

Elected Member BRIEFING NOTE

To: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel
From: Bev Houghton
Dept: Community Safety
Contact Info: Ext No: 3194

CC: Cllr Yvonne Smith – Portfolio Holder for Community Services
Sue Hanley – Deputy Chief Executive
Judith Willis – Head of Community Services

SUBJECT	North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership
DATE	16 th September 2015
PURPOSE	To provide an update on the work of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership
BACKGROUND	
<p>In May 2013, the three district CSPs in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest officially merged to create a single North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP).</p> <p>Local representation on NWCSP is fulfilled through a number of positions. Redditch Borough Council's Elected Member representative is Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Councillor Yvonne Smith. The Council's Responsible Authority representative is Deputy Chief Executive, Sue Hanley, who is also the Chair of the CSP and the Council's Community Safety Manager; Bev Houghton supports the CSP and is also the Chair of the Safer Redditch Operational Group.</p> <p>The Council's Community Safety Team operates as a shared service in Redditch and Bromsgrove hosted by Redditch Borough Council with Wyre Forest District Council maintaining its own local authority team.</p> <p>Scrutiny arrangements for NWCSP remain unchanged with local authorities continuing to have a statutory duty to scrutinise the work of its local CSP under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.</p> <p>Alongside the relationship the Council has with NWCSP, there is also a direct role in holding the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to account through the established West Mercia Police and Crime Panel. Redditch Borough Council's representative on the panel is Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Councillor Yvonne Smith.</p>	
CURRENT POSITION	
<p>NWCSP's local operational partnerships are identified as Safer District Groups and are known as Safer Redditch, Safer Bromsgrove and Safer Wyre Forest.</p> <p>The North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership, the Redditch & Bromsgrove Safeguarding Adults Group and the Wyre Forest Vulnerable Adults Group are also sub-</p>	

groups of NWCSP.

The NWCSP structure is shown at **Appendix 1**.

A review of CSP arrangements in Worcestershire will begin in September 2015 led by the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board.

The aim of the review is to assess the current partnership and governance arrangements for CSPs and any county level strategic partnerships on behalf of the statutory responsible authorities and key stakeholders.

The review will seek to ensure that the partnerships operate and function, efficiently and effectively in a rapidly changing environment and will seek to meet the following objectives:-

- *Ensure that current governance and working arrangements are logical, clear and joined up in order to meet the necessary duties; avoiding duplication of effort, ensuring that lines of accountability are clear and considering new ways of working, where appropriate.*
- *Consider the effectiveness of governance and relationships with key statutory bodies such as the Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards and the Health and Wellbeing Board, also taking full account of the PCC's role and requirements across Worcestershire and West Mercia.*
- *Consult with Responsible Authorities (and partners) to ensure that they have the capacity to support partnership arrangements in their current form and are able to effectively fulfil their duties in relation to community safety; assessing if the current partnership arrangements can be serviced and are sustainable.*
- *Ensure that key strategic plans are aligned and effectively supported and delivered across the partnership.*
- *Establish a clear understanding of commissioning and funding arrangements that affect Community Safety work.*
- *Scope and make recommendations, where necessary; to consolidate strategic assessments, including provision of Criminal Justice and related data and information and monitoring & analysis at Worcestershire and West Mercia levels.*

The review process is being facilitated by the West Midlands Peer Support Programme (PSP) and will begin on 9th September with a half-day workshop for key stakeholders. This will be followed by one-to-one interviews taking place week commencing 14th September, with initial findings being presented to Worcestershire Safer Communities Board by PSP on Monday 12th October.

NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE CSP PLAN

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 by its annual Strategic Assessment report.

The Strategic Assessment gathers research, evidence and intelligence from national and regional sources, as well as drawing on the 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 NWCSP Plan has been refreshed for 2015-16 and the current CSP priorities are:

- **Anti-Social Behaviour:** Work to reduce the number of anti-social behaviour incidents and bring perceptions in line with the downward trend in reported incidents
- **Burglary and Home Security:** Work to promote home security to reduce incidences of dwelling and non-dwelling burglary and improve residents' feelings of safety in their homes
- **Business and Rural Crime:** To support local delivery of the West Mercia PCC's Business and Rural Crime Strategies
- **Reducing Re-offending:** Work to increase our understanding of the reasons for re-offending in North Worcestershire and reduce the offending behaviour of targeted individuals through continued support of the Integrated Offender Management approach
- **Violence and Abuse:** Working to ensure residents are safe in their local neighbourhoods and at home without having to suffer violence, domestic abuse or hate crime

CSP FUNDING 2014/15 AND BEYOND

In 2014/15 North Worcestershire CSP had to apply to the PCC for grant funding. The amount of funding available was based on previous year's allocations received from Central Government (£150, 430)

During the course of 2014/15, the PCC also invited CSPs in West Mercia to apply for additional funding towards CCTV (NWCSP amount - £40,810) and to support the delivery of the West Mercia Police Business and Rural Crime strategies (NWCSP amount - £79,500).

