

BRIEFING NOTE

To: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
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CC: Cllr Phil Thomas – Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Cultural Services & Community Safety
Sue Hanley – Deputy Chief Executive
Judith Willis – Head of Housing & Community Services

North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2018/19

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) during 2018/19 and to date.

2. Background

2.1 NWCSP has been in existence since May 2013, following a merger of the three district CSPs in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest. The community safety teams that support and administer the Partnership continue to sit within 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 Leisure, Cultural Services and Community Safety, Councillor Phil Thomas. Sue Hanley, the Council's Deputy Chief Executive is Chair of NWCSP and Judith Willis, Head of Housing & Community Services is Bromsgrove District Council's Responsible Authority representative on the Partnership. The Council's Community Safety Manager, Bev Houghton provides organisational support to NWCSP.

2.3 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.

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). The Bromsgrove District Council representative on the PCP is Councillor Adam Kent, with Councillor Andrew Beaumont as named substitute.

3. Current Position

3.1 Partnership Structure

CSP 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 and domestic abuse (to include 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 harassment and threatening behaviour
- V. Reducing Offending and Drug and Alcohol Misuse are cross cutting themes which impact on all priorities

The 2019 Strategic Assessment is currently being produced by the CSP Analyst team based at West Mercia Police HQ. This statutory document was presented in draft to the Partnership in September 2019 and a summary of its initial findings are as follows:-

Crime Type	Data
All Crime	From April 2018 to March 2019 North Worcestershire recorded a total of 21,066 offences, equating to an average of 1750 offences a month. Offences rose significantly in July 2018 (n = 1932) but this increase was not observed during August to September. 24% of all crime across West Mercia (n = 21,081, 24%) took place in North Worcestershire, comparable volume with South Worcestershire (n = 21,338, 25%).
Domestic Abuse	During 2018 to 2019 there were 5,575 Domestic Abuse Incidents in North Worcestershire, an increase of 4% compared to the previous

	<p>year. The most Domestic Abuse Incidents were recorded in July 2018, with the likely contributing factors of the Football World Cup, increased alcohol consumption and warmer weather leading to increased reporting. The majority of incidents occurred in residential properties whilst 20 incidents occurred in bars, pubs or nightclubs.</p>
Hate Crime & Targeted Harassment	<p>In 2018/19 there were a total of 158 Hate Incidents and 41 Race or Religiously Aggravated Fear Offences recorded in North Worcestershire. Racial Hatred accounted for the most Hate Incidents (n = 80), followed by Homophobic incidents (n = 38). As hate crime often targets those who traditionally are more reluctant to report being the victim of an offence for a variety of reasons increases in reports are viewed as a positive, reflecting greater confidence by victims to come forward. Additionally, mobile communication devices are allowing offences to be reported sooner after offences occur. There were a total of 92 Harassment Offences and 51 Racially or Religiously Aggravated Offences recorded. The majority of Harassment Offences were considered intentional (n = 51) and were reported to involve verbal abuse and the use of racist terms and offensive language. Offences often occurred in the street or in shops and supermarkets (n = 11, 12%)</p>
Night Time Economy Violence	<p>For the purpose of the Strategic Assessment, offences associated with the night time economy or NTE are categorised as having occurred between 18:00hrs and 06:00hrs and at premises such as bars, clubs, pubs and on the street. All residential properties are excluded from the analysis. NHS Assault data from October 2018 to March 2019 showed that the majority of assaults occurred at night and were located in Bars or Pubs (n = 50). The most frequent method used was “punch with fist” (n = 92). Often the victim refused to give suspect relationship details to the NHS (n = 61), this may be due to domestic abuse, loyalty or fear of reprisal. Where a relationship was described, most offenders were recorded as ‘strangers’ (n = 53). The majority of the offences occurred in the Street (n = 63), closely followed by Licensed Premises (n = 58).</p>
Residential Burglary	<p>Between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019 there were a total of 1,443 residential burglary offences recorded. October 2018 recorded the highest volume of residential burglary (n = 164). The majority of victims of residential burglaries were older people, likely perceived to pose less of a risk of confrontation to the offender. The most frequent methods of entry were: forced doors (28%), damaged locks (23%), property unsecure (16%) or smashed windows (12%). Garden tools and farm equipment were the most frequently stolen items (13%) alongside cash, cards, wallets and purses (13%) car keys (10%) electrical items (8%) and jewellery (8%) It is highly likely that items are quickly resold and converted to cash and it is widely believed that these items are stolen to fund drug use. There were 136 car key burglaries in the period, most of which involved high value vehicles valued at over £15,000. Improved technology means that cars may now be stolen without the need for keys, referred to as Electronic Compromise Offences or ECOs. Vehicles are entered using an electronic device, often mimicking the electronic key code. Many car key burglaries are believed to be linked to Organised Crime Group (OCG) activity in the West Midlands Police area.</p>

