

# **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 Services  
Sue Hanley – Deputy Chief Executive  
Judith Willis – Head of Community Services

<b>SUBJECT</b>	North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership
<b>DATE</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2015
<b>PURPOSE</b>	To provide an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership during 2014/15.

## **BACKGROUND**

In May 2013, the three district CSPs in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest officially merged to create a single North Worcestershire CSP (NWCSP). The community safety team operates as a shared service in Bromsgrove and Redditch hosted by Redditch Borough Council with Wyre Forest District Council maintaining its own local authority team.

Local representation on the NWCSP is fulfilled through a number of positions. Bromsgrove District Council's Elected Member representative is Council Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Councillor Margaret Sherrey. The Council's Responsible Authority representative is Judith Willis, Head of Community Services. The Community Safety Manager, Bev Houghton supports the CSP and is also the Chair of the Safer Bromsgrove Group.

Scrutiny arrangements for the CSP remain unchanged with local authorities continuing to have a statutory duty to scrutinise the work of its local CSP under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

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 established West Mercia Police and Crime Panel. Bromsgrove District Council's representative on the panel is Council Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Councillor Margaret Sherrey.

## **CURRENT POSITION**

A review of CSP arrangements in Worcestershire is due to take place later in 2015. The review is currently in the planning stage and will be led by the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board.

The local operational partnerships are identified as Safer District Groups and are known as Safer Bromsgrove, Safer Redditch and Safer Wyre Forest. The North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership, the Redditch and Bromsgrove Safeguarding Adults Group and the Wyre Forest Vulnerable Adults Group are also sub-groups of NWCSP. The North Worcestershire CSP Structure is shown at **Appendix 1**.

## **NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE CSP PLAN**

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 its annual Strategic Assessment report.

The Strategic Assessment gathers research, evidence and intelligence from national and regional sources, as well as drawing on the professional expertise of those working locally. It is designed to be a point of reference and guidance to resource community safety initiatives among partner agencies across the area.

The Strategic Assessment is currently being undertaken and a refreshed Partnership Plan will be available from April 2015. The current North Worcestershire CSP priorities are:

- **Anti-Social Behaviour:** Work to reduce the number of anti-social behaviour incidents and bring perceptions in line with the downward trend in reported incidents
- **Burglary and Home Security:** Work to promote home security to reduce incidences of dwelling and non-dwelling burglary and improve residents' feelings of safety in their homes
- **Business and Rural Crime:** To support local delivery of the West Mercia PCC's Business and Rural Crime Strategies
- **Reducing Re-offending:** Work to increase our understanding of the reasons for re-offending in North Worcestershire and reduce the offending behaviour of targeted individuals through continued support of the Integrated Offender Management approach
- **Violence and Abuse:** Working to ensure residents are safe in their local neighbourhoods and at home without having to suffer violence, domestic abuse or hate crime

## **CSP FUNDING 2014/15 AND BEYOND**

In 2014/15 North Worcestershire CSP had to apply to the PCC for funding. The amount of funding available was based on previous year's allocations received from Central Government.

The projects that have been funded in 2014/15 are:-

<b>CSP Priority</b>	<b>Project / Initiative</b>	<b>Amount</b>
All	NW Analytical and Research Support	£15,000
Violence & Abuse	NW Domestic Abuse White Ribbon Campaign - 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov to 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2014	£5,000
Violence & Abuse	NW Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) Domestic Abuse Pilot Project	£15,000
Violence & Abuse	NW Hate Incident Partnership – Hate Crime Awareness Week Activities in October 2014	£3,000
Reducing Re-offending	NW Reducing Re-offending Activities	£5,000
All	NW Tasking and Consultation Projects	£10,000
Burglary & Home Security	Safer Bromsgrove Secure Homes Initiative	£22,990
Burglary & Home Security	Safer Redditch Home Security/Sanctuary Scheme	£18,000
Multiple	Safer Redditch Safer Streets Initiative	£18,810
Multiple	Safer Wyre Forest Project Support	£15,350
Multiple	Safer Wyre Forest Community Ambassadors and Support	£15,600
Burglary & Home Security	Safer Wyre Forest Home Security and Seasonal Crime Prevention Scheme	£6,680
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£150,430</b>

