

Report to: Communities Committee, 19th July 2023

Report of: Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities

Subject: COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL UPDATE

1. Recommendation

That the Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the contents of the report and in particular the requirement for the Council to hold a Committee Meeting at least once every 12 months to review and scrutinise decisions and actions in respect of the discharge of crime and disorder functions by 'responsible' authorities; and**
- 1.2 Considers the information contained in the report covering the 2022-23 period and make any recommendations to the Corporate Director - Operations, Homes & Communities for consideration.**

2. Background

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires all responsible authorities to develop a strategy to tackle crime and disorder in their local area. Responsible authorities include Local Authorities, Police, Fire and Rescue Authorities and Integrated Care System.
- 2.2 Worcester City Council is an active member of the South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (SWCSP) which was established in 2003 and covers Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon Councils' administrative boundaries.
- 2.3 Community Safety Partnerships are multi-agency meetings for the purpose of reducing crime, fear of crime, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and reducing reoffending.
- 2.4 The Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007 place a statutory duty on community safety partnerships to produce an annual community safety strategic assessment. A revised strategic assessment was produced by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia on 28th September 2022 and approved by the SWCSP at its meeting on 13th October 2022 with no changes made to the priorities within the existing SWCSP Action Plan see **Appendix 1**.
- 2.5 The SWCSP receives an annual funding allocation from the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to deliver activities and schemes that are aligned to the SWCSP priorities identified in its annual strategic assessment.
- 2.6 At a district level each of the individual member District Councils will lead on developing local action plans through local community safety arrangements. In the case of Worcester City this is the Safer Worcester Partnership Action Plan.

- 2.7 The Safer Worcester Partnership supports and delivers localised community safety activity for the district. The Safer Worcester Partnership is made up of local organisations, businesses and charities who are delivering services to Worcester residents, with a full list of members at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.8 Safer Worcester is committed to reducing the incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in Worcester City, helping to build stronger and connected communities. The Safer Worcester terms of reference is included at **Appendix 3**.
- 2.9 In respect of governance arrangements, The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 places a legal duty on a Council, for a committee to meet at least once in every 12 month period to carry out the functions of reviewing and scrutinising decisions and actions in respect of the discharge of crime and disorder functions by "responsible" authorities. Although there isn't a legal requirement that the Committee receive an annual report as such, this has been historical practice as it enables the performance of the partnership as a whole to be considered.
- 2.10 Within this report Officers have presented information under the following headings to support discussions at Committee –
- Strategic assessment and community need
 - Governance arrangements
 - West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner funding
 - Projects and interventions
 - Performance and impact

3. Strategic Assessment and Community Need

- 3.1 A South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment is produced by West Mercia PCC on a biennial basis, the latest version covering the period 1 August 2019 to 31st July 2022. The strategic assessment has been set out as an exempt item at **Appendix 4**.
- 3.2 The Strategic Assessment provides a review of the SWCSP activity over the last two years to address identified objectives. The Strategic Assessment is intended to inform the decision making of the SWCSP.
- 3.3 The SWCSP uses West Mercia Police's core priorities of Safer Homes, Safer People and Safer Roads to underpin its action plan. Under these themes sit the following identified areas of focus:
- 3.4 Safer Homes
- Dwelling and Non-Dwelling Burglary
 - Domestic Abuse
- 3.5 Safer People
- Hate Crime
 - Modern Slavery, Exploitation and Child Exploitation
 - Counter Terrorism
 - Drug and Alcohol Related Crime
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
- 3.6 Safer Roads
- Reduction of those Killed or Seriously Injured
 - Traveling Criminality

- 3.7 During 2022 the Home Office set out statutory guidance on the Serious Violence Duty and the responsibility of the CSP's to lead on co-ordinating activity.
- 3.8 Since 2016 Worcester City Council Communities Committee has received a quarterly update (performance scorecard report) on the total number of crimes recorded by West Mercia Police within Worcester.
- 3.9 In 2022-23 the total number of incidents were 10,817, 681 more than the previous year. Most of this increase is attributed to changes in the way West Mercia Police officers are recording crime in response to guidance from the Home Office. Where in the past an incident might have been recorded as ASB, it will now be recorded as a crime, depending on the impact of those people affected.

