

# **Overview and Scrutiny Board**



**Bromsgrove**  
District Council  
[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)

To: Overview and Scrutiny  
Board

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

CC: Cllr Margaret Sherrey - Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and  
Community Safety  
Sue Hanley – Deputy Chief Executive & Chair of NWCSP  
Judith Willis – Head of Housing & Community Services

## **Review of the work of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2021-22**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) for the financial year 2021-22.

### **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 that support and administer the Partnership continue to sit within the respective local authorities.
- 2.2 Local authority representation on NWCSP is fulfilled through a number of positions. Bromsgrove District Council's Elected Member representative is the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Community Safety, Councillor Margaret Sherrey. Sue Hanley, the Council's Deputy Chief Executive is Chair of NWCSP and Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services is Bromsgrove District Council's Responsible Authority representative on the Partnership. The Council's Community Safety Manager, Bev Houghton provides support to NWCSP and manages the Council's Community Safety Service.
- 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). Bromsgrove District Council's representative on the PCP is Cllr Adam Kent. The most

recent West Mercia PCP meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> February and the public papers can be accessed here: [West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Friday 4th February 2022](#)

### **3. Current Position**

#### **3.1 North Worcestershire CSP Plan 2021-24**

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.

Informed by the strategic assessment, the Community Safety Partnership Plan sets out the priorities that the CSP will focus on for a 3 year period. Due to the disruption of Covid-19 and partner agencies prioritisation of community support during the pandemic, the Community Safety Partnership Plan was delayed slightly and has since been agreed for 2021-24.

The North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership plan focuses on the following priorities for the year as follows: -

- I. **Reducing Violence and Abuse:** including violence in public places, 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 targeted 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

The North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership Plan 2021-24 can be found at **Appendix 1**

#### **3.2 John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner**

John Campion was first elected as West Mercia PCC in May 2016 and, following the postponement of national elections due to the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020, was re-elected for a second term in May 2021.

The PCC has a duty to co-operate with all CSPs in his geographical area to reduce crime and disorder. There is also a reciprocal duty on CSPs to collaborate with the PCC and both bodies must have due regard for each other's priorities within their respective plans. The PCC closed his public consultation on his Safer West Mercia Plan 2021 – 2025 on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 and the final plan can be read here: - [Safer West Mercia Plan \(westmercia-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://westmercia-pcc.gov.uk)

Tracey Onslow is the Deputy PCC appointed in July 2016 and in November 2021 the Commissioner also appointed two Assistant PCCs, Paul Middlebrough and Nicola Lowery - [Assistant PCC's Will Reflect The Voice of Communities - West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner](#) Together, the team will work to represent the PCC within communities across West Mercia, with a portfolio that includes rural, business and cyber-crime, victims' services and commissioning.

CSPs work closely with the Deputy and Assistant PCCs as the West Mercia PCC commissioning models continue to develop. Commissioning areas already established include CCTV improvements, the collation of funding for Data Analysis support and consolidation of funding for Integrated Offender Management funding. Most recently the PCC has released a tender for delivery of a Hate Crime Support service across West Mercia and released a Fly Tipping fund that CSPs could bid into. These commissioning reviews have led to funding being provided at a West Mercia force level to deliver activities in these key thematic areas.

**PCC's CCTV Capital Fund:** In 2017-18 the PCC allocated significant funding to develop and upgrade CCTV across the West Mercia force area. NWCSF first received an allocation of £195,000 of grant funding for improvements to the area's CCTV scheme. The CSP, on behalf of the three Local Authorities, used this capital contribution to modernise the CCTV infrastructure that serves the three district areas. This upgrade introduced Internet Protocol Recording with greatly improved technological capabilities for digital processing. The whole CCTV scheme now has enhanced digital capability, improved image quality and a greater capacity to expand the scheme and/or link up to other digital systems across the region.

The funding amounts involved made this project the most ambitious undertaken by the CSP and the project was also match funded by the three District Councils with additional revenue, capital and in-kind support. A total amount of £339,000 of CSP funding was allocated to the project up to March 2020.

In 2020-21 the PCC allocated an additional amount of £65k capital funding towards CCTV and a further 65k of capital funding was awarded to NWCSF in 2021-22. The Project Team has implemented spending proposals agreed by the CSP which have continued to enhance the capability and capacity of the CCTV Monitoring Scheme and improve the technological aspects of the Monitoring Centre and cameras which will have benefits for years to come. Details of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 allocations can be found in **Appendix 2**.

