

Elected Member

BRIEFING

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

CC: Cllr Nyear Nazir – 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 2019-20

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) from November 2019 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 authority 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 Nyear Nazir, appointed June 2020. 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 Nyear Nazir. The next West Mercia PCP is scheduled for 21st September 2020 and papers can be accessed here: [Agenda details](#)

3. Current Position

3.1 Partnership Structure

The 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**.

3.2 Strategic Assessment 2020

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. Due to the disruption of Covid-19 and partner agencies prioritisation of responses to local communities during the pandemic, the Community Safety Partnership Plan has been delayed slightly and is being developed for 2021-24. Whilst this work takes place the Partnership continues to focus on its current priorities for the year as follows:-

- 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 Champion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

John Champion, elected as West Mercia PCC in May 2016, has a duty to co-operate with all CSPs in his geographical area to reduce crime and disorder. There is also a reciprocal duty on CSPs to collaborate with the PCC and both the PCC and the CSP must have due regard for each other's priorities within their respective plans. The PCC's Safer West Mercia Plan 2016 – 2021 priorities are reflected in NWCSP action plans and activities, identifying where

the partnership will contribute to delivering the PCCs vision at a local level. The PCC's plan focuses 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 PCC, appointed in July 2016. Tracey's role is to represent the PCC within communities across West Mercia, with a portfolio that includes; rural, business and cyber-crime, victims' services and commissioning. CSPs work closely with the Deputy PCC as the commissioning model continues to develop. Commissioning areas already reviewed by the Deputy PCC include CCTV improvements and the collation of funding for Data Analysis support. Both commissioning reviews led to funding being provided across West Mercia to deliver activities in both of these key community safety areas.

Between 2017 and 2020 NWCSF was allocated £195,000 of PCC funding for improvements to the area's CCTV scheme. The CSP, on behalf of the three Local Authorities, developed a proposal to use this capital contribution to modernise the CCTV infrastructure that serves the three district areas. The upgrade is close to final completion with current scheme now supporting Internet Protocol Recording with greatly improved technological capabilities for digital processing. The CCTV scheme now has enhanced digital capability, improved image quality and a greater capacity to expand the scheme and/or link up to other digital systems across the region.

The funding amounts involved made this project the most ambitious undertaken by the Partnership and the project was also match funded by the three District Councils with additional revenue, capital and in-kind support. A total amount of £339,000 of CSP funding was allocated to the project with the funding having to be spent by 31st March 2020. This was successfully achieved by the Project Management Team, with the majority of milestones met despite the disruption of Covid-19. The PCC has now allocated an additional amount of £65k capital funding towards CCTV for 2020-21 and the Project Team are currently working up spending proposals to put forward to the CSP.

3.4 Grant Funding from the PCC 2020/21

In addition to the CCTV capital allocation, NWCSF has also been allocated its annual ring-fenced funding from the PCC for 2020-21. The amount of funding

provided to the CSP is based on allocations in previous years and the table below shows the local projects identified by NWCSP for support.

Project	Funding Amount
North Worcs CSP Contribution to the West Mercia Analyst Team	£20,000
Empowering Young People Project - Redditch & Bromsgrove	£20,000
Detached/Outreach Youth work Project - Redditch & Bromsgrove	£23,499.93
School Ambassadors and Engagement - Redditch & Bromsgrove	£8,000
Redditch Town Centre & NTE	£5,000
Bromsgrove Taxi Marshalls	£3,000
Wyre Forest Keeping Safe Projects	£34,749.87
North Worcs. Virtual Decisions Knife Crime Project	£6,000
North Worcs. Nominated Neighbour Scheme	£4,000
North Worcs. Domestic Homicide Reviews	£15,000
Total Allocation	£139,249.80

The majority of CSP projects are now underway as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted across the districts and local communities seek additional support and community safety interventions. The progress of the grant funded projects will be reported quarterly to the PCC and at the end of the financial year there will be a requirement to provide a comprehensive evaluation of all the funded projects. This will include a full breakdown of project expenditure and the outputs/outcomes that the funding has achieved.

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 was previously on hold due to staffing and resource issues however, the meeting resumed on the 1st July 2020 chaired by the District Policing Inspector and supported by the Council's Community Safety Team.

The team also continues to monitor and respond to district community safety issues, co-ordinating local operational delivery with partners. The team is often 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.

Redditch Community Safety Project Officers

Richard Waterhouse and Sarah McIntosh work on behalf of the Council and the CSP, delivering a variety of community safety projects and initiatives

across the Borough. Richard and Sarah are also available to provide information, support and guidance to residents, council colleagues, external partners and elected members on a variety of crime prevention and community safety concerns and issues. This report will now provide an update on some of the key community safety project activity that has taken place from Nov 2019 to date.

Home Security Assessments

Between November 2019 and August 2020, 35 Home Security Assessments have been carried out at the properties of vulnerable residents with many households also receiving upgrades and improvements to the physical security of their properties. Some security assessments were made as a result of discussions about the safety of domestic abuse victims held at MARAC meetings. However, others were carried out at the request of other community safety partners and council service areas such as the Police and the Housing Locality Teams.

Planning Developments – Designing out Crime consultation

Between Sept 2019 and Sept 2020, the Project Officers have advised on 16 planning applications and had input into the initial development plans for the proposed redesign of two district centres in Redditch. Sarah McIntosh is currently undertaking the Level 5 Diploma in Designing out Crime with the Police Crime Prevention Academy. This means the team now has two nationally qualified Designing out Crime Officers and a Home Office accredited Crime Reduction Officer providing expertise and guidance on preventing crime through environmental design.

Problem Solving and Community Safety Assistance

The Community Safety Team receive a number of calls for advice and assistance from other service areas and partner agencies requiring expertise in crime prevention and problem solving or community safety information to assist in resolving complex issues and cases.

Between Nov 2019 and Aug 2020 there were over a hundred requests for assistance from members of the public, Elected Members, internal services and external agencies. Requests include assistance on ASB issues and guidance on the use of relevant tools and powers, issues of domestic abuse, illegal substances, neighbour disputes, home security, and environmental crime issues.

A number of environmental visual surveys have also been carried out including an area near to a local school where concerns had been raised regarding drug dealing and associated ASB. Environmental enhancement works and landscaping measures were recommended in order to open up sight lines and make the area less attractive to potential offenders.

MARAC - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference

Richard Waterhouse 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 from an intimate partner or family member are referred into MARAC for the purpose of coordinating

safeguarding activities by all organisations that can offer support and assistance.

Between November 2019 and August 2020 Richard has assisted in protecting 64 vulnerable and high risk victims of domestic violence across Redditch. Richard is Redditch Borough Council's single point of contact for the MARAC process, in line with nationally recognised best practice for each agency to have a designated MARAC officer.

Nominated Neighbour Scheme

The Nominated Neighbour scheme, which aims to protect 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 the Covid-19 restrictions provided an opportunity to fully evaluate the scheme with every resident signed up to the scheme being contacted to assess its success. The evaluation identified that not one member of the scheme had any issues with cold callers since signing up to the initiative. Many stated that they had previously experienced multiple cold calls and all participants stated that it made them feel safer in their homes. There were many examples where residents had seen someone approach their door, but on seeing the nominated neighbour notice and the caller had walked away without attempting to make contact with the resident.

In support of the project, the District Policing Inspector has now identified two dedicated PCSOs to support promotion and delivery of the scheme across Redditch and Bromsgrove and the project's ongoing success has led to NWCSP supporting the roll-out of the scheme into Wyre Forest.

Redditch & Bromsgrove Schools Respect Programme

The Respect programme provides community safety awareness sessions as part of school PHSE drop down days and 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. Alongside this the Respect Programme also provides one to one therapeutic mentoring sessions to individual students who believed to be at risk of becoming involved in crime and ASB or are at risk of becoming victims of crime.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 all of the scheduled community safety drop-down days and classroom sessions were cancelled. However; schools were provided with a number of resource packs to share with young people whilst schools were closed. Between September 2019 and July 2020, the programme received 196 referrals for 1 to 1 support through the therapeutic mentoring sessions and at the point of national lockdown measures, 129 young people were being seen by the service. During the Covid-19 restrictions, 75 of those young people took up the offer of online delivery and remote support and during the lockdown period 20 new young people were referred to the programme for therapeutic support. Prior to lockdown 30

students were receiving information via targeted small group workshop sessions and throughout the lockdown period the scheme continued to offer support to a small group of 8 young people via Zoom.

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. Usually, 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.

Unfortunately due to Covid-19, Young Citizens Challenge 2020 was cancelled however; all partners who usually take part in the delivery of the project put together a resource and information pack that was shared with participating schools, to use with their Year 6 pupils through their own remote learning platforms.

Safe Place Scheme

The Safe Place Scheme is a CSP supported scheme set up by Our Way Self Advocacy in Wyre Forest in 2014. The scheme now operates across Worcestershire and it offers vulnerable people a safe place to go if they have a problem or concern whilst 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 2019

As part of national Hate Crime Awareness Week in October 2019, North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership delivered a social media focused campaign to help raise awareness of what hate crime is and how to report an incident.

The Social Media Campaign was successful in having **11.5 K Twitter impressions**. Individual partner agencies also ran their own media campaigns with their networks, members and residents which allowed more powerful and informative messages to be shared across the districts.

Also, during the national awareness week, Hate Crime awareness talks, assemblies and workshops were delivered in schools across North

Worcestershire and various printed materials given out to students to promote reporting and how to access support services.

White Ribbon Campaign

In Nov/Dec 2019, as a part of the annual, international White Ribbon Campaign against Domestic Abuse and its '16 Days of Action', the Community Safety team worked in partnership with other agencies delivering another social media campaign. This ensured that key messages about Domestic Abuse and support services were shared widely across the three districts. The White Ribbon campaign had 6.3 K Twitter impressions during the promotion.

Future Projects Planned for September 2020

The Empowering Young People Programme – provides an 11 week programme of arts and crafts, issue-based activities and interactive workshops addressing issues such as life skills, confidence building and self-esteem work. The aim of the programme is to support at-risk young people in forming and developing unhealthy relationships and raising awareness of the risks associated with CSE and County Lines. This will be a new project to be launched in Redditch

Community Safety School Ambassadors – This is a new project funded by NWCSP, which will begin in September. The project will train and support a core group of young people across Redditch and Bromsgrove High Schools to undertake a range of community benefit initiatives both within and outside of school settings.

The Youth Outreach Project – provides a team of trained outreach/detached youth workers to identify, engage with and support young people involved in on-street ASB in local neighbourhoods and those socialising in public spaces across both districts. The team of outreach youth workers provide an agreed amount of patrol hours at key times and locations identified using community safety data and intelligence. This will be a new project to be launched in Redditch.

Virtual Decisions (Knife Crime Project) - is a unique and interactive virtual reality programme that delivers a real-life experience for young people through the use of VR and creative arts workshops. By wearing a VR headset, each participant is placed in a realistic scenario where they are faced with multiple dilemmas in which they must make a choice. Each choice results in various outcomes, showing that every action has a consequence. Following the immersive 8 minute VR film, is a drama workshop that explores in more depth the issues raised. Through discussions and drama exercises young people are able to reflect on their own personal journey within the VR and compare it to that of others, making this a user-led (and user shared) experience. A full day of Virtual Decisions workshops will be delivered in 10 schools across North Worcestershire and will run in collaboration with the existing youth programmes.

3.6 Community Engagement and Communications

Between Nov 2019 and Aug 2020, the Community Safety Team received multiple requests for service in Redditch and these were broken down as follows:-

Redditch

40 requests from Residents
12 requests from Elected Members
32 requests from Partner Agencies
44 Requests from internal services
1 Private Business

Subject

34 ASB related Information
10 CPW/CPNs Advice
12 Crime Prevention Advice
7 Drugs Intelligence
6 Domestic Abuse
4 Community Events
35 Home Security Assessments
2 Hate Crime Concerns
2 Homelessness/Begging
9 MARAC
6 Nominated Neighbour
1 Respect Programme
2 Road Safety
1 Safeguarding
4 Scams
1 SOCJAG
2 Staff Safety concern

The team support a number of partner agencies and community groups by attending various events to provide advice and guidance relating to crime and anti-social behaviour. The Community Safety Team has provided information at the following events in Redditch:- Arrow Valley Park, Morton Stanley, Christmas Events in Kingfisher Shopping Centre, Woodrow Centre, Ecumenical Centre, Matchborough Church, St David's House, Barclays Bank.

Social Media - Between Jan and July 2020, the Community Safety pages on the RBC websites were visited 851 times. The team also raises awareness of community safety issues and keeps residents informed of work delivered by Community Safety partners on social media via our @SaferRedditch twitter account and via the Councils' Facebook pages.

The Twitter account @SaferRedditch has 606 followers and Twitter impressions identify how many times a tweet shows up in another users timeline. The figures below show the number of impressions gained from our main community safety promotional campaigns in 2019/2020:-

Hate Crime Awareness Week – 11.5 K
White Ribbon Domestic Abuse Campaign – 6.3 K
Nov -Dec Christmas seasonal campaigns - 6.2 K
CSE Awareness Day - 1.2 K
Child Safety Week Campaign - 8.1 K

March to July 2020 (during Covid restrictions): - various community safety awareness messages, including COVID safety awareness - 11.4 K

4. Recommendation

4.1 That the 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 2016/21

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