



Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel

Wed 30 Sep
2020
6.30 pm

Skype

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
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GUIDANCE ON VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic Redditch Borough Council will be holding this meeting in accordance with the relevant legislative arrangements for remote meetings of a local authority. For more information please refer to the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police Crime Panels meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Please note that this is a public meeting conducted remotely by Skype conferencing between invited participants and live streamed for general access via the Council's YouTube channel.

You are able to access the livestream of the meeting from the Committee Pages of the website, alongside the agenda for the meeting.

[Live Stream for Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Meeting](#)

If you have any questions regarding the agenda or attached papers please do not hesitate to contact the officer named above.

Notes:

As referred to above, the virtual Skype meeting will be streamed live and accessible to view. Although this is a public meeting, there are circumstances when the committee might have to move into closed session to consider exempt or confidential information. For agenda items that are exempt, the public are excluded and for any such items the live stream will be suspended and that part of the meeting will not be recorded.



Crime and Disorder Scrutiny

Wednesday, 30th September,
2020

6.30 pm

Virtual Meeting - Skype -
Virtual

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Jennifer Wheeler
(Chair)
Roger Bennett
Joanne Beecham

Pattie Hill
Wanda King

1. Apologies and named substitutes

2. Declarations of interest and of Party Whip

To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and / or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests, and any Party Whip.

3. To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2019 (Pages 1 - 6)

4. North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership - Update on Work in Redditch (Pages 7 - 18)

5. Anti-Social Behaviour - Update on the work of the Partnership (Pages 19 - 24)

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Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday, 25 September
2019

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Jennifer Wheeler (Chair), and Councillors Gareth Prosser and Mark Shurmer

Officers:

Bev Houghton and Judith Willis

Committee Services Officer:

Jess Bayley

1. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Wanda King and Pattie Hill. Councillor Mark Shurmer attended as a substitute for Councillor King.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest nor of any party whip.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel held on Wednesday 26th September 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE ON WORK IN REDDITCH

The Community Safety Manager presented an update on the work of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership in Redditch from September 2018 to August 2019.

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Chair

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During the presentation of the report the following points were highlighted for Members' consideration:

- The partnership worked to resolve community safety issues in Redditch Borough, Bromsgrove District and Wyre Forest District.
- There were a number of sub-groups of the partnership which addressed specific community safety themes.
- The Safer Redditch Group was in the process of being reviewed as there had been some capacity issues in terms of providing support to the group following the departure of an experienced member of staff.
- There was an Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Complex Cases Group which provided problem solving solutions to many community safety issues. Many of the issues addressed by this group involved neighbour disputes.
- There was also a Multi-Agency Targeted Enforcement (MATE) group which was being piloted in Redditch and was addressing many of the issues that would previously have been handled by the Safer Redditch Group.
- The strategic assessment outlining key issues for the three districts had been presented in draft form at the latest meeting of the partnership board. Once the document had been signed off the partnership would enter a planning stage.
- The West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was not a member of the partnership. However, there was a statutory duty for the partnership to work closely with the PCC and for there to be a cross reference between the partnership's and the PCC's plans.
- The PCC's terms of office were due to come to an end shortly and all of the PCC's grant funding had now been spent. The partnership, which had received some of this funding, needed to ensure that all funds, which were paid in arrears, were spent.
- There was a new public health duty to prevent and tackle serious violence. This had been subject to Government consultation.

Following the presentation of the report Members discussed a number of points in detail:

- The focus of the partnership and the extent to which it delivered projects in the community. Members were advised that the partnership was not just strategic and got involved in matters such as resolving specific ASB cases.
- The review of the Safer Redditch Group and the timescales for completing this review. Members were advised that there

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were no timescales for this, however, if the MATE was retained then the ASB and Complex Cases Group would also be retained and it was unlikely that the Safer Redditch Group would then be required.

