

Public Document Pack



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

MONDAY 11TH MARCH 2024

AT 6.00 P.M.

PARKSIDE SUITE - PARKSIDE

MEMBERS: Councillors P. M. McDonald (Chairman), S. T. Nock (Vice-Chairman), A. Bailes, R. Bailes, A. M. Dale, E. M. S. Gray, R. J. Hunter, B. Kumar, S. A. Robinson, H. D. N. Rone-Clarke and J. D. Stanley

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence and Named Substitutes**
2. **Declarations of Interest and Whipping Arrangements**

To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests.

3. **To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 12th February 2024**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 12th February 2024 will be published in a Supplementary Papers pack.

4. **Governance Systems Review - Implementation Progress Update** (Pages 7 - 10)

5. **Local Heritage List Strategy - pre-scrutiny**

(Report to follow)

This report will follow in a Supplementary Papers pack once the report has been published for consideration of the Cabinet.

6. **Bromsgrove Centres Action Plan Review 2024-25 - pre-scrutiny**

(Report to follow)

This report will follow in a Supplementary Papers pack once the report has been published for consideration of the Cabinet.

7. **Review of the work of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2023-24** (Pages 11 - 56)

8. **Cost of Living Funding Proposal - pre-scrutiny**

(Report to follow).

This report will follow in a Supplementary Papers pack once the report has been published for consideration of the Cabinet.

9. **Impact of Heatwaves Short Sharp Review - Membership Report** (Pages 57 - 58)

10. **Food Bank and Community Supermarket Provision Task Group - Final Report**

(Report to follow).

The Task Group's final report will follow in a Supplementary Papers pack once it has been finalised.

11. **Finance and Budget Working Group - Update**

12. **Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Update**

13. **Cabinet Work Programme** (Pages 59 - 64)

14. **Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme** (Pages 65 - 66)

Sue Hanley
Chief Executive

Parkside
Market Street
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B61 8DA

1st March 2024

**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
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Please note that this is a public meeting. You are able to access the agenda papers for this meeting from the Committee Pages of the Council's website.

If you have any questions regarding the agenda or attached papers, please do not hesitate to contact the officer named above.

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- Meeting Minutes
- The Council's Constitution

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Overview and Scrutiny Board

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Governance Systems Task Group – Progress Update

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor C. Hotham, Cabinet Member for Finance and Enabling
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Head of Service		Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services
Report Author Jess Bayley-Hill	Job Title: Principal Democratic Services Officer Contact email: jess.bayley-hill@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk	
Wards Affected		No specific ward relevance
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)		An Effective and Sustainable Council
Non-Key Decision		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to RESOLVE that the update in respect of progress with the implementation of actions arising from the Governance Systems Task Group be noted.

2. **BACKGROUND**

2.1 This report provides an update on the work that is currently being undertaken to implement the recommendations arising from the Governance Systems Task Group review that was completed in September 2023.

3. **OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

3.1 The Governance Systems Task Group completed a review of the Council's governance model in September 2023. The findings detailed in the group's report were subsequently approved at an extraordinary meeting of Council held on 20th September 2023.

3.2 Since Council approved the group's recommendations, the Constitution Review Working Group (CRWG) has held a number of meetings to consider progress with the implementation of the actions that were proposed by the Task Group.

3.3 Recommendations have already been made through the Constitution Review Working Group on the following subjects:

- Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) terms of reference.

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- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Cross Party Working.
 - Amendments to the Committee Terms of Reference to require the Chairmen of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Board respectively to be Members from political groups not represented on the Cabinet wherever possible.
 - Amendments to the Council Procedure Rules to require the Chairman of the Council and the Chairmen of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Board to be Members from political groups not represented on the Cabinet wherever possible.
- 3.4 These recommendations have been approved by Members at meetings of Council held on 6th December 2023 and 21st February 2024 respectively.
- 3.5 The next meeting of the Constitution Review Working Group is due to take place on 12th March 2024. Any recommendations arising from that meeting which relate to the outcomes of the Governance systems Task Group report will be reported for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 At the Council meeting held on 21st February 2024 Members discussed and agreed the Medium Term Financial Plan Tranche 2 Report 2024/25 to 2026/27. This report contained a budget bid to fund an additional Democratic Services Officer post for Bromsgrove District Council.
- 4.2 Officers are working on the recruitment process for this position and aim to advertise the role shortly.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Review and revision of the Constitution is governed by Article 15 of the Constitution.
- 5.2 Any final decisions taken on the content of the council's constitution need to be made at a meeting of Council.

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6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 6.1 The action proposed in this report supports the strategic purpose “an effective and sustainable Council”.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.2 There are no specific climate change implications.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.3 There are no equalities and diversity implications.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There is a risk that if the Council does not progress in a timely manner with consideration of the changes to the constitution required as a result of the Governance Systems Task Group, these amendments will not be in place in time for the start of the 2024/25 municipal year as intended.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers

Governance Systems Task Group’s final report: [Governance Systems Task Group - report](#)

Minutes of the meeting of the extraordinary Council meeting held on 20th September 2023: [Minutes - Council meeting, 20th September 2023](#)

Governance systems Task Group – Update Report – report to the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 20th November 2023: [Governance Systems Task Group - Update Report - 20th November 2023](#)

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 20th November 2023: [Overview and Scrutiny Board minutes - 20th November 2023](#)

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22nd November 2023: [Cabinet minutes 22nd November 2023](#)

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th December 2023: [Council minutes - 6th December 2023](#)

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Governance Systems Task Group Progress Update, considered at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 16th January 2024: [Governance Systems Update Report - 16th January 2024](#)

Governance Systems Task Group Progress Update, considered at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 12th February 2024: [Governance Systems Task Group Update - 12th February 2024](#)
(Please refer to pages 13 - 49 of the pack)

Governance Systems Task Group Progress Update, considered at a meeting of the Cabinet held on 14th February 2024: [Governance Systems Task Group Update - 14th February 2024](#)

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14th February 2024: [Cabinet Minutes 14th February 2024](#)

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor C. Hotham, Cabinet Member for Finance and Enabling	01/03/24
Lead Director / Head of Service	Pete Carpenter, Deputy Chief Executive	01/03/24



Overview & Scrutiny Board

To: Overview & Scrutiny Board

From:
Service Area:
Contact:

Bev Houghton
Community Safety
01527 64252 Ext 3194

CC: Cllr Peter Whittaker – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services & Community Safety
Sue Hanley – Chief Executive & Chair of NWCSP
Judith Willis – Head of Community & Housing Services

Review of the work of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2023-24

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) for the financial year 2023-24.

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. Bromsgrove District Council's Elected Member representative is Councillor Peter Whittaker, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Community Safety. Sue Hanley, the Council's Chief Executive is the Chair of NWCSP and Judith Willis, Head of Community & Housing Services acts as the BDC 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). Bromsgrove District Council's representative on the PCP is Cllr Helen Jones. The most recent West Mercia PCP meeting was held on 7th February 2024 and the

agenda and draft minutes of the meeting can be accessed here: [Agenda for West Mercia Police and Crime Panel on Wednesday, 7th February, 2024, 11.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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 an annual strategic assessment based on research, evidence and intelligence from national, regional and local sources.

Informed by a strategic assessment, the Community Safety Partnership Plan sets out the priorities that the CSP will focus on for a 3 year period currently 2021 to 2024.

At present the 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. A new community safety action plan for North Worcestershire CSP for 2024 to 2027 is being developed in draft and will be agreed by NWCSP in April / May 2024.

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

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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)

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 for West Mercia CSPs, 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 was awarded to Victim Support - West Mercia. 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 match funding 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 technological aspects of the Monitoring Centre. It also enabled a recommendation from a Council Task and Finish Group to provide redeployable cameras to be funded and they 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 made no further allocation of CCTV capital funding for 2023-24.

3.3 NWCSF ring-fenced grant funding from the PCC 2023-24

NWCSF is allocated an annual ring-fenced amount from the PCC of £139,250. The details of the CSP's agreed project spend for 2023/24 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 was made available by the Home Office via PCCs to support Community Safety partners in **Implementing the Serious Violence Duty**. Through the CSP, the Council is 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 limited funding from the Home Office has been allocated 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. It has been agreed that local co-ordination of SVD activities will operate at a countywide level, with Worcestershire Safer Communities Board alongside 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 for 2023-24 total **£50,599** for Worcestershire and the definition of Serious Violence that all West Mercia partners are operating under can be found in **Appendix 1**.

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 Bromsgrove group is a multi-agency partnership chaired by officers in the Community Safety Team and the activities and interventions of the group are supported by the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams, other Community Safety partners and council service areas such as Place Teams, 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 officers are able to call upon other community safety partners when solutions to these concerns require a multi-agency response.

Community Safety Project Officers David Rischmiller and Sarah McIntosh work on behalf of the Council and NWCSP, delivering a variety of community safety projects and initiatives across Bromsgrove District. 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 2023/24.

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 receive an update on activity to address ASB issues as part of the annual Crime & Disorder Scrutiny process.

Use of ASB Tools and Powers

A total of 16 Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) were issued in the period 2023-24. The Community Safety Team issued 7 of these. The Police in conjunction with relevant Housing Associations issued 4 warnings and a Housing Association independently issued another 2 CPWs.

Environmental Services issued 2 CPWs in relation to waste and unsightly property and Planning issued 1 CPW in relation to a derelict building.

Only two formal Community Protection Notices followed the earlier issue of the CPWs and these were served by the Police during the same reporting period. This is regarded as positive and mirrors the national experience that early use of CPW measures can deter escalation of ASB and prevent the need for more serious enforcement action. Very often a warning about the potential use of enforcement measures helps to solve the problem and the Community Safety Team regularly provide advice and support to other internal departments and other community safety partners in the use of various measures under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

In November 2023 the team provided training to staff from a local housing association in the use of CPWs and as a result, their staff are now increasingly utilising these tools to address neighbour nuisance problems at an early stage. A national legal expert in the use of these powers has said that a great benefit of the CPW/CPN process is that it bestows on agencies the power to deal with nuisances that anti-social residents don't believe can be addressed. This dispels the idea that agencies can only pursue the difficult and prolonged route of criminal or tenancy action when dealing with persistent, problem residents.

In September 2023 a resident requested an ASB Case Review relating to a long-standing neighbour dispute that had escalated, causing a significant toxic

atmosphere in a small close of nine properties. During the course of the case review the Community Safety Team identified that the CPW/CPN process was an appropriate means by which order and tranquillity might be restored to the area.

The primary partners were the Police and a Social Housing provider who had incurred significant service demand on numerous occasions since April 2021. Following advice and support from the Community Safety Team, four CPWs were served on residents by the Police and Housing Association jointly, Subsequently the victims received further abuse which resulted in two CPNs being served on two of the four residents. To date this seems to have brought some calm to this location. The use of these measures has also provided valuable evidence; in the event the Housing Association needs to take future action against the offenders.

Back in 2022 several CPNs had been issued to a landowner and their agent in respect of long-standing nuisance from off-road motorcycles. This enforcement action resulted in substantial works to secure the land by the landowner and a dramatic reduction in the nuisance. However, there remained a few determined offenders who continued to gain access to the land and create nuisance to residents opposite. Due to the prior CPN process being largely successful in reducing the nuisance that residents experienced, they felt more confident to provide intelligence about the remaining offenders. Registration numbers of the vehicles that were transporting the bikes to the location were provided to the Community Safety Team, along with video and photographic evidence. As a consequence seven CPWs were issued to the registered keepers of these vehicles prohibiting them from allowing their use to transport off-road vehicles to cause nuisance. To date none of those vehicles have returned to the location.

The Community Safety team 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 also 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.

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 requiring expertise and advice in problem solving processes in order to implement Crime & ASB prevention measures. 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

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around domestic abuse, use of illegal substances, home security concerns, personal safety and environmental crime issues.

Between March 2023 and February 2024, the Community Safety Team received multiple requests for service in Bromsgrove and these are categorised as below:-

- 43 requests from Residents
- 10 requests from Elected Members
- 21 requests from Partner Agencies
- 7 Requests from internal services

Requests for service related to the following ASB and Community Safety themes:

Whilst the Community Safety Team does not provide an ASB service, Project Officers receive several requests for support because callers do not know where else to turn.

48 requests related to ASB issues were received in 2023/24 including:-

- 7 ASB related to inappropriate use of motorbikes.
- 9 ASB related to neighbourhood issues
- 1 ASB related to noise nuisance
- 1 ASB related to dogs
- 15 ASB related to youth ASB
- 5 ASB related to vulnerable residents
- 1 ASB related to Arson
- 2 ASB related to road safety
- 2 ASB related to drugs/cannabis smell
- 5 ASB related to other general ASB issues

Community Safety / Crime Risk requests included:-

- 2 requests for an ASB Case Review /Community Trigger
- 2 requests related to Issuing CPW/CPNs
- 1 request related to a MARAC domestic abuse case
- 7 requests related to designing out crime advice
- 2 requests related to drug dealing
- 6 requests related to empty buildings
- 6 requests related to environmental issues
- 2 requests related to event safety
- 5 requests related to the Nominated Neighbour scheme to address doorstep crime
- 3 requests related to road safety issues
- 11 other requests signposted to other departments to provide specific advice

3.6 Communications and Social Media Campaigns

The Community Safety Team has supported various national and local campaigns throughout 2023/24 to promote key safety messages and the work of NWCSP.

Projects that are led by the Community Safety Team such as the Respect Programme, Nominated Neighbour and Hate Incident Reporting were regularly promoted and annual national campaigns such as ASB Awareness Week, Hate Crime Awareness Week and the Domestic Abuse White Ribbon campaign were supported (as shown in **Appendix 1**)

A number of other national campaigns were also supported throughout the year, including:

Ask for Angela – Night Time Economy (NTE) Safety Campaign
Young Citizens Challenge
Loan Shark Awareness Week
Drowning Prevention Week
Child Exploitation Awareness Day
International Women’s Day
LGBT History Month

Community Safety Project Officers were also involved in number of local events and community engagements throughout the year, providing crime prevention and community safety information and materials. These included:-

Op Sceptre – supporting Police Knife Surrender Scheme - May 2023
ASB Awareness Week Partnership Stands – July 2023
Bromsgrove Library Community Safety Event - July 2023
Charford School Community Day - July 2023
MP’s Pensioners Fair - July 2023
Woodrush Wellbeing Fayre – July 2023
South Bromsgrove Drop-down Day – July 2023
BDHT Fun Days – August 2023
Freshers Week at HoW College – September 2023
Hate Crime Awareness Week Disability Conference – October 2023
White Ribbon 16 Days of Action Partnership Stands – December 2023

All of these events were widely promoted to local residents through the Councils, CSP social media and local press.

The main social media platform used by Bromsgrove Community Safety is Twitter using **@SaferBromsgrove** for local issues, **@nworccsp** (across North Worcestershire) and **@NWHateIncident** (for hate crime awareness projects and campaigns). The **@SaferBromsgrove** Twitter account has **644 followers**

Alongside these campaigns, the team also raises awareness of wider community safety issues and keeps residents informed of work delivered by our partners such as the Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub, the Starting Well Partnership, BDHT, GET SAFE, Pubwatch, Women's Aid, HW Fire & Rescue Service and West Mercia Police.

Community Safety awareness messages and projects are also promoted via the 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 NWCSF 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: NWCSF Project Review for 2023-24 - Presentation

6. Background Papers

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

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

Officer Contact Details:

Name: Bev Houghton
Title: Community Safety Manager
Tel: 01527 534187
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North Worcestershire **Community Safety Partnership**

Review of the work of the Community Safety Partnership in 2023/24

Bev Houghton
Community Safety Manager
11th March 2024

NWCSP Responsible Authorities

- **West Mercia Police**
- **Bromsgrove District Council**
- **Redditch Borough Council**
- **Wyre Forest District Council**
- **Worcestershire County Council**
- **Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service**
- **The Probation Service**
- **Redditch, Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest – Integrated Care Board (replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups)**

Current NWCSP Priorities

The following priorities were agreed by Community Safety Partners for 2021-24

Priority	Aims to Reduce
Violence and Abuse	Violence in Public Places
	Domestic Abuse
	Child Exploitation
Theft and Acquisitive Crime	Burglary and
	Theft From Stores
	Doorstep Crimes, Scams & Rogue Traders
Anti-Social Behaviour, Damage and Nuisance	Neighbourhood Nuisance
	Criminal Damage
	Problems facilitated by Environmental Factors
Protecting Vulnerable Communities	Hate Crime & Targeted Harassment
	Criminal Exploitation, County Lines & Modern Slavery
	Violent Extremism
Reduce the Harm caused by Drug Alcohol Misuse	
Reduce Offending and Re-Offending	

Emerging Initiatives

Following **the Domestic Abuse Act** receiving royal assent in April 2021, statutory guidance was issued in July 2022. Section 84(4) of the 2021 Act requires relevant agencies exercising public functions (which includes District Councils), to have regard to the Domestic Abuse statutory guidance in the exercise of those functions. Some organisations e.g. Housing Authorities also have specific statutory duties to safeguard victims of domestic abuse.

The [Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance](#) sets standards and promotes best practice for those **responsible authorities with statutory duties to support and assist victims of domestic abuse.**

In line with the guidance, an upper tier domestic abuse partnership board has been established at county level and a **Worcestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy** has been developed which focuses on the key strategic responses of prevention, provision of services, partnership, pursuing perpetrators and criminal justice. Bromsgrove District Council is represented at the Worcestershire Board by Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager and corporate lead for Domestic Abuse

The Worcestershire Strategy can be found here - [Domestic Abuse | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Emerging Initiatives

On the 28th June, the Government introduced several law changes as part of the **Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022**. The PCSC Act 2022 focuses on an overhaul of sentencing laws, ensuring serious violent and sexual offenders spend longer behind bars, it implements measures to help cut crime and better protect the public and equips the police with the powers and tools they need to combat crime.

