services too.

It is important for the home's management have a broad understanding of the area in which the home is located and the characteristics of the local environment.

When carrying out a Location Risk Assessment, the home management will need to take into account;

- Whether the location of the home potentially places an already vulnerable child in an area that could continuing allowing that young person vulnerable to harm such as being targeted for CSE and/or radicalisation
- Whether the location will allow young people to continue exhibiting offending and anti-social behaviour;
- The suitability of the local neighbourhood as a location to care for children who may have already been victims of abuse and neglect; and
- Whether there are environmental factors that would represent a hazard to children, such as locations near busy roads.

Location assessments should also take into account any positive features in a local community that would offer benefits to children living in a children's home. For example, assessments could include evidence about opportunities for children to participate in leisure, sporting or cultural activities, or links with services that could support the child's ethnic or religious identity.

### **Popular attractions in the local area include:**

#### **Mountfitchet Castle and Norman Village (CM24 8SP)**

Place of interest located 3.8miles away.

#### **The House on the Hill Museum (CM24 8SL)**

Place of interest located 3.8miles away

#### **Ace of Spades - Bowling Alley (CM23 3BP)**

Place of interest located 0.2 miles away

#### **Empire Cinema (CM23 3BP)**

Place of interest located 0.3 miles away

#### **Jackson's Square shopping centre (CM23 3XH)**

Place of interest located 0.3 miles away

#### **Rhodes Centre - Arts Complex (CM23 3JG)**

Place of interest located 0.5 miles away

#### **Bishops Stortford Southern Country Park (CM23 4JT)**

Place of interest located 2.3 miles away

#### **Bishops Stortford, Skate Park (CM23 2EL)**

Place of interest located 0.5 miles away

### **Local groups and opportunities for young people**

#### **Bishops Stortford Air cadets**

#### **Scout, Cubs and Beavers groups**

#### **Local youth Clubs**

#### **Performing arts groups, including singing, dancing and acting**

#### **Emotional wellbeing projects**

#### **Bishops Stortford street project**

The area continues to be under development to provide local amenities to residents.

Bishops Stortford also puts on events during the year such as "Kazfest" (a local charity run festival annually held) A circus, Fun Fair and "Bishops Stortford Carnival".

Upon going further outside of Bishops Stortford we have access to places such as:

- Lea Valley. Which includes picturesque walks, ice skating, and water sports.
- Accessible routes into London.
- Shopping centres such as Stratford Westfield which is easily accessible by train or car, Lakeside or Harlow Water Gardens which is accessible by car.
- Seaside coastal areas, including Clacton & Southend.
- Flip out Trampoline Park.
- Other local towns that may provide events throughout the year, e.g. Hoddesdon where they have Charter Fayre's or Christmas Markets
- Harlow Museum & Walled Gardens. ...
- North Weald Outdoor market one of the (largest in the UK)

- Audley End House & Park with Audley End Miniature Railway

This is not an exhaustive list.

### **SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS**

There are no major concerns about the location in which the Lymington Lodge is situated. There are low levels of crime (statistics are below). The area is not highlighted as an area of concern. There are no concerns of young people being drawn into gang crime or anti-social behaviour in the area from identified research and liaison with community professional partnerships, although vigilance and robust monitoring will ensure that risks do not increase. The home's location does not increase the potential for young people to be targeted for sexual exploitation, the area in which the home is located has not been an area of concern at any local multi-agency CSE, Missing and Trafficking operational groups where information is collated. There is a children's nursery located in the same area who have become established. LARA Current areas of identified risk are low to medium risk. The overall risk of the location of the home is assessed as being Low/Medium risk due to the nature of the young people who may reside and their individual potential behaviours. The main identified risk would appear to be young people absconding from the home. This would be managed in conjunction with our missing from care policy and expected procedures to safeguard young people. The staff will have appropriate staffing ratios at all times and be aware of individual risk and management plans for young people's behaviours. The manager will invite local liaison officers to meet young people in placement and work in partnership as SureCare routinely expect. The area is busy with accessible travel links. Therefore, the staff would be vigilant of this behaviour with appropriate staffing ratios, monitoring in place and risk assessments.

**Health Services located that we use are:**

**South Street Surgery**

83 South Street  
Bishop's Stortford  
Herts.  
CM23 3AP  
01279 465700

**Parsonage Surgery**

Herts And Essex Hospital,  
Cavell Drive, Bishop's Stortford,  
Hertfordshire, CM23 5JH  
01279 827608

**Bishop's Stortford Wellbeing Centre**

Mental Health Services  
Sworders Barn - 020 3727 3600

**Health & Community Services**

Council  
32 Apton Rd - 01279 755656

**Herts & Essex Hospital**

Haymeads Lane, Bishop's Stortford,  
Hertfordshire, CM23 5JH  
Tel: 01279 655191

**Bishop's Park Health Centre**

Lancaster Way  
Bishop's Stortford  
Herts.  
CM23 4DA  
01279 465700

**The Dentist**

66 South St,  
Bishop's Stortford  
CM23 3AZ

01279 710100

**Specsavers opticians and audiologists**

16a South St,  
Bishop's Stortford  
CM23 3AT

01279 656696



## Key contacts, resources and services

The Children's home already has links within the local authority in order to consult about any local issues or individual issues with young people. The key links for local services are detailed below and their responses to consultation on the location report.

