

# **Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel**

To: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel      From: Bev Houghton  
Service Area: Community Safety  
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CC: Cllr Monica Stringfellow – Portfolio Holder for Community Services & Regulatory Services  
Sue Hanley – Chief Executive & Chair of NWCSP  
Judith Willis – Head of Community & Housing Services

## **Review of the work of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership from March 2024 to Date**

### **1. Summary**

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) for the period March 2024 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 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 Cllr Monica Stringfellow, Portfolio Holder for Community Services & Regulatory Services. Sue Hanley, the Council's Chief Executive is the Chair of NWCSP and also acts as the RBC 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). Cllr Monica

Stringfellow is the RBC Representative Member on the PCP. The most recent West Mercia PCP meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and the agenda and associated papers of the meeting can be accessed here: [West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Wednesday, 6th November, 2024 11.00 am](#)

### **3. Current Position**

#### **3.1 North Worcestershire CSP Plan 2024 - 27**

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. This is identified through an annual strategic assessment which is based on research, evidence and intelligence from national, regional and local sources.

At its planning meeting in February 2024, the NWCSP reviewed and agreed its new priorities for the following three-year period. The Partnership Plan sets out the priorities that the CSP will focus on for a 3-year period, with an annual refresh to capture any emerging issues and trends. The NWCSP priorities for period April 2024 to March 2027 are : -

- **Public Place Violence & the Serious Violence Duty**
- **ASB, Nuisance and Environmental Issues**
- **Shoplifting and Neighbourhood Crime:** Neighbourhood Crime is defined as domestic burglary, robbery (against the individual/household), theft from a person and vehicle crime.
- **Protecting Vulnerable Communities including Hate Crime & Targeted Harassment, Domestic Abuse & DHRs and Sexual Violence**
- **Serious Organised Crime via a Joint Action Group (SOCJAG)**

Alongside these local priorities NWCSP works closely with South Worcestershire CSP, through the countywide Safer Communities Board (SCB), to identify and address countywide issues. Through Worcestershire SCB, the two statutory CSPs collaborate on key countywide projects and initiatives to ensure district area input and delivery is considered and implemented. These Worcestershire-wide activities and interventions include:-

- Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
- Prevent Strategy Group [Counter Terrorism]
- Protect (& Prepare) Board [Counter Terrorism]
- Safeguarding Children Partnership & GETSAFE [Child Exploitation]
- Adult Safeguarding Partnership & Adult Exploitation Group
- Reducing Reoffending Group & Integrated Offender Management
- Substance Misuse Oversight Group / Combatting Drugs Partnership

#### **3.2 John Champion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner**

First elected in 2016, John Champion was re-elected for a third term as West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in May 2024. 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 \(westmercia-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk)

At a West Mercia PCP meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July, Marc Bayliss was re-confirmed as the Deputy PCC after first taking up the role in September 2022. NWCSP works closely with the Deputy PCC and the OPCC Team via a West Mercia Crime Reduction Board and the CSPs are actively involved in the West Mercia PCC's commissioning model for crime reduction activity. Over the last few years this model has seen more funding being provided at a West Mercia force level to deliver activities in key thematic areas.

Established force-wide commissioning areas include the co-ordination of Crime & ASB Data Analysis support for the five West Mercia CSPs, consolidation of funding for Integrated Offender Management across the force area, activity to address rural, business and cyber-crime and the force-wide commissioning of victim's services such as Crimestoppers, Victim Support and most recently force area activities to raise awareness of Hate Crime interventions.

In 2023-24 new funding was made available by the Home Office via PCCs to support Community Safety partners in **Implementing the Serious Violence Duty**. As a CSP member, the Council has requirements in regard of the Serious Violence Duty as laid out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022. In statutory guidance published in June 2023, the Act outlined how key specified authorities (of which the Council is one) should exercise their functions in relation to the Duty and the Home Office allocated limited funding to all 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 (SVD) in order to prevent and reduce serious violence within a defined area. In preparation for the full requirements of the PCSC Act, Partners agreed that local co-ordination of SVD activities would be delivered at a countywide level, with the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board and the two statutory Community Safety Partnerships in the North and South of Worcestershire working together to address Serious Violence.

Home Office funding allocations for SVD interventions in Worcestershire totalled **£50,599** and the definition of Serious Violence that all West Mercia partners are operating under can be found in **Appendix 1**. Details of the Youth Violence Intervention project that NWCSP and SWCSP have implemented using the Home Office SVD grant for Worcestershire are also provided.

### **3.3 NWCSP Ring-Fenced Grant from the PCC 2024-25**

Alongside the PCC's force-wide commissioning, NWCSP is allocated an annual ring-fenced amount from the PCC of £139,250 to identify and address

local issues at a district level. The details of the NWCSP agreed project allocation for 2024/25 can be found in **Appendix 1**.

The progress of these local 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 addition to the annual ring-fenced grant, the PCC also allocated additional Safer Communities funding to NWCSP. This funding has been allocated by the Partnership to complement the ring-fenced grant and address identified issues that are of most concern and/or are having a detrimental effect on our local communities. Details of this additional one-off funding allocated by NWCSP is outlined in the annual NWCSP Project Review in **Appendix 1**.

### **3.4 District 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 and the activities and interventions of the group are supported by Safer Neighbourhood Policing Teams, the Community Safety Team, other community safety partners and council service areas such as Place Teams, Regeneration Officers and Licensing.

Alongside supporting the CSP sub-groups, the Community Safety Team also monitor and respond directly 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 officers are able to call upon other community safety partners when solutions to these concerns require a multi-agency response.