In January 2015, the Office of the PCC (OPCC) began discussions with CSPs concerning community safety funding for 2015/16 and beyond. NWCSP has been guaranteed, as a minimum, the previous level of Community Safety Grant for the financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17. Opportunity to bid for additional countywide funding is available and the CCTV grant amount of £40k has also been replicated for financial year 2015/16 only. Applications for resources to support Business and Rural Crime initiatives are now being routed through a separate PCC funding stream.

Therefore, Community Safety grant funding for 2015/16 is as follows:-

CSP Priority	Project / Initiative	Amount
All	NW Analytical and Research Support	£35,000
All	District Tasking and Consultation Projects - Safer Redditch - Safer Bromsgrove - Safer Wyre Forest	£38,406 £24,595 £39,249
Violence & Abuse	Black & Minority Ethnic Domestic Abuse Project (Redditch & Bromsgrove)	£10,000
Violence & Abuse	NW Hate Incident Partnership & countywide Hate Crime Awareness Week Activities	£13,000

Multiple	Safer Wyre Forest Community Ambassadors	£5,000
Reducing Re-offending	NW Reducing Re-offending Activities	£5,000
Reducing Re-offending	Countywide IOM Strategy Group	£40,700
Multiple	NW CCTV Scheme	£40,810
	Total	£251,760

During this guaranteed funding period CSPs have been asked to work with the OPCC to help develop a new commissioning framework which will govern future funding allocations across West Mercia. Currently, details are only just emerging around how the commissioning process might work, however the PCC has expressed his support for the work of CSPs and has tasked his office with implementing closer working relationships and less bureaucratic funding arrangements for partnerships in the future. This is in recognition of the CSPs statutory status and prior experience and expertise in performance monitoring and management of community safety projects.

Any new commissioning arrangements will be developed on the basis of community safety and criminal justice agencies working more closely together on the following objectives contained in the West Mercia Police and Crime Plan 2015-17:

- Objective 2: To reduce the volume of violent crime with an emphasis on addressing the harm caused by alcohol through partnership working
- Objective 3: To reduce the harm caused by drugs, with a focus on treatment, and targeting those that cause most harm
- Objective 4: To reduce the volume of anti-social behaviour incidents
- Objective 5: To reduce reoffending and bring offenders to account
- Objective 6: To develop and implement a business crime strategy
- Objective 7: To work in partnership to support the most vulnerable people in our society
- Objective 8: To deliver a supportive and effective response to victims and witnesses

LOCAL DELIVERY - SAFER REDDITCH GROUP

Local delivery of community safety projects and initiatives falls under the remit of the NWCSP operational groups.

In Redditch, the Safer Redditch Group meets on a 6-weekly basis to monitor district performance and review local operational delivery. The group is the first point of contact for local crime and community safety issues or concerns that may require a multi-agency response.

Safer Redditch Projects and Initiatives for 15-16 include:-

Forensic Property Marking Distribution – SmartWater domestic property marking kits continue to be available to residents of Redditch at the cost price £15. Free kits are distributed to domestic burglary victims via West Mercia Police.

Home Security Project - The project provides home security advice and where appropriate, security works and improvements to residents affected by or fearful of burglary. Security works are carried out on a case by case basis using an assessment process, following referral from partner officers.

Seasonal Community Safety/Secure Homes Promotions - The Community Safety Team take promotional information and home security tools and products to different parts of Redditch Borough, providing crime prevention and community safety information at established community events or hosting promotional stalls on targeted dates at high foot fall venues such as supermarkets in order to deliver key community safety and home security messages.

Sanctuary Scheme - Victims of domestic abuse are referred to the team for home security advice and, in some cases, security works on the property. The project aims to reduce the risk of re-victimisation and reduce the homelessness of Domestic Abuse survivors by supporting them to remain safely in their own homes.

Multi-occupied Block Security Schemes – Various schemes have been undertaken to enhance security at locations where multi-occupied blocks of properties experienced increased ASB or nuisance. The schemes provided enhanced security measures at these locations to restrict unauthorised access, improving resident safety and reducing damage and recurring maintenance costs.

Unicorn Hill Alley-Gates – Following concerns raised by the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Cleansing Operatives, gates were installed in an alley on Unicorn Hill to prevent street drinking and antisocial behaviour.

Support for PubWatch and BARC - Safer Redditch partners attend the regular PubWatch meetings held by local licensees and work closely with local retail businesses and Kingfisher Centre to support the Business against Retail Crime (BARC) group who share information and work with community safety partners to identify and deter prolific offenders.

Promotion of Secured by Design standards & accreditation – College of Policing trained community safety officers provide crime prevention design advice on a number of planning applications for residential and non-residential developments. At 2014/15 year end, 18 applications had received CPD advice (584 dwellings plus 4 non-residential applications including the new ASDA store and proposed Town Centre play area). Impacts of this advice included a £25,000 s106 contribution for underpass CCTV plus agreed improvements to physical security, design and layout at 2 major developments. In addition, two SBD award applications were made.