Local Service	Key Individual and contact details	Feedback for assessment
LADO	<p>Hertfordshire Safeguarding Team: 0300 123 4043 -01727 732005 or email <a href="mailto:hct.safeguardingchildren@nhs.net">hct.safeguardingchildren@nhs.net</a></p> <p>Hertfordshire Duty LADO number: 01992 555420 (LADO team) 03001234040 (children's services)</p>	<p>There is a Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children and two Managers who support seven Safeguarding Children Nurse Specialists and Two MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) Nurses.</p>
Crime/ Missing Person's	<p>Liaison officer Stephen Gent <a href="mailto:stephen.gent@herts.police.uk">stephen.gent@herts.police.uk</a></p> <p>PCSOS Mark Rippon <a href="mailto:mark.rippon@herts.police.uk">mark.rippon@herts.police.uk</a></p> <p>Missing persons unit</p> <p>Detective Andrew Boyer</p> <p><a href="mailto:Andrew.BOYER@herts.pnn.Police.uk">Andrew.BOYER@herts.pnn.Police.uk</a></p>	<p>The local MPLO and PCSO's have close links with Lymington Lodge and ensure that they come to the home to visit any new young people in placement. Lymington Lodge provides the named Police officers with a Pen picture of each young person and details of risks and vulnerabilities. This supports the Police with supporting the home with missing episodes.</p> <p>The police Liaison has been contacted regarding the suitability of the local area and whether there are any concerns/ Crime hotspots which may pose a risk to our Young people. The homes manager receives weekly emails from the Neighbourhood watch regarding crimes in the local area and community events to promote safety.</p>
Local Probation / YOT	<p>Nick Smith – 01992 556324</p> <p><a href="mailto:nick.smith@hertfordshire.gov.uk">nick.smith@hertfordshire.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Any young person that comes to the home that already has involvement with YOS and/or commits an offence whilst at Lymington lodge will be support by the local YOS. The homes staff will work closely with the local YOS to ensure that any young person that must attend regular appointments and needs support in fulfilling any court order that's in place</p>
Local Health Services	<p><a href="mailto:herts.lacservic@nhs.net">herts.lacservic@nhs.net</a> Children Looked After and Care Leavers Nurse Tel: 01438 843004</p>	<p>Each young person will have an allocated LAC nurse. Children placed at Lymington lodge who attend a mainstream provision will be under a school nurse.</p>
Access	Young People's Centre,	At the Bishop's Stortford Access

<p>points- Support services for young people in Hertfordshire</p>	<p>14 Northgate End, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2EU</p> <p>This service can be accessed by referral.</p>	<p>Point young people can access information, advice and support on the following; Sexual health including, Advice on general health and relationships, Education and exams including exam pressure, Drugs, substance misuse and alcohol, Jobs and careers, Youth work projects and programmes, Benefits and finance, Housing and homelessness, Improving resilience, self-esteem and confidence, Relationships including Family and Friendships, Training and apprenticeships and Independent living skills.</p>
<p>Residents</p>		<p>Young people can be offered an opportunity to have an input in our community mapping and risk assessment for the local area.</p>

# **Risk Assessment & Risk Management Strategies**

## **Contents:**

- **Road**
- **Local Park**
- **Pubs in local area**
- **Local Transport Links**
- **Access to local towns**
- **Railway Lines/routes**
- **Bishops Stortford Town Hotspots**
- **Additional considerations including local crime information and education/transport links and services.**

Probability of risk occurring	Severity of possible injury/harm	Total Risk
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**Risk Assessment - *Potential risk factors due to the location of the home and the environment surrounding the home;***

**Bishops Stortford Town Centre**

The local town centre is accessible by foot and is located in close proximity to the home. The town centre has local restaurants, Pubs, shopping outlets and attractions. The town centre can be busy and attract many visitors, particularly over a weekend. As with any town centre, local young people and young people from the home may gravitate towards the area which could lead to the area being used for “hanging out” or for anti-social gatherings including miss-use of drug/substances & alcohol.

The young people from the home may gravitate towards young people/adults who are unknown to them. There is a potential that young people could attempt to gain access to local pubs or come in to contact with members of the public that are under the influence of alcohol.

**Risk Levels PRIOR to Preventative Measures in place: Bishops Stortford Town Centre**

High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
3			3			6

**Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;***

Upon arrival to the home, young people will be given supervised access to the community in order to allow them to familiarise themselves with the local area. This also allows for staff to observe if young people have particular places they may have an interest in. It also allows staff to safely assess the young people’s ability to access the local area appropriately and safely when using amenities such as the town centre. Should a young person be gravitating to this location and at risk from not using the facilities/area location appropriately then we will discourage this.