Draft guidance placing a new duty on specified authorities to address Serious Violence was issued by the Government on the 9th June 2022 and updated in March 2023. This draft guidance aims to support specified authorities and PCCs in the exercise of their functions in relation to the **Serious Violence Duty**; as laid out in the PCSC Act 2022 - [Serious Violence Duty: Draft guidance for responsible authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/serious-violence-duty-draft-guidance-for-responsible-authorities)

The Serious Violence Duty guidance specifically details out how the PCSC Act 2022 amends the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and places a statutory requirement on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to formulate and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence.

The two Worcestershire CSPs co-ordinated at Safer Communities Board level are working together to exercise this duty in a consistent and collaborative manner across the partnership areas of operation. Limited funding from the Home Office has been allocated to the two Worcestershire CSPs to implement initiatives aimed at addressing local issues of Serious Violence based on the adopted West Mercia Police definition below: -

WEST MERCIA - SERIOUS VIOLENCE DEFINITION

Following consultation and discussion, a definition has been agreed by all five Community Safety Partnerships to represent serious violence within the counties of Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.

Violence, both physical and sexual, causing lasting psychological or physical harm, or where lasting harm was intended. This includes offences where there is an inherent threat of physical harm, such as county lines or offences involving use of an offensive weapon, blade or pointed article or any corrosive substance.

To include:

- *Violence with injury resulting in serious harm, with a threshold of Section 20 GBH*
- *Homicide including attempt murder*
- *Serious sexual harm – rape and sexual assaults*
- *Robbery*
- *Violence, including threats and aggravated offences, involving use of an offensive weapon, blade or pointed article or any corrosive substance*
- *Violence, including threats and aggravated offences, involving use of a firearm*
- *Offences with a county lines marker*
- *Violence with injury marked as domestic abuse*
- *Violence with injury marked as hate crime*
- *Modern slavery offences*

Emerging Initiatives

On 15th June 2022, the government announced their vision for establishing **Combating Drugs Partnerships** in local areas as part of the next phase of their 10-year strategy to **reduce supply and demand for illegal drugs**.

[Guidance for local delivery partners - Combating Drugs Partnerships](#) - provides the framework for how partners in each locality in England should work together to reduce drug-related harm in their area, with each Combating Drugs Partnership appointing a single Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) to act as chair and take responsibility for reporting back to central government.

The John Champion, West Mercia PCC is the Senior Responsible Officer for the Combating Drugs Partnership which is aligned to the Integrated Care Board boundaries: [Integrated Care Board - Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System](#)

In August 2022, the PCC announced £100,000 of additional funding to support the work of the Partnership and further details on the Combating Drugs Partnership are shared as delivery structures and local strategies develop - [PCC continues proactive partnership work to combat drugs in West Mercia - West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner](#)

North Worcestershire CCTV Funding between Apr 2020 and Mar 2022

Allocation	PCC Grant
1 additional camera on Town Hall roof and upgrade of 24 cameras in Redditch Borough	£48,403.41
Install 1 x new camera and pole in Sanders Park and upgrade of 9 cameras in Bromsgrove District	£32,135.57
Upgrade of various cameras in Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport	£36,458.00
Monitoring Centre equipment and signage for the benefit of Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest areas	£12,766.60
Total Grant Allocation	£130,000.00

NWCSP was allocated a further £20,000 capital for CCTV for 2022-23

North Worcestershire CCTV Funding for 2022 / 2023

Area of Benefit	PCC Grant
Purchased additional moves of the 9 existing re-deployable cameras and associated signage	£17,152
Purchased a digital sign in system to improve compliance processes for the Monitoring Centre	£ 1,350
Contribution towards a new camera in Bromsgrove to support surveillance of areas in the NTE	£ 1,500
Total	£20,000

Redeployable Camera Scheme

Since figures were last provided in June 2022, there have been 19 applications for the use of redeployable cameras in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest. 14 of those applications resulted in cameras being installed, 3 did not proceed and 2 are currently in the consultation stage.

The CCTV Team always look to find ways to approve an application when it is received and reasons why installations have not progressed include:

- No suitable mounting/power source/point available

- Significant privacy concerns

- RIPA required

- The requirement for camera is no longer an issue since the application was submitted.

Applications that have been successful have been installed to combat ASB, drug taking, vehicle crime and vandalism.

Before each camera is installed a consultation document is posted to all surrounding properties covered by the proposed camera view. The response to these consultations is typically minimal, however, a recent application for a camera in a park in Redditch received a significant increase in responses to the consultation. Due to the park location of this camera rather than it being in an area of business or residential properties. Consultation responses were invited through a press release and social media.

48 incidents have been logged on redeployable cameras in the period since June 2022.

Redeployable Cameras used in Bromsgrove

District	URN	Location	Date Application Received	Proceed
BDC	1	Morris Walk, Charford	11/11/2020	Completed
BDC	2	Collis Close - Austin Road, Garages	15/10/2020	No
BDC	2.2	Collis Close - Austin Road, Garages	13/10/2021	Completed
BDC	3	Tibberton Court Playground, Charford	15/10/2020	No
BDC	3.2	Tibberton Court, Charford	29/09/2021	No
BDC	6	Breakback Road, Rock Hill	08/09/2021	No
BDC	9	King George Recreation Car Park, B61 8SL	07/10/2021	Completed
BDC	11	Shawfield, Wythall	08/11/2021	Completed
BDC	14	Tibberton to Grafton Crescent, Charford	28/11/2021	Completed
BDC	22	Billesley Lane, Wythall	11/08/2022	Completed
BDC	23	Beckett Farm, A435, Wythall	05/08/2022	Completed
BDC	24	The Innage/Shawfield, Wythall	11/08/2022	Completed
BDC	29	King George Cl, Playing Field	06/09/2023	No
BDC	35	York Close, Bromsgrove	26/01/2024	Pending
BDC	36	Old Bromsgrove Library	05/02/2024	Pending

NWCSP Core Funding - 2023/24

Area of Benefit	PCC Grant
West Mercia CSP Analyst Team (Top Sliced)	£20,000
West Mercia Integrated Offender Mgt. (Top Sliced)	£ 1,000
West Mercia Hate Crime Project (Top Sliced)	£ 5,412
West Mercia Crimestoppers Initiative (Top Sliced)	£ 2,000
Bromsgrove Youth Outreach	£15,000
Bromsgrove Tasking Projects	£11,014
Redditch Youth Outreach	£17,000
Redditch Tasking Projects	£12,012
Wyre Forest Detached Youth Team	£20,000
Wyre Forest Tasking Projects	£12,012
NW Domestic Homicide Reviews	£20,000
NW Safe Places Scheme	£ 3,800
Total	£139,250

Safer Bromsgrove – Tasking Fund 2023/24

Funded Projects	Amount
R.U.N - Bromsgrove DA Survivors Support Group	£ 2,000
Bromsgrove Youth Hub – Friday Night Sessions	£ 8,304
Safer Bromsgrove Agreed Projects & Initiatives incl. White Ribbon Resources, Home Security & Personal Safety Products etc.	£710
Total	£11,014

Community Safety Project Updates

2023-24



The Respect Programme provides community safety awareness sessions as part of school PHSE drop down days and bespoke classroom sessions on several subjects such as recognising and reporting hate crime, understanding healthy relationships/domestic abuse, the dangers of substance misuse and promoting respect and community responsibility.

The programme also provides a therapeutic mentoring scheme which provides weekly support and guidance sessions to young people at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of crime.

2023-24 saw the cohort that the Respect Programme works with expand further. The team received between 40 to 60 referrals each half term, with our youth mentors holding around 200 open cases at any time.

The referrals into the programme continue to increase in complexity with support being provided to young people who are at a high level of need and are at significant risk of becoming involved in criminality, both as potential victims or potential perpetrators.



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Following a year-on-year increase in referrals to the Respect Programme, we have been very fortunate to be able to expand our current team of experienced, qualified youth mentors. We now have 12 mentors who support the delivery of the Respect Programme





School Drop Down Days

During the reporting period, several drop-down days were held in local schools, where community safety and crime prevention workshops were delivered by the youth mentors and officers from local partner agencies.

South Bromsgrove High School – Community safety sessions were delivered on Hate Crime Awareness, Drugs and Alcohol, Healthy Relationships and Anti-Social Behaviour

Parkside Middle School – Workshop sessions were delivered on Hate Crime Awareness, Drugs and Alcohol, Healthy Relationships and Anti-Social Behaviour

Aston Fields Middle School – Sessions were delivered on Hate Crime Awareness and Healthy Relationships



The Empowering Young People Programme

This CSP funded project provides an 11-week programme of arts and crafts, issue-based activities and interactive workshops addressing issues such as life skills, confidence building and self-esteem work.

The project is now entering its eighth year and goes from strength to strength with tailored sessions delivered to groups of young people based on their specific needs. During this year, the programme has focused more on groups of male young people and has been successful in tackling some of the perceived male stereotypes can lead to misogynistic behaviour.

Other content delivered over the year included a focus on ASB, County Lines, CSE, Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Misuse and Hate Crime Awareness

Over the year (2023/24) **8 Empowering Young People courses** have been delivered, taking place in schools and community settings.



Youth Outreach

The Youth Hub and Reach Out Bromsgrove work with the Community Safety Youth Workers to deliver outreach and detached youth work sessions across the district.

The youth teams patrol two to three times a week depending on the weather, and this successful engagement work with young people out in the community and has directly resulted in the reduction of reported incidents of Youth ASB in location across the district.

At the height of the summer, outreach youth workers engaged with between 600 – 800 hundred young people per month.

The outreach teams are now seen as a model of best practice across the county and over the past year the team have expanded their delivery and have been commissioned to work in Droitwich.



Youth Outreach Case Study

The Youth Outreach team have had an impact in several neighbourhoods over this period, such as King George Close play area.

Following community concern about incidents of youth anti-social behaviour, the outreach team started to carry out regular patrols in the area and discovered that several of the young people were already know to them via other projects. Over time youth workers engaged with the young people during the outreach sessions, building better relationships between the young people and the wider community.

These sessions helped to stop the incidents of bike riding across the park area which caused conflict with other users and surrounding residents. The youth workers were also successful in diverting the young people into positive youth activities and mainstream youthwork provision.



The Bromsgrove Youth Listening Service



The Community Safety Team has worked with the Anglican Churches to establish a volunteer Listening Service for young people requiring lower-level support and intervention. The Listening Service is now in its seventh year. The service is well established in Bromsgrove High schools and there are currently 25 young people being supported.

Following the extension of the programme into the middle schools, there has been an increase in new Listeners with three new volunteers being recruited. Currently sessions are now being held in St Johns Middle School, Aston Fields Middle School and Parkside Middle School



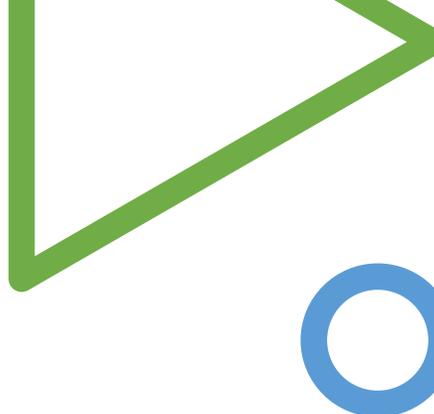
Bromsgrove Youth Hub CiC

The Bromsgrove Youth Hub was established as a partnership project led by the Community Safety Team, the YMCA and Bromsgrove Churches Together.

The Hub is now an independent Community Interest Company (CIC) and provides support and activities for young people, as a non-profit organisation, offering a space for young people to socialise safely.

The Hub also offers a tailored programme of sessions such as mental health support, open access youth club and free music and art therapy classes. It also provides signposting and ad-hoc support as part of its drop-in and outreach work.

Community Safety has been working very closely with The Hub to support local young people. The Community Safety Team supports the Hub in responding to reports of youth ASB and provides funding and guidance to put processes in place to support young people facing additional challenges.





Alternative School Provision

The Community Safety Team has worked with Young Solutions - Worcestershire to secure county-wide Big Lottery funding. A successful bid secured a 3-year Reaching Communities grant for Worcestershire, providing £23k of funding for Bromsgrove Youth Hub.

The programme called Youth Scape focuses on outreach work, mentoring and diversionary activities and a post becoming vacant in the first year of the project provided an opportunity for the funding to be re-purposed and used to establish and open an Alternative School Provision. This was launched in October 2023 and is currently supporting six young people who were at risk of permanent exclusion from schools and susceptible to becoming involved in criminality.

YOUNG CITIZEN'S CHALLENGE

In May 2023, the Annual Young Citizen's Challenge (YCC) was held at the Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station from 22nd to 26th May.

YCC offers all students in Year 6 from Bromsgrove and Redditch the opportunity to take part in a series of scenarios and take quizzes on what to do in various situations, when exposed to different risks.

Each partner-led session promotes experiential learning as each scenario is interactive and designed around student participation. Key partners such as the Community Safety Team, Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Safer Roads Team, SARA (Water Safety) and Western Power were able to promote key safety and security messages to Year 6 students aged 11 and 12. The week saw our Community Safety partners engage with **926 young people**.



During 2023-24, the Community Safety Team has supported several Youth & Community Voluntary groups with multiple funding applications.

These bids have helped to secure the future of some of the local support projects that are most needed by young people in our communities.

- ✓ The Youth Hub was granted £10,000 of Big Lottery funding to support ongoing work at the youth centre.
- ✓ Sports England provided funding to the Thursday and Friday night youth diversionary sessions with a grant of £20,000.
- ✓ David Morgan Trust awarded a grant of £13,000 to further develop the diversionary music offer for young people locally
- ✓ Through the partnership working with Young Solutions, the Youth Hub has been given a three-year Youth Scape grant of £69,000
- ✓ BDC Community Safety Team commissions Youth Services Funding on behalf of Worcestershire County Council and has been able to provide £87,000 to youth organisations in Bromsgrove

In total through community safety partnership working, an additional **£199,000** of funding has been awarded across the district to support youth diversionary activities and projects.

Designing Out Crime



Planning Consultations

The Community Safety team has two College of Policing qualified, Designing Out Crime Officers (DOCO) who can review planning applications, making appropriate crime prevention and security recommendations with the aim of making future building developments less vulnerable to crime and disorder

During 2023-24 Officers have given DOC advice on 14 Bromsgrove Planning Applications.

These consisted of 477 residential units and 12000 SqM of non-residential development. Comments were submitted for applications such as:-

- Waseley Hills High School
- Old Bromsgrove Market Hall site where, the team has played a critical role in the pre-design consultation, aiming to ensure that from concept to build, the development is safe and secure.
- DOCOs commented on the new Council owned Burcot estate applications. The team also advocated that Secure by Design Gold accreditation be sought, and this has now been awarded. Very few developments achieve this highest SbD standard - [Secured by Design - SBD Developers Award](#)
- As part of wider development of this area of work the team organised a Designing Out Crime Conference on 8th February 2023 for Planners, Elected Members, Partner Agencies and the Police.

Designing Out Crime



The Community Safety team carry out Environmental Visual Audits and Crime Risk Surveys at locations across the district which are experiencing crime and ASB issues. Site visits during 2023/24 included:-

- Nimmings Wood National Trust Car Park, Clent
- Bromsgrove Town Centre - Car parks vulnerable to illegal incursions
- Asda Multi-Storey Car Park
- St Chads Park, Rubery

Sanctuary Assessments

Sanctuary is the concept whereby survivors of domestic abuse are supported to remain in their home rather than fleeing. This is achieved by a professional assessment of the security improvements necessary to make the home environment safe.

In 2023, Community Safety DOC officers conducted 19 Sanctuary assessments and commissioned security improvement works through a new County Council funded scheme. This enabled 19 survivors of domestic abuse and their children to remain in their home, close to family, friends and work; improving their safety, reducing fear of reprisals and minimising the disruption to their lives.



The RUN Project - Bromsgrove

The Run Project is funded through Safer Bromsgrove and the Programme is coordinated by a community volunteer who is herself a survivor of domestic abuse.

The coordinator has linked up with the Inspiring Leadership foundation and the RUN programme hosts weekly sessions where survivors meet together, share and build on life skills and are supported to reach the goals they want to achieve in their lives.



Community Safety Engagement Events 23/24

Attending events and engaging with local communities provides valuable opportunities for officers to meet with residents, pass on crime prevention information and advice and find out community concerns and fears.

In 2023-24 events officers attended included:

- HoW College Freshers' Fair
- Bromsgrove Green Fair
- Annual Pensioners Fair
- ASB Week
- Police and Fire Station Open Day
- Police SNT Events
- BDHT Fun Days
- Macular Society
- Wythall Memory Cafe

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A promotional graphic for a community safety event. It features a collage of images: a man on a phone, a woman looking at a laptop, and a man on a phone. Text includes: 'David Rischmiller, Community Safety Officer will be on hand to help advise on any safety concerns', 'SCAM ADVICE', 'NOMINATED NEIGHBOUR SCHEME (helping tackle doorstep crime)', 'HOME AND PERSONAL SECURITY', and 'Tuesday 11th July, 10am - 1pm at Bromsgrove Library'.



Agenda Item 7



Operation Sceptre – Knife Crime Awareness Campaign

15th to 21st May 2023

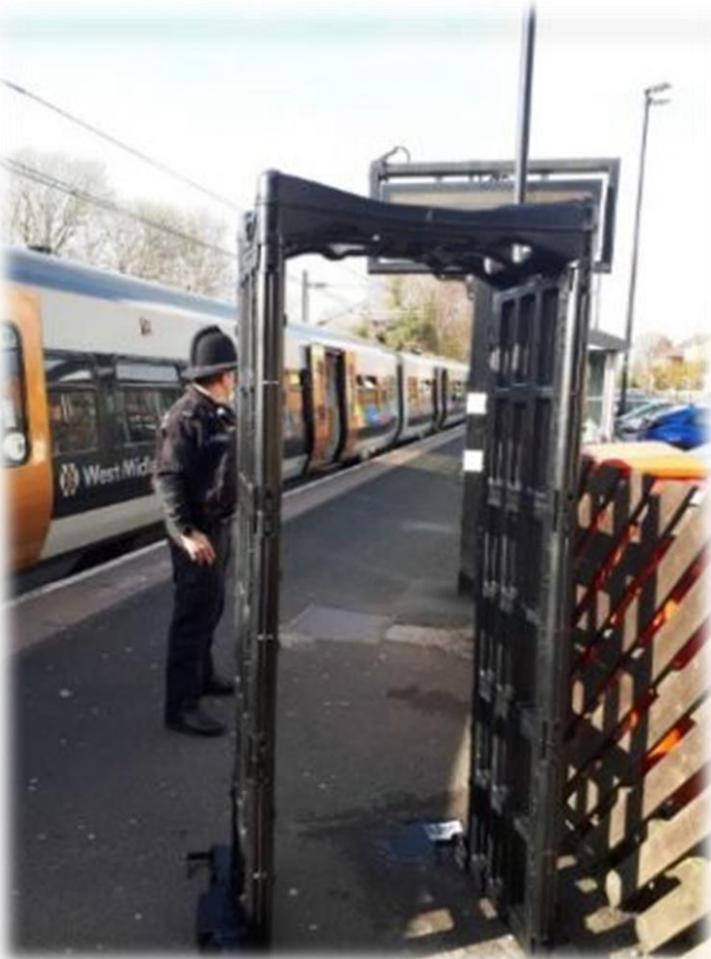
‘Op Sceptre’ is a week-long national campaign aimed at tackling knife crime.

During the week members of the public were encouraged to hand-in unwanted knives to prevent them from getting into the wrong hands and being used in crime.

Knife Surrender bins were placed at key locations and the Community Safety Team supported Safer Neighbourhood Officers at key community events to raise awareness of the topic and encourage people to take the opportunity to surrender any knives causing concern.



NWCSP Funded Knife Arch



Date	Purpose
03/03/2023	Supporting West Mercia Police's County Lines intensification week, with a presence Bromsgrove Train station
18/05/2023	Supporting national Operation Sceptre Knife Crime Awareness and Surrender campaign
10/07/2023	Joint operation with SNT, BTP and West Midlands Safer Travel Team at Bromsgrove Train Station
17/11/2023	Supporting national Operation Sceptre Kinfe Crime Awareness and Surrender campaign



Hate Crime Awareness Week 2023

This year's Hate Crime Awareness Conference took place on Thursday 19th October and was delivered in partnership with Victim Support and West Mercia Police with a focus on Disability.



North Worcs Hate Incident Partnership (NWHIP) was fortunate to have Lorraine Kelly open and close the event and Sir Lee Pearson shared his experiences of being a victim of hate crime via a pre-recorded video.

Throughout the day, multiple sessions were held with attendance from local schools and community groups that support residents who have a disability. The About Face Theatre group delivered a performance which engaged the audience, asking key questions about what they were seeing and what could have been done differently to prevent the incidents of hate crime that were being enacted on stage.



NWHIP members also generated and shared relevant Hate Crime Awareness content via social media throughout the week.

Annual White Ribbon Domestic Abuse Campaign 25th Nov to 10th Dec

The Community Safety Team hosted a Domestic Abuse Awareness stall on Bromsgrove High Street on Tues 5th Dec from 11am to 1pm to promote local services and engage with residents and visitors to the town centre. The team also supported various Domestic Abuse campaigns on social media sharing information and content from local and national support services and agencies

The Community Safety Team also promoted the Herefordshire and Worcestershire White Ribbon Conference. This annual event took place online on 24th Nov 2023 and saw another wide range of guest speakers and topics including an **Employers Initiative on Domestic Abuse**, sharing national best practice in relation to corporate policies. **DCC Maggie Blyth**, the National Police Chiefs Council Lead for Violence against Women and Girls was a keynote speaker and **PEGS, a social enterprise** set up to support parents, carers and guardians who are experiencing Child to Parent Abuse (CPA) were also in attendance.

The conference also **launched a new initiative “Cut it Out”** which focuses on how people working in the beauty and hair industry can play their part in helping victims of domestic abuse. Proposals to roll the initiative out in North Worcestershire are currently being discussed.



Safe Places Scheme

The Safe Places Scheme gives the elderly, people with a disability, illness or learning difficulty, or anyone who feels in danger; a range of safe places where they can go to for help if they feel they are being bullied, abused or harassed while out and about.

All Safe Places are identified by a Safe Place sticker and the organisations employees receive training, so that they can give reassurance and help people contact appropriate support, as needed.

A full directory of the Safe Places in Redditch is available here:-
[Safe Places | Our Way Self Advocacy](#)

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Agenda Item 7

Impact of Heatwaves Short Sharp Review – Membership Report

The Overview and Scrutiny Board are requested to agree the membership of the short, sharp review investigation group into the impact of heatwaves.

The request for this Task Group follows a Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor M. Marshall and agreed at the Council meeting held on 24th January 2024. The Motion agreed reads as follows:

“That the Overview and Scrutiny be asked to undertake a review of how to take immediate action to educate and equip residents for impending heatwaves made more likely by climate change. This will include awareness campaigns, distributing guidelines and establishing cooling centres to ensure the community’s safety and well-being during future extreme temperature events.”

The Overview and Scrutiny Board agreed to launch this short sharp review at its meeting on 12th February 2024. The Board also agreed that all Councillors should be approached with regard to joining the review group (apart from Cabinet Members who are not allowed to join scrutiny groups).

The following Members have expressed interest in joining the Short Sharp Review Group:

- Councillor M. Marshall (Proposer of the Task Group)
- Councillor R. Bailes
- Councillor B. Kumar
- Councillor J. Robinson
- Councillor S. Ammar
- Councillor B. McEldowney

The Board is asked to consider whether to agree to the nominations from the Members listed above.

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CABINET LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

1 MARCH 2024 TO 30 JUNE 2024
(as of end of February 2024)

This Work Programme gives details of items on which key decisions are likely to be taken in the coming four months by the Council's Cabinet

The Work Programme gives details of items on which key decisions are likely to be taken by the Council's Cabinet, or full Council, in the coming four months. **Key Decisions** are those executive decisions which are likely to:

- (i) result in the Council incurring expenditure, foregoing income or the making of savings in excess of £50,000 or which are otherwise significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (ii) be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the district;

If you wish to make representations on the proposed decision you are encouraged to get in touch with the relevant report author as soon as possible before the proposed date of the decision. Contact details are provided, alternatively you may write to the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services, Parkside, Market Street, B61 8DA or e-mail: democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

The Cabinet's meetings are normally held every four weeks at 6pm on Wednesday evenings at Parkside. They are open to the public, except when confidential information is being discussed. If you wish to attend for a particular matter, it is advisable to check with the Democratic Services Team on (01527 64252 ext 3031) to make sure it is going ahead as planned. If you have any queries Democratic Services Officers will be happy to advise you. The full Council meets in accordance with the Councils Calendar of Meetings. Meetings commence at 6pm.

CABINET MEMBERSHIP

Councillor K J May	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships
Councillor S. Baxter	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration
Councillor S. Colella	Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Climate Change
Councillor C. Hotham	Cabinet Member for Finance and Enabling
Councillor K. Taylor	Cabinet Member for Planning, Licensing and Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Councillor S. Webb	Cabinet Member for Health and Well Being and Strategic Housing
Councillor P. Whittaker	Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Community Safety

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Bromsgrove Centres Action Plan Review 2024/25 Key: Yes	Cabinet 13 Mar 2024		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Lyndsey Berry, Bromsgrove Centres Manager Tel: (01527) 881221 Councillor S. J. Baxter, Councillor K. J. May
Bromsgrove Play Audit and Investment Strategy Key: Yes	Cabinet Not Before 1 Jun 2024		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ishrat Karimi Fini, Cultural Services and Parks Manager Tel: 07713 085872 Councillor S. R. Colella
Cost of Living Funding Proposal Key: Yes	Cabinet 13 Mar 2024		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3284 Councillor S. A. Webb, Councillor K. J. May

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Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Council response to Local Plan Consultations; Birmingham Development Plan, South Staffordshire Local Plan and South Worcestershire Development Plan Key: No	Withdrawn		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager Tel: 01527 881325 Councillor K. Taylor
District Heat Network Revisions Key: Yes	Cabinet Not before 1 Jun 2024		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3284 Councillor C. A. Hotham, Councillor P. J. Whittaker

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Finance and Performance Quarter 3 Monitoring Report 2023/24 Key: Yes	Cabinet 13 Mar 2024 Council 15 May 2024	This report may contain exempt information which would need to be considered in private session.	Report of the Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Councillor C. A. Hotham
Finance and Performance Outturn Report 2023/24 Key: No	Cabinet Not before 1st Jun 2024 Council Not before 1st Jun 2024		Report of the Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Councillor C. A. Hotham

Explanation of Items on the Cabinet Work Programme

1. Bromsgrove Centres Action Plan Review 2024-25

The review of the action plan on managing the eight Bromsgrove District town/village centres. The Bromsgrove Centres Strategy and Action Plan for 2023-2026 was approved in January 2023 and 2024 is the first review year.

2. Bromsgrove Play Audit and Investment Strategy

A review of all play areas in the District, including an accessibility assessment and identification of gaps in provision. The play audit will consider how future play provision could be designed to improve the overall accessibility of play provision and address any gaps.

3. Cost of Living Funding Proposal

To consider a pot of money sat in earmarked reserves to be used towards a Cost-of-Living initiative. This would be to support residents who need extra support to manage with the recent increases in daily costs including food, rents, mortgages and utility costs.

Please note that an initial report for this item will go to Cabinet Working Group as a strategic item in the first instance, and then to the Leaders Group, for a decision on whether this report will be brought forward as a Cabinet report.

4. Council response to Local Plan Consultations; Birmingham Development Plan, South Staffordshire Local Plan and South Worcestershire Development Plan

The Council's response to consultations on the local plans (development plans) of Birmingham, South Staffordshire and South Worcestershire authorities. Update: This item has been withdrawn from Cabinet Work Programme.

5. District Heat Network Revisions

Due to technological changes to how District Heat Networks operate, to consider a revised delivery model to that initially agreed by Council.

6. Finance and Performance Quarter 3 Monitoring Report 2023/24

To provide a current financial position in relation to Revenue and Capital Budgets for the period October to December 2023 (2023-24). The report also provides a position on the organisational performance measures, as of Quarter 3 (up to end of December 2023).

7. Finance and Performance Outturn Report 2023/24

The report to update members on the Council's 2023/24 outturn (achieved) financial and performance position in 2023-24.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

WORK PROGRAMME

2023-2024

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board considers and agrees the work programme and updates it accordingly.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Date of Meeting	Subject	Additional Information
11 th March 2024	Task Group and Working Group Updates / Reports	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
	Governance Systems Review – Implementation Progress Update (Standing Item)	Jess Bayley-Hill, Principal Democratic Services Officer
	Local Heritage List Strategy – pre-scrutiny	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager
	North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership – Annual Review of Work in 2022-23	Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager
	Bromsgrove Centres Action Plan Review 2024/25 – pre-scrutiny	Lyndsey Berry, Bromsgrove Centres Manager
	Cost of Living Funding Proposal – pre-scrutiny	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services
15 th April 2024	Overview and Scrutiny Board – Recommendation Tracker for 2023-24	Chairman of the Board
	Overview and Scrutiny Board – Annual Report 2023-2024	Chairman of the Board
	Governance Systems Review – Implementation Progress Update (Standing Item)	Officer to be confirmed
	Task and Working Group Updates/Reports	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
	Bromsgrove Council Biodiversity Policy – Overview Report	Officer to be confirmed
	Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) – Overview Report	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services

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	Agile Working Policy – Update on Implementation	Officer to be confirmed
Proposed for addition to 15 th April 2024 meeting	Cost of Parking Enforcement Review	Simon Parry, Interim Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services
TBC	Bromsgrove Play Audit and Investment Strategy – pre-scrutiny	Ishrat Karimi-Fini, Cultural Services and Parks Manager