

Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel

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

Review of the work of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2021-22

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) for the financial year 2021-22.

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. Each Council's Community Safety Teams support and administer the Partnership.

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. 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 latest West Mercia PCP meeting was held on 7th September and the public

papers can be accessed here: [West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Wednesday 7th September 2022](#)

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 guide to resourcing community safety initiatives working with 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 community support during the pandemic, the Community Safety Partnership Plan was delayed slightly and has since been agreed for 2021-24.

The North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership plan focuses on the following 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 2021-24 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 in 2020, 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 bodies must have due regard for each other's priorities within their respective plans. The PCC closed public consultation on his Safer West Mercia Plan 2021 – 2025 on the 1st Nov 2021 and the final plan can be read here: - [Safer West Mercia Plan \(westmercia-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk)

A new Deputy PCC was confirmed at the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel meeting on the 7th September, following Tracey Onslow's decision to step down in May 2022 after six years in the role. In November 2021, the Commissioner also appointed two new Assistant PCCs. Paul Middlebrough and Nicola Lowery work closely to represent the PCC within communities across West Mercia, with portfolios that includes rural, business and cyber-crime, victims' services and commissioning. [Assistant PCC's Will Reflect The Voice of Communities - West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner](#)

CSPs work closely with the Deputy and Assistant PCCs as the West Mercia PCC model of commissioning expands. Established commissioning areas include CCTV improvement, the collation of funding for Data Analysis support and consolidation of funding for Integrated Offender Management funding. More recently the PCC released a tender for delivery of a Hate Crime Support service across West Mercia and also opened a Fly Tipping fund that CSPs could bid into. These commissioning reviews have led to more funding being provided at a West Mercia force level to deliver activities in these key thematic areas.

PCC's CCTV Capital Fund: In 2017-18 the PCC allocated significant funding to develop and upgrade CCTV across the West Mercia force area. NWCSP first received an allocation of £195,000 of grant 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. This upgrade introduced Internet Protocol Recording with greatly improved technological capabilities for digital processing. The whole 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 CSP 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 up to March 2020.

In 2020-21 the PCC allocated an additional amount of £65k capital funding towards CCTV and a further 65k of capital funding was awarded to NWCSP in 2021-22. The Project Team implemented spending proposals agreed by the CSP which have continued to enhance the capability and capacity of the CCTV Monitoring Scheme and improve the technological aspects of the Monitoring Centre and cameras which will have benefits for years to come.

Details of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 allocations can be found in **Appendix 2** and a further funding allocation of £20,000 was given to NWCSP for 2022/23.

PCC's Fly Tipping Fund: In Sept 2021, the PCC released a £100K grant fund available over 2 years in order to work with CSPs to address the problem of fly-tipping on private land. The grant fund was launched with a closing date for applications on the 4th October. The PCC's Office approved 5 applications – one each for North Worcestershire, South Worcestershire, Telford & Wrekin, Herefordshire and one West Mercia wide bid (for a SmartWater tyre tagging scheme) allocating the total £100K funding pot - [West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner to invest £100k to tackle fly-tippers and introduce tyre-tagging scheme](#)

The NWCSP allocation of £22,000 is supporting the work of a new NW District Council Fly Tipping Prevention Group and the grant funding is being managed by the three district council environmental services teams in order to: -

- a) Develop a land owners' charter across North Worcestershire reflecting guidance of best practice amongst land owners as set out by the National Flytipping Prevention Group (NFPG).
- b) Introduce a co-ordinated prevention and enforcement scheme which will include:
 - the use of covert CCTV (to be managed by the Councils)
 - signage
 - target hardening advice from the Councils
 - following up on any evidence gathered from fly tipped waste and/or captured on CCTV and issue Fixed Penalty Notices or prosecute.
- c) Establish and manage a network of landowners who are signed up to the charter where best practice, convictions and information can be shared.

3.3 CSP core grant funding from the PCC 2021-22

In addition to the CCTV Capital Grant and the Fly Tipping Fund, 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 allocated the same ring-fenced amount of £139,250 for 2021/22 and details of the CSPs agreed project spend can be found in **Appendix 2** alongside details of other grant funding drawn down by the Council's Community Safety Team on behalf of Safer Redditch

The progress of these grant funded projects is reported quarterly to the PCC and other grant funders 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.

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 Police Inspector and the activities and interventions of the group are supported by the Council's Community Safety Team.

The RBC Community Safety Team also monitor and respond to district community safety issues, co-ordinating local operational delivery with wider partners. The team is often a first point of contact for residents and partners with concerns about local crime and community safety issues and our 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 NWCSP, delivering a variety of community safety projects and initiatives across the Borough. The wider 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 in 2021/22.

3.5 ASB, Problem Solving and Partner Engagement

ASB in Redditch

Following the presentation of the Council's updated ASB Policy in June 2020, Elected Members requested that an update on activity to address ASB issues be presented at the annual Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel.

Working with our partner agencies there are a number of tools and remedies available when dealing with cases of ASB. Support is provided throughout each process with referrals to other organisations made as and when it is appropriate.

Attached at **Appendix 3** is a brief overview of reported ASB in North Worcestershire and Redditch to date. Data for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 (up to July) has been included to provide a true picture of ASB reports to the Police across the Borough factoring in the impact Coronavirus restrictions had on reporting during 2020/21.