During the course of the year, the PCC also invited CSPs in West Mercia to apply for additional funding towards CCTV and to support the delivery of the West Mercia Police Business and Rural Crime strategies. These initiatives are outlined below:

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Upgrade to North Worcestershire Monitoring Centre Equipment	£10,367.50
Extension to Pub Watch Radio link in Headless Cross, Redditch	£6,445
Contribution to new camera in Kidderminster (Comberton Hill)	£11,997.50
Camera for priority underpass in Redditch Town Centre	£12,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£40,810</b>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Rural/Business Crime Co-ordinator (North Worcestershire)	£30,000
Target hardening measures to prevent unlawful incursions on business and rural land (NW)	£15,000
Provision of Crime Prevention Design Advice Training (NW)	£10,000
Business and Rural Crime Action Fund (NW)	£20,000
Street Pastors - Bewdley	£4,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£79,500</b>

In January 2015, the Office of the PCC began discussions with CSPs concerning community safety funding for 2015/16 and beyond. Currently, details are just emerging around how the application process will work and it is not yet known exactly how much funding will be made available to North Worcestershire. The PCC has expressed his support for the work of CSPs and has tasked his office with implementing closer working relationships and less bureaucratic funding arrangements for partnerships. This is in recognition of the CSPs statutory status and prior experience and expertise in performance monitoring and management of community safety projects.

Any new funding arrangements will be developed on the basis of community safety and criminal justice agencies working more closely together on the following objectives contained in the West Mercia Police and Crime Plan:

- Objective 2: To reduce the volume of violent crime with an emphasis on addressing the harm caused by alcohol through partnership working
- Objective 3: To reduce the harm caused by drugs, with a focus on treatment, and targeting those that cause most harm
- Objective 4: To reduce the volume of anti-social behaviour incidents
- Objective 5: To reduce reoffending and bring offenders to account
- Objective 7: To work in partnership to support the most vulnerable people in our society

## **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 bi-monthly basis to monitor district performance and review local operational delivery. 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.

Safer Bromsgrove Projects and Initiatives throughout 2014-15 include:-

### **Forensic Property Marking – SmartWater**

SmartWater domestic property marking kits made available to residents at the cost price £15. Free kits are distributed to domestic burglary victims via West Mercia Police

### **Secure Homes Initiative -**

Provides a gold level home security kit including free SmartWater to every victim of burglary in Bromsgrove and a silver level kit to the immediate neighbours of the affected property. As part of the project, occasionally security works and improvements can be provided to vulnerable residents who require additional support. These works are carried out using a case by case assessment process on referral from partner officers. Police and Crime Commissioner funded

**Bromsgrove High Street Market Stall** – The Community Safety Home Security Market Stall is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of every month, offering advice, promoting crime prevention tools and products. Cost price SmartWater kits are also available to Bromsgrove residents

### **Seasonal Community Safety/Secure Homes Market Stalls**

The Community Safety Market stall is taken to different parts of Bromsgrove District at community events or on targeted dates to promote community safety and home security messages

**Bromsgrove Street Pastors** - Bromsgrove Street Pastors are members of the Safer Bromsgrove group and provide valuable support and information to partners regarding the night-time economy. The Churches Together group of volunteers patrol Bromsgrove High Street on Friday nights

**Bromsgrove Pub Watch** - Safer Bromsgrove partners attend the regular pub-watch meetings held by local licensees. Partners work with and provide on-going support Pub Watch, sharing best practice and exchanging information to promote a safe and secure night-time economy in Bromsgrove

**Community Safety/Personal Safety Awareness Workshops** - The Community Safety Project Officer attends various resident groups, forums and networks, promoting personal safety, community safety and home security to communities across Bromsgrove

**Fusion Festival Safety Advisory Group** - This Birmingham music festival is held at Cofton Park over the last weekend in August. The Community Safety Project Officer attends the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) with local Parish Council reps to ensure minimum disruption and disturbance to Bromsgrove residents. The SAG includes safety and security representatives from across Birmingham and Worcestershire authorities

**Community Safety - Schools Respect Programme** - This schools support programme provides a variety of classroom workshops and activities, small group work and one-to-one mentoring at a number of local schools. Workshop subjects include recognising and reporting hate crime, understanding healthy relationships and domestic abuse, substance misuse and respect and responsibility. Schools that have taken part in the different programmes are:-

Parkside Middle School  
South Bromsgrove High School  
North Bromsgrove High School  
Hagley High School  
Rigby Hall School,  
Haybridge High School

**North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership** - is a sub group of the CSP and delivers a programme of activities and interventions aimed at reducing incidents of Hate Crime across the 3 districts. NWHIP delivers a number activities including:-

- Training for Community Reporting Centres
- Hate Crime Awareness talks and workshops
- Case review and management on behalf of residents who require a multi-agency response to their concerns
- Promotional events and stalls
- Workshops and street theatre productions as part of Hate Crime Awareness Week

**Worcestershire Safe Places Scheme** - The Safe Places Scheme has been set up by a consortium of community safety partners led by Our Way Advocacy, a support group for people with learning disabilities. Local businesses, shops and cafes across the county can sign up to be a 'Safe Place', where vulnerable or distressed members of the public can go to if they feel worried, threatened, confused or just need a short rest. The Scheme is funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner and is being rolled out on a district by district basis with the launch in Bromsgrove planned for Spring/Summer 2015

**Black and Minority Ethnic Women's Domestic Abuse Project: North Worcestershire** - This initiative identifies BME women who may be at risk of/experiencing domestic abuse but feel unable to seek help through current support provision for cultural/ religious reasons. The project is funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner and delivered in partnership with Early Help

**Annual White Ribbon Campaign and 16 Days of Action: 25<sup>th</sup> Nov to 10<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Activities, school workshops and educational events raising awareness of the effects of domestic violence on individuals, families and society. The 16 Days of Action are used to promote domestic abuse support services such as Women's Aid, Stonham, Victim Support and the Freedom Programme.

**Loan Shark Awareness Week: 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014** - A week action informing frontline staff from local organisations and members of the public about the dangers of loan sharks, promoting how to report concerns and access support. Bromsgrove Loan Shark Awareness Week events took place in Rubery and on Bromsgrove High Street with a final event held at St Andrews Church, Charford. Throughout the week 215 money advice and support leaflets were given out to residents and a further 282 were displayed by local organisations. Also, throughout the year over 100 staff from organisations and agencies across Bromsgrove and Redditch undertook loan shark awareness training so they could better identify and support customers who may be at risk

## **NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE CSP DATA AND PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK**

The North Worcestershire CSP receives a detailed data and performance report at its quarterly meeting. The data is compiled by the CSP analyst and is presented as North Worcestershire information and also broken down into each district. The CSP uses this performance framework to monitor the overall progress and success of various projects and initiatives against the CSP plan

Alongside this, Worcestershire County Council's Research and Intelligence Unit works with West Mercia Police to produce monthly District Crime Profiles based on local political boundaries. These profiles provide information at a District level, with a further break down of key crime types at a Ward and Electoral Division level. Bromsgrove's report is provided at Appendix 2 and all districts reports can be accessed via the following link:-

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20078/community\\_safety](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20078/community_safety)

## **APPENDICES**

1. Community Safety Partnership Structure
2. Bromsgrove Monthly Crime Report

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