

Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Community Safety Plan 2011-12 DRAFT

Keeping Bromsgrove Safe ... and feeling safe



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Introduction

The Community Safety Partnership plan normally covers a three year period which is reviewed and amended annually to align with current trends in crime and disorder, policy changes and ensure it is robust for the coming year. In 2011/12 Community Safety Partnerships are facing a time of change with depleting budgets and policy changes. The Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership has therefore decided to produce a one year plan until future partnership arrangements are more certain; therefore this Partnership Plan for Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership (CSP) covers the period from 2011-2012.

The theme for this year is continued success. This year the plan will build on the work already commenced in recent years with an emphasis on delivering projects that have significant and measurable impact that are good value for money.



The Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership was formed as a direct response to the Crime and Disorder Act to deliver a sustainable reduction in crime and fear of crime within local communities. It brings together five responsible authorities and a range of co-operating organisations to meet the requirement of the act and achieve the partnership vision of making Bromsgrove a safe place to live, work and visit.

Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership meets quarterly as a steering group to discuss national drivers and set strategic direction for the partnership. The group monitors performance against priorities and targets, and allocates funding and resources to partnership activities. This year the steering group will also focus on future partnership



arrangements and explore opportunities for future sustainability for partnership working. The group also receives regular updates from the Community Safety Partnership Tasking Group.

Bromsgrove's Community Safety Partnership Tasking Group, is the delivery arm to the partnership. The purpose of this group is to deliver the actions within this plan against the priorities identified in the strategic assessment. It will also respond to emerging issues that may arise. The Community Safety Partnership Tasking Group will meet monthly and bring together responsible authorities and welcome the support of cooperating members.

The main body of this document will set out the local priorities for 2011-2012, as determined by the CSP Steering group informed by a strategic assessment process; an outline of actions will be set out against each priority.

Our Vision

The vision of the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership is “to improve the quality of life to make Bromsgrove a safer place to live, work and visit.”

This vision is underpinned by the following:

- To address the wider causes of crime and fear of crime
- To encourage community cohesion
- To reduce alcohol related harm
- To identify opportunities to reduce substance misuse
- To promote a community where domestic abuse and the fear of domestic abuse is not tolerated
- To promote a community where hate crime is unacceptable and those victims of hate crime are supported
- To provide effective, strategic leadership generating effective partnership working
- To deliver measurable outcomes
- To develop BCSP to become a forward looking partnership with a strategy that tackles the whole aspect of community safety as opposed to crime and disorder.



About Bromsgrove



Covering an area of 83.9 square miles, Bromsgrove District is a mixture of urban and rural communities, with the Clent and Lickey Hills providing a dividing line from the industrial West Midlands. The town of Bromsgrove accounts for just over a third of the total population of the District, with other population clusters in the towns of Hagley, Rubery and Wythall.

The District is served by railway lines and major roads including the M5 running north and south, the M42 and M40 to the east with further links to the M6 north. The area has a predominantly rural and agricultural appearance, but also supports a varied economy based on a range of small and medium sized businesses.

Demographics

The Bromsgrove District population has experienced growth from 87,800 in 2001 to 93,000 based on mid-2008 estimates. This is an increase of 5,200, roughly 6%. Based on ONS projections, the population of Bromsgrove is likely to remain fairly similar in the next few years, and then decline slightly over time.

The largest increases in the population of Bromsgrove for 2001-07 can be seen in the 15-19 and 60-64 age groups, increasing by 1,000 and 1,500 people respectively within this time-period. In contrast, the 30-34 age groups showed a decrease of around 1,300.

Despite the projected decrease in total population in future years, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures predict there will be large increases in the over 60 population of the district with a total increase of 9,700 by 2026. In comparison, projections suggest the corresponding decrease will be felt most strongly in the 35 – 44 years age bracket with a total decrease of 4,700 people.



Ethnicity

Ethnicity figures from 2006 show that 94.1% of the population of Bromsgrove are White, including 91.4% White British, and 2.7% Other White/Irish. That leaves only 5.9% of the population from other ethnic backgrounds. The largest ethnic group within the District is the Indian group, which constitutes 1.3% (1,200) of the total population.

Migration

Between 2001/02 and 2007/08, Bromsgrove has been experiencing net gains in population year on year, with an increase of, on average, roughly 800 people per year. This is largely due to internal migration, with a net loss on average due to international migration.

Deprivation

Based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007, there are 2 Super Output Areas (SOAs) in Bromsgrove, one in Charford and one in Sidemoor that are in the top 30% most deprived SOAs nationally. However, Bromsgrove also contains the least deprived areas in Worcestershire, including Barnt Green, The Oakalls and Harwood Park area, The Forelands area and Hagley. Unemployment in Bromsgrove is currently at about 2.4%¹ (December 2008), a figure that has been steadily rising for the last 12 months, but is below average for the County.

Who is in the Partnership?



Bromsgrove
District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) is a responsible authority under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Council is fully committed to partnership working in tackling anti-social behaviour, crime, and disorder. BDC has adopted a coordinated common approach and performance standards in responding to anti-social behaviour across the council. There is a commitment to embed Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act in the Council to exceed our statutory obligations and to deliver enforcement activities in accordance with corporate priorities. BDC also fund a Community Safety Team who within their local authority role support the Community Safety Partnership by giving administration, financial and some project management support, as well represent the CSP at local, regional and national community safety forums. Regular contributors to the tasking process include the following departments:


All population information provided by the Research & Intelligence Unit, Worcestershire County Council



- Community Safety & Neighbourhood Wardens
- Licensing
- Sports Development
- Parks and Recreation
- Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance
- CCTV and Lifeline
- Environmental Health

West Mercia Police is totally committed to the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership. West Mercia Police is represented at the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Group by the Chief Inspector for Local Policing and by Bromsgrove’s Local Policing Inspector at the Community Safety Partnership Tasking Group. Resources are committed to Partnership activities as necessary.



Worcestershire Primary Care Trust  **Worcestershire Primary Care Trust** recognises the importance of the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership in improving the health and wellbeing by working on the safety agenda across a broad range of issues. The PCT is actively engaged in particular areas which have a high impact on health, namely reducing alcohol-related harm, tackling domestic violence, and substance misuse. In all these areas effective action can only be achieved through effective partnership working.

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue is fully committed to Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership. Full support is given to the function of the Partnership through attendance at both the strategic and tasking groups by a senior officer.



West Mercia Police Authority

West Mercia Police Authority is an independent body, made up of 17 members including local councillors, magistrates and local people. Their role is to set the policing budget and priorities taking into account the view of local people.



The Police Authority is a statutory partner of the Community Safety Partnership. At its annual meeting the Police Authority appoints a named member to act as a representative at each of the Community Safety Partnerships for the coming year. Members report back to the Police authority through the inclusivity and engagement panel.



Worcestershire County Council (WCC) is fully committed to the Bromsgrove Community Safety agenda. Lead officers from Children's Services, Education, Youth Offending Services and Trading Standards are represented at the strategic and tasking groups and bring a range of resources to the Partnership table. WCC are committed to ensuring that preventative activities are available for young people within the district of Bromsgrove to divert them from crime and disorder. WCC will support the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership to enable young people and their families to enjoy life and to make a positive contribution to their community.

West Mercia Probation Trust works with different people who have committed different types of offences such as burglary, violence, car crime and sexual offences. They provide probation supervision, offender behaviour programmes, and specialist support services which can help reduce reoffending. From April 2010 West Mercia Probation Trust have gained responsible authority status within the Community Safety Partnership and therefore have adopted the statutory duties which come with being a responsible authority.



Other Co-operating organisations include, Worcestershire Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Bromsgrove District Housing Trust, West Mercia Crown Prosecution Service, British Transport Police, Private and Voluntary Organisations.

Our Priorities and Our Plans?

This year the aim of our strategic assessment process was to identify strategic priorities for Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership which is more led by intelligence and less influenced by data. Priorities were determined on the basis of importance to the community, and the partnership's ability to make a significant, positive impact. Our priorities were grouped under three themes due to their links with each other, they are: Secure Homes, Safer Streets and Public Places, and Protecting Communities.



Theme: Secure Homes

Priority: Dwelling Burglary

Why is this a priority?

Bromsgrove has the highest rate of burglary in the County. This is possible because of a multitude of factors including the districts proximity to large conurbations and the districts vast road and motorway network providing fast access and egress for perpetrators. More important than the burglary statistics is the impact this offence has on its victims. Victims often have to deal with the long term emotional and physiological effects as well as the inconvenience of replacing valuables and repairing properties. National research has also highlighted the devastating impact burglary can have on the health of the elderly and vulnerable. Survey data has consistently showed us that residents fear burglary more than any other crime.



What are we going to do?

- We will be developing a home security initiative which will give residents access to home security guidance so residents feel empowered to make essential security improvements to their homes.
- We will provide extra support for our elderly and most vulnerable residents by offering home security assessments and in exceptional cases some financial and practical support to make essential security improvements.
- We will also explore the effectiveness of property marking solutions. If they prove to be beneficial we will make this technology available to residents.



Theme Safer Streets and Public Places

Priority: Night Time Economy

Why is this a priority?

Reported crime and disorder in Bromsgrove town centre is relatively low in comparison to other town centres across the County and we want it to stay that way. However the landscape of the town centre is evolving with the Town Centre Regeneration programme building momentum it is important that the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership has input into future developments to ensure the regeneration does not encourage or attract crime and disorder.



What are we going to do?

- We will encourage the local authority to increase CCTV coverage in Worcester Road to ensure night time, alcohol related disorder is effectively monitored and dealt with promptly
- We will review the work of the Town Centre's PUBwatch scheme to explore opportunities for increased effectiveness.
- We will formalise the links between the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership and the Town Centre Regeneration Programme.



Priority: Graffiti and the Environment

Why is this a priority?

We know that areas that look uncared for often attract crime and anti-social behaviour. Graffiti has been a priority within the Community Safety Partnership for a few years; unfortunately we have been unable to establish a coordinated multi-agency response to tackle this problem. We have removed large amounts of graffiti through our Community Action Days; we want to do more to prevent graffiti appearing and more to deter and detect offenders. Graffiti is featuring as a priority in this year's plan in recognition of the importance of clean streets in our neighbourhoods and to build on the previous work we have started. Survey data shows us the cleanliness of our streets is a priority for people who live, work and visit Bromsgrove.

What are we going to do?

- We will develop a joint agency graffiti management strategy within the Community Safety Partnership so that graffiti is tackled in a coordinated way between partners
- We will create a system whereby partners can share information on graffiti tags to assist in the detection of graffiti offenders.
- We will explore ways in which we can assist those communities who want to get involved in tackling environmental crime in their neighbourhood.
- We will increase the amount of work undertaken by the Community Pay Back Scheme in Bromsgrove, and explore ways in which the community can get involved in influencing the work that is done.



Theme: Protecting Communities

Priority: Domestic Abuse

Why is this a priority?

The impact of abusive relationships on victims and their families is devastating; yet most incidents go unreported. Last year the CSP conducted research into reported domestic abuse within Bromsgrove; the results were alarming. Key problem areas were identified that require focused and coordinated support including support for victims and their families, perpetrators and front line professionals; this research also highlighted a priority neighbourhood in need of support and interventions. When partners were consulted domestic abuse was also a key priority.

What are we going to do?

- We will facilitate training programmes for local professionals to ensure front line officers can recognise abusive relationship and support those victims within them.
- We will explore ways of providing educational resources on domestic abuse in priority schools.
- We will strengthen links with the countywide domestic abuse forum.
- We will increase awareness within the community of domestic abuse support services.
- We will facilitate local agencies to coordinate support for domestic abuse victims.
- We will increase local access to advice and guidance on domestic abuse for victims and friends and families of victims.



Priority: Youth Related Anti-Social Behaviour

Why is this a priority?

Anti-social behaviour is high on the national agenda and unfortunately young people are often linked to many cases of anti-social behaviour. Last year we achieved significant reductions in reported anti-social behaviour by taking a zero-tolerance approach to alcohol misuse by young people in public spaces. We will continue with this approach however our work highlighted the concern of the harm alcohol is having on our young people.

What are we going to do?

- We will continue to enforce disorder in public spaces as a result of young people's alcohol misuse however we will also deliver alcohol education messages to young people, parents and carers
- We will support activities which encourage young people to become active members of the community (good citizens).
- We will support targeted youth activities that can be linked to reductions in reported anti-social behaviour

Priority: Vulnerable People

Why is this a priority?

Bromsgrove CSP want to actively support people who are at risk of serious harm to themselves, others or the environment as a result of experiencing crime, ASB or through their own vulnerability. This is following some high profile national cases of vulnerable people who have suffered with anti-social behaviour which led to fatal consequences. This priority also recognises the needs of vulnerable people for additional support to tackle anti-social behaviour and the importance of partnership working to ensure that the appropriate level of support is being offered.



What are we going to do?

- We will facilitate partnership working to help coordinated multi-agency support for vulnerable people who are at risk of serious harm to themselves, other or the environment as a result of experiencing crime, ASB or through their own vulnerability.

Equalities Statement & Assessment

“Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership is dedicated to equality and values diversity within the community. The Partnership will at all times strive to use communication and engagement methods which are inclusive of the whole community.”

During 2010/11 the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership will conduct an equality impact assessment; this will be published in the subsequent Community Safety Partnership Plan.

- END -

For more information on the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Plan and the work of the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership, please contact:

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