

Elected Member

BRIEFING NOTE

To: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel
From: Bev Houghton
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CC: Cllr Gareth Prosser – Portfolio Holder for Community Safety
Sue Hanley – Deputy Chief Executive
Judith Willis – Head of Community Services

North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2017/18

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) during 2017/18 and 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 representation on NWCSP is fulfilled through a number of positions. Redditch Borough Council's Elected Member representative is the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Councillor Gareth Prosser. 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 and is also Chair of the Safer Redditch Operational 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). Bromsgrove District Council's representative on the PCP is the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Councillor Gareth Prosser.

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 in Appendix 1

3.2 The Partnership Plan 2017-20

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. The partnership agreed its priorities for 2017-20 in Dec 2016 and they are:-

- 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 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 priorities are reflected in the NWCSP Action Plans, 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 PCCs commissioning model is developed and put into operation. The first commissioning areas to be considered by the Deputy PCC were CCTV and CSP funding for Analysis support. Both reviews are underway, with a number of changes proposed to the way these areas have previously been funded.

3.4 Grant Funding from the PCC 2018/19

In December 2017, CSPs in West Mercia were advised of their respective funding allocations for 2018/19 and were asked to apply to the PCC with details of how the funding would be used. On 17th January 2018, an extraordinary meeting of the NWCSPP was held to agree which projects and areas of work partners wished to deliver. The funding available was based on previous year's allocations and the table below shows the projects agreed by NWCSPP.

Project	Funding request
Research & Information Officer (ring-fenced)	£35,000
Bromsgrove & Redditch Community Guardians Project	£54,125
Wyre Forest Keeping Safe Project	£48,125
NW Street Pastors	£1,000
NW Young Citizens Challenge	£1,000
Total Amount	£139,250

The PCC has also agreed to consider funding applications for a two-year period up to the end of the PCCs current term in March 2020.

The Bromsgrove & Redditch Community Guardian project proposes to create a team of officers who will patrol areas identified as ASB locations of concern. The patrol teams will engage with groups of young people and adults who are gathering in local neighbourhoods and the project will support the work of SNT officers and the Street Pastors to provide another resource to address issues of on-street ASB and nuisance. The CSP is currently in discussions with the H&W Fire and Rescue service to identify officers who may be interested in delivering this project, which will also complement their ongoing community role modelling project PRIME.

NWCSPP has also been allocated funding of £200,000 over a 3 year period for improvements to the area's CCTV scheme. On behalf of the three Local

Authorities, the CSP is investigating options to use this capital contribution to modernise the CCTV infrastructure. This could potentially see an upgrade of the current scheme to support to Internet Protocol Recording. Therefore improving the technological capabilities of the scheme and allowing for increased digital capability and more capacity to expand and/or link to other digital systems across the region. This CCTV grant is separate to NWCSP's core funding allocation.

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 meets on an 8 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 was reported to the PCC and at the end of the financial year there was a requirement to provide a comprehensive evaluation of all projects funded in 2017/18. This included a breakdown of expenditure and a requirement to demonstrate the difference the projects had made. The NWCSP project evaluations for 17/18 can be shared with Members on request.

This report will now provide an update on some of the key community safety projects that were delivered in 2017/18.

Redditch Community Safety Project Officer

Safer Redditch has invested some of its funding in providing a dedicated officer to deliver community safety projects and initiatives and liaise with local communities and groups on crime prevention and personal safety issues. Richard Waterhouse has been in post since March 2017.

Alongside partners, the Redditch Project Officer has worked with a number of local community groups and residents to offer guidance and information on a variety of community safety concerns. This includes attending a wide range of groups such as neighbourhood watches, residents' representative groups, student events and specific health groups including dementia awareness and carers support. As a result of supporting these events, follow-up home and business security surveys have been conducted to offer bespoke crime prevention advice.

As part of the Community Safety Team, the Project Officer also responds to ad hoc calls from residents expressing concern about all aspects of crime, ASB and community safety issues in their local area. The whole team offers appropriate advice, facilitates contact with other agencies and provides crime prevention support as necessary.

ASB in Matchborough

Following a number of crime prevention and design initiatives to address an increase in ASB in Matchborough last year, Safer Redditch provided funding to Redditch Boxing Academy and to Redditch United in the Community Trust

(RUIC) to provide targeted diversionary activities to the young people engaging or at risk of engaging in ASB.

Redditch Boxing Academy received £2,000 to deliver their 'Fight for Peace' Programme at Matchborough Boxing Club. The aim of the programme is to address some of the challenging behaviour young people display, by teaching them different ways to channel their emotions and feelings. The programme was delivered to students who attended The Forge Short Stay School and Arrow Vale High school. The young people who attended the sessions engaged well, and showed positive steps forward in their behaviour. The Safer Redditch funded ended in March 2018, but due to the positive outcomes of the programme, Redditch Boxing Academy were able to secure further funding to continue their work and expand the programme into other schools.