Staff will go to this location if there are concerns that a young person maybe frequenting there.

Staff will liaise with police and social work teams re: any concerns, and if there has been a resulting missing episode offer keywork to discuss.

Staff have a good working relationship with the local police and PCSO’s who are happy to share relevant intelligence.

**Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: BISHOP STORTFORD TOWN CENTRE.**

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2			2		4

**Risk Assessment - *Potential risk factors due to the location of the home and the environment surrounding the home;***

**Road safety:**

The road outside of the property (Portland Road) receives regular traffic and provides access to a residential close as well as properties located on Portland road. The road can be used to access the town centre but this is not typically a route used as a 'cut through'. The road is limited to 30mph with permit parking on one side for residents. The regular traffic provides a moderate level of risk to staff, young people, or other pedestrians/drivers if a young person was to display challenging behaviour, such as absconding, or wanting to cause harm to themselves. Further risk could be caused through driver's reaction time if young people are not considering road safety in times of anti-social or aggressively reactive behaviour.

If any young person, staff, or visitor were to access the road during the daylight hours, the road is quite well maintained along with the footpaths. At night there is the added safety of streetlights that go off at midnight. This may only be a risk if young people abscond after midnight and cannot see where they are going.

The home may accommodate young people with a history of missing behaviour and emotional instability and on occasions this may cause them to possibility attempt to leave the premises on foot and access the road in order to abscond or have time and space away from the home. Whilst young people are new to the area there is the added risk that they may be unfamiliar with the local area, potentially resulting in young people getting lost, and causing anxiety.

**Risk Levels PRIOR to Preventative Measures in place: ROAD SAFETY**

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2			2		4

**Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;***

Upon arrival to the home, young people will be given supervised access to the community in order to

allow them to familiarise themselves with the local area. This also allows for staff to observe if young people are competent in road safety, stranger danger, and support them in these areas if necessary.

Staff can also offer use of the home's vehicles in line with individual care plans to support young people to become knowledgeable in the local area in a safe manner.

Prior to accommodating any young person at Lymington Lodge, this risk assessment can be offered, for potential placing authorities. This can support them to make a clear judgement on if Lymington Lodge is suitable for their possible young person. As part of a matching process the local area can be discussed, as it may be deemed that Bishop Stortford is unsuitable for any reason.

If a young person were to leave the home without support and guidance from staff, staff may offer an alternative option if safe to do so, e.g. walking around the block with staff, using the garden, or going for a drive.

Any concerns around YP's in relation to the road will be added in their individual risk assessment.

**Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: ROAD SAFETY**

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
		1			1	2

**Risk Assessment - *Potential risk factors due to the location of the home and the environment surrounding the home;***

**Nursery**

Lymington Lodge is situated in close proximity to a Nursery and preschool and overlooks their playground and play areas.

There is a risk that young people placed at Lymington lodge may attempt to gain access to the gardens/play areas.

There is a risk that children from the nursery may witness unsafe or anti-social behaviour displayed by young people placed at Lymington lodge when entering or leaving the nursery.

**Risk Levels PRIOR to Preventative Measures in place: Local Nursery**

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
3				2		5

**Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;***

Staff will regularly review individual risk profiles and management plans to identify and understand young people's current risky behaviours, taking into account the impact risky behaviours could have on the children attending the nursery.

If a young person was to display unsafe or anti-social behaviour towards the front or rear of the property they will be supported by staff to reduce the impact this could have on one potential young person and infants witnessing.

Staff will regularly consult with the Nursery to reduce impact and address any issues that arise.

During the matching process young people that are shown to present a risk to younger children and infants will not be placed at Lyminster Lodge.

**Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: Local Nursery**

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	<b>2</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

**Risk Assessment - *Potential risk factors due to the location of the home and the environment surrounding the home;***

**Local Transport Links;**

Bishops Stortford has a train station with direct links to Stansted Airport, Cambridge and London Liverpool Street station. There is also a Bus service that runs local to the home which can take you to Harlow Town centre or Stansted Airport. This is a service that runs throughout the day and night.

Access to the London underground at Tottenham Hale Station can be reached in 30 minutes and Liverpool Street reached in 40 minutes. If travelling in the opposite direction Cambridge can be reached in 40 minutes.

There is a direct link to the M11 within a 15-minute drive from the home and access to the M25 from the M11.

We must be mindful when looking at referrals if young people are prolific absconders, high risk of CSE or gang connections due to the vast methods of transport available. Due to the ease of getting in and out of London we will always communicate this with potential placements if applicable.

