

Elected Member

# BRIEFING NOTE

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

CC: Cllr Julian Grubb – 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 2018 & 2019**

### **1. Summary**

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) during 2018/19 and to date.

### **2. Background**

2.1 NWCSP has been in existence since May 2013, following a 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 Services & Regulatory Services, Councillor Julian Grubb. 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 Julian Grubb

### **3. Current Position**

#### **3.1 Partnership Structure**

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.

The Safer Redditch Meeting is currently under review due to a reduction in officer support and the development of a wider ASB and Complex Cases Group which will provide an improved process for problem solving and tasking actions to address many local community safety issues. Also, the development of a Multi-Agency Targeted Enforcement (MATE) Group, piloted in Redditch in early 2018, has resolved a number of issues that would previously have been referred to the Safer Redditch Group. A review of the terms of reference, officer requirements and aims and objectives of the Safer Redditch meeting is under way, to ensure there is no duplication of activity with other forums and that the best use of resources is made when addressing local issues.

#### **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

The 2019 Strategic Assessment is currently being produced by the CSP Analyst team based at West Mercia Police HQ. This statutory document is due to be presented to the Partnership in September 2019 and its findings will be used to develop NWCSP's new three-year Partnership Plan for 2020/23.

### **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 in his geographical area 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 is the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, appointed 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 continues to develop. The first commissioning areas to be considered by the Deputy PCC were CCTV Upgrades and CSP funding for Data Analysis support. Both reviews have been completed and substantial funding has been provided to deliver in both of these key Community Safety areas.

Data Analyst Support - The PCC has taken CSP analytical support directly into the Office of the PCC using a proportion of the ring-fenced funding from each of the West Mercia CSPs plus some additional PCC funding. There is now a team of 3 CSP analyst posts that deliver data and information products for all of the West Mercia CSPs. This includes products such as regular CSP Crime and Data Overviews, Serious & Organised Crime Profiles and the annual Statutory Strategic Assessments.

CCTV Upgrade - In 2017-18 NWCSP was allocated £195,000 of PCC funding over a 3 year period for improvements to the area's CCTV scheme. On behalf of the three Local Authorities, the CSP developed a proposal to use this capital contribution to modernise the CCTV infrastructure that serves the three district areas. The plans will see an upgrade of the current scheme to support

to Internet Protocol Recording and will therefore upgrade the technological capabilities of the current scheme to digital processing. This will greatly increase the current CCTV scheme, including enhanced digital capability, improved image quality and greater capacity to expand the scheme and/or link to other digital systems across the region.

In March 2018, NWCSP agreed to allocate a proportion of its ring-fenced revenue grant from the PCC to the project, as the CCTV grant is separate to NWCSP's core funding allocation. Then, January 2019 the PCC provided an additional £50,000 of capital CCTV funding to each CSP in West Mercia.

Given the amounts involved, this project is the most ambitious undertaken by the Partnership and the project is also being match funded by the three District Councils with additional revenue, capital and in-kind contributions being provided to support the project. The total amount of NWCSP funding allocated to the project is £339,000 and work has now begun to implement the scheme upgrade. A technical consultant has been commissioned to design the specification for the upgraded scheme and the tender for the installation and maintenance contract will shortly be published on a national procurement framework. The project has challenging timescales as the NWCSP funding has to be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020; however, the Project Management Team is confident that all milestones will be achieved and the project successfully completed on time.

### 3.4 Grant Funding from the PCC 2018/19

Throughout 2018, NWCSP allocated its core-funding received from the PCC to various projects and activities across the three district areas. The amount of funding provided to the CSP is based on previous year's allocations and the table below shows the projects currently being supported by NWCSP.

Project	Funding Amount
North Worcs CSP Contribution to the West Mercia Analyst Team	£20,000
Redditch & Bromsgrove Schools Respect Programme	£28,125
Wyre Forest Keeping Safe Project	£48,125
North Worcs Street Pastors Schemes	£7,333
North Worcs Young Citizens Challenge 2019	£1,000
North Worcs CCTV Scheme Upgrade (CSP Revenue)	£94,000
North Worcs CCTV Scheme Upgrade (PCC Capital)	£245,000

The progress of the grant funded projects is reported quarterly to the PCC and at the end of the financial year there is a requirement to provide a comprehensive evaluation of all funded projects. This includes a breakdown of project expenditure and the outputs/outcomes achieved. NWCSP project evaluations returns for 18/19 can be shared with Members on request.

### **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 and whilst the Safer Redditch Group has been on hold; the Council's Community Safety Team has continued to monitor and respond to district community safety issues, co-ordinating local operational delivery with partners. The team is 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.

The report will now provide an update on some of the key community safety project activity that took place in 2018/19.

#### **Redditch Community Safety Project Officer (CSPO)**

Safer Redditch has previously invested some of its historical funding in providing a dedicated officer to deliver community safety projects and initiatives. Richard Waterhouse has been in post since March 2017 and as Project Officer liaises with residents, local communities and other groups around crime prevention and personal safety issues.

#### **MARAC - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference**

The CSPO 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 or murder by an intimate partner or family member are referred into MARAC for the purpose of coordinating safeguarding activity by all organisations that can offer support and assistance. Richard has attended 24 MARACs in the year and has assisted in protecting 104 vulnerable and high risk victims of domestic violence across Redditch. Richard is Redditch Borough Council's single point of contact for the MARAC process as it is nationally recognised best practice for each agency to have a designated MARAC officer.

The CSPO's role is to ensure that all Council departments are aware of who is subject to MARAC and that they are flagged on all departmental systems, with advice on who to contact with any concerns or information. This provides maximum opportunities to safeguard those residents at high risk of harm; for example, when a female resident subject to MARAC contacted the repairs and maintenance team to request a repair to a front door lock it was discovered that the lock had in fact been damaged in an attempt by her abuser to gain access to the property. The victim had not reported this incident to Police but with consent, this information was shared with officers who were then able to take action against the offender. As part of the process, Richard has visited various service areas to delivered presentations about signs of Domestic Abuse, the MARAC process and the important role the local authority has in protecting residents.

#### **Home Security Assessments**

57 Home security assessments have been carried out at the properties of vulnerable residents with many properties receiving upgrades and improvements to the security of their properties. Some assessments have

been made as a result of MARAC discussions however others are carried out at the request of other partners and service areas including the Police and Housing Locality.

### **Problem Solving and Community Safety Assistance**

The team receives a number of calls for advice and assistance from other service areas within the authority and a wide range of partner agencies that require expertise in crime problem solving or community safety advice to assist in resolving complex cases or issues.

### **Nominated Neighbour Scheme**

The Nominated Neighbour scheme, which aims protecting 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 initial evaluation monitoring suggests that not a single resident has had a cold caller after joining the scheme. 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 Nominated Neighbour information pack is given to all scheme members and it has been further enhanced with the introduction of a Checktrade leaflet, which provides a list of vetted trades that are local to Redditch. This is particularly important to our most vulnerable residents who often do not have access to the internet but require work to be carried out by a trusted tradesperson. Checktrade has also agreed to provide the Community Safety with refreshed leaflets for the scheme, each time they are updated.

The CSPO has been delivering presentations about the scheme and general personal safety to various groups that support vulnerable adults across Redditch. He has also visited every bank and building society in Redditch and liaised with the Managers, all of whom have agreed to promote the scheme when appropriate within their respective branches. Training in how to sign someone up to the scheme has also been provided to Police Community Support Officers and Housing Locality Officers who are all now able to promote the scheme in the course of their day to day duties.

### **Town Centre and Smallwood Area - Community Safety Concerns**

The CSPO is working on a number of initiatives within the Town Centre and in the Smallwood area, predominately relating to street drinking and associated ASB, aggressive begging, discarded hypodermic needles and theft from shops.

Multiple agencies are involved in addressing these issues and as the Project Officer; Richard has a co-ordinating role in consulting and liaising with local residents, partner agencies and local businesses. The crime problem solving model SARA is being used to tackle these issues and a variety of evidence is currently being gathered and assessed to develop longer term responses. With regards to the discarded needles, the Environmental Services team are currently mapping locations where needles are removed to identify any patterns and trends. Also, Richard has liaised with Swanswell Drug and

Alcohol Service and local Pharmacy's to help implement an incentive scheme to stop the discarding of used needles. A pilot project around this issue saw a 60% reduction in the number of needles that were removed by cleansing teams.

The CSPO has also carried out extensive on-street consultations with members of the public, business and market traders in Redditch Town centre and has assisted in identifying areas within the town centre that require action by various private landowners and businesses to prevent and deter acts of antisocial behaviour.

This is an ongoing project that will involve the use of various tools and powers across the partner agencies to ensure that appropriate action is taken as quickly as possible. All responsible parties are to be advised that failure to take action to reduce anti-social behaviour and improve the safety of residents and visitors to the town could lead to formal enforcement action and even prosecution, if necessary.

### **Community Trigger/ASB Case Review**

The Community Trigger/ASB Case Review is a process that was introduced within the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 and provides a facility for victims of ASB to request a review of their reported case, if they feel that nothing has been done. 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 Community Safety Team. This year, the team has 5 Trigger applications for the following issues:-

- Multiple applications from residents regarding a disruptive neighbour.
- Neighbour dispute between owner occupier and private rental tenant
- Neighbour complaint regarding cannabis smells and anti-social behaviour from property next door
- Resident complaint of motorbikes/quadbikes racing across footpaths on the estate
- Multiple applications from a group of residents regarding the anti-social behaviour of the same neighbour.

One community trigger is still underway and four have been concluded with a number of actions identified and agreed to try and resolve the residents' concerns. A variety of partner agencies have been involved in the case reviews, including the Police, local Housing Associations, Private Sector Housing, NHS Community Mental Health team and Adult Social Care.

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.

### **Brockhill Park and Play Area**

The CSPO was contacted by local residents regarding suspicious activity and ASB at a park in Brockhill. Richard has been working with community members in the area and the Police regarding concerns of suspected drug dealing, in and around a fenced sports area and intelligence gathered suggested that the suspects were travelling into the town from Birmingham. Indeed, whilst carrying out a site survey, the Project officer himself was approached and offered drugs. This, and information provided anonymously by local residents, was shared with the Police for further investigation and patrols in the area were increased. The Council's Environmental Services team also attend the area on a regular basis to ensure the park is kept clear of litter and graffiti and to provide additional general supervision of the area. This is an ongoing project that is being monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

### **Glover Street Park and Play Area**

The CSPO was contacted by concerned residents and Ward Members regarding anti-social behaviour taking place at this location, often late at night and into the early hours of the morning. Young adults playing football in the evening were regularly accessing residents' rear gardens to retrieve balls, climbing through a damaged fence. Repairs to this fence have been arranged and an elevated net has been attached to one end of the fenced play area to prevent balls from leaving the court area. Also, lighting in the park area has been turned off during the summer months to prevent football being played into the early hours of the morning. Again, this is an ongoing project that is subject to regular monitoring and review.

### **Redditch Pub Watch Scheme**

The CSPO has continued to work with the Town Centre Manager to expand and improve the Pub Watch scheme in Redditch. The scheme brings licensed premises across the town together to work towards reducing incidents of violence and anti-social behaviour in the night time economy and to promote Redditch as a safe place to visit and socialise. An effective means of information sharing between Pub Watch members is being established in the form of an online, secure information app called 'Disc'. This is being used successfully in other areas across the country and it allows members to share relevant information about offenders, known concerns and potential disorder, quickly and securely via the GDPR compliant app. The licenses for the app have been funded by Safer Redditch and there is also a plan to link this scheme to retail outlets within the town centre with the aim of reducing shoplifting offences.

### **Redditch & Bromsgrove Schools Respect Programme**

The Respect programme continues to be successful in providing whole day community safety awareness sessions as part of school PHSE drop down days. The programme 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 Respect Programme also provides one to one therapeutic 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.



In the last school year (Sept 18 to July 19), the project saw 334 students receive community safety information during school PHSE lessons and drop down days across Redditch and Bromsgrove. The programme received 187 referrals for 1 to 1 support through the therapeutic mentoring sessions and 39 students received information via targeted small group workshop sessions.

### **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. 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.

Young Citizen's Challenge 2019 took place in May and the project was delivered from Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station with 770 young people receiving a variety of community safety messages. Redditch schools that took part in the initiative were Woodfield Middle School, St Bede's Middle School, Birchensale Middle School, Churchill Middle School and Ridgeway Academy.

Evaluations received from the schools state that it was a valuable learning experience for the students. Workshops were described as informative, well organised and enjoyable with vital life skills areas covered and presented on the right level and in clear and interactive way.

### **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 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**

As part of national Hate Crime Awareness Week in October 2018, North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership organised a joint event for professionals and community members across the three districts. Community Safety teams managed to secure some high profile guest speakers to attend the hate crime conference including businesswoman and "The Apprentice" 2017 candidate Bushra Shaikh and Paralympic Gold Medallist Claire

Cashmore MBE. Both speakers shared their experiences of hate crime and how they were able to overcome the barriers.

Over hundred professionals and members of the public attended and felt that the conference was powerful and informative.

The conference and work of the partnership was recognised at the National British Muslim Awards in February 2019 where Nadia Rashid, Chair of North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership won the prestigious 'Muslim in the Community Award'.

Also during the national awareness week, Hate Crime awareness assemblies were delivered in schools across North Worcestershire and various printed materials were given out to students. The North Worcs Hate Crime Awareness Twitter campaign for the month of October reached 18,184 tweets by its conclusions.

### **White Ribbon Campaign**

As a part of the international White Ribbon Campaign and its '16 Days of Action', Community Safety teams jointly with Woman's Aid organised two events. The campaign aimed to increase recognition of domestic abuse and encourage and support people affected by it to seek the support that's available.

An event for professionals was held at Parkside on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018, focusing on promoting the many support services available for victims of domestic abuse. Over 100 people attended and felt the event was informative and successful.

An event, specifically for young people was held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at Parkside in Bromsgrove and focused on the impact of domestic abuse and Children Sexual Exploitation (CSE) on young people. The event was used to inform at risk young people, identified by schools across North Worcestershire about grooming, the signs of sexual exploitation and who to turn to for help, in a sensitive and safe environment. It was extremely impactful and some disclosures were made by young people at the event which enabled them to get individual support from the professionals at the event.

### **Community Engagement**

Alongside statutory partners, the Community Safety Team has worked with a number of local residents and community groups to offer guidance and information on a variety of community safety concerns. This activity included attending a wide range of forums such as neighbourhood watches, residents' association meetings, school/student events and specific health groups such as Dementia Awareness groups and Carers Support groups. After attendance at these events, follow-up home and business security surveys have been conducted, providing bespoke crime prevention advice to vulnerable people.

The Community Safety Team regularly responds to calls from residents raising concerns about aspects of crime, ASB and community safety issues in

their local area. The team offers crime prevention advice, facilitates contact with other agencies and provides community safety support as necessary.

### **3.6 New and Emerging Areas for the CSP**

In July 2019, the then Home Secretary Sajid Javid announced a new legal duty on public bodies to prevent and tackle serious violence. The new 'public health duty' covers the police, local councils, local health bodies such as NHS Trusts, education representatives and youth offending services and it aims to ensure that relevant services work together to share data, intelligence and knowledge to understand and address the root causes of serious violence including knife crime. It will also allow them to target their interventions to prevent and stop violence altogether

As part of the new duty, the government will amend the Crime and Disorder Act to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships by making sure they have a strategy in place to tackle violent crime.

This new public health duty was been created taking into account responses from professionals in health, education, police, social services, housing and the voluntary sector after an eight-week public consultation, the findings of which can be found at Appendix 2.

More details on the specific requirements of the new duty will be presented to Elected Members as they emerge.

## **4. Recommendation**

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

## **5. Appendices**

Appendix One: NWCSF Structure

Appendix Two: Home Office Consultation on Serious Violence Duty

## **6. Background Papers**

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

### **Officer Contact Details:**

Name: Bev Houghton

Title: Community Safety Manager

Tel: 01527 534187

Email: [bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)