- The potential for the officer who had left the organisation to be replaced. Members were advised that a new Officer would be recruited using grant funding.
- The PCC's funding of a CCTV upgrade and how this scheme was progressing. Members were advised that the partnership was confident that this scheme would be delivered as scheduled.
- The Government consultation in respect of the new legal duty to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence and the implications locally. Members were informed that the partnership had submitted a response as part of this consultation exercise and the preferred option locally would be for Community Safety Partnerships to assume responsibility for this duty.
- The home security assessments that had been undertaken and which properties these could be applied to. The assessments could be undertaken in cases where the police had made referrals, for example for victims of domestic violence. Assessments were also frequently undertaken of Council houses as well as housing association properties.
- The number of residents participating in the Nominated Neighbour Scheme, which protected vulnerable residents from doorstep crime. Officers explained that 90 residents had participated since the scheme was established two years previously.
- The information packs that were issued to participants in the Nominated Neighbour Scheme. Officers confirmed that copies of these packs could be sent to Members and that referrals to this scheme would also be accepted from Members.
- The methods used to advertise the Nominated Neighbour Scheme. Members were informed that Officers tended to promote the scheme to vulnerable groups that were most likely to benefit from participation, including through attending Residents Association and older people's forum meetings.
- The Community Trigger/ASB Case Review process and the standard timescales for resolving each case. Officers explained that this process presented challenges, particularly as the partnership had received five such cases in close succession, though all had been addressed within the required timescales.
- The workload of the Community Safety Officer working in Redditch and the potential for further support to be provided to him. The Panel was informed that once recruited the new

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officer would provide support, though additional help was also available from partner organisations.

- The process for handling ASB cases and the difficulties with addressing these cases when none of the parties involved were Council tenants. Members were informed that the Council could address such cases where at least one party was a Council tenant. Officers had also worked with housing associations and private tenants to resolve such issues. The biggest challenge was resolving a neighbour dispute where both parties were owner occupiers and there was no illegal activity that would justify the involvement of the police.
- The ASB that could arise from people begging and the fact that not all of the people who were begging were homeless.
- The involvement of the Council's various housing teams in the work of the partnership and the support that these teams could provide in terms of housing homeless people.
- The difficulties that could be encountered with housing people who had been homeless for some time and the need for ongoing support to be provided to people in this position.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **Nominated Neighbour Scheme information packs be circulated for the consideration of Members; and**
- 2) **the report be noted.**

5. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The Community Safety Manager presented an update on the work of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership since the previous meeting of the Panel to address ASB in the Borough. This report had been provided at the request of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In presenting the report the Community Safety Manager highlighted a number of points for Members' consideration:

- The data provided in the report compared ASB incidents reported to the police in 2017/18 to those incidents that had been reported in 2018/19.
- ASB was not a crime and therefore was recorded on the police database as an incident rather than a crime.
- The data only reflected incidents that were reported by the public or organisations to the police. There would potentially be cases of ASB that were not reported.

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- An analysis of the data revealed that there had been a reduction in most types of ASB incident reported to the police.
- The exceptions to this reduction were neighbour disputes and fights and arguments where there had been a slight increase.
- An analysis by season revealed that reported ASB incidents were higher in the summer months than in the winter months. However, there was a downward trend in the rates of reporting over recent years.
- The ASB data per ward for 2017/18 compared to 2018/19 had been provided for comparative purposes. This revealed that ASB incidents were higher in Abbey and Greenlands wards, which contained the town centre and the hospital respectively.
- There had been a significant decrease in the number of ASB incidents reported in some wards, including Batchley and Brockhill, Matchborough and Winyates.
- ASB levels in the Borough compared well to Wyre Forest District but were higher than in Bromsgrove District. However, the reductions in ASB over the last 12 months were slightly higher in Redditch than in the other two districts.
- The Community Safety team had provided two days of training recently in respect of ASB and environmental crime. This training had been well received and a housing association had requested further training on the subject.
- The Council had drafted one community protection order since new powers were introduced in 2014. This had not been used as the Council's Legal Department had advised that Officers should serve notice in that instance. However, the draft order could be used as a future template if needed.
- More data in respect of ASB at a ward and neighbourhood level could be accessed by Members on the police website.

Following the presentation of the report Members discussed the reasons for the decrease in reports of ASB incidents over the years, including when comparing the summer season in 2018/19 to the previous year. Officers explained that there would be no single reason though specific incidents, such as a football World Cup, in one year could lead to a spike in incidents being reported.

At the end of the discussions in respect of this matter the Chair noted that there tended to be one meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel to review the work of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership in Redditch each year and questions were raised about whether this was sufficient. Officers advised that it was standard practice nationally for one meeting to take place a year of the scrutiny Committee designated with responsibility for reviewing the work of the local Community Safety Partnership. When one meeting took place a year the

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Community Safety Partnership could provide clear information for a 12 month period as well as any additional information requested by Members when reporting to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel. There had been two scheduled meetings of the Panel for the previous two years but the second meeting had always been cancelled due to lack of business. One meeting a year would therefore appear a sensible option to adopt in future.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 6.45 pm
and closed at 7.28 pm



Elected Member

BRIEFING

To: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel From: Bev Houghton
Service Area: Community Safety
Contact Info: 01527 534187

CC: Cllr Nyear Nazir – Portfolio Holder for Community Services & Regulatory Services
Sue Hanley – Deputy Chief Executive & Chair of NWCSP
Judith Willis – Head of Community & Housing Services

North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2019-20

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) from November 2019 to date.