**Risk Levels PRIOR to Preventative Measures in place: LOCAL TRANSPORT LINKS**

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	<b>2</b>			<b>2</b>		<b>4</b>

**Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;***

With the location of Lymington lodge and the vast amount of transport links to and from the home, the home will struggle to offer an environment that can potentially restrict and discourage young people from exhibiting missing behaviour. It is however possible for staff to arrive at the train station before a young person if traveling in a homes vehicle.

Initiating SureCare’s matching process and formulating an initial risk assessment in collaboration with the placing authority, family (if appropriate) and any other relevant professionals, will assist the homes manager in making an informed decision as to whether the homes location and large amount of transport links will be a significant enough deterrent and safeguarding measure to reduce a young person’s missing behaviour. The homes staff will be aware of the local bus and train routes and the homes risk assessment and missing protocols will reflect the actions that staff will take if a young person were to attempt to access local transport. As mentioned previously, staff have company vehicles that will allow staff to follow any buses and attend any local train stations in attempt to prevent and reduce the chances of any harm coming to a young person.

The home has already established a good working relationship with the local Missing Person’s Liaison Officer and local PCSO through Hertfordshire Police and will work closely in partnership with them to reduce the risk of any harm coming to our young people.

**Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: LOCAL TRANSPORT LINKS**

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2				1	3

**Risk Assessment - *Potential risk factors due to the location of the home and the environment surrounding the home;***

**Railway Lines;**

There is a railway line 0.3 miles away from the home.

This railway line cannot be accessed easily on foot and is not in the direct vicinity of the home and has high fencing surrounding it restricting any access to unauthorised persons

**Risk Levels PRIOR to Preventative Measures in place: RAILWAY LINES**

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2		3			5



**Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;***

The railway lines are located 0.3 Miles from the home. Although in close proximity the lines are not visible or easily accessible. The train station is manned, with barriers in place and the line is sectioned off with high fencing in place. Although the railways lines are not easily accessed, this is a risk that must be considered and reviewed during the matching process and throughout a young person’s placement at Lymington lodge.

Staff will support any young person that leaves the home by safely following on foot and/or the homes vehicle to attempt to return the young person to the home safely without any significant incidents occurring. Staff that following young people on foot will have access to a “Grab Bag” that will contain essential items and equipment that maybe needed to support staff in trying to minimise the risk of the young person coming to any harm. The items in the “Grab-Bag” include;

- A torch, map of the local area, some money, a first aid kit and a whistle.

If in extreme circumstances a young person is placing themselves and/or staff at risk then staff may have no option but to use physical intervention as a safety measure and/or contact the emergency services for assistance.

**Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: RAILWAY LINES**

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
		1		2		3

**Risk Assessment - *Potential risk factors due to the location of the home and the environment surrounding the home;***

**Bishops Stortford Hot Spots- Anti-Social behaviour.**

Within Bishops Stortford there are several locations in with youths are known to socialise, with reports of anti-social behaviour including Theft, vandalism, Violence and sexual offences.

There is a possibility that young people coming in to the home may be drawn to seeking out new friendships and peer groups and may find themselves engaging in risk taking or anti-social behaviours. They’re some hotspots around Bishop’s Stortford were drugs, particularly cannabis are known to be used.

**Sworders field and castle gardens (Located 0.7 Miles away CM23 2EL)**

Sworders field is a large park located near the town centre, the park holds a skate park and adventure playground. This is an area that young people gravitate towards. It is known for its anti-social behaviour, which includes criminal, theft, violence and sexual offences.

**Town Centre**

Young people have been known to congregate on the high street. Again, whilst this is not a risk in itself, it may present and increase risky behaviours, young people may feel more confident to challenge staff

when other peers are around, or try to embarrass staff and act more confident in front of an audience of peers.

**Southern County Park**

There is a large park located within Bishops Stortford. The park has several areas including a fishing/ duck pond, large grass areas, an older children’s play area with football nets and a dog agility area. The park attracts many visitors including families, groups and local youths. There are frequent reports of anti-social behaviour including vandalism in the area. There is a risk that young people when accessing the park may be drawn to use this the area unsafely or engage in anti- social behaviours.

**Bishops Stortford Hostel (YMCA)**

Bishops Stortford hostel has 27 self-contained flats for local and out of area people aged between 16-30, who may otherwise be homeless. The young people living in this accommodation are vulnerable and could potentially be involved in risk taking behaviours. There is a risk that people living in this accommodation could exploit or be exploited. There have been reports of anti- social behaviour and substance misuse at this location.

**Risk Levels PRIOR to Preventative Measures in place: BISHOPS STORTFORD TOWN HOTSPOTS**

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2			2		4

**Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;***

Staff are aware that some young people may locate areas which could be deemed as inappropriate connections, such as where homelessness is apparent. Young people that come in to Lymington lodge will be supported to maintain previous relationships/ friendships (if appropriate). Young people are encouraged to form positive relationships and networks to promote their social and emotional well-being. Young people are encouraged to access groups and youth clubs locally. Young people’s friendships are monitored and the young people in our care’s wellbeing is observed before and after any contact.