Improvement of Derelict Buildings – Community Safety Officers have worked with Planning Services to bring about security improvements and safety measures at the derelict St Gregory's Church in Matchborough and have also worked with the tenants of Church Hill Medical centre to ensure that action was taken to secure the site to deter crime and ASB

Redditch RoadWay Arts Project - This project displays local artwork on bus shelters, underpasses and shop shutters to reduce graffiti, ASB and fear of crime. Design development workshops were held with local schools and youth clubs to produce the artwork themes and the project has engaged with over 400 people. Details of all of the installations can be found on the RBC website:

<http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/my-place/environment/roadway-arts/roadway-arts-murals.aspx>

Community Safety - Schools Respect Programme - This School Support programme provides a variety of classroom workshops & activities, small group work and one-to-one mentoring at a number of local schools. Workshop subjects include recognising and reporting hate crime, understanding healthy relationships and domestic abuse, substance misuse and respect and responsibility. Schools that have taken part in the various programmes are:-

Arrow Vale RSA Academy
Tudor Grange Academy
Birchensale Middle School
Woodfield Academy

Trinity High School
St Augustine's High School
St Bede's Middle School
Ipsley CE RSA Academy

North Worcestershire Business and Rural Crime Co-ordinator - The new PCC funded Business and Rural Crime Coordinator for North Worcestershire is now in post. David Rischmiller, a former West Midlands Police Inspector, is currently liaising with partners to develop a profile of business and rural crime in each district area. His role has also been publicised in the PCC's newsletter, local press and on Council websites.

Business and Rural Crime Initiatives: Rural Watch Branding, Website, Information and Engagement Portal – A Worcestershire website, modelled on the established and successful Warwickshire Rural Watch site, is to be developed in partnership with South Worcestershire CSP. With the agreement of Warwickshire Rural Watch the site format will be replicated and rebadged for Worcestershire with a localised element for North and South Worcestershire CSPs to deal with district specific issues. RBC Communications Team has been consulted and will support development and maintenance of the portal delivering cost savings. A key element of the development will be a Facebook page for direct communication and engagement with rural communities. The Co-ordinator is also in the process of visiting Parish Councils across North Worcestershire to promote the role and identify isolated residents and communities.

Business and Rural Crime Initiatives: Unauthorised Encampment Support and Advice - Advice to the public made available on the three NW Councils' websites has been refreshed and updated following a nationwide good practice review of other sites. The revised advice sheet is currently in draft and is being reviewed by Legal Services. Advice on the Protection of Private Land has also been produced for a link on the revised web page and the co-ordinator has attended a number of recent problematic encampments to provide advice and support to the landowners.

Business and Rural Crime Initiatives: Introduction to Crime Prevention Training – In December 2015 the College of Policing will deliver two one-day courses to approx. 24 officers and operatives from agencies across the partnership. The course has been provided to enable staff from a variety of services to recognise community safety problems whilst carrying out their normal duties and identify opportunities for basic crime prevention solutions.

North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership - is a sub group of NWCSPP and delivers a programme of activities and interventions aimed at reducing incidents of Hate Crime across the 3 districts. The partnership delivers a number activities including:-

- Workshops and street theatre productions as part of Hate Crime Awareness Week
- Training for Community Reporting Centres
- Hate Crime Awareness talks and workshops
- Case review and management on behalf of residents who require a multi-agency response to their concerns
- Promotional events and stalls

Disability Hate Crime Project – Travel Ambassadors

This pilot project will work with young people who have a disability and follow their experience of using public transport. Based on the findings of the project, transport providers will be given additional training. The project was funded by Choose How You Move.

Black and Minority Ethnic Women's Domestic Abuse Project: North Worcestershire - This initiative identifies BME women who may be at risk of/experiencing domestic abuse but feel unable to seek help through current support provision for cultural/ religious reasons. The project is funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner and delivered in partnership with Early Help.

Annual White Ribbon Campaign and 16 Days of Action: 25th Nov to 10th Dec – The Community Safety Team leads activities, school workshops and educational events raising awareness of the effects of domestic violence on individuals, families and society.

The 16 Days of Action are used to promote domestic abuse support services such as Women's Aid, Stonham, Victim Support and the Freedom Programme.

Community Safety/Personal Safety Awareness Workshops - Community Safety Project Officers attend various resident groups, forums and networks, promoting personal safety, community safety and home security to communities across Redditch.

Worcestershire Safe Places Scheme - The Safe Places Scheme has been set up by a consortium of community safety partners led by Our Way Advocacy, a support group for people with learning disabilities. Local businesses, shops and cafes across the county can sign up to be a 'Safe Place', where vulnerable or distressed members of the public can go to if they feel worried, threatened, confused or just need a short rest. The scheme was launched in Redditch in May 2015 and is being rolled out across the county on a district by district basis. The project is separately funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

APPENDICES

1. North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership Structure

AUTHOR	Bev Houghton Community Safety Manager
CONTACT	Tel: 01527 534187 or Ext 3194