Theft From Store	There were a total of 2,341 offences of Theft from Store recorded across North Worcestershire in 2018/19, which was an increase of 12% in comparison with 2017/18. The volume of offences fluctuated throughout the year with activity between April and August 2018, peaking in May. Overall there were fewer offences during the Autumn and Winter. Most offences occurred at Supermarkets and Shops (n = 1,487, 64%). Commercial garages recorded the next highest volume of offences (n = 41). Items most frequently taken were Alcohol (14%) and Meat (13%).
ASB	There were 9,876 incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in 2018 to 2019 which showed a 5% decrease compared to the previous year. Incidents were highest in July 2018 (n = 1,070, 11%), and then slowly declined until a slight increase in October 2018. This indicates a seasonal trend in activity during the summer months and school holidays, as well as October Half Term and Halloween. Qualifiers are recorded against incidents when the key factors that relate to each incident are described. Over half of the reports (54%) had no qualifier recorded. Of the remaining reports (n = 4,501), the following qualifiers were the most frequently recorded; Youth (n = 804), Drugs (n = 572) and Alcohol (n = 516). A key word search of these reports showed the most common themes were Neighbour issues, Noise, and Drugs.
Youth ASB	Youth related incidents accounted for 8% of all ASB (n = 804). Incidents were often reported in town centres in part due to increased visitor population. Youth related ASB decreased by 24% in comparison to the previous year. However, this is likely due to differences in the application of qualifiers or markers. Most youth related ASB occurred in May 2018 and was likely attributable to the warmer weather but not the two bank holidays. Most youth related ASB incidents involved noise complains (n = 65), followed by incidents involving deliberate fires (n = 39).

Further analysis into key areas is currently being undertaken and the results will be used to develop NWCSP's new three-year Partnership Plan for 2020/23.

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 vision will be reflected in the NWCSP Partnership Plan, 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 is the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, appointed 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 have worked closely with the Deputy PCC as the PCCs new commissioning model continues to develop. The first commissioning areas to be considered by the Deputy PCC were CCTV Upgrades and CSP funding for Data Analysis support. Both reviews have been completed and substantial funding has been provided to deliver in both of these key Community Safety areas.

Data Analyst Support - The PCC has taken CSP analytical support directly into the Office of the PCC using a proportion of the ring-fenced funding from each of the West Mercia CSPs plus some additional PCC funding. There is now a team of 3 CSP analyst posts that deliver data and information products for all of the West Mercia CSPs. This includes products such as regular CSP Crime and Data Overviews, Serious & Organised Crime Profiles and the annual Statutory Strategic Assessments.

CCTV Upgrade - In 2017-18 NWCSPP was allocated £195,000 of PCC funding over a 3 year period for improvements to the area's CCTV scheme. On behalf of the three Local Authorities, the CSP developed a proposal to use this capital contribution to modernise the CCTV infrastructure that serves the three district areas. The plans will see an upgrade of the current scheme to support to Internet Protocol Recording and will therefore upgrade the technological capabilities of the current scheme to digital processing. This will greatly increase the current CCTV scheme, including enhanced digital capability, improved image quality and greater capacity to expand the scheme and/or link to other digital systems across the region.

In March 2018, NWCSPP agreed to allocate a proportion of its ring-fenced revenue grant from the PCC to the project, as the CCTV grant is separate to NWCSPP's core funding allocation. Then, January 2019 the PCC provided an additional £50,000 of capital CCTV funding to each CSP in West Mercia.

Given the amounts involved, this project is the most ambitious undertaken by the Partnership and the project is also being match funded by the three District Councils with additional revenue, capital and in-kind contributions being provided to support the project. The total amount of NWCSPP funding allocated to the project is £339,000 and work has now begun to implement the scheme upgrade. A technical consultant has been commissioned to design the specification for the upgraded scheme and the tender for the installation and maintenance contract has been published and awarded via a national procurement framework. The project has challenging timescales as the

NWCSP funding has to be spent by 31st March 2020; however, the Project Management Team is confident that all milestones will be achieved and the project successfully completed on time.