2. Background

2.1 NWCSP has been in existence since May 2013, following the merger of the three district CSPs in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest. The Community Safety Teams that support and administer the Partnership continue to sit within the respective local authorities.

2.2 Local authority representation on NWCSP is fulfilled through a number of positions. Redditch Borough Council's Elected Member representative is the Portfolio Holder for Community Services & Regulatory Services, Councillor Nyear Nazir, appointed June 2020. Sue Hanley, the Council's Deputy Chief Executive is Chair of NWCSP and is also Redditch Borough Council's Responsible Authority representative on the Partnership. The Council's Community Safety Manager, Bev Houghton provides support to NWCSP.

2.3 Scrutiny arrangements for the CSP remain unchanged with local authorities having a statutory duty to scrutinise the work of its local CSP, under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

2.4 Alongside the relationship the Council has with the CSP, there is also a direct role in holding the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to account through the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel (PCP). Redditch Borough Council's representative on the PCP is the Portfolio Holder for Community Services & Regulatory Services, Councillor Nyear Nazir. The next West Mercia PCP is scheduled for 21st September 2020 and papers can be accessed here: [Agenda details](#)

3. Current Position

3.1 Partnership Structure

The CSP district operational groups are identified as Safer District Groups and are known as Safer Bromsgrove Group, Safer Redditch Group and Safer Wyre Forest Group. There are also a number of other sub-groups as illustrated in **Appendix 1**.

3.2 Strategic Assessment 2020

NWCSP has a statutory duty to produce a three year rolling plan outlining how the Partnership intends to address key crime and community safety priorities, as identified through its annual Strategic Assessment.

The Strategic Assessment gathers research, evidence and intelligence from national and regional sources, as well as drawing on professional expertise of those working locally. It is designed to be a point of reference and guidance to resource community safety initiatives among partner agencies across the area.

The Strategic Assessment is used to inform the Community Safety Partnership Plan and the priorities that the CSP will focus on for a 3 year period. Due to the disruption of Covid-19 and partner agencies prioritisation of responses to local communities during the pandemic, the Community Safety Partnership Plan has been delayed slightly and is being developed for 2021-24. Whilst this work takes place the Partnership continues to focus on its current priorities for the year as follows:-

- I. Reducing Violence and Abuse: including sexual offending, domestic abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- II. Reducing Theft and Acquisitive crime: including shoplifting, thefts and burglaries
- III. Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour, Damage and Nuisance: including criminal damage, environmental issues and deliberate fires/arson
- IV. Protecting vulnerable communities: including reducing harassment and threatening behaviour motivated by Hate
- V. Reducing Offending and Reducing the Harm caused by Drug and Alcohol Misuse are cross cutting themes which impact on all priorities

3.3 John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

John Campion, elected as West Mercia PCC in May 2016, has a duty to co-operate with all CSPs in his geographical area to reduce crime and disorder. There is also a reciprocal duty on CSPs to collaborate with the PCC and both the PCC and the CSP must have due regard for each other's priorities within their respective plans. The PCC's Safer West Mercia Plan 2016 – 2021 priorities are reflected in NWCSP action plans and activities, identifying where

the partnership will contribute to delivering the PCCs vision at a local level. The PCC's plan focuses on four key areas:

- I. Building a More Secure West Mercia: CSE, domestic abuse, vulnerable people, sexual offences, ASB, drugs and alcohol, reducing reoffending, road safety
- II. Reassuring West Mercia's Communities: feeling safe as well as being safe, engaging with the public, protecting from cyber-crime, making voices heard around rural crime
- III. Putting Victims and Witnesses First
- IV. Reforming West Mercia

Tracey Onslow is the Deputy PCC, appointed in July 2016. Tracey's role is to represent the PCC within communities across West Mercia, with a portfolio that includes; rural, business and cyber-crime, victims' services and commissioning. CSPs work closely with the Deputy PCC as the commissioning model continues to develop. Commissioning areas already reviewed by the Deputy PCC include CCTV improvements and the collation of funding for Data Analysis support. Both commissioning reviews led to funding being provided across West Mercia to deliver activities in both of these key community safety areas.

Between 2017 and 2020 NWCSF was allocated £195,000 of PCC funding for improvements to the area's CCTV scheme. The CSP, on behalf of the three Local Authorities, developed a proposal to use this capital contribution to modernise the CCTV infrastructure that serves the three district areas. The upgrade is close to final completion with current scheme now supporting Internet Protocol Recording with greatly improved technological capabilities for digital processing. The CCTV scheme now has enhanced digital capability, improved image quality and a greater capacity to expand the scheme and/or link up to other digital systems across the region.

