



# **Overview & Scrutiny Board**

To: Overview & Scrutiny Board

From:  
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CC: Cllr Peter Whittaker – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services & Community Safety  
Sue Hanley – Chief Executive & Chair of NWCSP  
Judith Willis – Head of Community & Housing Services

## **Review of the work of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership from March 2024 to December 2024**

### **1. Summary**

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) for the period March 2024 to December 2024.

### **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 co-ordinate the work of the Partnership are employed by 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 Peter Whittaker, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Community Safety. Sue Hanley, the Council's Chief Executive is the Chair of NWCSP and Judith Willis, Head of Community & Housing Services acts as the BDC Responsible Authority representative on the Partnership. The Council's Community Safety Manager, Bev Houghton provides co-ordination 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 Councillor Helen Jones. The most recent West Mercia PCP meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and

the agenda and associated papers of the meeting can be accessed here: [West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Wednesday, 6th November, 2024 11.00 am](#)

### **3. Current Position**

#### **3.1 North Worcestershire CSP Plan 2024 - 27**

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. This is identified through an annual strategic assessment which is based on research, evidence and intelligence from national, regional and local sources.

At its planning meeting in February 2024, the NWCSP reviewed and agreed its new priorities for the following three-year period. The Partnership Plan sets out the priorities that the CSP will focus on for a 3-year period, with an annual refresh to capture any emerging issues and trends. The NWCSP priorities for period April 2024 to March 2027 are : -

- **Public Place Violence & the Serious Violence Duty**
- **ASB, Nuisance and Environmental Issues**
- **Shoplifting and Neighbourhood Crime: Neighbourhood Crime is defined as domestic burglary, robbery (against the individual/household), theft from a person and vehicle crime.**
- **Protecting Vulnerable Communities including Hate Crime & Targeted Harassment, Domestic Abuse & DHRs and Sexual Violence**
- **Serious Organised Crime via a Joint Action Group (SOCJAG)**

Alongside these local priorities NWCSP works closely with South Worcestershire CSP, through the countywide Safer Communities Board (SCB), to identify and address countywide issues. Through Worcestershire SCB, the two statutory CSPs collaborate on key countywide projects and initiatives to ensure district area input and delivery is considered and implemented. These Worcestershire-wide activities and interventions include:-

- Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
- Prevent Strategy Group [Counter Terrorism]
- Protect (& Prepare) Board [Counter Terrorism]
- Safeguarding Children Partnership & GETSAFE [Child Exploitation]
- Adult Safeguarding Partnership & Adult Exploitation Group
- Reducing Reoffending Group & Integrated Offender Management
- Substance Misuse Oversight Group / Combatting Drugs Partnership

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

First elected in 2016, John Campion was re-elected for a third term as West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in May 2024. The PCC has a duty to co-operate with all CSPs in his geographical area to reduce crime and disorder; and there is a reciprocal duty on CSPs to collaborate with the PCC. Both bodies must have due regard for each other's priorities within their

respective plans. Following re-election the PCC consulted on his new Police and Crime plan for the next four years and the West Mercia Safer Communities Plan, published in November 2024, can be read here: - [Police and Crime Plan - West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner](#)

At a West Mercia PCP meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July, Marc Bayliss was re-confirmed as the Deputy PCC after first taking up the role in September 2022. NWCSP works closely with the Deputy PCC and the OPCC Team via a West Mercia Crime Reduction Board and the CSPs are actively involved in the West Mercia PCC's commissioning model for crime reduction activity. Over the last few years this model has seen more funding being provided at a West Mercia force level to deliver activities in key thematic areas.

Established force-wide commissioning areas include the co-ordination of Crime & ASB Data Analysis support for the five West Mercia CSPs, consolidation of funding for Integrated Offender Management across the force area, activity to address rural, business and cyber-crime and the force-wide commissioning of victim's services such as Crimestoppers, Victim Support and most recently force area activities to raise awareness of Hate Crime interventions.

In 2023-24 new funding was made available by the Home Office via PCCs to support Community Safety partners in **Implementing the Serious Violence Duty**. As a CSP member, the Council has requirements in regard of the Serious Violence Duty as laid out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022. In statutory guidance published in June 2023, the Act outlined how key specified authorities (of which the Council is one) should exercise their functions in relation to the Duty and the Home Office allocated limited funding to all policing areas to support this process.

The statutory guidance sets out how specified authorities should work together to deliver the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) in order to prevent and reduce serious violence within a defined area. In preparation for the full requirements of the PCSC Act, Partners agreed that local co-ordination of SVD activities would be delivered at a countywide level, with the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board and the two statutory Community Safety Partnerships in the North and South of Worcestershire working together to address Serious Violence.

Home Office funding allocations for SVD interventions in Worcestershire totalled **£50,599** and the definition of Serious Violence that all West Mercia partners are operating under can be found in **Appendix 1**. Details of the Youth Violence Intervention project that NWCSP and SWCSP have implemented using the Home Office SVD grant for Worcestershire are also provided.

### **3.3 NWCSP Ring-Fenced Grant from the PCC 2024-25**

Alongside the PCC's force-wide commissioning, NWCSP is allocated an annual ring-fenced amount from the PCC of £139,250 to identify and address

local issues at a district level. The details of the NWCSP agreed project allocation for 2024/25 can be found in **Appendix 1**.

The progress of these local 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.

In addition to the annual ring-fenced grant, the PCC also allocated additional Safer Communities funding to NWCSP. This funding has been allocated by the Partnership to complement the ring-fenced grant and address identified issues that are of most concern and/or are having a detrimental effect on our local communities. Details of this additional one-off funding allocated by NWCSP is outlined in the annual NWCSP Project Review in **Appendix 1**.

### **3.4 District 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 chaired by officers in the Community Safety Team and the activities and interventions of the group are supported by Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams, wider Community Safety partners and other council service areas such as Place Teams, Planning and WRS.

Alongside supporting the CSP sub-groups, the Community Safety Team also monitor and respond directly to local community safety issues, co-ordinating operational delivery with partners. The team is often a first point of contact for residents and community groups with concerns about local crime and disorder issues and officers are able to call upon other community safety partners when solutions to these concerns require a multi-agency response.

Community Safety Project Officers David Rischmiller and (until Sept 2024) Sarah McIntosh work on behalf of the Council and NWCSP, delivering a variety of community safety projects and initiatives across Bromsgrove 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. The annual CSP Project Review at **Appendix 1** provides a more detailed update on the key community safety project activity that has taken place from March 2024 to date.

### **3.5 Use of ASB Legislation, Problem Solving and Partner Engagement**

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.

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

### **WRS – ASB Enforcement on behalf of Planning and Environmental Services**

At Executive on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 it was recommended that a Business case be pursued with the intention to bring together the enforcement functions within Environmental Services and Planning to be delivered within the Shared Regulatory Service provided by WRS. This includes a number of enforcement functions which previously formed part of the reporting of the use of ASB Tools & Powers to Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel.

Since the new arrangements came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> June the team have been setting up systems and recruiting staff. Two Flytipping investigations have been conducted for waste found in Bromsgrove Central and in Belbroughton and a Littering offence is also being investigated.

### **West Mercia Police-led ASB Activity**

West Mercia Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams work in close partnership with a range of agencies to reduce the impact of Anti-Social Behaviour. To illustrate this the District Police Inspector has provided a brief report giving an overview of Police-led ASB and crime actions to date at **Appendix 2**.

### **Community Safety Team Interventions**

There have been no ASB case reviews in the period March 2024 to Dec 2024. However an application has recently forwarded to a resident who is expected to request a case review regarding harassment from a neighbour.

In the absence of a dedicated ASB Team the Community Safety Team have been asked to provide support and interventions in respect of a number of local ASB issues. These Include:

Clent Hills: support and advice provided to National Trust staff and Police in addressing fly tipping, nuisance loitering and drugs activity.

Lickey Hills: support and advice given to the Police and the Golf Club in respect of off-road vehicle misuse including designing out crime recommendations.

Hagley: support provided to a vulnerable resident whose horses and stables had been damaged by ASB.

Rubery: support given to a resident who was in dispute with her neighbour over a Japanese Knotweed infestation utilising ASB tools and powers to resolve.

Town Centre: a particular group of young people were causing substantial ASB in the town centre, ASB intervention work with the Police, retailers and the youth hub is ongoing, and the problem is reducing.

The team also routinely provide advice and support to partner agencies such as BDHT and the Police in the practical use of ASB tools and powers such as Community Protection Warnings and Notices.

### **Calls to the Community Safety Team for service and support**

The team receive a number of calls for advice and assistance from other council service areas and partner agencies requiring expertise and advice in problem solving processes in order to implement Crime & Disorder and ASB prevention measures. Often these community safety interventions assist in resolving long-standing 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 concerns, personal safety and environmental crime issues.

Between March 2024 and December 2024, the Community Safety Team received multiple requests for service in Bromsgrove and these are categorised as below:-

- 15 requests from Residents
- 10 requests from Elected Members
- 28 requests from Partner Agencies
- 13 Requests from internal council services

Requests for service related to the following Community Safety and ASB themes and whilst the Community Safety Team does not provide an ASB service, Project Officers will receive several requests for support because callers do not know where else to turn. The number of requests do not add up exactly as there are often multiple issues contained in a single request.