RUIC received £3,000 to provide Football sessions and Dance Sessions in the area to engage with the young people involved in disorder. Their project evaluation feedback states:-

Football Sessions - Individuals are now engaging with the lead coach very well, responding well to instructions and engaging in appropriate conversations. To ensure that young people initially engaged, Redditch United utilised a coach who had an existing relationship with the young people through his work in the area. He was able to relate to the individuals attending and understand their needs and behaviours.

Dance Sessions – Sessions have been regularly attended by 6 individuals each week. The behaviour of the individuals has been good and we have received positive reports from the girls about the tutor used; who appears to relate well and engages the individuals to participate and lead the group. P&E Sports, who manage the local sports centre, have stated that there has been an improvement in the individuals' behaviour in the centre. Their attitudes to staff have become less disruptive and they are now taking care of the facility. The facility is no longer a place to 'hang out' but is the place to take part in organised activity.

Nominated Neighbour Scheme

The Nominated Neighbour scheme, aimed at protecting vulnerable residents from door step crime offences continues to be a successful initiative. More than 50 Redditch residents have so far been signed up to the scheme and evaluation so far suggests that not a single resident signed up to the scheme has had a cold caller. The scheme is currently operating in Redditch and Bromsgrove but it is anticipated that it will be rolled out across the West Mercia Police area in the near future, featuring as part of their Economic Crime Unit's Prevention Strategy.

The Community Safety Team seeks customer feedback on the scheme and examples of residents' comments are as follows:-

“Mrs A felt the sign on her door was a deterrent, on one occasion she had someone at the door who saw the sticker and went away. She commented she definitely felt safer with having that on.”

“Mrs B feels numbers of unwanted callers have definitely reduced significantly since she has had the sticker put up”

“Mrs C was very glad with the scheme as she had had a lot of unwanted callers before and it has stopped completely, even "religious people" don't call in any more so she is very glad.”

“Mrs D was very pleased with the scheme; she felt it reduced the number of unwanted callers significantly and that people were not bothering to knock her door anymore.”

The Community Safety Project Officer has been delivering presentations about the scheme and personal safety in general to various vulnerable adult groups across Redditch and has also visited every bank and building society in Redditch and liaised with Managers, all of whom have agreed to promote the scheme when appropriate within their respective branches.

Town Centre and Smallwood Area - Community Safety Concerns

The Community Safety Project Officer is working on a number of initiatives within the Town Centre and Smallwood areas, predominately relating to discarded hypodermic needles, street drinking and associated ASB, aggressive begging and theft from shops.

Multiple agencies are involved in resolving these issues and the Project Officer has a co-ordinating role in consulting with residents, partner agencies and local businesses. The SARA problem solving model is being used to address the problems and evidence is currently being gathered and scanned to develop longer term responses. With regards to the discarded needles, RBC Environmental Services team are mapping the locations where needles are removed to identify any patterns and trends. Also, the Community Safety Project Officer is liaising with Swanswell Drug and Alcohol Service and local Pharmacy's to develop an incentive scheme to stop the discarding of used needles.

Redditch Pub Watch

The Project Officer has been working with the Town Centre Manager to reintroduce a pub watch scheme in Redditch Town centre; which is working towards reducing incidents of violence and anti-social behaviour. An effective means of communication between the licensed premises is being established in the form of a new online app called 'Disc'. This has been successful in other areas where it has been implemented and allows members to share information about offenders and disorder, very quickly and securely via the GDPR compliant app. Licenses for the app have been funded by Safer Redditch and there is a plan to link this scheme to retail outlets within the town centre in order to reduce shoplifting offences.

MARAC

The Project Officer attends the local MARAC - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference, which is a nationally recognised process for managing high risk Domestic Abuse cases. In attending MARAC, the Project Officer has assisted in protecting 73 vulnerable and high risk victims of domestic violence across Redditch and provides a single point of contact for the process for the council. As a result of MARAC, a number of home security assessments have been carried out and security upgrades to victim's properties have been made, assisting to keep these vulnerable residents safe and remaining in their homes.

