



# **Overview & Scrutiny Board**

To: Overview & Scrutiny Board

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CC: Cllr Peter Whittaker – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services & Community Safety  
Guy Revans – Executive Director & Chair of NWCSP  
Judith Willis – Asst. Director of Community & Housing Services

## **Review of the work of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership from January 2025 to February 2026**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) for the period January 2025 to January 2026

### **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 Team that supports and co-ordinates the work of the Partnership is 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. Guy Revans, Executive Director of Environment & Communities is the Chair of NWCSP and Judith Willis, Asst. Director 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> February 2026 and the agenda pack for that meeting can be accessed here: [Agenda for West Mercia Police and Crime Panel on Friday 6th February 2026 at 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 March 2025, NWCSP reviewed and confirmed its priorities for the following two-year period remained the same. The Partnership Plan sets out the priorities that the CSP will focus on for a 3-year period, with an annual refresh to identify 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

The countywide work of the Safer Communities Board is scrutinised by the Worcestershire County Council Overview & Scrutiny arrangements and the latest report to WCC O&S Performance Board outlining community safety activity at a countywide level can be accessed here:

### 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. The PCC's current Safer West Mercia Plan can be read here:- [Priorities for West Mercia | West Mercia PCC](#)

NWCSP works closely with the Deputy PCC, Marc Bayliss and the OPCC Team via the West Mercia Crime Reduction Board and CSPs are actively involved in the 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 force-wide activities to raise awareness of Hate Crime interventions.

Back 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 (SVD) as laid out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022. Statutory guidance published in June 2023, outlines how key specified authorities (of which the Council is one) should exercise their functions in relation to the SVD and the Home Office allocates limited funding to all policing areas to support this process.

The statutory guidance also details how specified authorities should work together to deliver the requirements of the SVD in order to prevent and reduce serious violence within a defined area. Worcestershire Community Safety partners agreed that local co-ordination of SVD activities would be delivered at a countywide level, via the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board reflecting the two statutory Community Safety Partnerships in the North and South of Worcestershire working together to address Serious Violence.

In 2025 Home Office funding allocations for SVD interventions in Worcestershire totalled **£60,141** and this funding has been used to deliver an ongoing Youth Violence Intervention Project called '*The Right Path*', details of which can be found in **Appendix 1**.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025, the Home Secretary announced the government's decision to abolish the role of Police & Crime Commissioner. It is envisaged that the roles will be absorbed by regional Mayors wherever possible, and in areas not covered by a Mayor, the role will be taken on by elected council leaders.

It is reported that the transition to the new model will happen at the end of the next electoral cycle in 2028. [Police and crime commissioners to be scrapped - GOV.UK](#)

### **3.3 NWCSF Ring-Fenced Grant from the PCC 2025-26**

Alongside the PCC's force-wide commissioning, NWCSF was previously allocated an annual ring-fenced amount from the PCC of £139,250 to identify and address local issues at a district level. In 2025/26 the amount received from the PCC was reduced to £117,838 an approximate 15% reduction. The details of the agreed NWCSF project funding allocation for 2025/26 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.

### **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 an officer 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 Officer David Rischmiller works on behalf of the Council and NWCSF, 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 January 2025 to date.

### 3.5 Use of ASB Tools and Powers

As part of the implementation of the Council's ASB Policy in June 2020, Elected Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board asked to receive an update on activity to address ASB issues as part of the annual Crime & Disorder Scrutiny process.

#### WRS – Enforcement Service on behalf of Planning and Environmental Services

Since January 2024 enforcement functions for Planning and Environmental Services have been delivered by Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS). This includes a number of enforcement functions which were previously included in the reporting to Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel on the use of ASB Tools & Powers. Data for the reporting period has been provided by the WRS team here: -

#### Community Protection Warnings Issued

Enforcement Category i.e.	Date Issued	Ward Area	Reason for Issuing	Outcome
Planning Enforcement	12/02/2025	Catshill	Parking vehicles on motorway overpasses/bridges, causing safety implications to both motorists and pedestrians in the Bromsgrove District.	Non-compliance
Planning Enforcement	31.07.2025	Bordesley	State of property	Non-compliance
Planning Enforcement	29.08.2025	Catshill	Parking vehicles on motorway overpasses/bridges, causing safety implications to both motorists and pedestrians in the Bromsgrove District.	Compliance to date

#### Community Protection Notices Issues

Enforcement Category	Date Issued	Ward Area	Reason for Issuing	Outcome
Untidy Land	18.12.2025	Romsley	Fly-tipping and untidy land	Partial Compliance
Untidy Land	15.05.2025	Romsley	Fly-tipping and untidy land	Non-Compliance
Planning Enforcement	12.05.2025	Catshill	Parking vehicles on motorway overpasses/bridges, causing safety implications to both motorists and pedestrians in the Bromsgrove District.	Compliance
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### **West Mercia Police-led ASB Activity**

The District Police Inspector for Bromsgrove has provided a brief report giving an overview of Police-led ASB and Crime actions for the reporting period at **Appendix 2/2A**.

### **Community Safety Team Interventions**

There have been no ASB case reviews in the period January 2025 to January 2026. However, an application has recently been received from a resident requesting a case review regarding disputes with a neighbour.

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

Town Centre: A 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.

Rock Hill: Nuisance car use on a supermarket car park after hours, involving excess speed and noise from anti-social gatherings and misuse of off-road motorcycles.

Lickey Hills: Reports from residents of vehicle generated ASB, loud music, litter, burnt out car etc on Beacon Hill Car Park, Monument Lane, Lickey.

Sidemoor: The daughter of a resident targeted by graffiti sprawled across King George Recreation Ground play area. There is also litter and other ASB issues.

Rubery: Work continues with the Police, Town Centres Management and other partners through the multi-agency MATES process in respect of ASB and possible crimes linked to certain shops.

The team also routinely provides 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.

### 3.6 Community Safety Problem Solving and Service Engagement

#### **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 January 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026, the Community Safety Team received multiple requests for service in Bromsgrove and these are categorised as below: -

- 19 requests from residents
- 12 requests from Elected Members
- 13 requests from partner agencies
- 10 requests from internal council services
- 4 requests from businesses

In addition, the team received 27 requests for home security assessments for vulnerable residents. Addresses were visited by the team's Designing out Crime Officer Dave Rischmiller and recommendations were made, primarily to social landlords for improvements to increase residents' safety. The vast majority of these were for domestic abuse cases.

Requests for service related to the following Community Safety and ASB themes. 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 and signposting is provided. The total number of requests does not add up exactly as there are often multiple issues raised in a single call.

**20** requests regarding **ASB issues** were received in the period between January 2025 to date including:

- 1 ASB related to inappropriate use of motorbikes
- 1 ASB related to car racing
- 8 ASB related to neighbourhood issues
- 2 ASB related to noise nuisance
- 1 ASB related to dogs
- 13 ASB related to youth ASB
- 1 ASB related to graffiti
- 2 ASB related to litter
- 2 ASB related to road safety

15 ASB related to other general ASB issues

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

1 request for assistance regarding a CPN intervention with a local business

1 request for a Crime Prevention Survey regarding youth incursion onto allotments

1 request to attend Multi-Agency meeting regarding litter

2 requests to attend Multi-Agency meetings regarding complex neighbourhood issues

2 requests for support regarding environmental issues

2 requests from Social Prescribing regarding vulnerable residents

1 request for support from a resident regarding an adjacent abandoned property

2 requests for support regarding dangerous wall toppings

1 request relating to safeguarding young people

3 requests regarding vulnerable residents

2 requests for site visits regarding youth ASB

2 requests related to the Nominated Neighbour scheme to address doorstep crime

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

### 3.7 **Communications and Social Media Campaigns**

The Community Safety Team has supported various national and local campaigns in the period from January 2025 to date, promoting key community safety messages and the work of NWCSF. Projects that are directly led by the Community Safety Team such as the Respect Programme, Nominated Neighbour and Hate Incident Reporting are regularly promoted.

A number of other campaigns and events were supported throughout the reporting period, including: -

- Promotion of the Community Safety Nominated Neighbour Scheme & raising awareness of the tactics of rogue traders and doorstep scams
- Freshers Week at HoW College
- MP's Pensioners Fair
- Police and Fire Station Open Day
- Council Staff Well-being Event - All about me
- Operation Sceptre and other Knife Crime awareness events and activities delivered by Police Teams
- Independent Living Event, Hagley
- Loan Shark Awareness
- International Women's Day
- Child Exploitation Awareness Week
- Mental Health Awareness Week

- Home Security and Scam Awareness talks to groups at the Rainbow Hospice
- Health Bus Outreach Event, Clent
- White Ribbon Campaign
- Hate Crime Awareness Week

The Community Safety team also uses social media to raise awareness of community safety issues and keep residents and partners informed of work delivered by partners, via 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 and awareness messages are 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.

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 2025/26 – Presentation

**Appendix 2/2a:** Police SNT update on Crime & ASB activity – provided by Insp Richard Field

#### 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 Safer West Mercia Plan - [Priorities for West Mercia | West Mercia PCC](http://PrioritiesforWestMercia|WestMerciaPCC)

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