Young people that arrange to leave the home to meet friends are encouraged to remain in contact with the house and share who they are meeting and their location with staff. Before young people are granted permission from the home to access the local area independently. Permission must be sought from the local authority and where necessary parents/ families. Professionals and families must be satisfied that the young person has the ability to keep themselves safe and manage their behaviour. Young people must be supported to take age appropriate risks in order to prepare them for future independence.

Staff will support young people to know where the safer areas are. Staff will link in with local community police and liaison officers to ensure safeguarding is stringent and communicated as a multi-agency/joint network at all times.

If Staff are attending any of the above areas to locate young people when missing, or behaving inappropriately, 2 staff may need to attend.

Hertfordshire police are currently working towards reducing anti social behaviour in the Sworders field, The youth hostel Sworders field and southern county park are known to have young people engaging in more frequent anti-social behaviour, As a result there is a higher Police presence between the hours of

10.00am and 02.00am.

Staff will support any young people that leaves the home without permission by safely following on foot and/or the homes vehicle to attempt to return the young person to the home in a safely without any significant incidents occurring. Staff that follow young people on foot will have access to a “Grab Bag” that will contain essential items and equipment that maybe needed to support staff in trying to minimise the risk of the young person coming to any harm.

If in extreme circumstances a young person is placing themselves and/or staff at risk then staff may have no option but to use physical intervention as a safety measure and/or contact the emergency services for assistance

**Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: Bishops Stortford TOWN HOTSPOTS**

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	1				1	2

**Risk Assessment - *Potential risk factors due to the location of the home and the environment surrounding the home;***

**County lines including Exploitation**

The National crime agency intelligence Assessment 2018 states “The county lines offending model involves gangs and organised criminal networks moving drugs into one or more supply areas within the UK and using dedicated mobile phone lines, known as deal lines, to take orders. Although demand for and the supply of drugs underpins county lines offending, exploitation remains integral to the business model. Offenders continue to recruit, transport and exploit vulnerable individuals, including children, to carry out low-level criminal activity essential to their operations”.

Statistics show that there are currently over 2000 ‘Lines throughout the UK. In early 2022. Hertfordshire made a series of arrests associated with exploitation/ County lines within Hertfordshire’s Welwyn and Hatfield. In 2020 in nearby Ware there was also 2 individuals arrested who reside there who were part of a larger operation of transporting drugs from London to Hertfordshire and Essex.

The National crime agency intelligence Assessment 2018 also states “Children displaying vulnerabilities such as poverty, family breakdown and intervention by social services, looked after status, frequent missing episodes, behavioural and developmental disorders and exclusion from mainstream schooling are frequently targeted by county lines offenders. It is likely that children displaying such vulnerabilities are attracted by the sense of belonging, inclusion and structure offered by participation in an offending group.” Children placed within Lymington Lodge will fall under this vulnerability and therefore may be targeted.

There is also a risk that young people being placed within the home may have previously been exposed.

**Risk Levels PRIOR to Preventative Measures in place: County lines including Exploitation**

High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
3			3			6

**Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;***

A robust matching procedure is in place within the home. The manager will carefully consider that matching needs due to the homes location and London being so easily accessible. The manager may consider young people from other areas within the country with a detailed risk assessment in place.

Staff in the home complete Safeguarding, Child protection and Exploitation training as part of their induction. Additional County Lines training is also in place to support staff to understand the risks, trends and indicators of Exploitation and County lines.

Staff will develop positive relationships with young people which will allow them to identify any changes in presentation or behaviour. Staff are aware that some young people may locate areas which could be deemed as inappropriate connections.

The young people that come in to Lymington Lodge will be supported to maintain previous relationships/ friendships (if appropriate). Young people are encouraged to form positive relationships and networks to promote their social and emotional well-being. Young people’s friendships are monitored and the young people in our care’s wellbeing is observed before and after any contact.

Young people that arrange to leave the home to meet friends are encouraged to remain in contact with the house and share who they are meeting and their location with staff. Before young people are granted permission from the home to access the local area independently. Permission must be sought from the local authority and where necessary parents/ families. Professionals and families must be satisfied that the young person has the ability to keep themselves safe and manage their behaviour. Young people must be supported to take age-appropriate risks in order to prepare them for future independence.

Staff will support any young people that leave the home without permission by safely following on foot and/or the homes vehicle to attempt to return the young person to the home safely and without any significant incidents occurring.

Young people at risk will be encouraged to join Hertfordshire’s services for young people’s ‘reach out project’ which provides great support for young people at risk of exploitation and enables young people to make informed, safe choices in forming and maintaining appropriate, healthy and safe relationships. In addition to one-to-one support, young people are encouraged to join in with group work projects, they are introduced to new friendship groups and new opportunities.

In the event that staff suspect young people may be victims or involved in County lines or Exploitation a referral can be made to Hertfordshire’s Halo team.

**Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: : County lines including Exploitation**

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	<b>2</b>			<b>2</b>		<b>4</b>

**Created by:** Registered Homes manager/Responsible Individual – **August 2023**

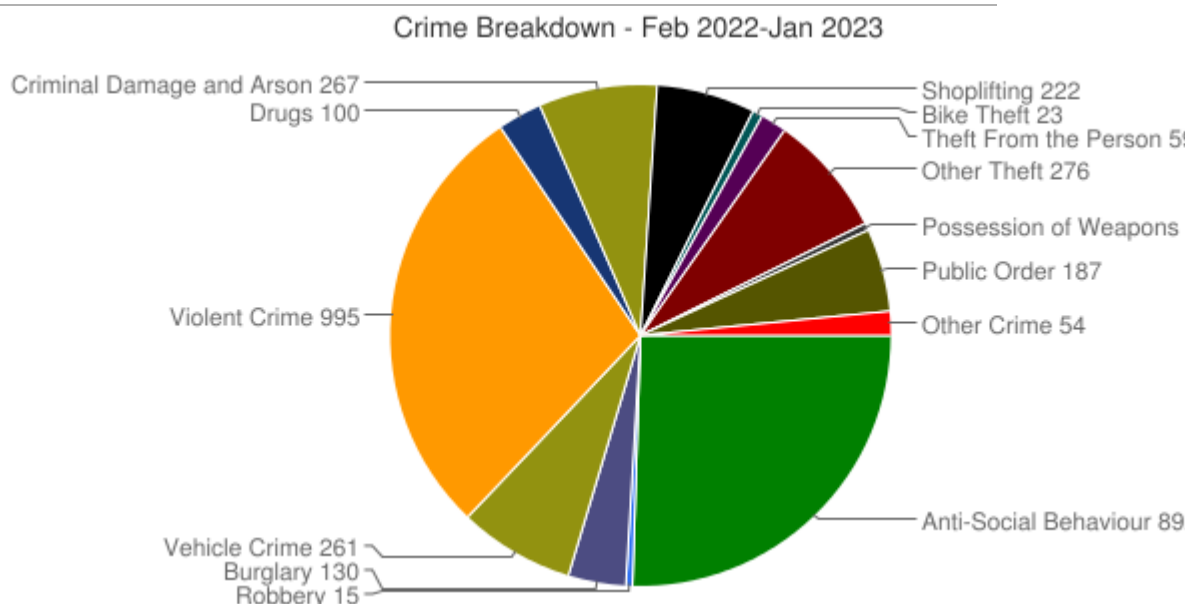
**Signed:** Z. Cross

**To be reviewed:** By March 2024. (will be sooner if there are any significant changes/events)

**Reviewed by:** Liam Chapman 06/08/23 (Covid 19 removed and risk scoring reviewed)

**Crime statistics for Bishop's Stortford:**

## Crime Plus ASB Breakdown for Bishops Stortford and Sawbridgeworth

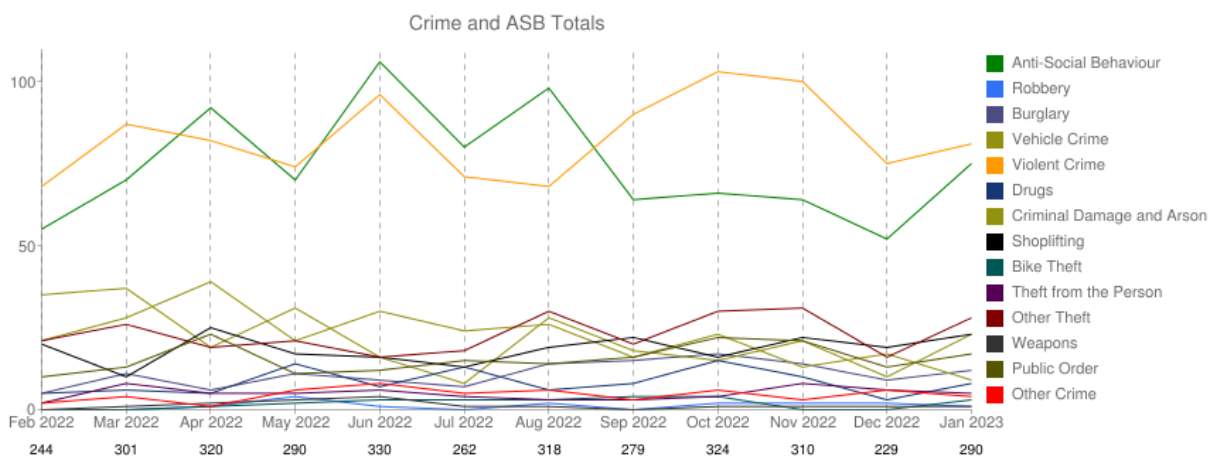


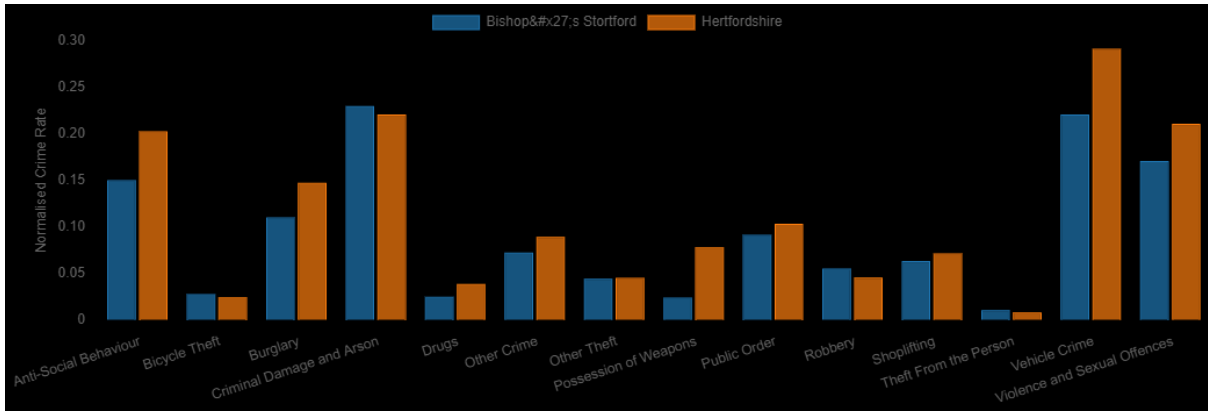
## Neighbourhood Picture

The following table and graphs show you crime and ASB breakdowns and trends for Bishops Stortford and Sawbridgeworth.

	AS B	Burglary	Robbery	Vehicle	Violent	Shoplifting	CD & A	Other Theft	Drugs	Bike Theft	Theft From the Person	Weapons	Public Order	Other	Total
Jan 2023	75	12	1	23	81	23	9	28	8	3	5	1	17	4	290

	AS B	Burglary	Robbery	Vehicle	Violent	Shoplifting	CD & A	Other Theft	Drugs	Bike Theft	Theft From the Person	Weapons	Public Order	Other	Total
Dec 2022	52	9	2	10	75	19	17	16	3	0	6	1	13	6	229
Nov 2022	64	14	2	21	100	22	13	31	10	0	8	1	21	3	310
Oct 2022	66	17	2	15	103	16	23	30	15	4	4	1	22	6	324
Sep 2022	64	15	0	18	90	22	16	20	8	4	3	0	16	3	279





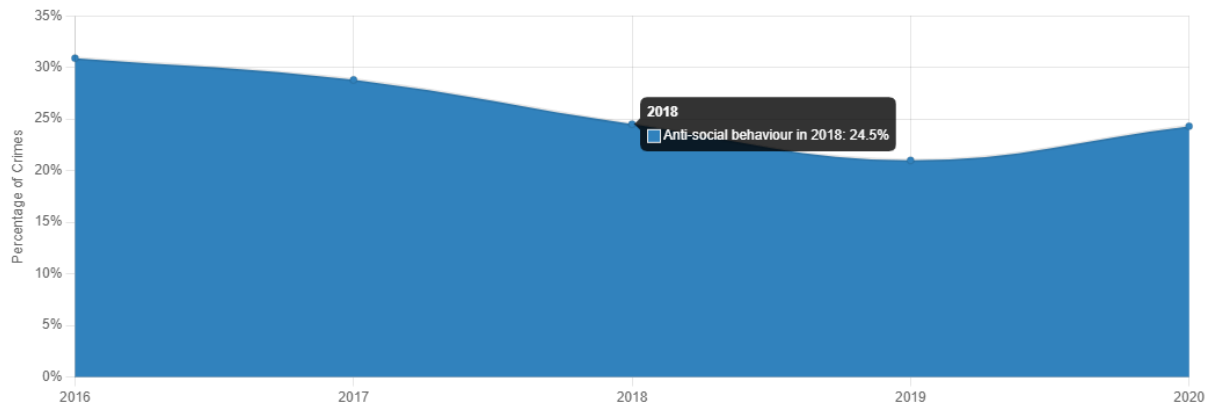
### Bishop's Stortford Compared to Nearby Medium-Sized Towns

Medium-Sized Town	Total Crimes	Crime Rate	Rate Difference
Rickmansworth	995	39.32	32% safer
Harpenden	1,241	40.30	29% safer
Bushey	1,198	43.92	18% safer
Hitchin	1,835	50.20	3.6% safer
Bishop's Stortford	2,094	51.99	-
Letchworth Garden City	2,125	61.59	16% more dangerous
Hertford	1,836	62.37	17% more dangerous
Cheshunt	3,286	69.73	25% more dangerous
Welwyn Garden City	3,568	70.96	27% more dangerous
Hatfield	3,838	80.99	36% more dangerous

### Crime Over Time in Bishop's Stortford

View crime percentage over time for Anti-Social Behaviour





### Bishop's Stortford Crime Trends

#### Crime Rate Per 1,000 Residents

Crime	2017	2018	2019	2020	Trend
Anti-Social Behaviour	21	18	16	17	Safer
Bicycle Theft	0.70	1.1	1.7	1.4	Getting worse
Burglary	4.2	4.6	2.8	2.6	Safer
Criminal Damage and Arson	7	6	7	6	Safer
Drugs	2.3	1.5	1.3	1.5	Safer
Other Crime	0.84	0.67	1.2	1.0	Getting worse
Other Theft	7	6	6	6	Safer
Possession of Weapons	1.7	1.3	0.42	0.17	Safer
Public Order	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.2	Safer
Robbery (inc. mugging)	0.50	0.72	0.94	0.72	No change
Shoplifting	5	6	7	4.7	Safer
Theft From the Person (inc. pickpocketing)	1.3	1.3	1.5	0.87	Safer
Vehicle Crime	3.8	4.8	6	4.3	Safer

### Crime in Bishop's Stortford's Neighbourhoods

Neighbourhood	Crime Count	Crime Rate	Danger Rank
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Bishop's Stortford

Central Bishop's Stortford	698	64	Second
East Bishop's Stortford	360	40	Third
North Bishop's Stortford	594	89	First
South Bishop's Stortford	175	21	Fourth

### Local Education provisions

Hertfordshire County Council is responsible for education. Bishop's Stortford follows the English school's model of primary school, secondary school, and further education college. There are 13 primary and 5 secondary schools (two of which are single sex). The town does not have any further education colleges for post-16 education, as all schools in Hertfordshire have sixth forms.

There is also an independent school, the Bishop's Stortford College, which covers the whole educational spectrum from ages 4 to 18.<sup>[36]</sup>

Many of the secondary schools in the Bishop's Stortford area have gained special college status, variously for technology, sciences, languages, music or performing arts. Secondary schools include St Mary's Catholic School, Birchwood High School, Hockerill Anglo-European College, The Bishop's Stortford High School (commonly referred to as the "Boys' High")<sup>[37]</sup> and The Hertfordshire and Essex High School (commonly referred to as "Herts and Essex").<sup>[38]</sup> The latter two are single-sex schools, for boys and girls respectively, although both have mixed-sex sixth forms.

In July 2008, Herts and Essex High School and Bishop's Stortford High School submitted a planning application to merge to a single site funded by the building of new residential estates on their existing land. This met with vigorous opposition, notably from the Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation. Over 930 letters of objection were received, and eventually the plan collapsed in September 2009 just prior to a planning hearing, when the schools withdrew their application.<sup>[39]</sup> Planning permission was granted in 2019 and building of the new school commenced in 2020

#### **Bishop's Stortford College**

Independent or preparatory school  
1.1 mi · School House, Maze Green Rd  
01279 838575

#### **Saint Mary's Catholic School**

Secondary School  
0.9 mi · Windhill  
01279 654901

#### **Windhill21**

School  
0.8 mi · Windhill  
01279 696850

#### **White Trees Independent School**

Independent or preparatory school  
0.7 mi · 13a London Rd  
01279 658518

#### Northgate Primary School

Primary school

1.4 mi · Cricket field Ln  
01279 652376

### St Joseph's Primary School

Primary school  
0.9 mi · Great Hadham Rd  
01279 652576

### Train Stations In Bishops Stortford

#### Bishop's Stortford

Train station  
0.5 mi

#### Stansted Mountfitchet

Train station  
3.2 mi · 0345 600 7245

### Local Bus/Coach stops

#### Dane Street (Stop K)

Bus stop  
0.7 mi

#### Bridge Street (Stop J)

Bus and Coach Station  
0.9 mi

#### Bishop's Stortford railway station

Public Transport Station  
0.5 mi

### Motorway Links

The M11 starts in South Woodford in northeast London, just north of Redbridge Roundabout, at junction 4, with the [North Circular](#) (A406), it then heads [NNE](#), passing east of [Loughton](#) and [Theydon Bois](#) as well as [Epping Forest](#), meeting the [M25 motorway](#) at junction 6, and then veering approximately north, passing to the east of [Harlow](#).

**The M11 gives access to [Bishop's Stortford](#) and the motorway's only [service station](#) via junction 8. This is followed immediately by junction 8A, which provides a free-flow link to the improved [A120](#) that links to [Stansted Airport](#).**

The M11 then traverses part of [Cambridgeshire](#), meeting a spur for the [A11](#) at junction 9, Stump Cross, and then finally ends at junction 14, the Girton Interchange, with the road continuing through the junction and becoming the [A14](#), which continues the route on to [Huntingdon](#) and the north