

Elected Member **BRIEFING NOTE**

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

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

North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2016/17

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) during 2016/17.

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 have continued to remain with the respective local authorities.

2.2 Local representation on NWCSP is fulfilled through a number of positions. Redditch Borough Council's Elected Member representative is the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety & Regulatory Services, Councillor Yvonne Smith. Sue Hanley, Deputy Chief Executive is the Council's Responsible Authority representative and is also Chair of NWCSP. The Community Safety Manager provides support to NWCSP and is also Chair of the Safer Redditch Group.

2.3 Scrutiny arrangements for the CSP currently 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 Safety, Councillor Yvonne Smith.

3. Current Position

3.1 Partnership Structure

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 below.

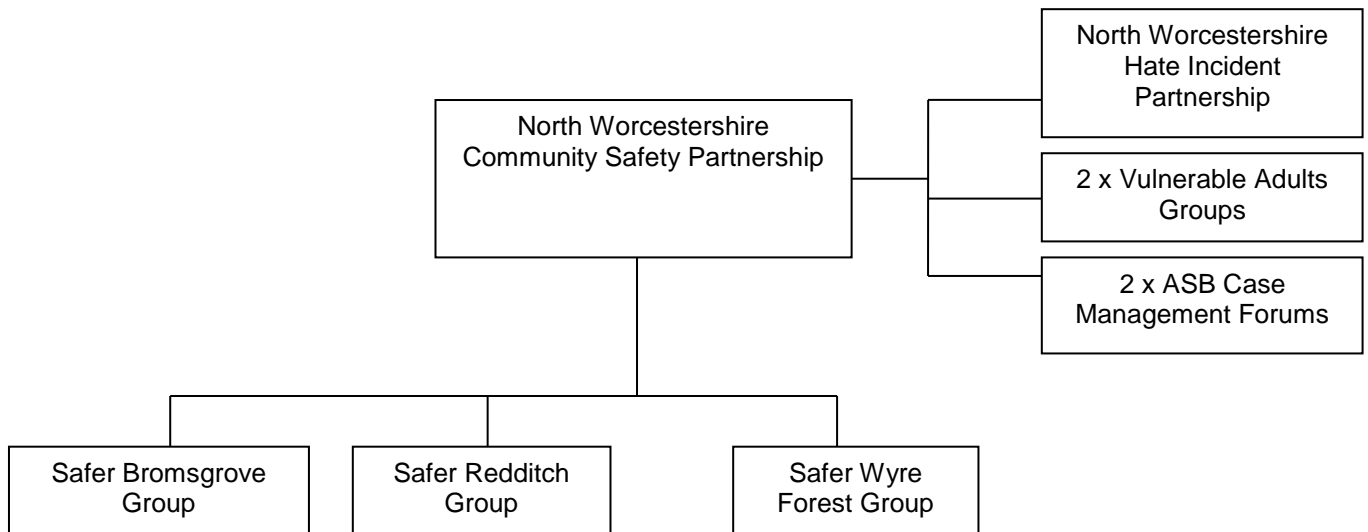


Diagram 1: Structure of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership

3.2 Strategic Assessment and Partnership 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 through its annual Strategic Assessment. A list of the statutory and invited partners is available at **Appendix One**.

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 currently being developed ahead of a refreshed Partnership Plan being produced for 2017-20. The draft Strategic Assessment has already identified priorities for the partnership to focus on and these were agreed in December 2016. They are:

- I. Reducing Violence and abuse: including sexual offending and domestic abuse (to include 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 harassment and threatening behaviour
- V. Reducing Offending and Drug and Alcohol Misuse are cross cutting themes which impact on all priorities

The Strategic Assessment will provide detailed analysis on each of these priorities, identifying locations, victims and offenders and the Partnership Plan will detail how the Community Safety Partnership will tackle its priorities. The Plan will include details on what outcomes the Partnership wishes to achieve, and the clear actions that will be undertaken in each district and across North Worcestershire, including how performance will be measured.

3.3 John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

John Campion was elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia on 5th May 2016. The PCC has a duty to co-operate with CSPs to reduce crime and disorder and there is a reciprocal duty on CSPs to collaborate with the PCC. The PCC and the CSP must have regard to each other's priorities within their respective plans. The PCC's Safer West Mercia Plan was published in October 2016 and his vision will be reflected in the NWCSP Partnership Plan, which the partnership will contribute to delivering at a local level. The PCC's vision is focused 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 was appointed as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner in July 2016. Her role is to represent the PCC in communities across West Mercia. Her portfolio includes cyber, rural and business crime, victims' services and commissioning. CSPs will be working closely with the Deputy PCC as the commissioning model is developed and put into operation. To assist with the development, CSPs have been advised that the Deputy PCC is undertaking a review of CSP funding with a focus on outcomes.

3.4 Grant Funding from the PCC 2017/18

CSPs in West Mercia have been advised of their respective funding allocations for 2017/18 but were still asked to apply to the PCC with details of how each CSP would like to use their allocation. On 7th February 2017, an extraordinary meeting of the NWCSP was held to agree which projects and areas of work partners would wish money to be allocated to. The funding available is based on previous year's allocations and the table attached at **Appendix Two** shows projects that NWCSP has agreed to deliver using their funding allocation. It should be noted that this funding is only for financial year 2017/18 and NWCSP will be advised in March if its applications have been agreed.

On behalf of the three Local Authorities, the NWCSP is also making an application to the PCC for funding towards CCTV. This is for a capital contribution to modernise the CCTV infrastructure to Internet Protocol Recording alongside the cameras. This is separate to NWCSP's funding allocation.

3.5 Future funding from the PCC

As stated at 3.3, the Deputy PCC will be conducting a review of CSP funding ahead of a new outcomes-based commissioning framework that will be implemented in April 2018. The CSP is awaiting detailed information regarding the framework but it is understood that it will help CSPs and the PCC to further its understanding of local need, crime patterns and trends. It will enable the PCC to commission projects and services alongside the CSPs delivery; that focuses on need, address gaps in provision and meet outcomes.

3.6 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 meets on a 6 weekly basis to monitor district performance and review local operational delivery. 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.

Progress of grant funded projects is reported to the PCC and at the end of the financial year there is a requirement to provide a comprehensive report to the PCC reviewing all projects funded in 2016/17. This will include a breakdown of expenditure and demonstrate the difference the projects have made. This report can be shared with Members once it has been endorsed by NWCSP. This report will now provide an update on some of the key funded projects.

Emerging Local Issues

Most recently, Safer Redditch has received a request for support in tackling increasing ASB by youths congregating in Matchborough Centre. Ward Member, Cllr Juliet Brunner, had already established a local working group of residents and businesses who had been affected by this issue. Safer Redditch was asked to discuss this problem at the group and this led to an ASB data and analysis profile being presented at the Jan 2017 meeting. As a result of the subsequent discussion, the group agreed to allocate £10,000 to targeted youth diversionary interventions and projects, specifically aimed at reducing the levels of Youth ASB in the area. Local Positive Activities Youth work providers will be commissioned to design and implement appropriate projects to seek to divert and prevent further disorder in the area.

Redditch & Bromsgrove Schools Respect Programme

The Respect programme continues to be successful providing whole day awareness sessions as part of school drop down days, it also provides bespoke classroom sessions on a number of subjects such as recognising and reporting hate crime, understanding healthy relationships and domestic abuse, the dangers of substance misuse and promoting respect and community responsibility. The project also provides one to one mentoring sessions to individual students who are felt to be at risk of becoming involved in crime and ASB or are at risk of becoming victims of crime.

Last school year (Sept 15 to July 16) the project saw 1445 students receive community safety information during PHSE lessons and drop down days across Redditch and Bromsgrove. 104 students were referred for 1 to 1 support through therapeutic mentoring sessions and 78 students received information via targeted small group workshops. 29 students took part in the nationally recognised CRUSH Programme, a young people's Domestic Abuse awareness course created and accredited by Women's Aid.

Redditch Travel Ambassadors Project

The project is working with 15 HOW College students from Redditch, who have a disability and travel independently on public transport. Their experiences of using public transport are being recorded and evaluated over a 12 month period. Their recommendations will then be used to work with travel companies to develop a better experience for disabled people using public transport. The project delivers a monthly group community safety awareness session alongside a one to one weekly mentoring session with each of the participants where their thoughts and experiences of public transport are recorded. This information will then be used to write training materials for bus companies and to help influence permanent service changes by public transport providers. The Travel Ambassadors will then be supported to take this educational work into the community working with different groups.

Safe Place Scheme

The Safe Place Scheme is a CSP funded scheme which was set up by Our Way Self Advocacy in Wyre Forest in 2014 and has now been rolled out across Worcestershire. It offers vulnerable people a safe place to go if they have a problem or concern when out and about in the town centres. All Safe Places are identified by a Safe Place sticker and staff 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 www.ourway.org.uk/safe-place-scheme/ and there is now 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 through Google Maps.

Community Safety teams in Worcestershire are working in partnership with West Mercia Police and Our Way Self Advocacy to support, develop and maintain the scheme across the county. A Redditch Community Safety Project Officer was instrumental in supporting the roll out of the scheme across the county and led on the development of the Mobile Phone App.

Hate Crime Awareness Week 2016

As part of the national Hate Crime Awareness Week in October and using funding provided by the PCC, North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership organised a number of community engagement events across the districts. In Redditch, an awareness stand was held in the Kingfisher Town Centre and a Street Theatre Company was commissioned to engage with residents through a number of thought provoking performances. Over 250 information bags were handed out. Residents felt comfortable approaching the stand and engaging with performers and staff to find out more about hate crime and, in some instances, people also offered their own personal experiences of how

they had been a victimised and how services could be improved. Information was displayed in public areas across town Hall Reception and press releases were sent to the local papers. The events were also promoted via relevant Twitter and Facebook pages.

Home Security Project and Sanctuary Scheme

Community Safety Project Officers have helped to support residents affected by domestic burglary and survivors of domestic abuse by providing home security information, security tools and where necessary capital works to increase the security of their properties. These actions helped burglary victims and domestic abuse survivors to stay in their own homes, providing valuable reassurance and increased feelings of safety and security for vulnerable residents at a traumatic time in their lives. 415 people received home security guidance and information and 17 people received target hardening works to their properties between April 2016 and Dec 2016.

Community Engagement

Over the year, Safer Redditch Project Officers have attended a number of events in order to speak to local residents, provide crime prevention advice and raise awareness of campaigns. Project Officers estimated that they had spoken to over 740 people at various events, for example talking to students at HOW College, attending Older People's forums, Neighbourhood Watch events, White Ribbon campaign stands and Christmas crime prevention events. Purse bells, chains and cables; personal attack alarms and shed alarms remain popular items and are useful as methods of engagement to encourage residents to discuss personal and home security.

ASB Case Management Group

The Redditch and Bromsgrove ASB Case Management Group was established in July 2016. The Group assesses repeat victims of ASB, considers persistent offenders and locations of concern, putting appropriate actions into place. The Group is chaired by West Mercia Police's North Worcestershire Harm Hub Sergeant and has multi-agency membership including RBC Housing Services and five local housing associations alongside Drug and Alcohol Service providers and Family Support. High risk victims of ASB have their risk management plans discussed at the Group and partners offer additional support, where appropriate.

3.7 Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Data

In the new Partnership Plan, NWCSP will be assessed on its performance by how it achieves its desired outcomes. CSPs are moving away from the traditional method of considering police recorded crime and ASB data as performance indicators and are moving more toward focusing on delivering agreed partnership outcomes and improving mainstream provision. This is partly being driven by the PCC and his outcomes-based commissioning framework that is currently in development. This is a different way of assessing the work of CSPs and the Research and Information Officer will be instrumental in assisting partners to ensure performance measurement and evaluation are carried out in the best way to evidence that partnership activities are making a difference.

Currently levels of crime and disorder across North Worcestershire are presented using a limited range of data sources (police recorded crime, anti-social behaviour incidents, deliberate fire data) and this information is used at a range of groups at varying geographical and decision-making levels.

Appendix Three shows year to date figures for total recorded crime, key crime types and anti-social behaviour. Year to date data for all recorded crime in Redditch currently illustrates a 13% increase or 570 more offences, compared to the same period last year. This percentage increase in total recorded crime is at similar levels as North Worcestershire as a whole. Bromsgrove has seen an 8% increase and in Wyre Forest it is an 11% increase in total recorded crime. The North Worcestershire CSP met on 8th March and these figures were discussed in further detail.

4. Recommendation

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

5. Appendices

Appendix One: NWCSP Membership List

Appendix Two: Table of Funding Requests made by NWCSP to the PCC 2017/18

Appendix Three: North Worcestershire Crime and ASB Data (Apr16 - Jan17)

6. Background Papers

North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013/16 (refreshed 2015/16)

West Mercia PCC's Safer West Mercia Plan 2017/21

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