Use of ASB Tools and Powers

The Council, the Police and Social Landlords can issue verbal and written warnings to address unacceptable behaviour and reinforce that ASB will not be tolerated in our communities. The Police, Council services and Social Landlords can also issue Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) to remind residents of their obligations under their tenancy/lease or the rule of law and the warnings set out the specific clauses, conditions or legislation that have

been breached. When issuing warnings, partners clarify the issue, advise the individual that their behaviour is being monitored and warn the individual or business that further enforcement action will be taken if their anti-social behaviour continues.

To date **9 Community Protection Warnings** have been issued by Council service areas in 2021/22. **6 CPWs** were issued by Planning to address the problem of waste deposited or accumulated on land and **1 CPW** related to an insecure property which was attracting ASB and crime, including arson attacks. **2 CPWs** were issued by Housing Tenancy for noise disturbances, loud music, shouting and abusive/threatening behaviour toward neighbours. There were no Community Protection Notices issued in 2021/22

There was **1 Community Trigger/ASB Case Review** within the scrutiny period, which was carried out in June 2021. The Community Trigger/ASB Case Review is a process that was introduced as part of 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 no action has been taken. Relevant 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 NWCSP and is administered by the Council's Community Safety Team. The ASB Case review process as laid out in the 2014 Act has a number of timescales that need to be met to ensure that the applicants receive timely responses to their concerns.

The Community Safety team also keeps an overview of local ASB activity and provides advice and guidance on ASB Enforcement to various services and partners with enforcement capabilities. The team coordinates and funds membership of a nationally recognised consultancy network which provides access to a leading ASB Barrister to ensure that any information and guidance shared is accurate and up to date with current legislation and practice.

Alongside this, the Community Safety Team receives a number of calls for advice and assistance from other council service areas and partner agencies requiring expertise in crime & ASB prevention, problem solving or community safety interventions to assist in resolving complex issues and cases.

Requests for support and information are also received from members of the public, Elected Members, voluntary and community groups and other external agencies. Between Sept 2021 and Aug 2022, the Community Safety Team received multiple requests for service in Redditch and these were broken down as follows: -

22 requests from Residents
12 requests from Elected Members
23 requests from Partner Agencies
38 Requests from internal services

Subjects Included: -

42 Domestic Violence & Sanctuary incl. MARAC Home Security Assessments
18 ASB related to Neighbourhood Issues

- 17 Nominated Neighbour Scheme
- 15 Youth ASB
- 3 Safeguarding Queries
- 3 Road Safety – referred to the West Mercia Safer Roads Team

3.6 Communications and Social Media Campaigns

The Community Safety Team supported various national and local campaigns throughout 2021-22 to promote key safety messages and the work of NWCSP. Partnership projects such as Nominated Neighbour, the Respect Programme and Awareness of Hate Crime Reporting are regularly promoted to residents.

In addition to the annual Hate Crime Awareness Week and Domestic Abuse White Ribbon campaign supported each year, in August 2022 the Community Safety Team led on promoting national ASB Awareness Week with local activities organised for the second year running. This campaign was successful in coordinating a range of partners and gathered significant media attention. As such ASB Awareness week is likely to become one of the main awareness campaigns in the NWCSP annual campaign calendar going forward. Other campaigns and local community events supported throughout the year, included: -

- Loan Shark Awareness
- International Women's Day
- Child Exploitation Awareness Week
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- Ask for Angela (NTE Safety Campaign)
- Drowning Prevention Week
- Young Citizens Challenge
- Nominated Neighbour
- Talks to Community groups about Home Security and Scam Awareness
- Opening of the WISE Youth Centre

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

Awareness and information messages promoted from the Safer Redditch Twitter account were seen by 13,363 people and directly interacted with by 1,863 people. The @SaferRedditch account has 668 followers in 2021/2022 (an increase of 33 followers from previous year).

The Community Safety Partnership's work is also widely promoted across North Worcestershire using other CSP Twitter accounts such as @nworccsp, @NWHateIncident and @SaferBromsgrove.

Total Twitter impressions for community safety promotional campaigns and awareness messages across North Worcestershire reached 23.5k, with 3686 direct engagements.

The breakdown for the main awareness campaigns for all North Worcestershire twitter account impressions is:

Hate Crime Awareness Week – 1.4k
White Ribbon Domestic Abuse Campaign – 4.5k
CSE Awareness Day – 1.7k
ASB Awareness Week – 6.1k

Community Safety awareness messages and projects are also promoted via the District Council's Facebook page and up-to-date information about Community Safety projects and general crime prevention work is available on the RBC website and on NWCSP website at [North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership \(nwcsp.org\)](http://North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (nwcsp.org))

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 2021-22 Presentation
Appendix 3: ASB in Redditch Data Comparison Report 2021-22

6. Background Papers

West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - [Committee details - West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](http://Committee details - West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Worcestershire County Council (moderngov.co.uk))

PCC's Safer West Mercia Plan 2021-25 - [Safer West Mercia Plan \(westmerciam-pcc.gov.uk\)](http://Safer West Mercia Plan (westmerciam-pcc.gov.uk))

Officer Contact Details:

Name: Bev Houghton
Title: Community Safety Manager
Tel: 01527 534187
Email: bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk