



North Worcestershire **Community Safety Partnership**

Review of the work of the Community Safety Partnership in 2023/24

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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 and Wyre Forest – Integrated Care Board (replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups)**

Current NWCSP Priorities

The following priorities were agreed by Community Safety Partners for 2021-24

Priority	Aims to Reduce
Violence and Abuse	Violence in Public Places
	Domestic Abuse
	Child Exploitation
Theft and Acquisitive Crime	Burglary and
	Theft From Stores
	Doorstep Crimes, Scams & Rogue Traders
Anti-Social Behaviour, Damage and Nuisance	Neighbourhood Nuisance
	Criminal Damage
	Problems facilitated by Environmental Factors
Protecting Vulnerable Communities	Hate Crime & Targeted Harassment
	Criminal Exploitation, County Lines & Modern Slavery
	Violent Extremism
Reduce the Harm caused by Drug Alcohol Misuse	
Reduce Offending and Re-Offending	

Emerging Initiatives

Following **the Domestic Abuse Act** receiving royal assent in April 2021, statutory guidance was issued in July 2022. Section 84(4) of the 2021 Act requires relevant agencies exercising public functions (which includes District Councils), to have regard to the Domestic Abuse statutory guidance in the exercise of those functions. Some organisations e.g. Housing Authorities also have specific statutory duties to safeguard victims of domestic abuse.

The [Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance](#) sets standards and promotes best practice for those **responsible authorities with statutory duties to support and assist victims of domestic abuse.**

In line with the guidance, an upper tier domestic abuse partnership board has been established at county level and a **Worcestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy** has been developed which focuses on the key strategic responses of prevention, provision of services, partnership, pursuing perpetrators and criminal justice. Bromsgrove District Council is represented at the Worcestershire Board by Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager and corporate lead for Domestic Abuse

The Worcestershire Strategy can be found here - [Domestic Abuse | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Emerging Initiatives

On the 28th June, the Government introduced several law changes as part of the **Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022**. The PCSC Act 2022 focuses on an overhaul of sentencing laws, ensuring serious violent and sexual offenders spend longer behind bars, it implements measures to help cut crime and better protect the public and equips the police with the powers and tools they need to combat crime.

Draft guidance placing a new duty on specified authorities to address Serious Violence was issued by the Government on the 9th June 2022 and updated in March 2023. This draft guidance aims to support specified authorities and PCCs in the exercise of their functions in relation to the **Serious Violence Duty**; as laid out in the PCSC Act 2022 - [Serious Violence Duty: Draft guidance for responsible authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/serious-violence-duty-draft-guidance-for-responsible-authorities)

The Serious Violence Duty guidance specifically details out how the PCSC Act 2022 amends the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and places a statutory requirement on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to formulate and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence.

The two Worcestershire CSPs co-ordinated at Safer Communities Board level are working together to exercise this duty in a consistent and collaborative manner across the partnership areas of operation. Limited funding from the Home Office has been allocated to the two Worcestershire CSPs to implement initiatives aimed at addressing local issues of Serious Violence based on the adopted West Mercia Police definition below: -

WEST MERCIA - SERIOUS VIOLENCE DEFINITION

Following consultation and discussion, a definition has been agreed by all five Community Safety Partnerships to represent serious violence within the counties of Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.

Violence, both physical and sexual, causing lasting psychological or physical harm, or where lasting harm was intended. This includes offences where there is an inherent threat of physical harm, such as county lines or offences involving use of an offensive weapon, blade or pointed article or any corrosive substance.

To include:

- *Violence with injury resulting in serious harm, with a threshold of Section 20 GBH*
- *Homicide including attempt murder*
- *Serious sexual harm – rape and sexual assaults*
- *Robbery*
- *Violence, including threats and aggravated offences, involving use of an offensive weapon, blade or pointed article or any corrosive substance*
- *Violence, including threats and aggravated offences, involving use of a firearm*
- *Offences with a county lines marker*
- *Violence with injury marked as domestic abuse*
- *Violence with injury marked as hate crime*
- *Modern slavery offences*

Emerging Initiatives

On 15th June 2022, the government announced their vision for establishing **Combating Drugs Partnerships** in local areas as part of the next phase of their 10-year strategy to **reduce supply and demand for illegal drugs**.

[Guidance for local delivery partners - Combating Drugs Partnerships](#) - provides the framework for how partners in each locality in England should work together to reduce drug-related harm in their area, with each Combating Drugs Partnership appointing a single Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) to act as chair and take responsibility for reporting back to central government.

The John Champion, West Mercia PCC is the Senior Responsible Officer for the Combating Drugs Partnership which is aligned to the Integrated Care Board boundaries: [Integrated Care Board - Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System](#)

In August 2022, the PCC announced £100,000 of additional funding to support the work of the Partnership and further details on the Combating Drugs Partnership are shared as delivery structures and local strategies develop - [PCC continues proactive partnership work to combat drugs in West Mercia - West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner](#)

North Worcestershire CCTV Funding between Apr 2020 and Mar 2022

Allocation	PCC Grant
1 additional camera on Town Hall roof and upgrade of 24 cameras in Redditch Borough	£48,403.41
Install 1 x new camera and pole in Sanders Park and upgrade of 9 cameras in Bromsgrove District	£32,135.57
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
Total Grant Allocation	£130,000.00

NWCSP was allocated a further **£20,000** capital for CCTV for 2022-23

North Worcestershire CCTV Funding for 2022 / 2023

Area of Benefit	PCC Grant
Purchased additional moves of the 9 existing re-deployable cameras and associated signage	£17,152
Purchased a digital sign in system to improve compliance processes for the Monitoring Centre	£ 1,350
Contribution towards a new camera in Bromsgrove to support surveillance of areas in the NTE	£ 1,500
Total	£20,000

The PCC has not provided any specific funding for CCTV in 2023/24

Redeployable Camera Scheme

Since figures were last provided in June 2022, there have been 19 applications for the use of redeployable cameras in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest. 14 of those applications resulted in cameras being installed, 3 did not proceed and 2 are currently in the consultation stage.

The CCTV Team always look to find ways to approve an application when it is received and reasons why installations have not progressed include:

- No suitable mounting/power source/point available
- Significant privacy concerns
- RIPA required
- The requirement for camera is no longer an issue since the application was submitted.

Applications that have been successful have been installed to combat ASB, drug taking, vehicle crime and vandalism.

Before each camera is installed a consultation document is posted to all surrounding properties covered by the proposed camera view. The response to these consultations is typically minimal, however, a recent application for a camera in a park in Redditch received a significant increase in responses to the consultation. Due to the park location of this camera rather than it being in an area of business or residential properties. Consultation responses were invited through a press release and social media.

48 incidents have been logged on redeployable cameras in the period since June 2022.

Redeployable Cameras used in Bromsgrove

District	URN	Location	Date Application Received	Proceed
BDC	1	Morris Walk, Charford	11/11/2020	Completed
BDC	2	Collis Close - Austin Road, Garages	15/10/2020	No
BDC	2.2	Collis Close - Austin Road, Garages	13/10/2021	Completed
BDC	3	Tibberton Court Playground, Charford	15/10/2020	No
BDC	3.2	Tibberton Court, Charford	29/09/2021	No
BDC	6	Breakback Road, Rock Hill	08/09/2021	No
BDC	9	King George Recreation Car Park, B61 8SL	07/10/2021	Completed
BDC	11	Shawfield, Wythall	08/11/2021	Completed
BDC	14	Tibberton to Grafton Crescent, Charford	28/11/2021	Completed
BDC	22	Billesley Lane, Wythall	11/08/2022	Completed
BDC	23	Beckett Farm, A435, Wythall	05/08/2022	Completed
BDC	24	The Innage/Shawfield, Wythall	11/08/2022	Completed
BDC	29	King George Cl, Playing Field	06/09/2023	No
BDC	35	York Close, Bromsgrove	26/01/2024	Pending
BDC	36	Old Bromsgrove Library	05/02/2024	Pending

NWCSP Core Funding - 2023/24

Area of Benefit	PCC Grant
West Mercia CSP Analyst Team (Top Sliced)	£20,000
West Mercia Integrated Offender Mgt. (Top Sliced)	£ 1,000
West Mercia Hate Crime Project (Top Sliced)	£ 5,412
West Mercia Crimestoppers Initiative (Top Sliced)	£ 2,000
Bromsgrove Youth Outreach	£15,000
Bromsgrove Tasking Projects	£11,014
Redditch Youth Outreach	£17,000
Redditch Tasking Projects	£12,012
Wyre Forest Detached Youth Team	£20,000
Wyre Forest Tasking Projects	£12,012
NW Domestic Homicide Reviews	£20,000
NW Safe Places Scheme	£ 3,800
Total	£139,250

Safer Bromsgrove – Tasking Fund 2023/24

Funded Projects	Amount
R.U.N - Bromsgrove DA Survivors Support Group	£ 2,000
Bromsgrove Youth Hub – Friday Night Sessions	£ 8,304
Safer Bromsgrove Agreed Projects & Initiatives incl. White Ribbon Resources, Home Security & Personal Safety Products etc.	£710
Total	£11,014

Community Safety Project Updates

2023-24



The Respect Programme provides community safety awareness sessions as part of school PHSE drop down days and bespoke classroom sessions on several 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.

2023-24 saw the cohort that the Respect Programme works with expand further. The team received between 40 to 60 referrals each half term, with our youth mentors holding around 200 open cases at any time.

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



Following a year-on-year increase in referrals to the Respect Programme, we have been very fortunate to be able to expand our current team of experienced, qualified youth mentors. We now have 12 mentors who support the delivery of the Respect Programme





School Drop Down Days

During the reporting period, several drop-down days were held in local schools, where community safety and crime prevention workshops were delivered by the youth mentors and officers from local partner agencies.

South Bromsgrove High School – Community safety sessions were delivered on Hate Crime Awareness, Drugs and Alcohol, Healthy Relationships and Anti-Social Behaviour

Parkside Middle School – Workshop sessions were delivered on Hate Crime Awareness, Drugs and Alcohol, Healthy Relationships and Anti-Social Behaviour

Aston Fields Middle School – Sessions were delivered on Hate Crime Awareness and Healthy Relationships



The Empowering Young People Programme

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 eighth year and goes from strength to strength with tailored sessions delivered to groups of young people based on their specific needs. During this year, the programme has focused more on groups of male young people and has been successful in tackling some of the perceived male stereotypes can lead to misogynistic behaviour.

Other content delivered over the year included a focus on ASB, County Lines, CSE, Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Misuse and Hate Crime Awareness

Over the year (2023/24) **8 Empowering Young People courses** have been delivered, taking place in schools and community settings.



Youth Outreach

The Youth Hub and Reach Out Bromsgrove work with the Community Safety Youth Workers to deliver outreach and detached youth work 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 out in the community and has directly resulted in the reduction of reported incidents of Youth ASB in location across the district.

At the height of the summer, outreach youth workers engaged with between 600 – 800 hundred young people per month.

The outreach teams are now seen as a model of best practice across the county and over the past year the team have expanded their delivery and have been commissioned to work in Droitwich.



Youth Outreach Case Study

The Youth Outreach team have had an impact in several neighbourhoods over this period, such as King George Close play area.

Following community concern about incidents of youth anti-social behaviour, the outreach team started to carry out regular patrols in the area and discovered that several of the young people were already know to them via other projects. Over time youth workers engaged with the young people during the outreach sessions, building better relationships between the young people and the wider community.

These sessions helped to stop the incidents of bike riding across the park area which caused conflict with other users and surrounding residents. The youth workers were also successful in diverting the young people into positive youth activities and mainstream youthwork provision.



The Bromsgrove Youth Listening Service

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The Community Safety Team has worked with the Anglican Churches to establish a volunteer Listening Service for young people requiring lower-level support and intervention. The Listening Service is now in its seventh year. The service is well established in Bromsgrove High schools and there are currently 25 young people being supported.

Following the extension of the programme into the middle schools, there has been an increase in new Listeners with three new volunteers being recruited. Currently sessions are now being held in St Johns Middle School, Aston Fields Middle School and Parkside Middle School

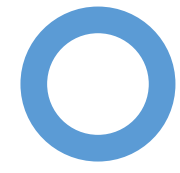
Bromsgrove Youth Hub CiC

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) and provides support and activities for young people, as a non-profit organisation, offering a space for young people 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 local young people. The Community Safety Team supports the Hub in responding to reports of youth ASB and provides funding and guidance to put processes in place to support young people facing additional challenges.





Alternative School Provision

The Community Safety Team has worked with Young Solutions - Worcestershire to secure county-wide Big Lottery funding. A successful bid secured a 3-year Reaching Communities grant for Worcestershire, providing £23k of funding for Bromsgrove Youth Hub.

The programme called Youth Scape focuses on outreach work, mentoring and diversionary activities and a post becoming vacant in the first year of the project provided an opportunity for the funding to be re-purposed and used to establish and open an Alternative School Provision. This was launched in October 2023 and is currently supporting six young people who were at risk of permanent exclusion from schools and susceptible to becoming involved in criminality.

YOUNG CITIZEN'S CHALLENGE

In May 2023, the Annual Young Citizen's Challenge (YCC) was held at the Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station from 22nd to 26th May.

YCC offers all students in Year 6 from Bromsgrove and Redditch the opportunity to take part in a series of scenarios and take quizzes on what to do in various situations, when exposed to different risks.

Each partner-led session promotes experiential learning as each scenario is interactive and designed around student participation. Key partners such as the Community Safety Team, Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Safer Roads Team, SARA (Water Safety) and Western Power were able to promote key safety and security messages to Year 6 students aged 11 and 12. The week saw our Community Safety partners engage with **926 young people**.



During 2023-24, the Community Safety Team has supported several Youth & Community Voluntary groups with multiple funding applications.

These bids have helped to secure the future of some of the local support projects that are most needed by young people in our communities.

- ✓ The Youth Hub was granted £10,000 of Big Lottery funding to support ongoing work at the youth centre.
- ✓ Sports England provided funding to the Thursday and Friday night youth diversionary sessions with a grant of £20,000.
- ✓ David Morgan Trust awarded a grant of £13,000 to further develop the diversionary music offer for young people locally
- ✓ Through the partnership working with Young Solutions, the Youth Hub has been given a three-year Youth Scape grant of £69,000
- ✓ BDC Community Safety Team commissions Youth Services Funding on behalf of Worcestershire County Council and has been able to provide £87,000 to youth organisations in Bromsgrove

In total through community safety partnership working, an additional **£199,000** of funding has been awarded across the district to support youth diversionary activities and projects.

Designing Out Crime



Planning Consultations

The Community Safety team has two College of Policing qualified, Designing Out Crime Officers (DOCO) who can review planning applications, making appropriate crime prevention and security recommendations with the aim of making future building developments less vulnerable to crime and disorder

During 2023-24 Officers have given DOC advice on 14 Bromsgrove Planning Applications.

These consisted of 477 residential units and 12000 SqM of non-residential development. Comments were submitted for applications such as:-

- Waseley Hills High School
- Old Bromsgrove Market Hall site where, the team has played a critical role in the pre-design consultation, aiming to ensure that from concept to build, the development is safe and secure.
- DOCOs commented on the new Council owned Burcot estate applications. The team also advocated that Secure by Design Gold accreditation be sought, and this has now been awarded. Very few developments achieve this highest SbD standard - [Secured by Design - SBD Developers Award](#)
- As part of wider development of this area of work the team organised a Designing Out Crime Conference on 8th February 2023 for Planners, Elected Members, Partner Agencies and the Police.

Designing Out Crime



The Community Safety team carry out Environmental Visual Audits and Crime Risk Surveys at locations across the district which are experiencing crime and ASB issues. Site visits during 2023/24 included:-

- Nimmings Wood National Trust Car Park, Clent
- Bromsgrove Town Centre - Car parks vulnerable to illegal incursions
- Asda Multi-Storey Car Park
- St Chads Park, Rubery

Sanctuary Assessments

Sanctuary is the concept whereby survivors of domestic abuse are supported to remain in their home rather than fleeing. This is achieved by a professional assessment of the security improvements necessary to make the home environment safe.

In 2023, Community Safety DOC officers conducted 19 Sanctuary assessments and commissioned security improvement works through a new County Council funded scheme. This enabled 19 survivors of domestic abuse and their children to remain in their home, close to family, friends and work; improving their safety, reducing fear of reprisals and minimising the disruption to their lives.

Community Safety Engagement Events 23/24

Attending events and engaging with local communities provides valuable opportunities for officers to meet with residents, pass on crime prevention information and advice and find out community concerns and fears.

In 2023-24 events officers attended included:

- HoW College Freshers' Fair
- Bromsgrove Green Fair
- Annual Pensioners Fair
- ASB Week
- Police and Fire Station Open Day
- Police SNT Events
- BDHT Fun Days
- Macular Society
- Wythall Memory Cafe



A promotional graphic for a community safety event. It features a collage of images showing people in various settings. A speech bubble says: "David Rischmiller, Community Safety Officer will be on hand to help advise on any safety concerns". The text includes: "SCAM ADVICE", "NOMINATED NEIGHBOUR SCHEME (helping tackle doorstep crime)", "HOME AND PERSONAL SECURITY", and "Tuesday 11th July, 10am - 1pm at Bromsgrove Library".





Operation Sceptre – Knife Crime Awareness Campaign

15th to 21st May 2023

‘Op Sceptre’ is a week-long national campaign aimed at tackling knife crime.

During the week members of the public were encouraged to hand-in unwanted knives to prevent them from getting into the wrong hands and being used in crime.

Knife Surrender bins were placed at key locations and the Community Safety Team supported Safer Neighbourhood Officers at key community events to raise awareness of the topic and encourage people to take the opportunity to surrender any knives causing concern.



NWCSP Funded Knife Arch



Date	Purpose
03/03/2023	Supporting West Mercia Police's County Lines intensification week, with a presence Bromsgrove Train station
18/05/2023	Supporting national Operation Sceptre Knife Crime Awareness and Surrender campaign
10/07/2023	Joint operation with SNT, BTP and West Midlands Safer Travel Team at Bromsgrove Train Station
17/11/2023	Supporting national Operation Sceptre Kinfe Crime Awareness and Surrender campaign

National ASB Week 3rd to 9th July 2023

In this national week of focus on ASB, the Community Safety Team supported a programme of events incorporating a social media campaign and face-to-face community stands held throughout the week.

Partners including the Police and Housing Providers joined Community Safety Officers to provide advice on different measures to address ASB and discuss with residents their experiences and concerns about ASB.

Both an internal and external communications took place with articles on the Orb, in the local press and messages were shared daily via social media. These matched the daily themes suggested by the national organisers www.resolveuk.org.uk



MAKING COMMUNITIES SAFER

#ASBawarenessweek



North Worcestershire
Community Safety Partnership



Hate Crime Awareness Week 2023

This year's Hate Crime Awareness Conference took place on Thursday 19th October and was delivered in partnership with Victim Support and West Mercia Police with a focus on Disability.



North Worcs Hate Incident Partnership (NWHIP) was fortunate to have Lorraine Kelly open and close the event and Sir Lee Pearson shared his experiences of being a victim of hate crime via a pre-recorded video.

Throughout the day, multiple sessions were held with attendance from local schools and community groups that support residents who have a disability. The About Face Theatre group delivered a performance which engaged the audience, asking key questions about what they were seeing and what could have been done differently to prevent the incidents of hate crime that were being enacted on stage.



NWHIP members also generated and shared relevant Hate Crime Awareness content via social media throughout the week.

Annual White Ribbon Domestic Abuse Campaign

25th Nov to 10th Dec

The Community Safety Team hosted a Domestic Abuse Awareness stall on Bromsgrove High Street on Tues 5th Dec from 11am to 1pm to promote local services and engage with residents and visitors to the town centre. The team also supported various Domestic Abuse campaigns on social media sharing information and content from local and national support services and agencies.

The Community Safety Team also promoted the Herefordshire and Worcestershire White Ribbon Conference. This annual event took place online on 24th Nov 2023 and saw another wide range of guest speakers and topics including an **Employers Initiative on Domestic Abuse**, sharing national best practice in relation to corporate policies. **DCC Maggie Blyth**, the National Police Chiefs Council Lead for Violence against Women and Girls was a keynote speaker and **PEGS, a social enterprise** set up to support parents, carers and guardians who are experiencing Child to Parent Abuse (CPA) were also in attendance.

The conference also **launched a new initiative “Cut it Out”** which focuses on how people working in the beauty and hair industry can play their part in helping victims of domestic abuse. Proposals to roll the initiative out in North Worcestershire are currently being discussed.



Safe Places Scheme

The Safe Places Scheme gives the elderly, people with a disability, illness or learning difficulty, or anyone who feels in danger; a range of safe places where they can go to for help if they feel they are being bullied, abused or harassed while out and about.

All Safe Places are identified by a Safe Place sticker and the organisations employees receive training, so that they can give reassurance and help people contact appropriate support, as needed.

A full directory of the Safe Places in Redditch is available here:-
[Safe Places | Our Way Self Advocacy](#)