3.4 Grant Funding from the PCC 2018/19

Throughout 2018, NWCSP allocated its core-funding received from the PCC to various projects and activities across the three district areas. The amount of funding provided to the CSP is based on previous year's allocations and the table below shows the projects currently being supported by NWCSP.

Project	Funding Amount
North Worcs CSP Contribution to the West Mercia Analyst Team	£20,000
Bromsgrove & Redditch Schools Respect Programme	£28,125
Wyre Forest Keeping Safe Project	£48,125
North Worcs Street Pastors Schemes – Redditch / Wyre Forest	£7,333
North Worcs Young Citizens Challenge 2019	£1,000
North Worcs CCTV Scheme Upgrade (CSP Revenue)	£94,000
North Worcs CCTV Scheme Upgrade (PCC Capital)	£245,000

The progress of the grant funded projects is reported quarterly to the PCC and at the end of the financial year there is a requirement for the CSP to provide a comprehensive evaluation of all funded projects. This includes a breakdown of project expenditure and the outputs/outcomes achieved against the PCCs Plan.

3.5 Local Delivery, Key Projects and Progress

The report will now provide an update on some of the key community safety project activity that took place in 2018/19.

The Council's Community Safety Team continues to monitor and respond to district community safety issues, co-ordinating local operational delivery with partners via the Safer Bromsgrove Group. The team is a first point of contact for residents and partners with concerns about local crime and community safety issues and officers are able to call upon other community safety partners when local concerns require a multi-agency response. The Safer Bromsgrove Group meets on an 8 weekly basis to monitor district activity and performance and to review local operational delivery of projects and initiatives.

Bromsgrove Community Safety Project Officer (CSPO)

David Rischmiller, the Bromsgrove CSPO delivers a number of community safety projects and initiatives and liaises with local communities and groups on crime prevention and personal safety issues. David works with many local community groups (and individual residents) to offer guidance and information

about a variety of community safety concerns. These include Neighbourhood Watches, residents' representative groups, student support events and specific health groups such as dementia support and carers associations. After these wider community events follow-up home and business security visits have been conducted to offer crime prevention advice.

David is a fully qualified Crime Prevention and Design Advisor through the National College of Policing, is one of very few non-serving Police Officers to hold these qualifications.

The CSPO has also responded to a number of ad-hoc calls from residents expressing concern about aspects of crime, ASB and community safety in their neighbourhood where he has offered appropriate advice, contacted other agencies on their behalf and provided additional support as necessary.

For example, In the Lowes Hill Ward, a group of individuals had established themselves on a route used by school and college pupils and significant anti-social behaviour was being 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 being 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. The works were completed with an extensive but attractive line of metal railings put in place to deny offenders access to adjoining land. The removal of the previous wooden fence prevented the area being used as a casual seating and gathering location and the extensive cutting back of the trees and shrubbery has opened up the area to natural surveillance and a general clean-up of the area has taken place. As a consequence the problem has been resolved and no further complaints are being received from residents.

More recent enquiries include reports of a regular gathering of young car racers and associated ASB in the Sidemoor Ward, request for measures to address fear of crime in alleyways in the Charford Ward and provision of support for a targeted victim of crime and ASB in the Catshill ward with engagement with a number of partner agencies to pursue options for a resolution.

In the Rubery shopping centre area, the Project Officer utilised his specialised crime prevention training skills to examine an access alleyway which had been raising concerns for the local traders. A detailed report was prepared outlining constraints and opportunities for designing out crime was provided to the interested parties for consideration.

The Project Officer has also progressed with a number of Community Trigger applications received by the Partnership:-

In Wythall, multiple residents initiated a Trigger following a number of ASB complaints around parking and the sale of commercial vehicles in a residential estate. This resulted in the drafting of a Community Protection Warning which is currently on hold due to the offender moving out of the area during the process. Residents had stated that they felt unsupported by other agencies

and that their concerns were being disregarded and David identified that it was a priority to rebuild their confidence in agencies, which has now been achieved.