ASB in Abbeydale

Following an article that appeared in the local paper regarding resident concerns about a play area that was being frequented by people using drugs and street drinking; the Project officer liaised with police, residents and RBC landscaping team and an environmental solution to the problem was identified. Following the works, the ASB has all but disappeared and residents report feeling safer and are once again using the park. Feedback from residents included the following comment:-

"I would like to thank you and everyone involved for the changes you have made in our area. Playground at Sedgley Close wasn't the safest place in the past few years. I couldn't let my kids go and play without me going there first to pick up the litter and all the broken glass pieces. I was always scared walking back home at night because of all the dodgy people smoking marihuana or drinking alcohol behind the bushes. You couldn't really see them, so they felt comfortable doing all things they shouldn't be doing at the playground! Most of all my living room finally managed to get some sun! The room is brighter and much warmer because the trees are now gone! It makes a difference already. Please pass my Thank you to all the team involved! Guys involved in getting the trees out were brilliant! They did their job very quickly and made sure everyone was safe during their work time. Thank you very much once again and I cannot wait to see my kids' reaction to it once they are back from their holidays!"

ASB in Astwood Bank

Following a spike in anti-social behaviour in Astwood Bank, Project Officers liaised with residents and businesses in the area and then carried out a crime reduction survey of the local park. Subsequent work completed by RBC's Landscape Team has assisted in reducing issues of ASB and again has received a positive response from local residents and park users.

"Just wanted to say thanks for the work that's been put into Astwood bank playground over the last week. Having spoken to a council representative this morning seeking positive/negative feedback.... I am positive that more improvements are underway!! Thank you!!!"

Phillips Terrace

Phillips Terrace is an Older Persons complex where a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour had been causing alarm and distress to residents.

The Project Officer assisted the Locality team, met with residents and carried out a security survey of the site. Work has subsequently been carried out, with a new fence and gate being installed. This has had a positive impact on the elderly residents who are now feeling much safer in their homes.

In addition to the above examples, a number of neighbour and community disputes have been resolved which in turn has improved the quality of life of residents and reduced the demand on both local authority and Police resources. Also, a number of community events have been attended such as at the Morton Stanley Festival and Woodrow Family Fun Day.

Redditch & Bromsgrove Schools Respect Programme

The Respect programme continues to be successful in 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/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 17 to July 18) the project saw 1,234 students receive community safety information during school PHSE lessons and drop down days across Redditch and Bromsgrove. 92 students were referred for 1 to 1 support through therapeutic mentoring sessions and 55 students received information via targeted small group workshops. 36 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

Initially the project worked with 15 HOW College students from Redditch, who have a disability and travel independently on public transport. Their experiences of using public transport were recorded and evaluated over a 12 month period. Some of the students did not feel able to continue with the project for a variety of reasons; however 10 young people have now completed the programme. This information is currently being used to write training materials for bus companies and to help influence permanent service changes by public transport providers.

Young Citizens Challenge

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. 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.

In 2018, the project was delivered from Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station and saw 920 young people receiving a variety of community safety messages. Schools that took part in the initiative included Woodfield Middle School, St

Bede's Middle School, Birchensale Middle School and Churchill Middle School.

Safe Place Scheme

The Safe Place Scheme is a CSP supported scheme that was set up by Our Way Self Advocacy in Wyre Forest in 2014. The scheme is now operating across Worcestershire and 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 the 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 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 2017

As part of 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. Locally, an awareness stand was set up in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre and a Street Theatre Company was commissioned to engage with residents through a number of thought provoking performances.

Over 270 information bags were handed out and residents felt comfortable approaching the stand and engaging with performers and staff to find out more about hate crime. 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 the town and press releases were sent to the local papers. The events were also promoted via relevant Twitter and Facebook pages.

The Hate Incident Partnership underwent a number of changes in 2016/17 and it was felt that Hate Crime Awareness week would be a good opportunity to hold a re-launch of the group. On the 20th October 2017, the launch event was held at the Bromsgrove Hotel and Spa with over 100 professionals attending. The event was also supported by MP Sajid Javid, who attended and spoke about his own personal experiences of Hate Crime.

This year's Hate Crime Awareness Week main event is currently being organised by the Community Safety teams, who have managed to secure some of the most high profile guest speakers ever engaged for the week. More details of the 2018 programme of events will be forwarded to Members shortly.

Community Engagement

Last year, Community Safety Project Officers attended a considerable number of events in order to speak to local residents, provide crime prevention advice and raise awareness of community safety campaigns. Community engagements were carried out at HOW College Redditch Campus and to various residents associations and community groups to promote personal safety, crime prevention and keeping safe.

3.6 Community Safety Partnership Performance and Evaluation

As part of a partnership review held in 2017, NWCSP is re-assessing how it will measure its performance and achieve its desired outcomes. CSPs are moving away from the traditional method of considering only 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 and also due to changes to police recording as a result of the implementation of a new information management system. As part of these reforms the Data Analysis, Research and Information provision for the Partnership has been combined across the force area and will now be provided by a Partnership Analyst Team, providing a service to all CSPs in West Mercia. This team will be instrumental in assisting partners to ensure performance measurement and evaluation are carried out in the best way, in order to evidence that partnership activities are making a difference.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That 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 2017/21

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