



BRIEFING NOTE

To: Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

From: Bev Houghton
Dept: Community Safety
Contact Info: 01527 534187

CC: Cllr Peter Whittaker – Portfolio Holder for Community Safety
Sue Hanley – Deputy Chief Executive
Judith Willis – Head of Community Services

North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2017/18

1. Summary

- 1.1** This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) during 2017/18 and to date.

2. Background

- 2.1** NWCSP has been in existence since May 2013, following the merger of the three district CSPs in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest. The community safety teams have continued to remain with the respective local authorities.
- 2.2** Local representation on NWCSP is fulfilled through a number of positions. Bromsgrove District Council's Elected Member representative is the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Councillor Peter Whittaker. Sue Hanley, the Council's Deputy Chief Executive is Chair of NWCSP and Bromsgrove District Council's Responsible Authority representative on the Partnership is Head of Community Services, Judith Willis. The Council's Community Safety Manager, Bev Houghton provides support to NWCSP and is also Chair of the Safer Bromsgrove Group.
- 2.3** Scrutiny arrangements for the CSP currently 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.
- 2.4** 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 West Mercia Police and Crime Panel (PCP). Bromsgrove District Council's representative on the PCP is the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Partnerships, Councillor Karen May.

3. Current Position

3.1 Partnership Structure

District Operational Groups are identified as Safer District Groups and are known as Safer Bromsgrove Group, Safer Redditch Group and Safer Wyre

Forest Group. There are also a number of other sub-groups as illustrated in Appendix 1

3.2 The Partnership Plan 2017-20

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.

The Strategic Assessment gathers research, evidence and intelligence from national and regional sources, as well as drawing on 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 used to inform the Community Safety Partnership Plan and the priorities that the CSP will focus on for a 3 year period. The partnership agreed its priorities for 2017-20 in Dec 2016 and they are:-

- I. Reducing Violence and Abuse: including sexual offending, domestic abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- II. Reducing Theft and Acquisitive crime: including shoplifting, thefts and burglaries
- III. Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour, Damage and Nuisance: including criminal damage, environmental issues and deliberate fires/arson
- IV. Protecting vulnerable communities: including reducing harassment and threatening behaviour motivated by Hate
- V. Reducing Offending and Reducing the Harm caused by Drug and Alcohol Misuse are cross cutting themes which impact on all priorities

3.3 John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

John Campion was elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia on 5th May 2016. The PCC has a duty to co-operate with CSPs to reduce crime and disorder and there is a reciprocal duty on CSPs to collaborate with the PCC. The PCC and the CSP must have regard to each other's priorities within their respective plans. The PCC's Safer West Mercia Plan was published in October 2016 and his priorities are reflected in the NWCSP Action Plans, which the partnership will contribute to delivering at a local level. The PCC's vision is focused on four key areas:

- I. Building a More Secure West Mercia: CSE, domestic abuse, vulnerable people, sexual offences, ASB, drugs and alcohol, reducing reoffending, road safety
- II. Reassuring West Mercia's Communities: feeling safe as well as being safe, engaging with the public, protecting from cyber-crime, making voices heard around rural crime

III. Putting Victims and Witnesses First

IV. Reforming West Mercia

Tracey Onslow was appointed as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner in July 2016. Her role is to represent the PCC in communities across West Mercia. Her portfolio includes cyber, rural and business crime, victims' services and commissioning. CSPs will be working closely with the Deputy PCC as the PCCs commissioning model is developed and put into operation. The first commissioning areas to be considered by the Deputy PCC were CCTV and CSP funding for Analysis support. Both reviews are underway, with a number of changes proposed to the way these areas have previously been funded.

3.4 Grant Funding from the PCC 2018/19

In December 2017, CSPs in West Mercia were advised of their respective funding allocations for 2018/19 and were asked to apply to the PCC with details of how the funding would be used. On 17th January 2018, an extraordinary meeting of the NWCSPP was held to agree which projects and areas of work partners wished to deliver. The funding available was based on previous year's allocations and the table below shows the projects agreed by NWCSPP.