The funding amounts involved made this project the most ambitious undertaken by the Partnership and the project was also match funded by the three District Councils with additional revenue, capital and in-kind support. A total amount of £339,000 of CSP funding was allocated to the project with the funding having to be spent by 31st March 2020. This was successfully achieved by the Project Management Team, with the majority of milestones met despite the disruption of Covid-19. The PCC has now allocated an additional amount of £65k capital funding towards CCTV for 2020-21 and the Project Team are currently working up spending proposals to put forward to the CSP.

3.4 Grant Funding from the PCC 2020/21

In addition to the CCTV capital allocation, NWCSF has also been allocated its annual ring-fenced funding from the PCC for 2020-21. The amount of funding

provided to the CSP is based on allocations in previous years and the table below shows the local projects identified by NWCSF for support.

Project	Funding Amount
North Worcs CSP Contribution to the West Mercia Analyst Team	£20,000
Empowering Young People Project - Redditch & Bromsgrove	£20,000
Detached/Outreach Youth work Project - Redditch & Bromsgrove	£23,499.93
School Ambassadors and Engagement - Redditch & Bromsgrove	£8,000
Redditch Town Centre & NTE	£5,000
Bromsgrove Taxi Marshalls	£3,000
Wyre Forest Keeping Safe Projects	£34,749.87
North Worcs. Virtual Decisions Knife Crime Project	£6,000
North Worcs. Nominated Neighbour Scheme	£4,000
North Worcs. Domestic Homicide Reviews	£15,000
Total Allocation	£139,249.80

The majority of CSP projects are now underway as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted across the districts and local communities seek additional support and community safety interventions. The progress of the grant funded projects will be reported quarterly to the PCC and at the end of the financial year there will be a requirement to provide a comprehensive evaluation of all the funded projects. This will include a full breakdown of project expenditure and the outputs/outcomes that the funding has achieved.

3.5 Local Delivery, Key Projects and Progress

Local delivery of community safety projects and initiatives falls under the remit of the Community Safety Operational Groups. The Safer Redditch group was previously on hold due to staffing and resource issues however, the meeting resumed on the 1st July 2020 chaired by the District Policing Inspector and supported by the Council's Community Safety Team.

The team also continues to monitor and respond to district community safety issues, co-ordinating local operational delivery with partners. The team is often a first point of contact for residents and partners with concerns about local crime and community safety issues and officers are able to call upon other community safety partners when local concerns require a multi-agency response.

Redditch Community Safety Project Officers

Richard Waterhouse and Sarah McIntosh work on behalf of the Council and the CSP, delivering a variety of community safety projects and initiatives

across the Borough. Richard and Sarah are also available to provide information, support and guidance to residents, council colleagues, external partners and elected members on a variety of crime prevention and community safety concerns and issues. This report will now provide an update on some of the key community safety project activity that has taken place from Nov 2019 to date.

Home Security Assessments

Between November 2019 and August 2020, 35 Home Security Assessments have been carried out at the properties of vulnerable residents with many households also receiving upgrades and improvements to the physical security of their properties. Some security assessments were made as a result of discussions about the safety of domestic abuse victims held at MARAC meetings. However, others were carried out at the request of other community safety partners and council service areas such as the Police and the Housing Locality Teams.

Planning Developments – Designing out Crime consultation

Between Sept 2019 and Sept 2020, the Project Officers have advised on 16 planning applications and had input into the initial development plans for the proposed redesign of two district centres in Redditch. Sarah McIntosh is currently undertaking the Level 5 Diploma in Designing out Crime with the Police Crime Prevention Academy. This means the team now has two nationally qualified Designing out Crime Officers and a Home Office accredited Crime Reduction Officer providing expertise and guidance on preventing crime through environmental design.

Problem Solving and Community Safety Assistance

The Community Safety Team receive a number of calls for advice and assistance from other service areas and partner agencies requiring expertise in crime prevention and problem solving or community safety information to assist in resolving complex issues and cases.

Between Nov 2019 and Aug 2020 there were over a hundred requests for assistance from members of the public, Elected Members, internal services and external agencies. Requests include assistance on ASB issues and guidance on the use of relevant tools and powers, issues of domestic abuse, illegal substances, neighbour disputes, home security, and environmental crime issues.

A number of environmental visual surveys have also been carried out including an area near to a local school where concerns had been raised regarding drug dealing and associated ASB. Environmental enhancement works and landscaping measures were recommended in order to open up sight lines and make the area less attractive to potential offenders.

MARAC - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference

Richard Waterhouse attends the local MARAC which is a nationally recognised process for managing high risk Domestic Abuse cases. Vulnerable residents assessed as being at risk of serious harm from an intimate partner or family member are referred into MARAC for the purpose of coordinating

safeguarding activities by all organisations that can offer support and assistance.

Between November 2019 and August 2020 Richard has assisted in protecting 64 vulnerable and high risk victims of domestic violence across Redditch. Richard is Redditch Borough Council's single point of contact for the MARAC process, in line with nationally recognised best practice for each agency to have a designated MARAC officer.

Nominated Neighbour Scheme

The Nominated Neighbour scheme, which aims to protect vulnerable residents from door step crime and rogue trader offences, continues to be a successful local initiative.

Over 90 Redditch residents have signed up to the scheme to date and the Covid-19 restrictions provided an opportunity to fully evaluate the scheme with every resident signed up to the scheme being contacted to assess its success. The evaluation identified that not one member of the scheme had any issues with cold callers since signing up to the initiative. Many stated that they had previously experienced multiple cold calls and all participants stated that it made them feel safer in their homes. There were many examples where residents had seen someone approach their door, but on seeing the nominated neighbour notice and the caller had walked away without attempting to make contact with the resident.

In support of the project, the District Policing Inspector has now identified two dedicated PCSOs to support promotion and delivery of the scheme across Redditch and Bromsgrove and the project's ongoing success has led to NWCSP supporting the roll-out of the scheme into Wyre Forest.

Redditch & Bromsgrove Schools Respect Programme

The Respect programme provides community safety awareness sessions as part of school PHSE drop down days and bespoke classroom sessions on a number of subjects such as recognising and reporting hate crime, understanding healthy relationships/domestic abuse, the dangers of substance misuse and promoting respect and community responsibility. Alongside this the Respect Programme also provides one to one therapeutic mentoring sessions to individual students who believed to be at risk of becoming involved in crime and ASB or are at risk of becoming victims of crime.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 all of the scheduled community safety drop-down days and classroom sessions were cancelled. However; schools were provided with a number of resource packs to share with young people whilst schools were closed. Between September 2019 and July 2020, the programme received 196 referrals for 1 to 1 support through the therapeutic mentoring sessions and at the point of national lockdown measures, 129 young people were being seen by the service. During the Covid-19 restrictions, 75 of those young people took up the offer of online delivery and remote support and during the lockdown period 20 new young people were referred to the programme for therapeutic support. Prior to lockdown 30

students were receiving information via targeted small group workshop sessions and throughout the lockdown period the scheme continued to offer support to a small group of 8 young people via Zoom.

Young Citizens Challenge

The Young Citizen's Challenge is an initiative that has been running in Redditch and Bromsgrove for over 10 years. The project provides community safety and personal safety messages and information to Year 6 pupils from middle schools across both districts. Usually, students accompanied by their teacher, are taken to a partner location to take part in a range of interactive workshops and activities, raising awareness of various community safety issues.

Unfortunately due to Covid-19, Young Citizens Challenge 2020 was cancelled however; all partners who usually take part in the delivery of the project put together a resource and information pack that was shared with participating schools, to use with their Year 6 pupils through their own remote learning platforms.

Safe Place Scheme

The Safe Place Scheme is a CSP supported scheme set up by Our Way Self Advocacy in Wyre Forest in 2014. The scheme now operates across Worcestershire and it offers vulnerable people a safe place to go if they have a problem or concern whilst out and about in the town centres. All Safe Places are identified by a Safe Place sticker and the organisations employees receive training, so that they are able to give reassurance and help people contact appropriate support, if needed.

A directory of the Safe Places in Redditch and across the county is available at <https://www.ourway.org.uk/our-way-projects/safe-place-scheme/> and there is also a free Safe Place Scheme app available for mobile phones. Downloads of "My Town Worcestershire" from the App Store, will show you your nearest "Safe Place" and can guide you to it via Google Maps.

Community Safety teams in Worcestershire work in partnership with West Mercia Police and Our Way Self Advocacy to support, develop and maintain the scheme across the county.

Hate Crime Awareness Week 2019

As part of national Hate Crime Awareness Week in October 2019, North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership delivered a social media focused campaign to help raise awareness of what hate crime is and how to report an incident.

The Social Media Campaign was successful in having **11.5 K Twitter impressions**. Individual partner agencies also ran their own media campaigns with their networks, members and residents which allowed more powerful and informative messages to be shared across the districts.

Also, during the national awareness week, Hate Crime awareness talks, assemblies and workshops were delivered in schools across North

Worcestershire and various printed materials given out to students to promote reporting and how to access support services.

White Ribbon Campaign

In in Nov/Dec 2019, as a part of the annual, international White Ribbon Campaign against Domestic Abuse and its '16 Days of Action', the Community Safety team worked in partnership with other agencies delivering another social media campaign. This ensured that key messages about Domestic Abuse and support services were shared widely across the three districts. The White Ribbon campaign had 6.3 K Twitter impressions during the promotion.

Future Projects Planned for September 2020

The Empowering Young People Programme – provides an 11 week programme of arts and crafts, issue-based activities and interactive workshops addressing issues such as life skills, confidence building and self-esteem work. The aim of the programme is to support at-risk young people in forming and developing unhealthy relationships and raising awareness of the risks associated with CSE and County Lines. This will be a new project to be launched in Redditch

Community Safety School Ambassadors – This is a new project funded by NWCSP, which will begin in September. The project will train and support a core group of young people across Redditch and Bromsgrove High Schools to undertake a range of community benefit initiatives both within and outside of school settings.

The Youth Outreach Project – provides a team of trained outreach/detached youth workers to identify, engage with and support young people involved in on-street ASB in local neighbourhoods and those socialising in public spaces across both districts. The team of outreach youth workers provide an agreed amount of patrol hours at key times and locations identified using community safety data and intelligence. This will be a new project to be launched in Redditch.

Virtual Decisions (Knife Crime Project) - is a unique and interactive virtual reality programme that delivers a real-life experience for young people through the use of VR and creative arts workshops. By wearing a VR headset, each participant is placed in a realistic scenario where they are faced with multiple dilemmas in which they must make a choice. Each choice results in various outcomes, showing that every action has a consequence. Following the immersive 8 minute VR film, is a drama workshop that explores in more depth the issues raised. Through discussions and drama exercises young people are able to reflect on their own personal journey within the VR and compare it to that of others, making this a user-led (and user shared) experience. A full day of Virtual Decisions workshops will be delivered in 10 schools across North Worcestershire and will run in collaboration with the existing youth programmes.

3.6 Community Engagement and Communications

Between Nov 2019 and Aug 2020, the Community Safety Team received multiple requests for service in Redditch and these were broken down as follows:-

Redditch

40 requests from Residents
 12 requests from Elected Members
 32 requests from Partner Agencies
 44 Requests from internal services
 1 Private Business

Subject

34 ASB related Information
 10 CPW/CPNs Advice
 12 Crime Prevention Advice
 7 Drugs Intelligence
 6 Domestic Abuse
 4 Community Events
 35 Home Security Assessments
 2 Hate Crime Concerns
 2 Homelessness/Begging
 9 MARAC
 6 Nominated Neighbour
 1 Respect Programme
 2 Road Safety
 1 Safeguarding
 4 Scams
 1 SOCJAG
 2 Staff Safety concern

The team support a number of partner agencies and community groups by attending various events to provide advice and guidance relating to crime and anti-social behaviour. The Community Safety Team has provided information at the following events in Redditch:- Arrow Valley Park, Morton Stanley, Christmas Events in Kingfisher Shopping Centre, Woodrow Centre, Ecumenical Centre, Matchborough Church, St David's House, Barclays Bank.

Social Media - Between Jan and July 2020, the Community Safety pages on the RBC websites were visited 851 times. The team also raises awareness of community safety issues and keeps residents informed of work delivered by Community Safety partners on social media via our @SaferRedditch twitter account and via the Councils' Facebook pages.

The Twitter account @SaferRedditch has 606 followers and Twitter impressions identify how many times a tweet shows up in another users timeline. The figures below show the number of impressions gained from our main community safety promotional campaigns in 2019/2020:-

Hate Crime Awareness Week – 11.5 K
White Ribbon Domestic Abuse Campaign – 6.3 K
Nov -Dec Christmas seasonal campaigns - 6.2 K
CSE Awareness Day - 1.2 K
Child Safety Week Campaign - 8.1 K

March to July 2020 (during Covid restrictions): - various community safety awareness messages, including COVID safety awareness - 11.4 K

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That the progress made by the North Worcestershire CSP be noted.

