



Overview & Scrutiny Board

To: Overview and Scrutiny Board - Crime and Disorder Scrutiny
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CC: Cllr Margaret Sherrey - Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Environmental Services
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 2022-23

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) for the financial year 2022-23.

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 Councillor Margaret Sherrey, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Environmental Services. 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 Helen Jones. The most recent West Mercia PCP meeting was held in November 2022 and the public papers can be accessed here: [West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Wednesday 23rd November 2022 11.00 am](#)

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 guide to resourcing community safety initiatives working with 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's Safer West Mercia Plan 2021 – 2025 can be read here: - [Safer West Mercia Plan \(westmercia-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk)

In November 2021, the Commissioner also appointed two new Assistant PCCs. Paul Middlebrough and Nicola Lowery work closely to represent the PCC within communities across West Mercia, with portfolios that includes rural, business and cyber-crime, victims' services and commissioning. [Assistant PCC's Will Reflect The Voice of Communities - West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner](#)

In September 2022, Marc Bayliss (former Leader of Worcester City Council) was appointed as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner's for West Mercia following Tracey Onslow's decision to step down after six years in the role.

CSPs work closely with the Deputy and Assistant PCCs as part of the West Mercia PCC's model of commissioning crime reduction activity. Established commissioning areas include CCTV improvement, the coordination of Data Analysis support and consolidation of funding for Integrated Offender Management across the force area. More recently the PCC released a tender for delivery of a Hate Crime Support service across West Mercia, which won by Victim Support West Mercia. The PCC also opened a Fly Tipping fund that CSPs could bid into to support private landowners to address environmental crime issues. This commissioning model has led to more PCC funding being provided at a West Mercia force level to deliver activities in these key thematic areas.

PCC's CCTV Capital Fund: Back in 2017-18 the PCC allocated significant funding to develop and upgrade CCTV across the West Mercia force area. NWCSP 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 NWCSP in 2021-22. The Project Team 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** and a further funding allocation of £20,000 has been given to NWCSP for 2022/23.

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 4th October. The PCC's Office approved 5 applications – one each for North Worcestershire, South Worcestershire, Telford & Wrekin, Herefordshire and one West Mercia wide bid (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 NWCSP allocation of £22,000 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 in order 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 NWCSP core grant funding from the PCC 2022-23

In addition to the CCTV Capital Grant and the Fly Tipping Fund, NWCSP is allocated an annual ring-fenced amount from the PCC of £139,250 for 2022/23 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's 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 a multi-agency partnership forum chaired by the Council's Community Safety Project Officers. The activities and interventions of the group are supported by the Community Safety Team and other council service areas such as Environmental Services, the Town Centre Manager and WRS.

Alongside coordination of the CSP sub-groups, the 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 disorder issues and our officers are able to call upon other community safety partners when solutions to local concerns require a multi-agency response.

Bromsgrove Community Safety Project Officers

Community Safety Project Officers Dave Rischmiller and Sarah McIntosh work on behalf of the Council and NWCSP, delivering a variety of community safety projects and initiatives across the District. 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 the key community safety project activity that has taken place in 2022/23.

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 Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel.

Attached at **Appendix 3** is a brief overview of reported ASB in North Worcestershire and Bromsgrove to date.

Use of ASB Tools and Powers

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

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 Service Areas 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 **one CPW** has been issued by Environmental Services to address the issue of waste deposited or accumulated on land in Blackwell. A previous warning issued in 2021, relating to a disused premises on the High Street in the Town Centre was not followed which led to a more formal Community Protection Notice being served. After initial compliance with the requirements of the Notice, there was no ongoing commitment to maintain the necessary standards, so this is now being pursued by BDC's Legal Services for breach of a CPN which is a criminal offence.

Three CPWs have been issued by Community Safety Officers, two of which progressed to a more formal Community Protection Notice. **A further CPW** was issued by a local housing association with support and guidance from the Community Safety Team and on another two occasions the threat of a CPW was sufficient to resolve various issues in cases of neighbour nuisance.

Very often a warning about the potential use of enforcement measures helps to solve the problem and the Community Safety Team regularly provide advice and support to other community safety partners in the use of various measures under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014. For example, advice was provided on how to deal with a resident fishing hand grenades from a canal using magnets and advice was given to a Housing Association regarding preventing a resident preying upon elderly neighbours for loans.

A case study detailing the effective use of the ASB Tools and Powers can be found at **Appendix 4**

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.

In 2022-23, the team received **2** Community Trigger applications in Bromsgrove for issues relating to disruptive neighbour nuisance. In addition a Community Trigger from 2021 continued into 2022 and helped to support and reassure a young female victim who was suffering harassment from an intimidating older male while she was at work in the Town Centre.

The ASB Case review process is owned by NWCSF and is administered by the Council's Community Safety Team. As laid out in the 2014 Act, there are a number of timescales that need to be met to ensure that the applicants receive timely responses to their concerns.

Requests for Service - 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 also

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.

The team receives a number of calls for advice and assistance from other council service areas and partner agencies requiring expertise in implementing crime & ASB prevention measures, problem solving processes and community safety interventions to assist in resolving complex issues and cases.

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

3.6 Communications and Social Media Campaigns

The Community Safety Team has supported various national and local campaigns throughout 2022 to promote key safety messages and the work of NWCSP.

Projects that are led by the Community Safety Team such as the Respect Programme, Nominated Neighbour and Hate Incident Reporting were regularly promoted and annual national campaigns such as ASB Awareness Week, 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
- Young Citizens Challenge
- National Safeguarding Week
- Loan Shark Awareness
- Drowning Prevention Week
- Child Exploitation 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 **627 followers** to date and throughout the year the Twitter posts promoting the campaigns and events were **seen by 15,546 people** with **2,412 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, the Starting Well Partnership, BDHT, 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 RBC website and on NWCSP website at [North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership \(nwcsp.org\)](http://North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (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 2021-22 Presentation

Appendix 3: ASB in Bromsgrove - Data Report 2022-23

Appendix 4: ASB Tools & Powers – A Case Study

Appendix 5: Tibberton Court Project Promotional Booklet

6. Background Papers

West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - [Committee details - West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Worcestershire County Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](http://Committee details - West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Worcestershire County Council (modern.gov.co.uk))

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

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