



# North Worcestershire **Community Safety Partnership**

## Review of the work of the Community Safety Partnership in 2021/22

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# NWCSP Responsible Authorities

- West Mercia Police
- Bromsgrove District Council
- Redditch Borough Council
- Wyre Forest District Council
- Worcestershire County Council
- Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service
- The Probation Service
- Redditch & Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group
- Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group

## NWCSP Priorities

The following priorities were agreed by partners for 2021-22

| Priority                                    | Aim: To Reduce/Prevent                               |
|---|--|
| Violence and Abuse                          | Public Place Violence                                |
|   | Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence                   |
|   | Child Sexual Exploitation                            |
| Theft and Acquisitive Crime                 | Theft from Stores                                    |
|   | Burglary, Doorstep Crimes & Scams                    |
|   | Rural & Business Crime                               |
| ASB, Damage and Nuisance                    | Neighbourhood Nuisance                               |
|   | Criminal Damage                                      |
|   | Environmental Problems and Deliberate Fires          |
| Protecting Vulnerable Communities           | Hate Crime & Targeted Harassment                     |
|   | Criminal Exploitation, County Lines & Modern Slavery |
|   | Violent Extremism                                    |
| Reducing the Harm Caused by Drugs & Alcohol |  |
| Reducing Reoffending                        |  |

# CCTV - Additional PCC Funding 2020 to 2022

| Allocation  | PCC Grant          |
|---|--------------------|
| Install 1 x new camera and pole in Sanders Park and upgrade of 9 cameras in Bromsgrove District       | £32,135.57         |
| 1 additional camera on Town Hall roof and upgrade of 24 cameras in Redditch Borough                   | £48,403.41         |
| Upgrade of various cameras in Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport                                    | £36,458.00         |
| Monitoring centre equipment and signage for the benefit of Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest areas | £12,766.60         |
| <b>Total Grant Allocation</b>   | <b>£130,000.00</b> |

NWCSP has been allocated a further £20,000 capital for CCTV for 2021-22 and proposals are being developed by the CCTV Project Team

# Allocation of NWCSP Core Funding - 2021/22

| Area of Benefit                                   | PCC Grant          |
|---|--------------------|
| West Mercia CSP Analyst Team (Top Sliced)         | £20,000.00         |
| West Mercia Integrated Offender Mgt. (Top Sliced) | £ 5,000.00         |
| Bromsgrove Projects                               | £29,084.22         |
| Redditch Projects                                 | £31,083.55         |
| Wyre Forest Projects                              | £33,083.23         |
| North Worcestershire Projects                     | £21,000.00         |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>£139,250.00</b> |

NWCSP has been allocated a further allocation of £139,250 (with additional top-sliced amounts) for project delivery in 2022-23 and funding proposals are currently being developed by partners for final agreement by NWCSP responsible authority agencies.

