

BRIEFING NOTE

To: Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

From: Bev Houghton
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CC: Cllr Margaret Sherrey – Portfolio Holder for Community Services
Sue Hanley – Deputy Chief Executive
Judith Willis – Head of Community Services

SUBJECT	North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership
DATE	21st March 2016
PURPOSE	To provide an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership during 2015/16.
BACKGROUND	
<p>North Worcestershire CSP (NWCSP) is the statutory Community Safety Partnership covering the three districts of Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest.</p> <p>NWCSP is supported by the local authority community safety team which operates as a shared service in Bromsgrove and Redditch, hosted by Redditch Borough Council. Wyre Forest District Council maintains its own local authority team.</p> <p>Local representation on NWCSP is fulfilled through Council Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Councillor Margaret Sherrey and 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 Operational Group. Sue Hanley is the elected Chair of the NWCSP and represents the Partnership at a County-wide level.</p> <p>Scrutiny arrangements are in place for each council as part of the Local Authority statutory duty to scrutinise the work of the local CSP under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.</p> <p>There is also a direct role for the authority to hold the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to account through the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel.</p> <p>Bromsgrove District Council's representative on the Police and Crime Panel is Council Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Councillor Margaret Sherrey.</p>	
CURRENT POSITION	
<p>In September 2015, a countywide review of community safety structures was commissioned by the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board. The purpose of the</p>	

review was to assess current partnership and governance arrangements on behalf of the Responsible Authorities and key stakeholders; with the aim of ensuring that the Partnerships function efficiently and effectively in a rapidly changing community safety environment.

The review was conducted by the Peer Support Programme (PSP). PSP are an independent regional group established in 2007, with the support of the Home Office, to carry out peer reviews and evaluations of crime reduction partnerships across the West Midlands.

The review was conducted via a desk top assessment of CSP documents, a multi-agency workshop involving 25 community safety stakeholders and a series of semi-structured interviews held with key Responsible Authority representatives and other selected officers.

The final report of the review is attached at **Appendix 1**.

The report highlights a number of strengths in the current governance arrangements alongside some key areas for future development. The findings of the report are being used by the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board to consider recommendations for the further development of CSPs arrangements. Any changes to structures or procedures identified as a result of the review will be built into the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2016-17. The review report is to be considered at the next meeting of the NWCSPP to be held on the 16th March 2016.

NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE CSP PLAN 2013-16

NWCSPP has a statutory duty to produce a three year rolling plan outlining how the partnership intends to address key crime and community safety priorities

The 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.

Each year there is a requirement to conduct a refresh of the Partnership Plan to incorporate any new and emerging issues and the 2013-16 North Worcestershire CSP Plan was refreshed in June 2015. The North Worcestershire CSP priorities remained the same; however a number of new activities were added to the action plan to reflect new areas of responsibility for the CSP.

These additional activities reflect the greater safeguarding responsibilities of CSP's in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation and in the Prevention of Violent Extremism as detailed in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

The refreshed NWCSP Action Plan with associated project activity for the year can be found at **Appendix 2**.

Local actions that may be of particular interest to Elected Members include:-

- A dedicated Bromsgrove Community Safety Project Officer will be in place from April 2016
- A new NWCSP Research & Information Officer will be in place from April 2016
- The Schools Programme is progressing with community safety awareness sessions and activities taking place in Bromsgrove High School, Parkside Middle School and Waseley High School
- The Bromsgrove Safe Place Launch will take place on the 8th April at the Starlight Community Centre and Café and businesses are being contacted to sign up to the scheme.
- Two more groups for the BME Domestic Abuse project across Bromsgrove and Redditch are due to start in April and May. One group will be for Asian Women and one group will be for women from the Traveller Community.
- An online offender identification system called Facewatch has been set up as part of the Business Crime initiative. Facewatch allows business members to exchange information, intelligence and images of known offenders such as shoplifters and perpetrators of violent offences to provide an early warning system for business networks. Bromsgrove Pubwatch and Rubery Shopwatch have taken up use of the system and 21 businesses on Bromsgrove High Street are in the process of signing up. Funding for the first 100 businesses to sign up is being provided by NWCSP.
- The Worcestershire Rural Watch Website is now up and running, working in partnership with SWCSP and a North Worcestershire Rural Watch Facebook page is also live.

Further details on these projects can be found in the attached Action Plan.

NWCSP FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR 2015/16

The West Mercia PCC again allocated funding to the CSP to support delivery of the CSP Partnership Plan 2015/16. The funding amounts were in line with the previous year's allocation and used to support various projects and activities as follows:-

CSP Priority	Project / Initiative	Amount
All	NW Analytical and Research Support	£35,000
Reduce Crime & ASB	Safer Bromsgrove Tasking Initiatives	£24,595
Reduce Crime & ASB	Safer Redditch Tasking Initiatives	£38,406
Reduce Crime & ASB	Safer Wyre Forest Tasking Initiatives	£39,249
Reduce Crime & ASB	Safer Wyre Forest Community Ambassadors	£5,000
Reduce Violence & Abuse	Safer Bromsgrove/Safer Redditch Black & Minority Ethnic Domestic Abuse Project	£10,000
Reduce Violence & Abuse	Countywide Hate Crime Awareness Week Events	£10,000
Reducing Re-offending	North Worcs. Reducing Re-offending Activities	£5,000
Reducing Re-offending	Countywide Integrated Offender Management	£40,700
	Total	£207,950

NWCSP CCTV – 2015/16	Amount
PCC Contribution to North Worcestershire CCTV Scheme	£40,810

NWCSP Business & Rural Crime Funding 2015/16	Amount
NW Rural/Business Crime Co-ordinator	£30,000
Activity to prevent unlawful incursions on business and rural land	£15,000
Provision of Crime Prevention Design Advice Training	£10,000
Business and Rural Crime Project Fund	£20,000
Street Pastors - Bewdley	£4,500
	Total £79,500

OFFICE OF THE PCC - COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK

Throughout the year the Office of the PCC has been working with West Mercia CSPs to develop a new commissioning framework which will form the basis for allocating PCC funding in the future. The Office of the PCC is seeking to move away from the annual grant allocation scheme to a more commissioning based process that is intelligence led and based on evidence of need.

Using a shared strategic approach to development of services and a greater focus on achievement of outcomes, it is envisaged that the commissioning framework will provide improved service delivery, greater certainty of longer term funding and improved co-ordination across agencies.

Accompanying the development of the new framework is a series of data and intelligence

scorecards for a variety of crime types that are being produced for each CSP area. The scorecards will be used by CSPs to support the annual strategic assessment process and conduct gap analysis, providing supporting data and evidence for the development of future services and interventions.

The Office of the PPC has advised that funding for 2016-17 will be allocated at previous levels whilst work continues on the new framework leading up to the PCC election process. The framework will be presented to the newly elected Commissioner for endorsement with a view to implementation in 2017-18.

APPENDICES

1. PSP Report - Worcestershire Community Safety Partnerships Review
2. NWCSP Action Plan 2015/16

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