Community Safety Project Officers Rich Waterhouse and, until recently, Sarah McIntosh work on behalf of the Council and NWCSP delivering a variety of community safety projects and initiatives across Redditch. 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. The annual CSP Project Review at **Appendix 1** provides a more detailed update on community safety project activity that has taken place from March 2024 to date.

### **3.5 ASB, Problem Solving and Partner Engagement**

As part of the implementation of the Council's ASB Policy in June 2020, Elected Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board asked to receive an update on activity to address ASB issues as part of the annual Crime & Disorder Scrutiny process.

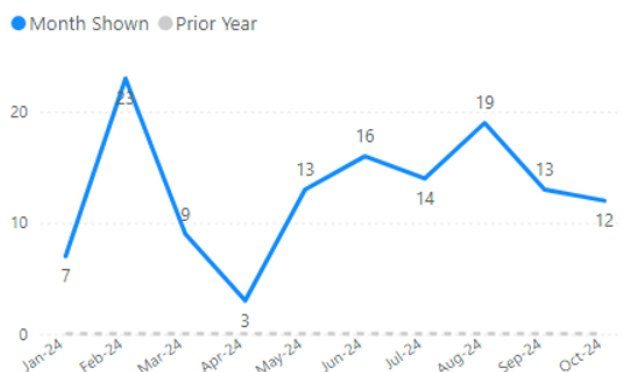
## Use of ASB Tools and Powers

### Housing Tenancy led ASB Actions

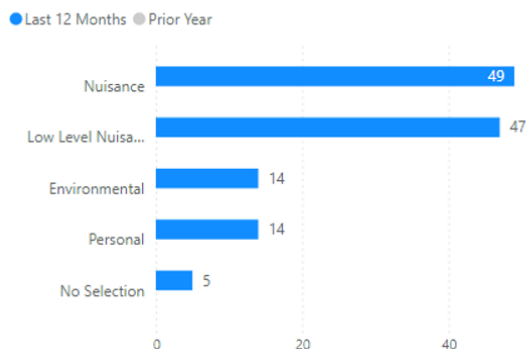
The Council's Neighbourhood and Tenancy team manages its ASB cases on a new case management system implemented in January this year. To date Housing-led enforcement outcomes for ASB include:

- 4 - Injunctions
- 6 - Possession Claims

### Tenancy ASB Cases by Month - 2024



### Tenancy ASB Cases by Type - 2024



### WRS – ASB Enforcement on behalf of Planning and Environmental Services

At Executive on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 it was recommended that a Business case be pursued with the intention to bring together the enforcement functions within Environmental Services and Planning to be delivered within the Shared Regulatory Service provided by WRS. This includes a number of enforcement functions which previously formed part of the reporting of the use of ASB Tools & Powers to Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel.

Since the new arrangements came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> June the team have been setting up systems and recruiting staff. One investigation

has been carried out for Fly-Tipping and Side Waste in the Town Centre and a warning letter issued.

### **West Mercia Police-led ASB Activity**

Since the introduction of the Redditch Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in January 2024, the Police have issued 10 notices requiring persons to leave the designated area and 5 Community Protection Warnings for street drinking.

There is one prosecution continuing for a person who refused to leave the designated area.

The District Police Inspector has also provided a brief report giving an overview of Police-led ASB and Crime actions to date at **Appendix 2**.

### **Community Safety Team Interventions**

One ASB Case Review (formally called Community Trigger) was carried out in Redditch in 2024. This related to an ongoing neighbour dispute between two tenants of different Housing Associations. Actions included joint visits from Landlord and Police Officer, issuing of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts to both parties, increased Police patrols and offer of mediation which was declined by both parties.

### **Calls to the Community Safety Team for service and support**

The team receive a number of calls for advice and assistance from other council service areas and partner agencies who require crime prevention expertise and advice. The team co-ordinate problem solving processes in order to implement crime & disorder and ASB prevention measures and often these community safety interventions assist in resolving long-standing complex issues and cases.

Requests for support and information are received from members of the public, Elected Members, voluntary and community groups and other external agencies and can include complaints about neighbourhood issues, concerns around domestic abuse, use of illegal substances, home security concerns, personal safety and environmental crime issues.

Between March 2024 and November 2024, the Community Safety Team received 92 requests for service, in addition to project work in Redditch, these included:

- 40 Sanctuary assessment requests.
- 7 Home security assessments for victims of burglary or other vulnerability
- 15 Crime prevention surveys
- 30 advice and signposting

### 3.6 Communications and Social Media Campaigns

The Community Safety Team has supported various national and local campaigns in the period from March 2024 to date, promoting key community safety messages and the work of NWCSP. Projects that are directly led by the Community Safety Team such as the Respect Programme, Nominated Neighbour and Hate Incident Reporting are regularly promoted.

This year a new Community Hero Initiative was organised by the Community Safety Partnership to recognise the work of communities and individuals in addressing ASB. The requests for nominations and the subsequent award ceremony awareness were promoted widely on social media and in local press. The ceremony took place the 11<sup>th</sup> July and more details about the event can be found at **Appendix 3**. National ASB Awareness week takes place between 18<sup>th</sup>–24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 when publicity and communications around the ASB Community Hero Awards will be re-circulated as part of that campaign.

A number of other national and local campaigns were supported throughout the reporting period, including:-

- 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
- 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 keep residents and partners informed of work being delivered by partners, via our X (formally Twitter) account **@SaferRedditch** and via the Councils' own Facebook pages.

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

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the progress made by North Worcestershire CSP be noted.

#### **5. Appendices**

Appendix 1: NWCSP Project Review for 2024 – Presentation

Appendix 2: Police SNT update on ASB activity

Appendix 3: ASB Community Heroes Awards

#### **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 \(westmercia-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)

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