

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 2020-21

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) from September 2020 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 and manages the Council's Community Safety Service.

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 meeting will be held on 15th September and the public

papers can be accessed here: [West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Wednesday 15th September 2021](#)

3. Current Position

3.1 North Worcestershire CSP Plan 2021-24

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.

Informed by the strategic assessment, the Community Safety Partnership Plan sets out 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 was delayed slightly and has been 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 violence in public places, 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 targeted 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 North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership Plan can be found at **Appendix 1**

3.2 John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

John Campion was first elected as West Mercia PCC in May 2016 and following the postponement of national elections due to the Coronavirus pandemic was re-elected for a second term in May 2021.

The PCC 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 has recently opened his draft Safer West Mercia Plan 2021 – 2025 to public consultation and access to the draft plan and the consultation survey can be found here - [Draft Safer West Mercia Plan 2021-25 Consultation](#). The PCC's public consultation closes on the 1st November 2021

Once the plan is agreed NWCSP will review its own plan to ensure the PCC's priorities are reflected in its planned action activities, identifying areas where the Partnership can contribute to delivering the PCCs vision at a local level.

Tracey Onslow is the Deputy PCC and was 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 West Mercia commissioning model continues to develop. Commissioning areas already reviewed by the Deputy PCC include CCTV improvements, the collation of funding for Data Analysis support and consolidation of funding for Integrated Offender Management funding. These commissioning reviews have led to funding being provided across West Mercia to deliver activities in these key community safety areas.

Since 2017-18 the PCC has allocated significant funding to develop and upgrade CCTV across the region. NWCSP benefitted from an allocation £195,000 of PCC funding for improvements to the area's CCTV scheme. The CSP, on behalf of the three Local Authorities, used this capital contribution to modernise the CCTV infrastructure that serves the three district areas. The upgrade now supports Internet Protocol Recording with greatly improved technological capabilities for digital processing. The CCTV scheme also 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.

In 2020-21 the PCC allocated an additional amount of £65k capital funding towards CCTV (details of which can be found in **Appendix 2**) and a further 65k of capital funding has been awarded to NWCSP for 2021-22. The Project Team are currently working up spending proposals to put forward to the CSP.

3.3 Grant Funding from the PCC 2020/21

In addition to the CCTV capital allocation, NWCSP is allocated an annual ring-fenced amount from the PCC. Due to the disruptions of COVID 19 there was an underspend against certain projects during 2020-21. However, the PCC has allocated the same ring-fenced amount of £139,250 for 2021-22. Further details of the allocation can be found in **Appendix 2**.

The progress of 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 the funded projects. This includes a full breakdown of project expenditure and the outputs/outcomes that the funding has achieved.

In early June the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner received confirmation from the Home Office that a North Worcestershire application to the Safer Streets 2 fund had been successful. This is the second, £20 million round of the Safer Streets Funding and is for the 2021/22 financial year. The fund targets neighbourhood crime, encouraging bids that provide a range of situational crime prevention measures in crime hot spots across England and Wales. This year, the round was opened to Local Authorities as well as PCCs and the criteria expanded beyond residential areas. The Home Office received a significant increase in bids with 97 applications: 64 from PCCs and 33 from Local Authorities across the country. The West Mercia Police/Redditch Borough Council partnership bid was one of only 50 successful project applications and the successful bid will target residential properties in Woodrow, Redditch. Further details of the Safer Streets – Woodrow project can be found in **Appendix 2**

3.4 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 is chaired by the District Policing Inspector and is supported by the Council's Community Safety Team.

The Council's Community Safety 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

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. The team 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. **Appendix 2** provides an update on

some of the key community safety project activity that has taken place from September 2020 to date.

3.5 Community Engagement and Communications

Between Sept 2020 and Aug 2021, the Community Safety Team received multiple requests for service in Redditch and these were broken down as follows: -

55 requests from Residents
10 requests from Elected Members
40 requests from Partner Agencies
55 Requests from internal services
2 Private Business

Subjects Included: -

87 Domestic Abuse incl. MARAC discussions
32 Home Security Assessments
12 Homelessness/Begging
22 Nominated Neighbour Scheme
3 Road Safety – referred to the West Mercia Safer Roads Team
4 Safeguarding Queries

Social Media

The Community Safety Team supported various national and local campaigns throughout 2020-21 to promote key safety messages and the work of NWCSP. Partnership projects such as Nominated Neighbour, the Respect Programme and Hate Crime Reporting Awareness were promoted.

In addition to the annual Hate Crime Awareness Week and Domestic Abuse White Ribbon campaigns featured in **Appendix 2**, a number of other campaigns were also supported throughout the year, including:

Loan Shark Awareness
International Women's Day
Child Exploitation Awareness Week
Mental Health Awareness Week
Ask for Ani (NTE Safety Campaign)
Drowning Prevention Week
ASB Awareness Week

These awareness and information messages were seen by 18,343 people and interacted with by 1,447 people.

The Redditch Community Safety team also raises awareness of community safety issues and keeps residents and partners informed of work being delivered by partners on social media via @SaferRedditch twitter account and via the Councils' own Facebook pages.

The @SaferRedditch twitter account has 635 followers and in 2020/2021, total impressions via the @SaferRedditch account sharing community safety promotional campaigns reached 20.2 K accounts, with 896 direct engagements.

The breakdown for the main awareness campaigns for @SaferRedditch twitter account is:

Hate Crime Awareness Week – 6.2 K
White Ribbon Domestic Abuse Campaign – 8.8 K
CSE Awareness Day - 1.3 K

4. Recommendation

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

5. Appendices

Appendix 1: NWCSP Plan 2021-24

Appendix 2: NWCSP Project Review 2020-21 Presentation

6. Background Papers

Draft Safer West Mercia Plan 2021-25 - [Draft Safer West Mercia Plan 2021-25 Consultation](#)

Home Office Safer Streets Fund 2021-22 - [Safer Streets Fund Application Process](#)

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