**PCC's Fly Tipping Fund:** In Sept 2021 the PCC released a £100K grant fund available over 2 years in order to work with CSPs to address the problem of fly-tipping on private land. The grant fund was launched with a closing date for applications on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. The PCC's Office approved 5 applications – one for North Worcestershire, one for South Worcestershire, one for Telford & Wrekin, one for Herefordshire and one West Mercia wide (for a SmartWater tyre tagging scheme) allocating the total £100K funding pot - [West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner to invest £100k to tackle fly-tippers and introduce tyre-tagging scheme - The Bromsgrove Standard](#)

The NWCSF allocation of £22k is supporting the work of a new NW District Council Fly Tipping Prevention Group and the grant funding is being managed by the three district council environmental services teams to: -

- a) Develop a land owners' charter across North Worcestershire reflecting guidance of best practice amongst land owners as set out by the National Flytipping Prevention Group (NFPG).
- b) Introduce a co-ordinated prevention and enforcement scheme which will include:
  - the use of covert CCTV (to be managed by the Councils)
  - signage
  - target hardening advice from the Councils
  - following up on any evidence gathered from fly tipped waste and/or captured on CCTV and issue Fixed Penalty Notices or prosecute.
- c) Establish and manage a network of landowners who are signed up to the charter where best practice, convictions and information can be shared.

### **3.3 CSP core grant funding from the PCC 2021-22**

In addition to the CCTV Capital Grant and the Fly Tipping Fund, NWCSF is allocated an annual ring-fenced amount from the PCC. Due to the disruptions of COVID-19 there was an underspend against certain projects during 2020-21. However, the PCC allocated the same ring-fenced amount of £139,250 for 2021-22 and details of the CSPs agreed project spend can be found in **Appendix 2** alongside details of other grant funding drawn down by the Council Community Safety Team on behalf of Safer Bromsgrove.

The progress of these grant funded projects is reported quarterly to the PCC and other grant funders and at the end of the financial year there is a requirement to provide a comprehensive evaluation of all the funded projects. This includes a full breakdown of project expenditure and the outputs/outcomes that the funding has achieved.

### **3.4 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 is chaired by the Council's Community Safety Project Officers and the Community Safety Team also provide the administrative support for the group.

The Council's Community Safety Team also monitor and respond to district community safety issues, co-ordinating local operational delivery with wider partners. The team is often a first point of contact for residents and partners with concerns about local crime and community safety issues and our officers are able to call upon other community safety partners when local concerns require a multi-agency response.

### **Bromsgrove Community Safety Project Officers**

Community Safety Project Officers David Rischmiller and Sarah McIntosh work on behalf of the Council and the CSP, delivering a variety of community safety projects and initiatives across the Borough. The wider team are also available to provide information, support and guidance to residents, council colleagues, external partners and elected members on a variety of crime prevention and community safety concerns and issues. **Appendix 2** provides an update on some of the key community safety project activity that has taken place in 2021-22.

## **3.5 ASB, Problem Solving and Partner Engagement**

### **ASB in Bromsgrove**

Following the presentation of the Council's updated ASB Policy in June 2020, Elected Members requested that an update on activity to address ASB issues be presented at the annual Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny meeting.

Working with our partner agencies there are a number of tools and remedies available when dealing with cases of ASB and support is provided throughout each process with referrals to other organisations made as and when it is appropriate.

Attached at **Appendix 3** is a brief overview of reported ASB in North Worcestershire and Bromsgrove to date. Data for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 has been included for comparison to provide an accurate picture of ASB reports to the Police across the district, taking into consideration the impact of Coronavirus restrictions on reporting during 2020/21.

### **Use of ASB Tools and Powers**

Agreements, Warnings and formal Notices - The Council, the Police and Social Landlords can issue verbal and written warnings to address unacceptable behaviour and reinforce that ASB will not be tolerated in our communities. The Police, Council services and Social Landlords can also issue Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) to remind residents of their obligations under their tenancy/lease or the rule of law and the warnings set out the specific clauses, conditions or legislation that has been breached. When issuing warnings, partners clarify the issue, advise the individual that their behaviour is being monitored and warn the individual or business that further enforcement action will be taken if their anti-social behaviour continues.

To date **2** CPWs have been issued by council services to address the issue of waste deposited or accumulated on land. One of these warnings was not complied with and this led to a more formal Community Protection Notice being served; breach of which is a criminal offence. This resolved the issue and no further enforcement action was required.

Community Trigger/ASB Case Review - A Community Trigger/ASB Case Review is a process that was introduced as part of the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 and provides a facility for victims of ASB to request a review of their reported case, if they feel that no action has been taken. Relevant agencies have to come together to review their responses to the reported problem and identify if there is any further action that can be taken. The process is owned by NWCSF and is administered by the Council's Community Safety Team.

In 2021-22, the team has received **2** Community Trigger applications in Bromsgrove for issues relating to disruptive neighbour nuisance. The Community Trigger/ASB Case review process as laid out in the 2014 Act has a number of timescales that need to be met to ensure that the applicants receive timely responses to their concerns.

Alongside use of the ASB Tools and Powers, the Council's Environmental Services team also utilise their powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for a variety of Environmental issues. In 2021-22 the team issued **5** FPNs for Fly Tipping, **7** FPNs for Waste offences and **1** for a Litter offence.

The Community Safety team keeps an overview of local ASB activity and provides advice and guidance on ASB Enforcement to various services and partners with enforcement capabilities. The team coordinates and funds membership of a nationally recognised consultancy network which provides access to a leading ASB Barrister to ensure that any information and guidance shared is accurate and up to date with current legislation and practice.

Alongside this, the Community Safety Team receives a number of calls for advice and assistance from other council service areas and partner agencies requiring expertise in crime & ASB prevention, problem solving or community safety interventions to assist in resolving complex issues and cases.

Requests for support and information are also received from members of the public, Elected Members, voluntary and community groups and other external agencies. Requests for help include complaints about neighbourhood issues, concerns around domestic abuse, use of illegal substances, home and personal security and environmental crime concerns.

### **3.6 Communications and Social Media Campaigns**

The Community Safety Team has supported various national and local campaigns throughout 2021-22 to promote key safety messages and the work of NWCSF.

Projects led by the Community Safety Team such as Nominated Neighbour, the Respect Programme and Hate Incident Reporting were regularly promoted and in addition, annual national campaigns such as Hate Crime Awareness Week and the Domestic Abuse White Ribbon campaign were supported, as shown in **Appendix 2**.

A number of other campaigns were also supported throughout the year, including:

Ask for Angela - [National Pubwatch NTE Safety Campaign](#)

Ask for Ani - [Domestic Abuse Codeword Scheme](#)

National Safeguarding Week

Loan Shark Awareness

Drowning Prevention Week

Don't Drink and Drown Campaign

Anti-Slavery Day

ASB Awareness Week

CSE Awareness Day

Mental Health Awareness Week

The main social media platform used by Bromsgrove Community Safety is Twitter using **@SaferBromsgrove** for local issues, **@nworccsp** (across North Worcestershire) and **@NWHateIncident** (for hate crime awareness projects and campaigns).

The **@SaferBromsgrove** Twitter account has 611 followers to date and throughout the year the Twitter posts promoting the campaigns listed above were seen by 18,647 people and with 2,915 direct engagements across North Worcestershire.

Alongside these campaigns, the team also raises awareness of wider community safety issues and keeps residents informed of work delivered by our partners such as the Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub, Starting Well Partnership, Worcestershire Children First GET SAFE, Pubwatch, Women's Aid, HW Fire & Rescue Service and West Mercia Police.

Community Safety awareness messages and projects are also promoted via the District Council's Facebook page and up-to-date information about Community Safety projects and general crime prevention work is available on the BDC website and on NWCSP website at [North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership \(nwcsp.org\)](http://NorthWorcestershireCommunitySafetyPartnership.nwcsp.org)

#### **4. Recommendation**

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

#### **5. Appendices**

Appendix 1: NWCSP Plan 2021-24

Appendix 2: NWCSP Project Review 2020-21 Presentation

Appendix 3: ASB in Bromsgrove Data Comparison Report 2021-22

## 6. Background Papers

West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - [Committee details - West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

PCC's Safer West Mercia Plan 2021-25 - [Safer West Mercia Plan \(westmercia-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)

### Officer Contact Details:

Name: Bev Houghton  
Title: Community Safety Manager  
Tel: 01527 534187  
Email: [bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)