5. Appendices

Appendix One: NWCSP Structure

6. Background Papers

West Mercia PCC's Safer West Mercia Plan 2016/21

Officer Contact Details:

Name: Bev Houghton
Title: Community Safety Manager
Tel: 01527 534187
Email: bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Structure of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership



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Elected Member

BRIEFING

To: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel From: Bev Houghton
Service Area: Community Safety
Contact Info: 01527 534187

CC: Cllr Nyear Nazir – Portfolio Holder for Community Services & Regulatory Services
Sue Hanley – Deputy Chief Executive & Chair of NWCSP
Judith Willis – Head of Community & Housing Services

Anti-Social Behaviour – Update on the work of the Partnership

1. Summary

This report provides an update on activity to address Anti-Social Behaviour undertaken by North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership.

2. Background

Following the presentation of the Council's updated ASB Policy in June 2020, Elected Members requested that an update on activity to address ASB issues be presented at the annual Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel.

Working with our partner agencies, there are a number of tools and remedies available when dealing with cases of ASB. Support is provided throughout each process with referrals to other organisations made as and when it is appropriate.

3. Preventative/Early Intervention Tools

There are a number of early intervention methods that are used by partnership agencies to assist in preventing the escalation of problems; these include joint agency home visits such as Housing Officers, the Police or Children's Services, advisory letters and early words of advice.

Introductory Tenancies

Redditch Borough Council Locality teams and other Social Landlords make use of Introductory Tenancies/Starter Tenancies which allow Housing Managers to deal quickly with problems like ASB. At sign-up new tenants are advised of the terms of their agreement relating to ASB/causing nuisance and officers clarify the Landlord's expectations and any consequences, to ensure residents understand their responsibilities from the outset of their new tenancies.

Warnings and Agreements

The Police and Social Landlords issue verbal and written warnings to address unacceptable behaviour and reinforce that ASB will not be tolerated in our communities. The Police, Council services and Social Landlords will use warnings to remind residents of their obligations under their tenancy/lease or the rule of law and the warning sets out the specific clauses, conditions or legislation that has been breached. When issuing warnings, partners clarify the issue, advise the individual that their behaviour is being monitored and warn the individual or business that further enforcement action will be taken if their anti-social behaviour continues.

To date the following Community Protection Warnings have been issued by Council services

4 – Environmental Services – to address issues of fly tipping, accumulations of waste and abandoned vehicles.

13 – Housing Services – to address issues of neighbour nuisance, excessive noise, misuse of communal areas, unsightly gardens and the accumulation of household and animal waste.

9- Planning Services – to address issues of graffiti, accumulation of waste and building debris.

The Police have also issued a number of Community Protection Warnings to individuals for their anti-social behaviour in the community and in public spaces.

Mediation / Restorative Justice

Landlords are able to offer the use of external mediation organisations to help resolve disputes. The types of situation they can assist with include, but are not limited to, noise, youth nuisance, pets, shared spaces and lifestyle differences. This is an option being investigated by Redditch Borough Council as part of its review of Housing Services.

Diversions Activities for Young People

Young people are often profiled as causing ASB, sometimes, mistakenly or unintentionally, i.e. not understanding that loitering can be perceived as intimidating to others. The partnership is committed to providing opportunities for young people, to help challenge some of these beliefs and behaviours and provide a platform for young people to engage and find new interests. This year NWCSF has allocated over £27,000 of grant funding to youth work projects in Redditch.

Designing out ASB – Environmental Visual Audits

Where there are instances of ASB activity in an area or estate, Community Safety Partners carry out joint visits with residents and other relevant partners to identify improvements, repairs and additional security that may benefit the area or estate. The aim is to identify physical and environmental

improvements to areas and neighbourhoods to help reduce ASB and tackle location specific issues.

Community Trigger/ASB Case Review

The Community Trigger/ASB Case Review is a process that was introduced as part of the ASB Crime and Policing Act and provides a facility for victims of ASB to request a review of their reported case, if they feel that no action has been taken. Relevant agencies have to come together to review their responses to the reported problem and identify if there is any further action that can be taken.

The process is owned by the Community Safety Partnership and is administered by the Council's Community Safety Team. This year, the team has received 2 Community Trigger applications for issues relating to disruptive neighbour nuisance.

The Community Trigger/ASB Case review process as laid out in the act has a number of timescales that need to be met to ensure that applicants receive timely responses to their concerns and, as such, the Community Safety Partnership will be undertaking a review of the process to ensure that all of the requirements of the act are being implemented and the scheme is fit for purpose.

4. Legal Remedies

The Community Safety Partnership encourages agencies to use the legal remedies at their disposal when non-legal action is not appropriate, proportionate or fails to resolve the ASB. The various legal options that partners can implement include:-

Possession (Eviction) Proceedings

The Council and other Landlords will consider applying to the Court to seek possession of a property where early intervention has been unsuccessful in resolving ASB and/or alternative remedies are not suitable.

Mandatory Grounds for Possession

The ASB Crime & Policing Act introduced an absolute ground for possession for secure/fixed term secure tenancies, where ASB or criminality has been proven by a conviction in another court. The purpose of this power is to speed up the possession process in cases where there has already been a criminal or ASB conviction. Landlords no longer have to prove that it is reasonable to grant possession but, instead courts must grant possession if the correct procedure has been followed and at least one of the specified conditions has been met.

Civil Injunction

Injunctions can be used to stop/prevent individuals engaging in ASB, aiming to tackle problems before they escalate. Councils, Social Landlords and Police can all apply for an Injunction, which can be used when an individual's behaviour is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress or is capable of

causing nuisance or annoyance. It is issued by the County Court or to under 18s, in the Youth Court. An injunction sets out a clear standard of behaviour and will include prohibitions but can also include positive requirements (e.g. to attend substance misuse meetings) to get the perpetrator to address the underlying causes of their ASB.

Breach of an injunction is not a criminal offence but is dealt with by civil contempt of court, which is punishable by up to two years in prison and/or an unlimited fine. For those aged under 18, breach proceedings are dealt with in youth court and could result in a supervision order, curfew or an activity requirement.

Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO)

A CBO can be given to an individual on their conviction for any criminal offence in any criminal court. The order is aimed at tackling the most serious and persistent offenders where their behaviour has brought them before a criminal court (i.e. an anti-social individual commits a criminal offence and is prosecuted). The CBO must clearly define what the offender is not allowed to do as well as what they must do (prohibitions and requirements) and it must also be determined what is required within the CBO to tackle the underlying cause of the behaviour. The penalty for a breach, upon summary conviction, could result in a sentence up to a maximum of 6 months in prison, or up to 5 years on indictment. Under 18s would be called in front of a youth court, which could result in a 2 year detention and training order. West Mercia Police colleagues have applied for a number of CBOs to tackle the behaviour of some of the most persistent offenders in Redditch

Community Protection Notice (CPN)

A CPN is intended to deal with on-going problems or nuisances caused by a person aged 16 or over or a business/organisation which negatively affects the community's quality of life. A CPN can be issued, following a formal warning, if there are reasonable grounds that conduct is having a negative effect on the quality of life of those in a locality, is persistent and unreasonable. Council Officers, Police Officers and Social Landlords with delegated authority from the Council can issue a CPN, which is written notice to the individual demanding they stop the behaviour that is detailed and a requirement to take reasonable steps to stop further incidents in the future.

The CPN can be used against a wide range of perpetrators and can be used to deal with a number of different issues such as noise nuisance, abusive language and behaviour and litter on private land. A breach is a criminal offence which could be prosecuted and a person found guilty of failing to comply with a CPN without reasonable excuse is liable to a fine of up to £2,500, with unlimited fines for a business or organisation.

Premises Closure Power

The Closure Powers allow the police or council to quickly close premises which are being used, or likely to be used, to commit nuisance or disorder. A Closure Notice can be applied for if there is a nuisance to the public and the disorder is related to the premises in question. A Closure Notice is issued out

of court and allows closure for up to 48 hours but cannot stop those who live there from accessing premises. A Closure Order can last for up to 6 months and restricts all access to the premises. This can be sought through the Courts once the Closure Notice has been issued.

A Closure Order can be applied for if there is disorderly, offensive or criminal behaviour taking place near the premises which is a serious nuisance to the public. Breach of either is a criminal offence with penalties including:

Notice - Up to 3 months in prison

Order -Up to 6 months in prison; and

Both - An unlimited fine

Public Space Protection Order

The purpose of a PSPO is to stop individuals or groups committing ASB in a public space. The behaviour in question has to be having, or be likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. It will also be of a persistent nature and be unreasonable.

The restrictions and requirements in the order are set by the Council after consultation with the Police, PCC and other relevant bodies. A PSPO may include preventing certain behaviours or restricting access to certain areas of a public area. A breach is a criminal offence and is enforced by a fixed penalty notice of up to £100 or a further fine upon prosecution. More than one restriction can be added to the same PSPO, meaning that a single order can deal with a wide range of behaviours that prevent people enjoying the use of a public space. Redditch Borough Council is currently reviewing its current PSPOs in line with Home Office statutory guidance.

4. Recommendation

That the activity undertaken by the North Worcestershire CSP be noted.

5. Appendices

None

6. Background Papers

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 – Updated Statutory Guidance from the Home Office (Dec 2017)

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