

Crimes have an impact on the victims, the offenders, their families and wider society.

Victims of crime suffer immediate impacts such as physical harm, mental harm and damage to property.

They can experience life changing injuries and mental health and relationships can be affected.

This can, for example, cause guilt, social exclusion and being afraid to leave their home.

The impact of crime on offenders can include loss of freedom when they are sentenced to prison, disapproval from society and feelings of shame and guilt.

A criminal record can make it difficult to find a job or somewhere to live.

Offenders are sometimes rejected by their friends and family and face difficulties with re-offending.

Involvement in crime can mean that victims and offenders may become withdrawn or lash out at those they love.

This can take an emotional toll on family members, as they may feel uneasy around the victim or offender and not want to offend them.

Families may also face financial issues due to legal costs or the living costs of supporting the victim or offender.

High levels of crime can badly affect communities.

People can become isolated, house prices go down and insurance premiums go up, which can lead to poverty and social exclusion.

The cost of crime to wider society is significant.

Crimes such as shoplifting and fraud cost businesses in the UK billions of pounds each year.

In addition, to prevent such crimes, businesses invest in security measures such as installing CCTV.

While cybercrime can result in thieves stealing personal data and large sums of money.

The cost of policing, courts and prisons all have to be paid through taxes and costs incurred by violent crimes or taken on by the emergency services or NHS a further serious financial impact to wider society.