In North Bromsgrove, complaints concerning littering, public urination and nuisance associated with vehicles parking in a lay-by near to housing were investigated as part a Community Trigger application. Relevant partners with responsibilities at the location were brought together to look at possible solutions. A number of actions were suggested to try to improve the situation but unfortunately, the Applicant's request for significant changes to the road layout and additional traffic management orders in the area could not be accommodated.

Multiple complaints concerning long standing noise and odour nuisance from a commercial facility formed the first Community Trigger application in the district in June 2018. The complaints have been fully investigated over a prolonged period with a wide range of other enforcement and regulatory agencies being engaged. Investigations by some of these agencies are still ongoing and the Trigger remains open whilst we await further information from relevant agencies.

Whilst not a Community Trigger, a Community Protection Warning is also being considered in relation to an unoccupied, neglected and deteriorating property in the Charford ward which is compromising the amenity of the surrounding area.

Town Centres Management Group

Following a crime and ASB data presentation to the Safer Bromsgrove Group (June 2016) highlighting an increase in alcohol related disorder in the town centre, the group was established to focus attention on partnership activities that could reduce this trend. Led by Cheryl Welsh, the Bromsgrove Town Centres Manager, the group works closely with the CSPO and brings together the Police, local Licensees and Businesses, WRS Licensing Officers and Place Teams to identify community safety issues in the Town Centres and, in particular, the Night Time Economy. The group has had much success in revitalising the local Pub Watch group, revising and modernising its practices and promoting the use of an online information sharing platform that allows the police, licensed premises and businesses to share crime prevention and community safety information and intelligence to other members in a confidential way. 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 and, by a process of accreditation, help licensed businesses to avoid crime and disorder problems and present themselves as safe and attractive venues.

The CSPO was commissioned by the group to conduct a review of the Town Centre retail area to establish the security of the retail units. Sporadic problems had been experienced with burglary and youths accessing the roof

areas. The review identified responsibilities for individual tenants and property owners and significant gaps in attention which are being raised with them for remedial action.

The Street Pastor Scheme is now into its 7th year of operation and remains a key resource in supporting the safety of the night time licensed sector in the town centre. The Council CSPO has conducted training session with them as part of the development of their skills and abilities.

Nominated Neighbour Scheme

The Nominated Neighbour scheme, which aims protecting vulnerable residents from door step crime and rouge trader offences, continues to be a successful local initiative. Over 90 residents have signed up to the scheme to date and initial evaluation and monitoring suggests that not a single resident has had a cold caller after joining the scheme. The scheme is currently operating in Bromsgrove and Redditch but it is anticipated that it will be rolled out across the West Mercia Police area in the near future, featuring as part of their Economic Crime Unit's Prevention Strategy.

The Nominated Neighbour information pack is given to all scheme members and it has been further enhanced with the introduction of a Checktrade leaflet, which provides a list of local vetted trades. This is particularly important to our most vulnerable residents who often do not have access to the internet but require work to be carried out by a trusted tradesperson. Checktrade has also agreed to provide the Community Safety with refreshed leaflets for the scheme, each time they are updated.

The CSPO has been delivering presentations about the scheme and general personal safety to various groups that support vulnerable adults across the district. He has also visited banks and building society in the town centre liaising with the Managers, many of whom have agreed to promote the scheme in branches, whenever appropriate. Training in how to sign someone up to the scheme has also been provided to Police Community Support Officers and partners who are now able to promote the scheme in the course of their day to day duties.

Bromsgrove & Redditch Schools Respect Programme

The Respect programme continues to be successful in providing whole day community safety awareness sessions as part of school PHSE drop down days. The programme also provides bespoke classroom sessions on a number of subjects such as recognising and reporting hate crime, understanding healthy relationships/domestic abuse, the dangers of substance misuse and promoting respect and community responsibility. The Respect Programme also provides one to one therapeutic 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.

In the last school year (Sept 18 to July 19), the project saw 334 students receive community safety information during school PHSE lessons and drop down days across Bromsgrove and Redditch. The programme received 187

referrals for 1 to 1 support through the therapeutic mentoring sessions and 39 students received information via targeted small group workshop sessions.

Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub

The Hub is a Partnership project set up by the YMCA, New Road Baptist Church, the Community Safety Team, the Parenting and Family Support Team. The Hub can be found in the Basement at the Baptist Church and has been funded from various sources including the church itself, the New Homes Bonus, contributions from local businesses and a grant from the Safer Bromsgrove Group.