Project	Funding request
Research & Information Officer (ring-fenced)	£35,000
Bromsgrove & Redditch Community Guardians Project	£54,125
Wyre Forest Keeping Safe Project	£48,125
NW Street Pastors	£1,000
NW Young Citizens Challenge	£1,000
Total Amount	£139,250

The PCC has also agreed to consider funding applications for a two year period up to the end of the PCCs current term in March 2020.

The Bromsgrove & Redditch Community Guardian project proposes to create a team of officers who will patrol areas identified as ASB locations of concern. The patrol teams will engage with groups of young people and adults who are gathering in local neighbourhoods and the project will support the work of SNT officers and the Street Pastors to provide another resource to address issues of on-street ASB and nuisance. The CSP is currently in discussions with the H&W Fire and Rescue service to identify officers who may be interested in delivering this project, which will also complement their ongoing community role modelling project PRIME.

NWCSPP has also been allocated funding of £200,000 over a 3 year period for improvements to the area's CCTV scheme. On behalf of the three Local

Authorities, the CSP is investigating options to use this capital contribution to modernise the CCTV infrastructure. This could potentially see an upgrade of the current scheme to support to Internet Protocol Recording. Therefore improving the technological capabilities of the scheme and allowing for increased digital capability and more capacity to expand and/or link to other digital systems across the region. This CCTV grant is separate to NWCSP's core funding allocation. A CCTV Short Sharp Review is currently being undertaken and will take this in to consideration. It is anticipated that this Review will feedback to O&S in October.

3.5 Local Delivery, Key Projects and Progress

Local delivery of community safety projects and initiatives falls under the remit of the Community Safety Operational Groups. The Safer Bromsgrove Group meets on an 8 weekly 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.

Progress of grant funded projects was reported to the PCC and at the end of the financial year there was a requirement to provide a comprehensive evaluation of all projects funded in 2017/18. This included a breakdown of expenditure and a requirement to demonstrate the difference the projects had made. The NWCSP project evaluations for 17/18 can be shared with Members on request.

This report will now provide an update on some of the key community safety projects that were delivered in 2017/18.

Dedicated Bromsgrove Community Safety Project Officer

Safer Bromsgrove has invested some of its reserves in retaining a dedicated officer to deliver community safety projects and initiatives and liaise with local communities and groups on crime prevention and personal safety issues. David Rischmiller has been in post since May 2016.

Alongside partners, the Bromsgrove Project Officer has worked with a number of local community groups and residents to offer guidance and information on a variety of community safety concerns. This includes attending a wide range of groups such as neighbourhood watches, residents' representative groups, student events and specific health groups including dementia awareness and carers support. As a result of supporting these events, follow-up home and business security surveys have been conducted to offer bespoke crime prevention advice.

In Hagley, residents of a small housing development in an isolated lane became subject of anti-social behaviour from groups gathering in the lane at night, some intimidation resulted and tension was significant. Working with the ward member and the police, the Project Officer brought together relevant agencies to look at physical measures that could contribute to a solution. A site meeting with all parties carried out to reassure residents their concerns were taken seriously and positive links were established. The issue was

resolved through collaborative effort without significant capital outlay, which was initially under consideration.

In the Lowes Hill Ward, a group of individuals established themselves on a route used by school and college pupils and significant anti-social behaviour was reported to be taking place including litter, graffiti and drug dealing. There was a clear risk to young people and the resident's quality of life was seriously affected. The Project Officer conducted a crime reduction site survey and a number of environmental and physical alterations were identified to discourage the anti-social activity. A site meeting was arranged with the relevant partners and actions identified and tasked. Unfortunately, this project is on-going with the Project Officer investing considerable effort to ensure the environmental conditions enabling the anti-social activity are removed. Various barriers to progress on this project have been escalated to senior managers within partner agencies in order to progress actions as quickly as possible.

In Tardebigge, anti-social behaviour including open water swimming during the summer holiday was affecting recreational users of the reservoir and creating an increased risk of drowning at the location. Working with the water bailiff, a safety review was conducted at the location and an emergency services response exercise carried out. Plans to address any recurrence of this issue in the event of hot weather in the summer months are currently under consideration.

The Project Officer also responds to ad hoc calls from residents expressing concern about all aspects of crime, ASB and community safety issues in their local area. He offers appropriate advice, facilitates contact with other agencies and provides crime prevention support as necessary.

Town Centres Management Group

Led by Cheryl Welsh, the Bromsgrove Town Centres Manager, the group works closely with the Community Safety Project Officer and brings together the Police, Licensees, Businesses, Licensing Officers and Place Teams to identify community safety issues, particularly around the Night Time Economy. The group has successfully revitalised the local Pub Watch group, developing and modernising its practices and promoting the use of online information sharing platforms. These platforms allow the police, licensed premises and businesses to share crime prevention information and intelligence with other members in a confidential manner. The group reports to Safer Bromsgrove as a sub-group but also has a dual function of improving and encouraging footfall in the Town Centres as part of the Council's Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy.

The group has initiated a 'Best Bar None' Scheme within the Town Centre licensed sector. This national scheme seeks to raise standards, using a process of accreditation to help licensed premises to avoid crime and disorder problems and promote themselves as safe and attractive venues for all customers.

The group commissioned the Project Officer to conduct a crime prevention review of the Town Centre retail area to assess the security of the retail units. This was as a result of sporadic problems experienced by businesses including burglary and youths accessing the roof areas. The review identified significant security gaps and key responsibilities for individual tenants and property owners. These are being raised directly with premises owners for them to action.

In 2017 the Street Pastors' scheme celebrated its 5th anniversary of operation and remains a key resource supporting residents, customers and businesses in the Town Centre night time economy. The Project Officer delivered a community safety training session to the team as part of the on-going development of their skills and abilities.

Nominated Neighbour Scheme

In 2017, Worcestershire Trading Standards approached the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner requesting support in closing an "intelligence gap" between the Police and Trading Standards relating to doorstep crime.

In support of this work the PCC offered funding to NWCSF to address doorstep crime issues, encompassing distraction burglary, rogue trading and door to door high-pressure selling. In Bromsgrove and Redditch a "Nominated Neighbour Scheme" was developed, to respond to these particular threats relating to elderly and vulnerable residents.

The scheme involves the Council Community Safety team and partner agencies working with communities and local groups to identify those who may be vulnerable to door step crime offences and implement the Nominated Neighbour scheme with them. When identified, the Nominated Neighbour of a vulnerable resident agrees to check the identity of any cold callers to the address. The cold caller will be directed to attend the Nominated Neighbour's address for their identity and purpose of visit to be confirmed. The caller is directed to the Nominated Neighbour by the resident providing written instructions through the letterbox without opening the door. A window sticker is also put in place advising any callers that their identity will be checked on approach. This in itself is an effective deterrent to any would-be offenders.

Initial feedback from residents who have signed up to the scheme has been very positive:-

Mrs A stated that she felt the sign on her door was a deterrent. On one occasion she had someone at the door that saw the sticker and immediately went away. She commented that she definitely felt safer with having that on.

Ms B commented that she felt safer and it did make a difference

Ms C feels that numbers of unwanted callers have definitely reduced significantly since she has had the sticker put up

Ms D was very glad with the scheme as she had had a lot of unwanted callers before and it has stopped completely

Mrs E was very pleased with the scheme; she felt it reduced the number of unwanted callers significantly and that people were not bothering to knock her door anymore.

Mrs F had a lot of trouble with unwanted callers in the past, she said it was constant as she is at busy location by the school, but she has had no unwanted callers since the NN sticker was put in the window

Mrs H felt it was making a difference as since she had the policeman sticker on her window she only has had people at the door who she knows.

The scheme has also become part of the Police Economic Crime Unit's prevention strategy for door step crime offences.

Bromsgrove & Redditch Schools Respect Programme

The Respect programme continues to be successful providing whole day awareness sessions as part of school drop down days, it also provides bespoke classroom sessions on a number of subjects such as recognising and reporting hate crime, understanding healthy relationships and domestic abuse, the dangers of substance misuse and promoting respect and community responsibility. The project also provides one to one mentoring sessions to individual students who are felt to be at risk of becoming involved in crime and ASB or are at risk of becoming victims of crime.

Last school year (Sept 16 to July 17) the project saw 1,234 students receive community safety information during school PHSE lessons and drop down days across Bromsgrove and Redditch. 92 students were referred for 1 to 1 support through therapeutic mentoring sessions and 55 students received information via targeted small group workshops. 36 students took part in the nationally recognised CRUSH Programme, a young people's Domestic Abuse awareness course created and accredited by Women's Aid.

Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub

This is a project which has been led by Safer Bromsgrove, YMCA, Parenting and Family Support and Bromsgrove Baptist Church. The idea for the project came from a community safety drop down day with students at North Bromsgrove High School. The young people stated that they felt there were not enough places where young people could meet up and feel like they belonged. After further consultation with other young people in Bromsgrove, this idea was developed further.

The basement of the Baptist Church on New Road was identified as a suitable location for a new youth venue and funding was obtained to support the refurbishment costs of the venue. Safer Bromsgrove allocated £20,000 of its reserves to support the setting up of the project and in May 2018, a Youth and Community Hub Project Manager was appointed. The official launch of the Bromsgrove Youth Hub will be held on the 18th July 2018.

Listening Service

Amy Stokes has been appointed by the Anglican Churches in Bromsgrove to look at what gaps children and young people feel there are in the district.

Amy identified that young people felt having a listening service where they could talk about things that upset them would be of great support.

Amy delivered a pilot scheme in South Bromsgrove High School, and has already established 20 volunteers through the Anglican Church. With Amy's post coming to an end in September, Safer Bromsgrove are supporting the scheme by helping to develop a new management structure and recruitment of more volunteers via the Youth Hub. This will help to ensure that the successful pilot is rolled out as an integrated programme in high schools across Bromsgrove

Young Citizens Challenge

Young Citizen's Challenge is an initiative that has been running in Bromsgrove and Redditch for over 10 years. The project provides community safety and personal safety messages and information to Year 6 pupils from primary schools across both districts. Students, accompanied by their teacher, are taken off school site to a partner location to take part in a range of interactive workshops and activities, raising awareness of various community safety issues.

In 2017, the project was delivered from Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station and saw 920 young people receiving a variety of community safety messages. Schools that took part in the initiative included Parkside Middle School, St Johns Middle School, Bromsgrove School and Lickey Hills.

Safe Place Scheme

The Safe Place Scheme is a CSP supported scheme that was set up by Our Way Self Advocacy in Wyre Forest in 2014. The scheme is now operating across Worcestershire and it offers vulnerable people a safe place to go if they have a problem or concern when out and about in the town centres. All Safe Places are identified by a Safe Place sticker and staff receive training, so that they are able to give reassurance and help people contact appropriate support, if needed. A directory of the Safe Places in Bromsgrove and across the county is available at www.ourway.org.uk/safe-place-scheme/ and there is also a free Safe Place Scheme app available for mobile phones. Downloads of "My Town Worcestershire" from the App Store, will show you your nearest "Safe Place" and can guide you to it via Google Maps.

Community Safety teams in Worcestershire work in partnership with West Mercia Police and Our Way Self Advocacy to support, develop and maintain the scheme across the county. A Bromsgrove Community Safety Project Officer was instrumental in supporting the roll out of the scheme across the county and led on the development of the Mobile Phone App that is also shared and supported by the Bromsgrove Street Pastors.

Hate Crime Awareness Week 2017

As part of national Hate Crime Awareness Week in October and using funding provided by the PCC, North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership organised a number of community engagement events across the districts. Locally, an awareness stand was set up in Bromsgrove High Street and a

Street Theatre Company was commissioned to engage with residents through a number of thought provoking performances.

Over 270 information bags were handed out and Residents felt comfortable approaching the stand and engaging with performers and staff to find out more about hate crime. In some instances, people also offered their own personal experiences of how they had been victimised and how services could be improved. Information was displayed in public areas across the town and press releases were sent to the local papers. The events were also promoted via relevant Twitter and Facebook pages.

The Hate Incident Partnership underwent a number of changes last year and it was felt that Hate Crime Awareness week would be a good opportunity to hold a re-launch of the group. On the 20th October the launch event was held at the Bromsgrove Hotel and Spa with over 100 professionals attending. The event was also supported by Bromsgrove MP Sajid Javid, who attended and spoke about his own personal experiences of Hate Crime.

Community Engagement

Last year, Community Safety Project Officers attended a considerable number of events in order to speak to local residents, provide crime prevention advice and raise awareness of community safety campaigns. In Bromsgrove between April and Dec 2017, Project Officers estimated speaking to over 205 people at various events; for example, Older People's forums, sheltered housing schemes, Neighbourhood Watch & Parish Council events, White Ribbon campaign stands, dementia awareness events and Christmas crime prevention events. Purse bells, chains and cables; personal attack alarms and shed alarms remain popular items, which are useful as methods of engagement to encourage residents to discuss personal and home security and to encourage them to take a more active part in minimising their vulnerability to crime. 98 people received Home Security information and guidance, 198 people received personal safety information. 12 people received Home Security works at their properties and 152 people reported that they felt safer as a result of Community Safety intervention. The team were also worked closely with the Midlands Illegal Money Lending Team delivering events as part of their Loan Shark 'Bite Back' week in October.

3.6 Community Safety Partnership Performance and Evaluation

As part of a partnership review held in 2017, NWCSP is re-assessing how it will measure its performance and achieve its desired outcomes. CSPs are moving away from the traditional method of considering only police recorded crime and ASB data as performance indicators and are moving more toward focusing on delivering agreed partnership outcomes and improving mainstream provision. This is partly being driven by the PCC and his outcomes-based commissioning framework and also due to changes to police recording as a result of the implementation of a new information management system. The Research and Information post will be instrumental in assisting partners to ensure performance measurement and evaluation are carried out in the best way, in order to evidence that partnership activities are making a difference.

3.7 Bromsgrove District Community Panel Survey 2017

Following the Council's decision to no longer take part in the Worcestershire Viewpoint project, the first Bromsgrove District Community Panel survey was created to cover key issues and reflect the Council's strategic purposes and the content of the Council Plans. Managers had an opportunity to suggest service related questions and a community safety section was included in the survey.

The Community Safety Team will be working with Policy to analyse the results of the survey in order to target community safety activity, engagement and promotional materials based on the issues highlighted. Key results of the 2017 survey are detailed below:-

Findings of the Community Panel Survey 2017

	Start date of survey	Number surveys received*	Number valid surveys returned	% return rate
Bromsgrove	6 October 2017	589	270	45.8%

*This is the figure after removing those surveys which were returned unopened (by post and through 'bounced' e-mails)

The findings of the survey results showed that the majority of respondents in Bromsgrove had never been a victim of either crime or anti-social behaviour (ASB). The results also showed that for the respondents, the levels of both crime and ASB in Bromsgrove and Redditch appeared to be very similar over the last 5 years.

The vast majority (85.2%) of respondents felt safe in Bromsgrove during daylight however, after dark this dropped to just 47.4%. A total of 23.5% of respondents said they felt unsafe after dark.

Thinking about public safety, 61.6% of Bromsgrove respondents said that having CCTV helped them to feel safe when were out in public.

Question 27 asked respondents – *“Using your knowledge of Bromsgrove District as a whole, please tell us the issues that concern you most from the following list. (Tick up to 10 boxes only)”*. The results were as follows:-

Top 5 Issues
Inconsiderate parking - 66.8%
Vehicle crimes - 61.2%
Burglary - 59.2%
Littering - 53.2%
Drug taking or dealing - 50.4%
Dog fouling - 50.4%

Question 28 asked respondents – “*What do you think are the 3 main issues that impact on Community Safety in Bromsgrove District? (Tick up to 3 boxes only)*”. The results were as follows:-

Top 5 Issues	
Lack of police presence - 55.1%	Not enough deterrent/enforcement - 30.2%
Drugs - 40.8%	Lack of parental control - 30.2%
Poor behaviour & attitudes - 37.6%	
Young people with nothing to do - 30.6%	

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That progress made by the North Worcestershire CSP be noted.

5. Appendices

Appendix One: NWCSP Structure

6. Background Papers

West Mercia PCC's Safer West Mercia Plan 2017/21

Bromsgrove District Community Panel Survey 2017

Officer Contact Details:

Name: Bev Houghton
 Title: Community Safety Manager
 Tel: 01527 534187
 Email: bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk