

Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel

To: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel From: Bev Houghton
Service Area: Community Safety
Contact Info: 01527 64252 Ext 3194

CC: Cllr Lucy Harrison – Portfolio Holder for Community Services & Regulatory Services
Sue Hanley – Interim Chief Executive & Chair of NWCSP
Judith Willis – Head of Community & Housing Services

Review of the work of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2022-23

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) for the financial year 2022-23.

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 co-ordinate the work of the Partnership are employed by 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 Councillor Lucy Harrison, Portfolio Holder for Community Services and Regulatory Services. Sue Hanley, the Council's Interim Chief Executive is Chair of NWCSP and also acts as the Responsible Authority representative on the Partnership. The Council's Community Safety Manager, Bev Houghton provides co-ordination 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 Cllr Joanne Beecham. The most recent West Mercia PCP meeting will be held on 30th October 2023 and

the public papers circulated for the meeting can be accessed here: [West Mercia Police and Crime Panel on 30/10/2023 at 10:00am](#)

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 which is based on research, evidence and intelligence from national, regional and local sources.

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 from 2021 to 2024.

The current North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership plan has the following priorities: -

- I. **Reducing Violence and Abuse:** Focusing on violence in public places, and domestic abuse.
- II. **Reducing Theft and Acquisitive crime:** Focusing on burglary and doorstep crimes and scams
- III. **Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour, Damage and Nuisance:** Focusing on neighbourhood nuisance, criminal damage and problems facilitated by environmental factors.
- IV. **Protecting Vulnerable Communities:** Focusing on Hate Crime & Targeted Harassment, Criminal Exploitation, County Lines, Modern Slavery and Violent Extremism

The Partnership also focuses on two cross cutting themes that impact across the above priority areas. These are **Reducing the Harm caused by Drug and Alcohol Misuse** and **Reducing Re-Offending**

The North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership Plan 2021-24 is currently being reviewed and a new community safety action plan for North Worcestershire will be developed and agreed for 2024-27.

3.2 John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

First elected in 2016, John Campion is the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The PCC has a duty to co-operate with all CSPs in his geographical area to reduce crime and disorder and there is a reciprocal duty on CSPs to collaborate with the PCC. Both bodies must have due regard for each other's priorities within their respective plans. The PCC's Safer West Mercia Plan 2021 – 2025 can be read here: - [Safer West Mercia Plan \(westmercia-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)

The PCC is supported by Assistant PCCs, Paul Middlebrough and Nicola Lowery who work alongside the PCC. They represent him within communities across West Mercia holding portfolios that include rural, business and cyber-crime, victims' services and force-wide commissioning. In September 2022, Marc Bayliss (former Leader of Worcester City Council) was appointed as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner's for West Mercia.

NWCSP works closely with the Deputy and Assistant PCCs and are actively involved in the West Mercia PCC's commissioning model for crime reduction activity. Well established commissioning areas include the co-ordination of Data Analysis support, consolidation of funding for Integrated Offender Management across the force area and force-wide commissioning of victims services such as Crimestoppers and Victim Support.

More recently the PCC released a tender for delivery of a Hate Crime Support service across West Mercia, which won by Victim Support West Mercia. The PCC also opened a Fly Tipping fund that CSPs could bid into to support private landowners to address environmental crime issues. The PCCs commissioning model has 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: Since 2017 the PCC has allocated significant funding to develop and upgrade CCTV across the West Mercia force area. NWCSP first received an allocation of £195,000. On behalf of the three Local Authorities, the CSP used this capital contribution alongside matchfunding from the core grant and from the district council's own budgets to modernise the CCTV infrastructure that serves the three district areas in North Worcestershire. As a result of this upgrade 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.

Between 2020-22 the PCC allocated an additional amount of £130k capital funding towards CCTV and the CCTV project team implemented spending proposals agreed by the CSP which continued to enhance the capability and capacity of the CCTV scheme. The funding provided improvements to man technological aspects of the Monitoring Centre and provided redeployable cameras which are being used to respond to emerging areas of concern across the three areas in North Worcestershire. A further funding allocation of £20,000 was given to NWCSP for 2022/23 and details of the 2021-23 CCTV capital fund allocations can be found in **Appendix 1**. The PCC has made no further allocation of CCTV capital funding for 2023-24.

3.3 NWCSP ring-fenced grant funding from the PCC 2022-23

NWCSP is allocated an annual ring-fenced amount from the PCC of £139,250. The details of the CSPs agreed project spend can be found in **Appendix 1**.

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.

In 2023-24 new funding will be made available by the Home Office via PCCs to support Community Safety partners in **Implementing the Serious Violence Duty**. Through the CSP, the Council will be required to meet its requirements with regard to the Serious Violence Duty as laid out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022. Statutory guidance updated on 22 June 2023 outlines how key specified authorities (of which the Council is one) should exercise their functions in relation to the Duty and funding from the Home Office is being allocated to Policing areas to support this process.

The statutory guidance sets out how specified authorities should work together to deliver the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty in order to prevent and reduce serious violence within a defined area. Whilst funding amounts and arrangements are still being negotiated, it has been agreed that local co-ordination will operate at a countywide level with the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board and the two Community Safety Partnerships in North/South Worcestershire working together to address serious violence. The definition of Serious Violence that all West Mercia Partners will be working to can be found in **Appendix 1**.

In addition to the annual review of the work of the Community Safety Partnership, Elected Members of the Crime and Disorder Panel requested to see information about the steps and strategies that are put in place to tackle County Lines drug activity. Information on this topic can be found at **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 a multi-agency partnership chaired by the District Police Inspector. The activities and interventions of the group are supported by the Community Safety Team and other council service areas such as Environmental Services, Planning and WRS.

Alongside supporting the CSP sub-groups, the Community Safety Team also monitor and respond to local community safety issues, co-ordinating operational delivery with partners. The team is often a first point of contact for residents and community groups with concerns about local crime and disorder issues and our officers are able to call upon other community safety partners when solutions to these concerns require a multi-agency response.

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 1** provides an update on the key community safety project activity that has taken place in 2022/23.

3.5 ASB, Problem Solving and Partner Engagement

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.

Use of ASB Tools and Powers

To date **11 Community Protection Warnings (CPWs)** have been issued by Council service areas in 2022/23.

8 CPWs were issued by Planning, to address the problem of waste deposited or accumulated on land, and unsecure premisses encouraging ASB and having negative impact on quality of life of others in locality. One CPW issued by Planning progressed to **Community Protection Notice (CPN)**.

7 CPWs were issued by Environmental Services in relation to waste deposited on land, fly tipping and inappropriate parking of commercial vehicles in residential area.

There were **no** ASB Case Reviews (formally Community Triggers) carried out in Redditch in 2022/23.

A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) has been requested for Redditch Town Centre following concerns raised by businesses, residents and the Local Policing Team. PSPOs are designed to stop individuals or groups of people committing anti-social behaviour in a public space. The behaviour that the Order aims to prevent includes alcohol related ASB, misuse of intoxicating substances and offensive or threatening behaviour. These issues have been identified as having a detrimental effect on those in the area and are (or are likely to be) of a persistent or continuing nature and are (or are likely to be) considered to be unreasonable. Anyone who refuses to stop these anti-social behaviours within the boundary of the PSPO could be asked to leave the area for a set period of time, have their articles confiscated, be issued a fine or could be arrested.

The statutory public consultation about the PSPO was launched on Friday 28th September, closing on Sunday 29th October. The proposal whether to make the Order will be taken to Executive Committee on 5th December. Information promoting the PSPO consultation can be found in **Appendix 1**

Calls for service and support

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 2022 and Aug 2023, the Community Safety Team received multiple requests for service in Redditch and these were broken down as follows: -

19 requests from Residents
13 requests from Elected Members
24 requests from Partner Agencies
52 Requests from internal services

The requests for service were related to the following areas:

33 Domestic Violence, MARAC & Sanctuary incl. Home Security Assessment
13 ASB
15 ASB related to drugs
16 ASB related to Neighbourhood Issues
3 Youth ASB
3 CPW advice related to dogs
6 Personal safety information and guidance
4 Burglary/break-ins
7 Designing Out Crime

3.6 Communications and Social Media Campaigns

The Community Safety Team continued to support various national and local campaigns throughout 2022-23 to promote key safety messages and the work of NWCSP. Partnership projects such as Nominated Neighbour, the Respect Programme and raising awareness of Hate Crime Reporting are regularly promoted to residents and partner organisations.

In addition to the annual Hate Crime Awareness Week and Domestic Abuse White Ribbon campaigns supported each year, in July 2023 the Community Safety Team supported national ASB Awareness Week, with extensive social media campaigns and attending local activities.

Other campaigns and local community events supported and promoted throughout the year included:

- Personal and community safety work with students in schools
- Supporting local Community Days organised by schools and other partners
- Nominated Neighbour - raising awareness of the tactics of rogue traders
- Supporting the Pride Month events across North Worcestershire

- Operation Sceptre and other Knife Crime awareness events and activities carried out by the Police
- International Human Rights Day
- Loan Shark Awareness
- International Women's Day
- Child Exploitation Awareness Week
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- Ask for Angela (Night Time Economy Safety Campaign)
- Drowning Prevention Week
- Young Citizens Challenge
- Delivering talks to community groups about home security and scam awareness

The Community Safety team also uses social media to raise awareness of community safety issues and keeps residents and partners informed of work being delivered by partners, via our X (formally Twitter) account **@SaferRedditch** and via the Councils' own Facebook pages.

A wide range of awareness raising and information messages are promoted via the X account **@SaferRedditch** which had 686 followers in 2022/2023 (an increase of 20 followers from 668 in the previous year).

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

Community safety promotional campaigns and awareness messages from X accounts across North Worcestershire were seen by 19.5k, with 250 direct engagements. There has been a decline in direct engagement and this seems to be in line with general social media trends seen in 2023. Reach and engagement rates have dropped sharply, due to various factors and trends such as Twitter changing hands and re-branding as X, alongside people making changes to their personal social media habits.

The breakdown for the main awareness campaigns for all North Worcestershire Twitter impressions are:

Hate Crime Awareness Week – 4.5k
 White Ribbon Domestic Abuse Campaign – 4.9k
 CSE Awareness Day – 2.5k
 ASB Awareness Week – 3.5k

Community Safety awareness messages and projects are also promoted via the Borough 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 the NWCSPP website at [North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership \(nwcsp.org\)](https://www.nwcsp.org)

4. Recommendation

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

5. Appendices

Appendix 1: NWCSP Project Review for 2022-23 - Presentation

6. Background Papers

West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - [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 \(westmercia-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)

Officer Contact Details:

Name: Bev Houghton

Title: Community Safety Manager

Tel: 01527 534187

Email: bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk