

# BRIEFING NOTE

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To: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel  
From: Bev Houghton  
Service: Community Safety  
Contact No: 01527 534187

CC: Sue Hanley – Chair of NWCSP & Deputy Chief Executive  
Cllr Rebecca Blake – Portfolio Holder for Community Safety  
Judith Willis – (Acting) Head of Community Services

<b>SUBJECT</b>	North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership
<b>DATE</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2012
<b>PURPOSE</b>	To provide an update on the progress of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership.
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	
<p>In November 2011 following a full options appraisal and formal agreement by the relevant Responsible Authorities, the three district CSPs in Redditch, Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest agreed to merge to create a single North Worcestershire CSP. Following development of Terms of Reference for the new CSP and preparation of a formal application to merge, the North Worcestershire CSP operated in shadow form whilst awaiting formal Home Office approval of the new structure.</p> <p>Following the elections of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) in November 2012, statutory responsibility for overseeing the merger of the CSP's fell to the Office of the West Mercia PCC. On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013, the North Worcestershire CSP Combination Agreement which formally endorsed the North Worcestershire merger was signed by all Community Safety Responsible Authorities and Bill Longmore, the West Mercia PCC. It is believed to be the first Combination Agreement in the country to be agreed and endorsed by a PCC.</p>	
<b>CURRENT POSITION</b>	
<p>Initially in shadow arrangements, North Worcestershire CSP has been operation since July 2012. New Terms of Reference were adopted in September 2012 outlining Membership and operating procedures. (Appendix 1)</p> <p>Since September 2012, a number of changes identified in the Term of Reference have now taken place.</p> <p>As of the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012 and following the election of the West Mercia PCC, the former Responsible Authority member, West Mercia Police Authority ceased to exist. The PCC is not a statutory Responsible Authority in CSPs but the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 does placed a duty on CSPs and the PCC to work together to develop local Crime and Disorder Strategies.</p> <p>As of the 31<sup>st</sup> March, Primary Care Trusts (PCT) also ceased to exist. Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Wyre Forest CCG replaced Worcestershire PCT as a Responsible Authority member of the CSP.</p>	

District Operational Groups are now identified as Safer District Groups and are identified as Safer Bromsgrove Group, Safer Redditch Group and Safer Wyre Forest Group. North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership and the Redditch & Bromsgrove Safeguarding Adults Group continue to operate as sub-groups of the CSP and Wyre Forest has now established a district Safeguarding Adults Group based on the Redditch & Bromsgrove model.

## **NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE CSP PLAN**

The CSP still has a requirement to produce a three year rolling plan outlining how the Partnership is going to address key crime and community safety priorities, as identified in its annual Strategic Assessment. North Worcestershire CSP released its Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2013-16 in August of this year (Appendix 2). This was following discussions with the Office of the PCC and the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board to ensure strategic links with the West Mercia Police and Crime Plan (2013-17) and the Worcestershire Community Safety Agreement (2013-14).

The North Worcestershire CSP priorities are:

- To maintain low crime levels and improve public confidence
- Reducing the impact of alcohol and drugs misuse on communities
- Reducing Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Reducing re-offending
- Reducing Anti Social Behaviour

Within the Partnership Plan there is an outline of key objectives, actions and measures for each priority and these will form the basis of the performance management of the CSP over the lifetime of the plan.

## **CSP FUNDING 2013/14**

Prior to the merger, each district CSP delegated responsibility for its existing budgets to its respective district operational group. This ensured that any funding allocated to individual districts remained solely for the benefit of the local area it had been allocated to.

Following the November 2012 elections, all Community Safety funding streams previously distributed by a district or county basis became the responsibility of the PCC to allocate.

After taking up office, the West Mercia PCC released his first round of Community Safety Funding in January 2013 and North Worcestershire CSPs applications for funding were agreed at the same amounts as previous year's funding as follows:-

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Amount</b>
North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership	£3,000
Community Engagement, Consultation and Communications	£5,000
North Worcestershire Home Security Projects	£6,000
North Worcestershire CSP Analyst	£30,000
Safer Bromsgrove Group*	£25,994
Safer Redditch Group*	£39,810
Safer Wyre Forest Group*	£40,653
<b>Total</b>	<b>£150,457</b>

\*District specific funding amounts allocated using the same needs-based formula employed in previous years.

In September 2013, the PCC opened his second year of Community Safety Funding for 2014/15 to allow for early applications. North Worcestershire CSP are currently drafting funding bids up to same amounts as last year to support both North Worcestershire wide and district specific projects and initiatives.

### **LOCAL DELIVERY – SAFER REDDITCH GROUP**

Local delivery of Community Safety projects and initiatives falls under the remit of the Community Safety Operational groups. In Redditch, the Safer Redditch Group meets on a 6 weekly basis to monitor district performance and review local operational delivery against the actions outlined in the Community Safety Partnership Plan. This group is the first point of contact for any local crime and community safety issues or concerns that may require a multi-agency response.

Current Safer Redditch projects and initiatives include:-

The Home Security Project	Provides security advice and improvement to victims of burglary and those fearful of being burgled
The Sanctuary Scheme	Provides security improvements to survivors of Domestic Abuse to assist them to remain and feel safe in their own homes
Forensic Property Marking (SmartWater) Scheme	Distribution of reduced cost SmartWater kits to members of the public, residents associations and community groups. All victims of burglary receive a free Kit.
Metal Theft Project	Project to deter theft of lead flashings from domestic and public buildings using forensic property marking.
Redditch Roadway Arts Project	High profile project to display local artwork on bus shelters, underpasses and shop shutters to reduce graffiti, ASB and fear of crime
Planning Consultation	Officers trained to national policing standards provide crime prevention/community safety feedback on planning applications
National Campaigns and Awareness raising	Provide local campaigns and seasonal initiatives supporting national campaigns such as White Ribbon Campaign, Teenage Domestic Abuse and National Responsible Drinking Christmas Campaigns

Local projects delivered by the NW Hate Incident Partnership include:-

Schools 'Respect' Programme	Delivers community safety workshops and education sessions on Hate Crime and a variety of other community safety subjects in local Middle and High Schools
Hate Incident Reporting Scheme	Provides opportunities for victims, witnesses and third parties to report hate incidents on-line, by telephone or at a number of community reporting centres across the district.
Hate Crime Awareness film and training package	The Hate Incident Partnership has produced a training film and are developing an accompanying manual to increase awareness of hate crime and its effects on individuals and communities.

### **COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION AND SCRUTINY**

Local representation on the North Worcestershire CSP is fulfilled through three positions. Redditch Borough Council's Elected Member representative is the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Cllr Rebecca Blake. The Council's Responsible Authority representative and also Chair of the CSP is Sue Hanley, Deputy Chief Executive and the Safer Redditch Group is represented by its Chair, Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager. Parish Councils are also represented on the CSP by the County Association of Local Councils (CALC).

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. This remit is fulfilled by the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel and its reports to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Alongside the relationship the Council has with CSP, there is also a direct role in holding the Police and Crime Commissioner to account through the established West Mercia Police and Crime Panel. Redditch Borough Council's representative on the panel is Community Safety Portfolio Holder, Cllr Rebecca Blake and information about the work of the group can be found at <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/democratic-services/committees-and-panels/holder/police-and-crime-panel.aspx>

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information on the North Worcestershire CSP, the Safer Redditch Group or any associated projects or initiatives please contact:-

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