

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 Monica Stringfellow – Portfolio Holder for Community Services and Safeguarding
Guy Revans – Executive Director & Chair of NWCSP
Judith Willis – Asst. Director of Community & Housing Services

Review of the work of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership from December 2024 to September 2025

1. Summary

- 1.1** This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) for the period Dec 2024 to Oct 25

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. Guy Revans, the Council's Executive Director of Communities and Environment was elected as the new Chair of NWCSP in April 2025. Guy 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 5th November 2025 and the agenda and associated papers of the meeting can be accessed here: [West Mercia Police and Crime Panel on Wednesday, 5th November, 2025, 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 March 2025, NWCSP reviewed and confirmed its priorities for the following two-year period remained the same. The Partnership Plan sets out the priorities that the CSP will focus on for a 3-year period, with an annual refresh to identify 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

The countywide work of the Safer Communities Board is scrutinised by the Worcestershire County Council Overview & Scrutiny arrangements and the community safety report to last O&S Performance Board outlining community safety activity at a countywide level can be accessed here: [Worcestershire County Council Community Safety Update Report - 17-10-2024](#)

3.2 John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

First elected in 2016, John Campion 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 current Safer West Mercia Plan can be read here:- [Priorities for West Mercia | West Mercia PCC](#)

NWCSP works closely with the Deputy PCC, Marc Bayliss and the OPCC Team via the West Mercia Crime Reduction Board and CSPs are actively involved in the 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 force-wide 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 (SVD) as laid out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022. Statutory guidance published in June 2023, outlines how key specified authorities (of which the Council is one) should exercise their functions in relation to the SVD and the Home Office allocates limited funding to all policing areas to support this process.

The statutory guidance also details how specified authorities should work together to deliver the requirements of the SVD in order to prevent and reduce serious violence within a defined area. Worcestershire community safety partners agreed that local co-ordination of SVD activities would be delivered at a countywide level, via the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board reflecting the two statutory Community Safety Partnerships in the North and South of Worcestershire working together to address Serious Violence.

In 2025 Home Office funding allocations for SVD interventions in Worcestershire totalled **£60,141** and this funding has been used to deliver an ongoing Youth Violence Intervention Project called '*The Right Path*', details of which can be found in **Appendix 1**.

On the 13th November 2025, the Home Secretary announced the government's decision to abolish the role of Police & Crime Commissioner. It is envisaged that the roles will be absorbed by regional Mayors wherever possible, and in areas not covered by a Mayor, the role will be taken on by elected council leaders.

It is reported that the transition to the new model will happen at the end of the next electoral cycle in 2028. [Police and crime commissioners to be scrapped - GOV.UK](#)

3.3 NWCSF Ring-Fenced Grant from the PCC 2025-26

Alongside the PCC's force-wide commissioning, NWCSF 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 NWCSF 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.

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 sub-groups. Safer Redditch is a multi-agency group chaired by the District Police Inspector. The activities and interventions of the group are supported by Safer Neighbourhood Policing Teams, the Community Safety Team, other community safety partners such as Kingfisher Centre, the BID and HOW College. Other council service areas such as place teams, planning & regeneration officers and licensing also attend.

Alongside supporting the CSP sub-groups, the Community Safety Team also monitor community safety concerns 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 Officer, Rich Waterhouse works on behalf of the Council and NWCSF delivering a wide variety of community safety projects and initiatives across Redditch. The wider Community Safety Team is 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 onwards.

3.5 Use of ASB Tools and Powers

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.

Housing Tenancy led ASB Actions

The Housing Case Management system is now fully up and running and embedding ASB responses into tenancy management processes and case work. This has led to a significant increase in ASB case management and recording.

Outcome Data

7 Evictions relating to ASB

3 Closure orders

6 Injunctions

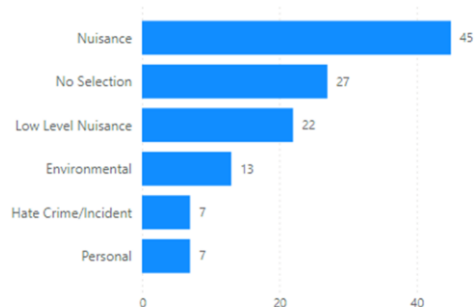
ASB Cases

Open Cases, Last 13 Months v Year Prior



Types of ASB Cases

Open Cases, by Type



WRS – Enforcement Service on behalf of Planning and Environmental Services

Since January 2024 enforcement functions for Planning and Environmental Services have been delivered by Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS). This includes a number of enforcement functions which were previously included in the reporting to Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel on the use of ASB Tools & Powers.

At the Redditch Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) meeting on 1 Sept 2025, Members asked that the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel consider a report on the use of Community Protection Notices (CPNs) by WRS, and the recent adoption of £100 fixed penalty notice for breaches of CPN, on influencing offenders/potential offenders' behaviours and reducing ASB in Redditch. This is provided in a separate report to this meeting by WRS.

West Mercia Police-led ASB Activity

The District Police Inspector for Redditch has provided a brief report giving an overview of Police-led ASB and Crime actions for the reporting period at **Appendix 2**.

Community Safety Team Interventions

The Community Safety Team does not carry out direct enforcement activity itself, however the team is responsible for the co-ordination of ASB Case Reviews (formally the Community Trigger) on behalf of the CSP.

No ASB Case Reviews have been held in Redditch for this reporting period.

3.6 Community Safety Problem Solving and Service Engagement

Alongside co-ordinating and delivering partnership crime prevention project activity, the Community Safety Team receives 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, personal safety & home security concerns and environmental crime issues.

Between Nov 2024 and Oct 2025, the Community Safety Team received **134 requests for service** in Redditch, these calls included: -

54 requests for Home Security/Sanctuary assessment
20 requests for Crime Prevention Surveys
10 requests to attend multi-agency task group meetings
50 requests for advice/signposting

3.7 Communications and Social Media Campaigns

The Community Safety Team has supported various national and local campaigns in the period from Nov 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.

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

- Promotion of the Community Safety Nominated Neighbour Scheme & raising awareness of the tactics of rogue traders and doorstep scams
- Freshers Week at HoW College
- Police and Fire Station Open Day
- Council Staff Well-being Event - All about me
- Operation Sceptre and other Knife Crime awareness events and activities delivered by Police Teams
- International Human Rights Day
- Loan Shark Awareness
- International Women's Day
- Child Exploitation Awareness Week
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- Delivering talks to various community groups about Home Security and Scam Awareness
- White Ribbon Campaign
- Hate Crime Awareness Week

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 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 2024/25 – Presentation

Appendix 2/2a: Police SNT update on Crime & ASB activity – Insp Richard Field

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 - [Priorities for West Mercia | West Mercia PCC](#)

Officer Contact Details:

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