

BRIEFING NOTE

To: Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

From: Bev Houghton
Dept: Community Safety
Contact Info: 01527 881472

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	18 th November 2013
PURPOSE	To provide an update on the progress of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership.
BACKGROUND	
<p>In November 2011 following a full options appraisal and formal agreement by the relevant Responsible Authorities, the three district CSPs in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest agreed to merge to create a single North Worcestershire CSP. Following development of Terms of Reference for the new CSP and preparation of a formal application to merge, the North Worcestershire CSP operated in shadow form whilst awaiting formal Home Office approval of the new structure.</p> <p>After the elections of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) in November 2012, statutory responsibility for overseeing the merger of the CSP's fell to the Office of the West Mercia PCC. On 24th May 2013 the North Worcestershire CSP Combination Agreement, which formally endorsed the North Worcestershire merger was signed by all Community Safety Responsible Authorities and Bill Longmore, West Mercia PCC. It is believed to be the first Combination Agreement in the country to be formally agreed and endorsed by a PCC.</p>	
CURRENT POSITION	
<p>Initially in shadow arrangements, North Worcestershire CSP has been operation since July 2012. Its new Terms of Reference were formally adopted in September 2012 outlining Membership and operating procedures. (Appendix 1)</p> <p>Since September 2012, a number of changes identified in the Term of Reference have now taken place.</p> <p>As of the 22nd November 2012 and following the election of the West Mercia PCC, the former Responsible Authority member, West Mercia Police Authority ceased to exist. Whilst the PCC is not a statutory Responsible Authority in CSP, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 does place a duty on CSPs and the PCC to work together to develop local Crime and Disorder Strategies.</p> <p>As of the 31st March, Primary Care Trusts (PCT) also ceased to exist. Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Wyre Forest CCG replaced Worcestershire PCT as a Responsible Authority member of the CSP.</p>	

District Operational Groups are now referred to as Safer District Groups and are identified as Safer Bromsgrove Group, Safer Redditch Group and Safer Wyre Forest Group. North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership and the Redditch & Bromsgrove Safeguarding Adults Group continue to operate as sub-groups of the CSP and Wyre Forest has now established a district Safeguarding Adults Group based on the Redditch & Bromsgrove model.

NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE CSP PLAN

The CSP still has a requirement to produce a three year rolling plan outlining how the Partnership is going to address key crime and community safety priorities, as identified in its annual Strategic Assessment.

North Worcestershire CSP released its Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2013-16 in August of this year (Appendix 2). This was following discussions with the Office of the PCC and the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board to ensure strategic links with the West Mercia Police and Crime Plan (2013-17) and the Worcestershire Community Safety Agreement (2013-14).

The North Worcestershire CSP priorities are:

- To maintain low crime levels and improve public confidence
- Reducing the impact of alcohol and drugs misuse on communities
- Reducing Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Reducing re-offending
- Reducing Anti Social Behaviour

Within the Partnership Plan there is an outline of key objectives, actions and measures for each priority and these will form the basis of the performance management of the CSP over the lifetime of the plan.

CSP FUNDING 2013/14

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

Following the November 2012 elections, all Community Safety funding streams previously distributed by a district or county basis became the responsibility of the PCC to allocate. The West Mercia PCC released his first round of Community Safety Funding in January 2013 and North Worcestershire CSPs applications for funding were agreed at the same amounts as previous year's funding as follows:-

Initiative	Amount
North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership	£3,000
Community Engagement, Consultation and Communications	£5,000
North Worcestershire Home Security Projects	£6,000
North Worcestershire CSP Analyst	£30,000
Safer Bromsgrove Group*	£25,994
Safer Redditch Group*	£39,810
Safer Wyre Forest Group*	£40,653
Total	£150,457

*District specific funding amounts allocated using the same needs-based formula employed in previous years.

In September 2013, the PCC opened his second year of Community Safety Funding for 2014/15 to allow for early applications. North Worcestershire CSP are currently drafting funding bids up to same amounts as last year to support both North Worcestershire wide and district specific projects and initiatives.

LOCAL DELIVERY – SAFER BROMSGROVE GROUP

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

Current Safer Bromsgrove projects and initiatives include:-

Home Security Assessments	Provision home security assessment and support to residents whose homes may be targeted due to their personal circumstances and vulnerabilities in their security.
Home Security Market Stall	Set up and deliver a monthly Home Security advice stand at Bromsgrove Market to provide residents with access to home security advice and home security products
Forensic Property Marking (SmartWater) Scheme	Distribution of reduced cost SmartWater kits to members of the public, residents associations and community groups
ASB Support and Target Hardening	Provision of practical support and security improvements to identified victims of ASB and harassment
Town Centre Regeneration Design Advice	Support the Town Centre Regeneration programme through the provision of crime prevention design advice
Planning Consultation	Officers trained to national policing standards provide crime prevention/community safety feedback on planning applications
National Campaigns and Awareness raising	Provide local campaigns and seasonal initiatives supporting national campaigns such as White Ribbon Campaign, Teenage Domestic Abuse and National Responsible Drinking Christmas Campaigns

Local projects delivered by the NW Hate Incident Partnership include:-

Schools 'Respect' Programme	Delivers community safety workshops and education sessions on Hate Crime and a variety of other community safety subjects in local Middle and High Schools
Hate Incident Reporting Scheme	Provides opportunities for victims, witnesses and third parties to report hate incidents on-line, by telephone or at a number of community reporting centres across the district.
Hate Crime Awareness film and training package	The Hate Incident Partnership has produced a training film and is developing an accompanying manual to increase awareness of hate crime and its effects on individuals and communities.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION AND SCRUTINY

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 and also Chair of the CSP is Sue Hanley, Deputy Chief Executive and the Safer Bromsgrove Group is represented by its Chair, Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager. Parish Councils are also represented on the CSP by the County Association of Local Councils (CALC).

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. This remit is fulfilled by the District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Alongside the relationship the Council has with CSP, there is also a direct role in holding the Police and Crime Commissioner to account through the established West Mercia Police and Crime Panel. Bromsgrove District Council's representative on the panel is Council Leader, Cllr Roger Hollingsworth and more information about the work of the panel can be found on Worcestershire County Council's website at <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/democratic-services/committees-and-panels/holder/police-and-crime-panel.aspx>

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager - 01527 881472
bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Chris Santoriello Smith, Senior Community Safety Project Officer – 01527 881472
c.santoriello-smith@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

AUTHOR

Bev Houghton
Community Safety Manager
01527 881472

APPENDICES

- 1) North Worcestershire CSP Terms of Reference
- 2) North Worcestershire CSP Partnership Plan (2013-16)