

BRIEFING NOTE

To: Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

From: Bev Houghton
Dept: Community Safety
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CC: Cllr Margaret Sherrey – Portfolio Holder for Community Safety
Sue Hanley – Chair of North Worcestershire CSP & Deputy Chief Executive
Judith Willis – (Acting) Head of Community Services

SUBJECT	North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership
DATE	10 th September 2012
PURPOSE	To provide an update on the progress of the recently merged North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership.
BACKGROUND	
<p>In March 2011, the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board (SCB) established a Task and Finish group to undertake a review of Worcestershire's Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) future structural arrangements. The review was commissioned in response to a number of factors impacting on the community safety landscape. Reducing budgets and changing government priorities would place severe pressure on public finances and partners also highlighted logistical difficulties in servicing the number of community safety meetings and activities taking place. The review was undertaken to mitigate the impact of these factors on future partnership working.</p> <p>As part of the review senior representatives of the Responsible Authorities, co-operating partners and key stakeholders for each CSP were interviewed to establish their opinions on the current and potential future working arrangements in Worcestershire. The interviews were undertaken by an Inspector from West Mercia Police who was independent of the established community safety arrangements.</p> <p>In November 2011 following a full options appraisal and formal agreement by the relevant Responsible Authorities, the three district CSPs agreed to merge to create a single North Worcestershire CSP.</p>	
CURRENT POSITION	
<p>The North Worcestershire CSP currently operates under shadow arrangements whilst a formal application to merge is being prepared for submission to the Home Office. A small task and finish group was established to work up proposals for the practical working arrangements for the new partnership and draft terms of reference culminating in the first meeting of the newly established group on the 3rd July 2012.</p>	

Whilst the draft terms of reference have yet to be formally adopted by group, the following key principles have been agreed.

Membership

The following organisations are members of the North Worcestershire CSP:

- Bromsgrove District Council (Responsible Authority, RA)
- Redditch Borough Council (RA)
- Wyre Forest District Council (RA)
- Worcestershire County Council (RA)
- West Mercia Police (RA)
- Worcestershire Primary Care Trust (RA)
- Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (RA)
- West Mercia Probation Trust (RA)
- West Mercia Police Authority (RA)
- Hereford and Worcestershire Youth Offending Team (Invitee to Participate, IP)
- Worcestershire DAAT (IP)
- Portfolio Holder for Community Safety for Bromsgrove (IP)
- Portfolio Holder for Community Safety for Redditch (IP)
- Portfolio Holder for Community Safety for Wyre Forest (IP)
- Worcestershire Regulatory Service (IP)
- The Chair of Operational Group for Bromsgrove (IP)
- The Chair of Operational Group for Redditch (IP)
- The Chair of Operational Group for Wyre Forest (IP)
- Victim Support (IP)
- Worcestershire VCS Strategic Board (IP)
- Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils (IP)
- Representative of the Magistrates Bench (IP)
- Representative of HM Prison Service, HMP Hewell (IP)

Chair, Vice-Chair and Support Arrangements

Sue Hanley, Deputy Chief Executive of Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils has been elected as Chair of the North Worcestershire CSP and Linda Collis, Director of Community Wellbeing & Environment, Wyre Forest District Council, is Vice Chair. Both positions have a term of two years and will be opened up for re-election at the end of this period.

The District Community Safety Managers across Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest (Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager for Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils and Kathryn Washington, Partnerships Co-ordinator for Wyre Forest District Council) will meet on a monthly basis to co-ordinate the work of the Partnership and support the Chair in agenda setting and fulfilling the responsibilities of the role.

Purpose of the Partnership

The purpose of the North Worcestershire CSP has been agreed as follows: - To provide a strategic and co-operative approach between agencies and communities within North Worcestershire to address local community safety issues and achieve the Partnership's Vision of **'Keeping North Worcestershire a safe place to live, work and visit.'**

Partnership Structure

Community safety in Worcestershire is structured in three tiers, each with its own remit and responsibilities but interrelated in order to achieve identified goals and outcomes.

The North Worcestershire CSP is managed strategically by:-

The Worcestershire Safer Communities Board: which provides strategic level leadership and co-ordination of cross cutting community safety activity in Worcestershire.

The North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership: monitors and evaluates the implementation of the Community Safety Partnership Plan for the districts of Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest. Identifying support required by the Partnership to progress the delivery of the Partnership Plan and linking the work of the CSP to other bodies whenever required. It will also submit bids for external funding to support the delivery of the Community Safety Partnership Plan

The Community Safety Operational Groups in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest report directly to the North Worcestershire CSP and are responsible for delivering the Partnership Plan outcomes identified by the NWCSP. Project Leaders can be appointed by its Chair to head up individual projects as required.

Currently these groups are:-

Bromsgrove Community Safety Management Group
Redditch Community Safety Tasking Group
Wyre Forest Community Safety Management Group
North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership
Redditch & Bromsgrove Safeguarding Adults Group

Financial Arrangements

Prior to the merger, each district CSP delegated responsibility for its existing budgets to its respective district operational group. This ensured that funding allocated to individual districts remained solely for the benefit of the local area it had been allocated to.

It is the responsibility of the Chairs of the district Community Safety Operational Groups to regulate and control all finances allocated to the respective district areas prior to the establishment of the NWCSP.

Any community safety grant funding awarded following the formal agreement to merge will be allocated by NWCSP under the agreed terms of reference.

Local Delivery and Representation

Local delivery of Community Safety projects and initiatives falls under the remit of the Community Safety Operational groups. In Bromsgrove, the Community Safety Management Group meets on a monthly basis to monitor and review operational delivery outlined in the Community Safety Delivery Plan. This group is the first point of contact for any local community safety issues or concerns that may require a multi-agency response.

Local representation on the North Worcestershire CSP is fulfilled through three positions. Bromsgrove District Council's Elected Member representative is the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Cllr Margaret Sherrey. The Council's Responsible Authority representative is Judith Willis, (Acting) Head of Community Services and the Bromsgrove Community Safety Operational Group is represented by Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager.

Any local community safety concerns can, in the first instance, be raised with the Bromsgrove Community Safety Management Group

NEXT STEPS

- Draft Terms of Reference to be finalised and agreed by the Partnership
- Formal approval to merge to be sought from the Home Office via an application process
- Development of a communications strategy for North Worcestershire CSP
- Establish links and working arrangements with West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner via Worcestershire Safer Communities Board and the West Mercia Police & Crime Panel. Bromsgrove District Council's Elected Member representative on the West Mercia Police & Crime Panel is Leader of the Council, Cllr Roger Hollingsworth.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on Bromsgrove Community Safety Management Group, the North Worcestershire CSP or any associated projects or initiatives please contact:-

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