**36** requests regarding **ASB issues** were received in the period between March 2024 to date including:

- 2** ASB related to inappropriate use of motorbikes.
- 3** ASB related to neighbourhood issues
- 3** ASB related to noise nuisance
- 1** ASB related to dogs
- 10** ASB related to youth ASB
- 2** ASB related to abandoned vehicles
- 2** ASB related to road safety
- 1** ASB related to inconsiderate parking
- 3** ASB related to drugs/cannabis smell
- 9** ASB related to other general ASB issues

**15** requests regarding **Community Safety / Crime Risk issues** included:

**1** request for a Crime Prevention Survey regarding CCTV replacement and enhancement at independent living complex

**1** request for a Crime Prevention Survey regarding youth ASB

**1** request to attend Multi-Agency meeting regarding litter

**3** requests to attend Multi-Agency meeting regarding complex neighbourhood issues

**1** request for a multi-agency meeting regarding taxi service tensions

**1** request for support to a joint Trading Standards operation on rogue traders

**9** requests for site visit regarding vulnerable resident

**1** request for a site visit regarding ASB in a small park area

**1** request for a site visit and assessment of lighting on a footpath route

**1** request for site visit regarding drugs

**1** request for site visit regarding inconsiderate parking

**6** requests for site visits regarding youth ASB

**5** requests related to the Nominated Neighbour scheme to address doorstep crime

**29** calls for service were signposted to other departments or specific advice was provided.

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

The Community Safety Team has supported various national and local campaigns in the period from March 2024 to date, promoting key community safety messages and the work of NWCSP. Projects that are directly led by the Community Safety Team such as the Respect Programme, Nominated Neighbour and Hate Incident Reporting are regularly promoted.

This year a new Community Hero Initiative was organised by the Community Safety Partnership to recognise the work of Bromsgrove communities and individuals in addressing ASB. The requests for nominations and the subsequent award ceremony were promoted widely on social media and in local press. The ceremony took place the 11<sup>th</sup> July and more details about the winners at the event can be found at **Appendix 3**.

The National ASB Awareness week campaign took place between 18<sup>th</sup>–24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 when publicity and communications around the Community Hero Awards was re-visited and shared again as part of that campaign as well as targeted youth patrols and a campaign of daily ASB messaging through social media channels.

A number of other national campaigns were also supported throughout the reporting period, including:-

Young Citizens Challenge

Loan Shark Awareness

Drowning Prevention Week

Child Exploitation Awareness Day  
International Women's Day  
Personal and community safety work with students in schools  
Nominated Neighbour - raising awareness of the tactics of rogue traders  
Supporting the Pride Month events across North Worcestershire  
Operation Sceptre and other Knife Crime awareness events and activities carried out by the Police  
International Human Rights Day  
Delivering talks about Home Security and Scams to resident and community groups.

Community Safety Project Officers were also involved in number of local partner events and community engagements throughout spring and summer, providing crime prevention and community safety information and materials. These included:

Supporting Police Operation Forefront in Rubery and Hagley - March 2024  
Charford School Community Day - July 2024  
Woodrush Wellbeing Fayre – July 2024  
Parkside Middle School Drop-Down Day – July 2024  
Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station Open Day – July 2024  
BDHT Fun Days – August 2024  
Personal Safety Events in Bromsgrove Town Centre and Rubery – Sept 2024  
Freshers Fair at Bromsgrove College - Sept 2024  
Bromsgrove MP's Pensioners Fair - Nov 2024

The team supported and promoted the National White Ribbon campaign aimed at preventing violence against women and girls which ran from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December. A partnership stand was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> November at ASDA Supermarket also supported by the Police, Domestic Abuse support agencies and volunteers.

All of these events were widely promoted to local residents through the Councils media accounts, CSP social media and the local press.

The main social media platform used by Bromsgrove Community Safety is X (formally Twitter) using **@SaferBromsgrove** for local issues, **@nworccsp** (across North Worcestershire) and **@NWHateIncident** (for hate crime awareness projects and campaigns). The Community Safety Partnership's work is also shared widely via the Councils' own Facebook pages.

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, GETSAFE, Bromsgrove Pub Watch, Women's Aid, HW Fire & Rescue Service and West Mercia Police.

Community Safety awareness messages and projects are also promoted via the 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 the NWCSP website at [North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership \(nwcsp.org\)](http://NorthWorcestershireCommunitySafetyPartnership(nwcsp.org))

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the progress made by North Worcestershire CSP be noted.

#### **5. Appendices**

Appendix 1: NWCSP Project Review for 2024 – Presentation

Appendix 2: Police SNT update on ASB & Crime actions

Appendix 3: ASB Community Heroes Awards

#### **6. Background Papers**

West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - [Committee details - West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](http://Committeedetails-WestMerciaPoliceandCrimePanel-WorcestershireCountyCouncil(moderngov.co.uk))

PCC's West Mercia Safer Communities Plan - [Police and Crime Plan - West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner](http://PoliceandCrimePlan-WestMerciaPoliceCrimeCommissioner)

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