# Community Safety Project Updates

2021-22

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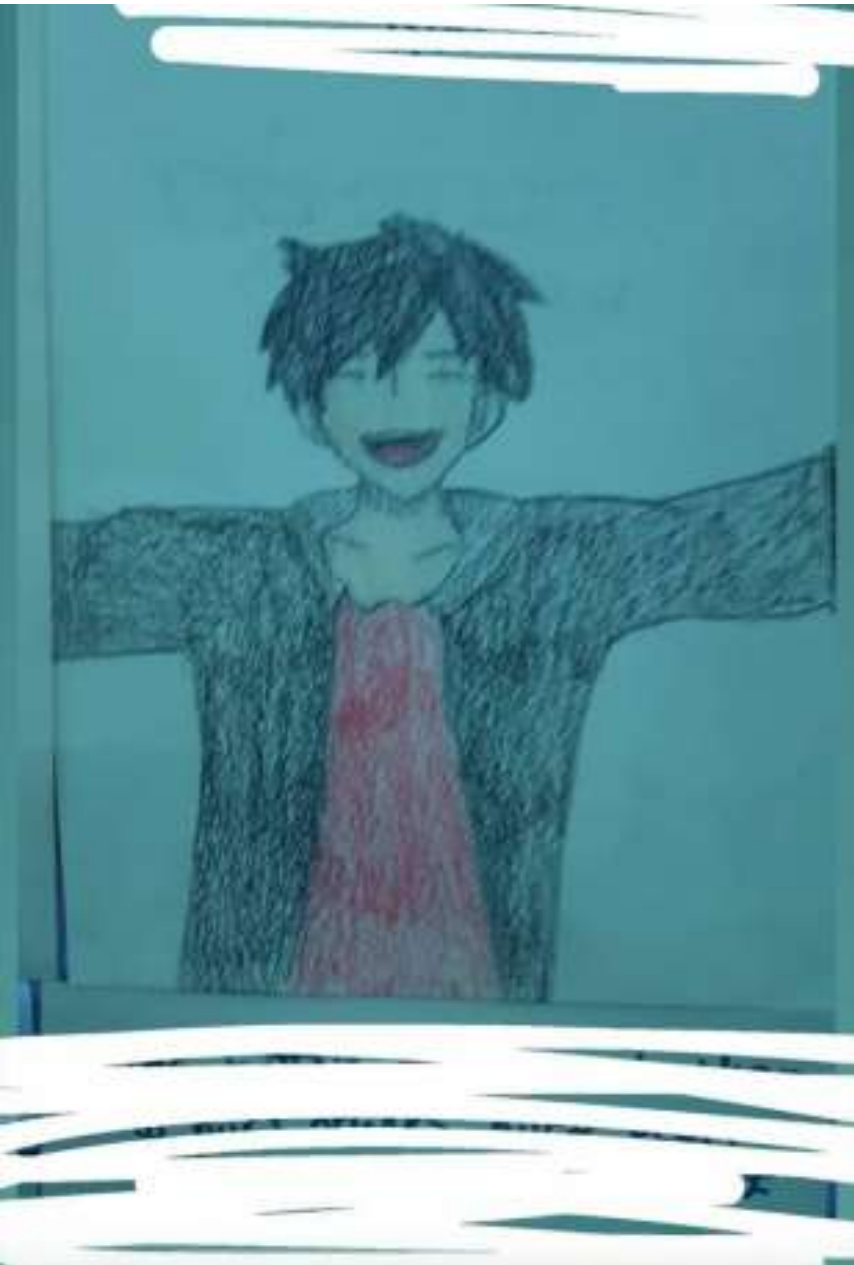


The Respect Programme provides community safety awareness sessions as part of school PHSE drop down days and bespoke classroom sessions on a number of subjects such as recognising and reporting hate crime, understanding healthy relationships/domestic abuse, the dangers of substance misuse and promoting respect and community responsibility.

The programme also provides a therapeutic mentoring scheme which provides weekly support and guidance sessions to young people at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of crime.

2021-22 saw the Respect programme return to providing face to face sessions in all schools and this year also saw the largest growth in the referrals to the service. The team received between **30 to 60 referrals each half term** with our team of mentors holding around **135 open cases** at any time.

The referrals into the programme continue to increase in complexity with support required for young people who are at a high level of need and are at risk of becoming involved in criminality, both as potential victims and potential perpetrators.



# The Empowering Young People Programme

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This CSP funded project provides an 11-week programme of arts and crafts, issue-based activities and interactive workshops addressing issues such as life skills, confidence building and self-esteem work.

The project is now entering its fifth year and goes from strength to strength with tailored sessions delivered to groups of young people based on their specific needs. Content delivered over the year has included a focus on ASB, County Lines, CSE, Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Misuse and Hate Crime Awareness

Over the year (2021/22) **8** Empowering Young People programmes have been delivered, taking place in both school and community settings.



# The Youth Hub

The Bromsgrove Youth Hub was established as a partnership project led by the Community Safety Team, the YMCA and Bromsgrove Churches Together.

The Hub is now an independent Community Interest Company (CIC) in its own right and provides support and activities for young people, offering a space to socialise safely.

The Hub also offers a tailored programme of sessions such as mental health support, open access youth club and free music and art therapy classes. It also provides signposting and ad-hoc support as part of its drop-in and outreach work.

Community Safety has been working very closely with The Hub to support young people during the transition out of the Covid restrictions. The Community Safety Team supports the Hub in responding to reports of youth ASB and provides funding and guidance to put processes in place in order to support young people facing additional challenges due to the effects of the pandemic.



# Enhanced Youth Support Worker

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The Community Safety Team were successful in obtaining a 3-year Public Health grant of £33k pa from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF).

In partnership with Bromsgrove Youth Hub, a part-time youth worker has been recruited to provide a long-term focus on youth outreach, empowering young people and one to one mentoring for young people negatively affected by the pandemic.

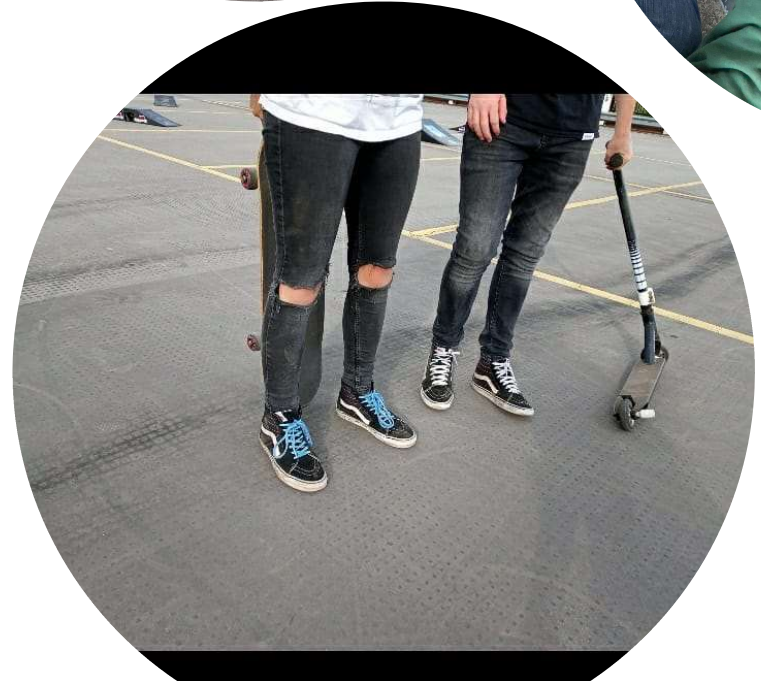
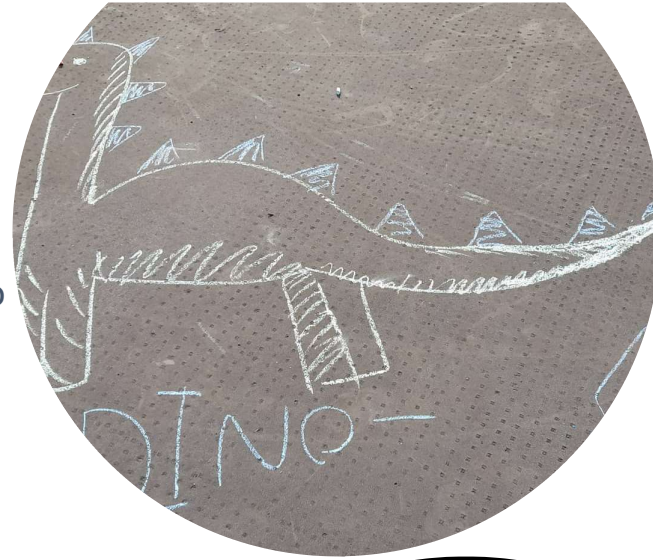




# Asda Car Park Project

Ahead of summer 2021, the Community Safety Team, worked with the Youth Hub and Reach Out Bromsgrove to bid for funding from Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The funding was used to provide a programme of multi-sport sessions at the Asda car park following ongoing reports of ASB at the location and concerns raised around drug use, grooming and other risks to community safety. Police incidents had been recorded and a number of resident complaints had been submitted.

The project utilised the top level of the car park, installing removable skate and bike ramps one night a week to engage with the young people regularly gathering there. The project was successful in building on-going relationships with the groups, with some young people reporting that they had reduced their use of alcohol and cannabis after discussions with the youth workers. Some young people also reported that they had started to take better care of their own health by attending the local gym and taking up swimming sessions. The rapport built up with the young people during this project allowed a number of individuals to move into one-to-one mentoring support.





## Friday Night Diversionary Sessions

The ASDA Car Park Project ended after the October half term, due to the change in weather and light conditions. At the time there was a cohort of 50 young people engaged with the project and the young people began to move to the Youth Hub on a Friday night, showing a really desire for the work that had been started with the ASDA project to continue. A suitable indoor venue was identified and further funding was found to support additional staffing. This allowed youth workers to continue to divert this high risk group of young people off the streets where they were in danger of being drawn into unsafe and criminal activity.

Some young people opened up to youth workers about their home lives and one of the key issues identified was the amount of food and energy poverty they and their families experienced. Therefore, a hot meal has now been built into these diversionary sessions, alongside access to food parcels to try and address this need and prevent the young people turning to criminal activity to obtain money or food.





# Youth Outreach

The Youth Hub and Outreach Bromsgrove have joined together and work closely with the Community Safety Youth Workers to deliver outreach and detached sessions across the district.

The youth teams patrol two to three times a week depending on the weather, and this successful engagement work with young people in the community has led to two diversionary sessions being established, one on a Thursday and one on a Friday night.

At the height of the summer the Outreach workers were engaged with between 600 – 800 hundred young people per month.

The teams are now seen as a model of best practice across the county and discussions are being held to reshape the delivery of youth provision as a result of the achievements of these youth workers.



## Bromsgrove Listening Service



The Community Safety Team has worked with the Anglican Churches to establish a volunteer Listening Service for young people requiring lower level support and interventions. The Listening Service is now in its fifth year and has been able to maintain its support for young people throughout the pandemic. The service is well established in Bromsgrove High schools and there are currently 13 young people being supported.

With the lifting of restrictions in schools, the team is looking to expand the Listening Service into middle schools from September 2022 and are currently going through a recruitment process for new listeners. Originally, volunteers for the service were primarily local church members however we are now starting to see other community members come forward to support the project



The logo for the Young Citizen's Challenge is set against a dark blue, textured background that resembles a paintbrush stroke. The word 'YOUNG' is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, the word 'CITIZEN'S' is written in a large, bold, yellow, uppercase, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the word 'CHALLENGE' is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font.

# YOUNG CITIZEN'S CHALLENGE

Due to Covid restrictions, the May 2021 project was again delivered via an interactive online package made available to all Year 6 students in North Worcestershire middle schools.

The Safe Zone package, developed by the Fire Service, is an educational website created to provide the key community safety messages that would normally be covered during the Young Citizen's Challenge week: <https://www.safe-zone.uk>.

In 2022, Young Citizen's Challenge will return to being delivered face to face and held at the Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station from 23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> May and key partners such as Community Safety, Police, Fire, Safer Roads, SARA (Water Safety) and Western Power will be in attendance to get those key safety messages across to students.



## Virtual Decisions Knife Crime Project

Delivered by Round Midnight Ltd, a Birmingham based theatre in education company

Virtual\_Decisions is a one-of-a-kind, innovative, exciting VR in Education program that is helping to support thousands of young people who are at risk of criminal exploitation.

By wearing a VR headset, each participant is placed in a real world scenario where they are faced with multiple dilemmas in which they must make a choice. Each choice results in various outcomes, showing that every action has a consequence. The production uses real world actors aged 14 – 25 to give authenticity to the piece.

Following the immersive 8 minute VR film, a creative arts workshop then explores the issues raised in more depth. Through discussions and drama exercises the young people are able to reflect on their own personal journey within the VR and compare it to that of others, making it a user led – and user shared – experience.



[Virtual Decisions - Round Midnight](#)



During 2021-22, the Community Safety Team has supported a number of Youth & Community Voluntary groups with funding applications. This is with a view to securing the future of some of the local support projects most needed by young people in our communities.

- Helped Reach Out Bromsgrove secure of £24,000 worth of funding from Youth to continue their Outreach/Music sessions with some of our hardest to reach young people.
- £800 secured from the Grantham Yorke Trust to help maintain delivery of youth outreach in the District and a further £750 has also been secured through the All Churches Foundation to support outreach delivery across the district.
- The Youth Hub was granted £10,000 of Big Lottery funding to support the ongoing work of the youth centre.
- Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire which funded the Asda Car Park project with a grant for £4,755, has provided a second grant for £7,200 to fund the continuation work of the Friday night diversionary session.
- The Hub has been chosen to be the Bromsgrove Co-op's local charity for this year. The money is raised by customers choosing the charity which donates money while they shop. The final amount raised by this will be known in September and all funds will go towards providing youth activity sessions.
- £500 has been secured from the Tesco Carrier Bag Fund which will support young people locally to access trips and excursions they wouldn't normally be able to attend.
- The Postcode Lottery has provided funding for the Empowering Young People Programme where The Hub received £17,640 to deliver support sessions.

# Tibberton Court

Following a site visit by the Community Safety Team and Ward Member Cllr Michael Thompson, this confined location within Charford was identified as a prime location to implement a partnership estate improvement project. Community Safety, Environmental Services and the BDC Community Team have worked with local partners from the Police, BDHT and the local church to address multiple environmental factors that were facilitating ASB and negatively impacting on community cohesion.

Following delays caused by Covid restrictions, the project progressed through 2021 with substantial changes being made to the built environment using the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). The project will continue through the first half of 2022 and is entering a phase of community engagement using the principles of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD). Project partners, YMCA are working with the local councillor on the provision of positive youth diversion and engagement opportunities in the wider area.

It is envisaged that the experience of this project will provide a small area improvement model that can be transferred to other similar locations.

## Bromsgrove Town Centre Management Group

Dave Rischmiller is an active member of the Town Centre Management Group and routinely attends the Bromsgrove Pub-watch meeting. Using his previous Policing and Licensing legislation experience, Dave is able to offer expertise and advice to both groups and has supported the Town Centres Managers in initiatives and problem solving. Examples include advising on the DISC communications system, Safe Night Out and White Ribbon Domestic Abuse campaigns specifically for Licensed Premises. Dave also supports and advises the Street Pastors and provides occasional training for that team.



## Nominated Neighbour Scheme

The Nominated Neighbour scheme, which aims to protect vulnerable residents from door step crime and rogue trader offences, continues to be a successful local initiative.

For example, the team were contacted by the son of an elderly lady in Fairfield who as a result of a cold call had fallen victim to individuals who were over charging for gardening work and had targeted the resident as a source of repeat income. A home visit was carried out and the scheme implemented. Additionally the County Trading Standards team were alerted who initiated enquiries into the offenders. The team also monitors and circulates information on current scams targeting residents, the most recent being an insulation scam highlighted by the Private Sector Housing Team.



# Planning Consultation

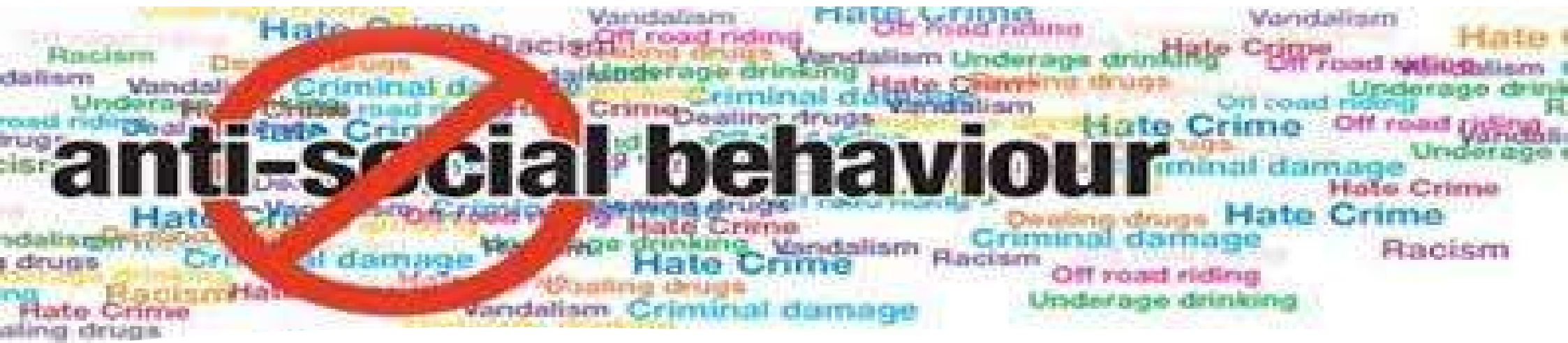


Community Safety Project Officers Dave Rischmiller and Sarah McIntosh are qualified, College of Policing trained Designing Out Crime Officers (DOCO) and can review planning applications to make appropriate crime prevention and security recommendations, with the aim of making future developments less vulnerable to crime and disorder

In 2021-22 officers examined 34 applications across Bromsgrove and Redditch, totalling 1052 residential units, 10 Commercial Units and 1961 Sqm of commercial development.

Of these, 11 applications related to Bromsgrove covering 364 residential units and 9 commercial units.

For example, DOCO advice was provided regarding the Council's own development on the Old Council House site on Burcot Lane, together with a recommendation that the development pursues a Secured by Design Gold Award which has been agreed. Advice has also been provided for BDHT developments on old lock-up garage sites in the Rock Hill area. These sites have previously been a significant source of demand on Police and Council resources.



Chaired by David Rischmiller, Community Safety Project Officer the group brings together a range of partners who deal with ASB including police, housing associations, private housing providers, environmental officers and planning enforcement. The aim of the forum is to encourage and support professionals in tackling complex ASB issues and to share national and local good practice.

During 2021-22, the group moved to a more responsive model whereby referrals or hard to resolve ASB problems result in a targeted professionals meeting to consider the issues and identify actions. One such focus group took place in December 2021, to address persistent ASB problems in a social housing complex in the Wythall area.

Using the Community Safety Team's experience and knowledge of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 legislation service areas such as Planning and Environmental Services have been assisted in addressing community issues. Partner agencies including the police and social housing providers have also been supported. For example, following advice successful action was taken by Environmental officers to enforce the removal of waste from a vacant premises on the High Street. ASB action was taken against a private care home in respect of nuisance to residents in Lowes Hill and advice was provided to police colleagues regarding the use of ASB measures in a licensing context. Support is also given to our main social housing provider in respect of neighbourhood nuisance affecting local residents.

## ASB Focus Group



# Hate Crime Awareness Week



Hate Crime Awareness Week in 2021 was held between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October. The Community Safety Team supported this with a Social Media Campaign.

In addition to its Hate Crime Awareness campaign, the Team works with a range of partners to monitor hate crime and hate incident reporting and reviews reports to ensure they are actively investigated. Partner agencies and those reporting are advised and supported to try to achieve a resolution and prevent further incidents. In 2021 such incidents included Swastika graffiti, neighbour conflict, refugee support and a dispute in a care facility.

# White Ribbon Domestic Abuse Campaign Nov - Dec 2020

*It happened at a young age when he hurt me it was scary.  
I said sorry it wasn't enough though 'cause apologies  
aren't enough.*

*Chorus: I'm not invisible anymore 'cause I let you hurt me.  
He has got the same size fist as my heart.*

*He hit me one time and I could have got away,  
He wouldn't let me go so I tried to not go  
Because my pain is so hard.*

**#WhiteRibbonDay #NoExcuseForAbuse**



The 2021-22 was again delivered as a Social Media campaign, with the 16 Days of Action being supported by our partners and the local press.

[Bromsgrove District Housing Trust backing White Ribbon campaign against domestic abuse - The Bromsgrove Standard](#)

[Domestic abuse campaign launches in Bromsgrove | Bromsgrove Advertiser](#)

[Wear a ribbon: speak out against domestic abuse - bromsgrove.gov.uk](https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)