The Hub Co-ordinator, Sarah Mulhall was appointed May 2018 and the centre officially opened in July 2018. Since then the group has exceeded all expectations in terms of attendance by young people and a number of new groups have been established from the base. These include an LGBTQ+ group, Job Coaching sessions, a Gaming Group, an Arts & Crafts Group, a music group, a Mental Health Support group, a Life Coaching/Empowerment programme funded by Safer Bromsgrove and a Youth Council that takes responsibility for the management arrangements and scheduling of activities at the venue.

The Co-ordinator reports regularly to the Safer Bromsgrove group on progress and outcomes and the project is also supported by the multi-agency Children and Young People's group that meets regularly to manage and co-ordinate Positive Activities for young people in Bromsgrove.

Young Citizens Challenge

The 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 middle schools across both districts. Students, accompanied by their teacher, are taken to a partner location to take part in a range of interactive workshops and activities, raising awareness of various community safety issues.

Young Citizen's Challenge 2019 took place in May and the project was delivered from Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station with 770 young people receiving a variety of community safety messages. Bromsgrove schools that took part in the initiative were Clent Primary, Beaconside Primary, Lickey Hills Primary, Meadow Green Primary, St Kenelms, Catshill Middle and Holywell Primary.

Evaluations received from the schools stated that it was a valuable learning experience for the students. Workshops were described as informative, well organised and enjoyable with, vital life skills areas covered and presented on the right level and in clear and interactive way.

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 the organisations employees 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 <https://www.ourway.org.uk/our-way-projects/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.

Hate Crime Awareness Week 2018

As part of national Hate Crime Awareness Week in October 2018, North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership organised a joint event for professionals and community members across the three districts. Community Safety teams managed to secure some high profile guest speakers to attend the hate crime conference including businesswoman and “The Apprentice” 2017 candidate Bushra Shaikh and Paralympic Gold Medallist Claire Cashmore MBE. Both speakers shared their experiences of hate crime and how they were able to overcome the barriers.

Over hundred professionals and members of the public attended and felt that the conference was powerful and informative. The conference and work of the partnership was recognised at the National British Muslim Awards in February 2019 where Nadia Rashid, Chair of North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership won the prestigious ‘Muslim in the Community Award’.

Hate Crime Awareness Week 2019 was more low key this year, due to a number of staff absences. The week was promoted via social media messages and web activity with individual partners supporting the campaign with promotional materials and leaflets at various events throughout the week.

White Ribbon Campaign 2018

As a part of the international White Ribbon Campaign and its ‘16 Days of Action’, the two NW Community Safety teams organised joint events with Woman’s Aid. The national 16 day campaign aims to increase recognition of domestic abuse and encourage and support people affected by it to seek the support that’s available.

The first event was an event for professionals, held at Parkside on 30th November 2018, focusing on promoting the many support services available for victims of domestic abuse. Over 100 people attended and feedback stated that participants felt the event was very informative and successful.

A second event, specifically for young people was held on 6th December 2018 at Parkside and focused on the impact of domestic abuse and Children Sexual Exploitation (CSE) on young people. The event was used to inform ‘at risk’ young people, identified by the schools across North Worcestershire about grooming, the signs of sexual exploitation and who to turn to for help, in

a sensitive and safe environment. It was extremely impactful and some disclosures were made by young people at the event which enabled them to get individual support from the professionals at the event.

3.6 New and Emerging Areas for the CSP

In July 2019, the then Home Secretary Sajid Javid announced a new legal duty on public bodies to prevent and tackle serious violence. The new 'public health duty' covers the police, local councils, local health bodies such as NHS Trusts, education representatives and youth offending services and it aims to ensure that relevant services work together to share data, intelligence and knowledge to understand and address the root causes of serious violence including knife crime. It will also allow them to target their interventions to prevent and stop violence altogether

As part of the new duty, the government will amend the Crime and Disorder Act to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships by making sure they have a strategy in place to tackle violent crime. More details can be found here: [House of Commons Library Research Report](#)

This new public health duty was been created taking into account responses from professionals in health, education, police, social services, housing and the voluntary sector after an eight-week public consultation, the findings of which can be found at **Appendix 2**.

More details on the specific requirements of the new duty will be presented to Elected Members as they emerge.

4. Recommendation

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

5. Appendices

Appendix One: NWCSP Structure

Appendix Two: Home Office Consultation on Serious Violence Duty

6. Background Papers

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

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