4. Governance arrangements

- 4.1 There are a number of forums and multi-agency meetings which cover either specific aspects of crime or have a responsibility for overseeing the response to criminality for a geographic area. Please refer to **Appendix 5** of this report which sets out a block chart of how the various groups and partnerships report into one another.
- 4.2 The Safer Worcester Partnership has met remotely 4 times during the period, which is the focus of this report, through online meetings. The partnership has received reports and discussed either joint projects or issues for awareness and promotion including:
- Safer Streets – Violence Against Women and Girls
 - Purple Flag
 - Knife Angel
 - Open Water Safety
 - Asylum Seekers
 - Motorbikes and E-scooters
 - Graffiti
 - Anti-Social Behaviour Case Management Review (also known as Community Trigger)
 - Domestic Abuse and White Ribbon Campaign
 - Hate Crime
 - University of Worcester new student intake and welcome.
 - Burglaries and Bike Crime
 - Telford Sex Abuse Enquiry Learning
- 4.3 Serious Organised Crime Focus Group met 3 times during the period of the review. The multi-agency meeting reviews intelligence on identified Organised Crime Groups, Modern Slavery and County Line drug distribution; both working and based in South Worcestershire. Intelligence is shared on each subject and multi-agency visits are co-ordinated as and when appropriate. In addition to the County Line disruption, during the year preventative partnership work has focussed on rural crime thefts including solar panels and urban street gangs.
- 4.4 In support of the regional meeting a district specific Worcester City Multi-Agency Tactical Group meeting was set up for Worcester. It met 4 times during the reporting period. At these meeting vulnerable individuals with risk management plans and locations with ongoing anti-social behaviour are shared for multi-agency and lead agency response.

5. West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

5.1 For the financial year 2022-2023, South Worcestershire received the following funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner via the SWCSP:

Project title	Purpose	Amount	
Partnership Analyst	Analytical support for the CSP will be provided by the Research & Intelligence Team of the Council. This team support the Council and other partnerships with analytical support and have a wide range of skills and knowledge	£20,000	Top sliced to contribute to PCC contract
Integrated Offender Management (IOM)	The funding is utilised to take up schemes such as the "Buddi-tag system" and the charitable Probation Care Trust who offer immediate, tailored support to offenders across West Mercia, to assist them in integrating back into the community and breaking the cycle of reoffending.	£5,000	Top sliced to contribute to PCC contract
Hate Crime	To fund a 2022-23 grant round to provide Hate Crime initiatives across West Mercia	£5,000	Top sliced to contribute to PCC contract
Crimestoppers	For Crimestoppers Trust to part fund the salary for a Regional Manager to deliver anti-crime campaigns across West Mercia.	£1,700	Top sliced to contribute to PCC contract
Dawn Project	DAWN (Domestic Abuse Working Network) at Worcester Community Trust (WCT) delivers tailor-made crisis intervention, face to face support around domestic abuse including controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour. Funding is for one full time project worker	£38,889.25	
Worcester Street Pastors	An inter-denominational church response to urban problems within the night-time economy, street pastor teams operating	£5,200	

Project title	Purpose	Amount	
	on Worcester's city centre streets overnight Saturday into Sunday (generally 10pm until up to 4am)		
Acquisitive Crime	Local Authority and partner officers will have access to a range of home security / acquisitive crime prevention tools enabling victims of crime / vulnerable persons to protect their property following site / home visits	£10,000	
Adult Exploitation	To employ a temporary Exploitation Development Officer (employed by West Mercia Police) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather a better understanding of current responses to dealing with exploitation • Develop a clear governance and operational pathway for agencies to respond to concerns around adults being exploited • To work with partners to raise awareness with professionals and communities 	£10,000	
Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)	The key purpose for undertaking DHRs is to enable lessons to be learned from homicides where a person is killed as a result of domestic violence and abuse. In order for these lessons to be learned as widely and thoroughly as possible, professionals need to be able to understand fully what happened in each homicide, and most importantly, what needs to change in order to reduce the risk of such tragedies happening in the future.	£31,460.75	
Youth ASB & Wellness Youth Mentoring	The initiative has been created to prevent further Youth ASB and Crimes mainly within Pershore. The initiative will provide targeted mentoring for at risk and involved Young	£6,000	

Project title	Purpose	Amount	
	People – as a compliment to any local diversionary services.		
	Total	£139,250	

5.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner also commissions services on a West Mercia wide basis. These grants and providers are detailed in **Appendix 6**.

6. Projects and Interventions

Domestic Abuse Women’s Network (DAWN) at Worcester Community Trust (WCT)

- 6.1 DAWN is a confidential, non-judgemental face to face service for individuals of any gender, who are experiencing or have experienced domestic violence, abuse, coercion or control. DAWN’s ethos is to believe and empower, to validate feelings, to dispel myths and to enable victims and survivors to make informed decisions to make their own changes. DAWN supports victims and survivors at all stages of abusive relationships, regardless of whether they are still living with a perpetrator. DAWN provides a service tailored to the needs of each individual, with an emphasis on targeted and personalised specialist support, and appropriate intervention.
- 6.2 DAWN support empowers and enables individuals to develop a safety plan and a personalised action plan. It offers legal support, support at court, support with accessing safe housing, the Freedom programme, support in understanding the impact of domestic abuse on the family unit, access to other services and group work which builds trusting relationships with peers and empowers individuals in achieving their personal goals including training, volunteering and employment, within WCT and working with wider partnerships.
- 6.3 During the last year the SWCSP funding supported 94 individuals with complex needs who chose targeted intervention and community-based face to face support. 69 left the relationship long term, 114 children lived safer lives, 41 individuals engaged in the Freedom programme and 56 individuals engaged in further learning.
- 6.4 The DAWN project received 338 referrals and worked with 463 individuals over the last year, referrals have increased by 200% in the last 5 years.
- 6.5 At the WCT White Ribbon Launch Event, 14 local partner agencies staffed stands at which national services such as Karma Nirvana, Mankind, and Galop were also promoted. Partners across agencies reached out to young people in education settings and as part of normally engagements to promote the campaign, giving out 5000 ribbons to young people.

Housing for Victims of Domestic Abuse

- 6.6 Housing services accepted a duty to 181 victims of domestic abuse, during the period of scrutiny of which 17 were male and 1 not known. On receipt of request the resident is accommodated immediately, if required. This can be either in emergency accommodation or a refuge if a place is available. Specialist Domestic Abuse Housing Solutions Officers work with the household to find suitable long-term

accommodation and support is in place and a specialized Outreach Support service is provided by West Mercia Women’s Aid where this need is identified.

- 6.7 The Council is in the final stages of agreeing specialist safe house accommodation to provide an alternative emergency accommodation response for individuals fleeing domestic abuse.
- 6.8 Once long-term accommodation has been found, the Council provides resettlement assistance through our Discretionary Welfare Assistance Scheme. For victims of domestic abuse, this is available both for Worcester residents who are settling in another part of Worcestershire, as well as non-Worcester residents who are having to relocate to Worcester because of domestic abuse.
- 6.9 The Service works in partnership with the Countywide Domestic Abuse Co-Ordinator. The Co-ordinator is mapping domestic abuse services to inform a Domestic Abuse Housing and Support Pathway.

Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)

- 6.10 Under section 9(1) of the 2004 Act, domestic homicide requires a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by:
 - a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or
 - a member of the same household as himself.
- 6.11 These multi-agency reviews are held to identify any lessons learnt from the death and how to apply these lessons to service responses including changes to inform national and local policies and procedures as appropriate.
- 6.12 Incidents of homicide in South Worcestershire have initiated several reviews which are in various stages of the process.
- 6.13 Summary of DHR progress made in 2022-23:

DHR number	Update
16	Multi-agency review completed, and action plan signed off by Home Office. Now published on Worcester City Council website and the action plan is held by SWCSP.
18	Multi-agency review completed and with Home Office for approval.
21	Multi-agency review completed and with Home Office for approval.
22	Multi-agency review completed and with Home Office for approval.
25	Draft review and action plan with SWCSP for sign off before being sent to the Home Office for review.
28	Multi-agency review is in progress.

Worcester Street Pastors

- 6.14 Worcester Street Pastors are uniformed volunteers from numerous local churches who are trained to patrol Worcester City centre on a Saturday night from 10pm until 2-3am on Sunday morning.
- 6.15 They provide support to people who become vulnerable during their evening out, ensuring their safety and wellbeing. They are resourced to provide suitable footwear, water, thermal blankets and arrange transport home. They also seek to provide practical help to rough sleepers, making referrals if appropriate.
- 6.16 They provide early intervention to those heavily intoxicated through drug and alcohol use, and through carefully assessing each person's circumstances, their aim is to prevent or reduce any serious risk of injury and harm to themselves or those nearby. On establishing whether a person's health and safety is at immediate risk they commit to either waiting with them whilst they recover, re-acquainting the individual with friends and members of their original party, or when necessary, request the assistance of the appropriate emergency service. Street Pastors also carry a first-aid kit to administer basic first aid to those in need.
- 6.17 Each year the street pastors work with other agencies to support the University of Worcester students during Welcome Week. In addition, the Street Pastor Coordinator has continued to work with other partners on the Homeless Forum and Worcester Cares Alliance to coordinate food for the vulnerable.
- 6.18 The service supported 1,767 people during the 2022-23 year in one way or another; attended 25 ASB incidents; collected 1659 bottles or swept up broken glass; gave out 193 pairs of flip flops; interacted with 193 rough sleepers.

Safe and Sound Projects

- 6.19 Cycle Security. Analysis of police data identified that there was a proportionately high number of bike thefts reported from Worcester city centre in recent years. As a preventative measure, free bike marking was provided by appointment for members of the public twice at both Foregate Street Station and Crowngate cycle storage. In total 40 bikes were security marked and registered during these partnership events. Pop up bike marking events with West Mercia Police at schools and priority locations, led to 13 bikes being registered. At the Worcester Show attendees were given the opportunity to mark and register their bikes. 23 bikes were marked as a result.
- 6.20 Smart Water project. SmartWater is a traceable liquid and forensic asset marking system that is applied to items of value to identify thieves and deter theft. West Mercia Police's We Don't Buy Crime team will support the creation of gated communities where the homes have used Smartwater. Police information highlighted an area of Warndon and Gorsehill having an increase in home burglaries. In response Platform Housing, Cllr James Stanley and the OPCC jointly funded the Smartwater kits and signage. A total of 185 kits for Warndon and 250 kits for Gorsehill were ordered with the aim of 70% of the houses adopting and using the kits in their homes to warrant the signage. During 2022-23 the multi-agency team visited properties and held pop-ups in the community to engage with residents. To date all the homes in Warndon have used the kits and 213 of the homes in Gorse Hill

have been used. The We Don't Buy Crime signage is now in place for these communities. It is expected that all the homes will eventually take up the offer.

- 6.21 Personal safety alarms. During specific events and in response to resident enquiries, officers will come across people who for one reason or another feel unsafe. Staff will provide them with access to appropriate support but may also give out personal alarms. Over the course of the year staff issued 653 alarms.
- 6.22 Homes for Ukraine scheme safeguarding referrals. With the launch of the scheme Worcester City Council conducted over 120 welcome visits to arriving families to hand out the government payment. At the same time safeguarding and welfare checks were carried out. 18 follow up visits were requested or required following the first visit.
- 6.23 School Safer Communities Day. On the 10th and 11th November 2022 both Bishop Perowne and Nunnery Wood, the Community Safety team and Platform held a Safer Communities Day for year 7s and 8s, to educate on different areas, from Anti-Social Behaviour, Fire safety, Water safety, Fly tipping, Knife Arch and County lines. It was so successful that it will now be a regular event with more agencies coming forward to join.
- 6.24 Heart of Worcester College Life Skills course. This course is designed for all registered students with an identified vulnerability, special needs and / or more susceptible to being exploited. These sessions were delivered to 65 students over 15 weeks. Subjects include County Lines, exploitation, knife crime, internet safety, substance misuse, Anti-Social Behaviour, choices and consequences awareness.

Youth Intervention

- 6.25 Worcester has benefitted from Worcestershire County Council Public Health funding to increase the number of youth intervention officers to 2.5 full time equivalents till March 2025. These posts work with under 18 years of age unless someone has a special need and then it would be up to 25 years of age. Their role can be summarised in three areas of work 1-2-1 mentoring, group work and patrolling.
- 6.26 1-2-1 mentoring is a referred into offer for young people because they need more engagement and direct support. Usually as a result of not being able to cope with a situation or emotional feelings. This service is a weekly walk and talk session with a member of staff and would run on average for 6 weeks. During the year 22 young adults completed this programme.
- 6.27 Group drop-in sessions are based in educational settings for young people who are on the cusp of being permanently excluded from school as a result of their behaviour or coping skills. At these sessions officers conduct group work to talk about the issues that are affecting them, reviewing behaviour, route course and the consequences of their actions. During the year 501 students took part in the sessions in school settings and 85 in YMCA settings.
- 6.28 Officers carry out both proactive and reactive patrols across the city in locations where young adults are known the frequent. This engagement is to provide reassurance to residents, reducing alarm and distress. Young adults would be approached to offer support, advice and raise awareness of impact of behaviour on themselves and local community and if appropriate any consequences. During the year 708 patrols were delivered.

6.29 Council Officers attend the GETSAFE and Channel multi-agency operational meetings where individual cases are reviewed, information shared and referrals made to services when appropriate.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

- 6.30 ASB incidents have increased compared to the previous 12-month period. Council officers engaged both with 7,856 young adults and 1,167 adults during 2022-23. Some people will have been engaged with on more than one occasion either pro-actively or in response to complaints.
- 6.31 Ward Councillor briefings. For the last 2 years officers from West Mercia Police and Worcester City Council have provided ward briefings for elected councillors. At these online meetings Councillors are provided information on localised crime and ASB in the form of hot spot maps where there is enough data. Feedback is sought from councillors on crime and ASB from their and their residents perceptions. Tools and resources are reviewed to see if there are opportunities to improve the quality of life for residents. 15 councillor briefings were carried out in June 2022, examples of actions taken were:
- SmartWater kits distributed within Gorsehill ward.
 - Safer Neighbourhood Team carried out engagement in regard to road safety.
 - Street art potential for underpass in St Peters.
 - Focus on graffiti reporting to the council and police.
 - Potential for gate to stop electric / motor bikes using pathway in Warndon Parish.
 - Locations for deployment of mobile CCTV surveillance.
 - Officer enforcement of parking outside of schools.
- 6.32 Worcester Community Trust were reported that young adults were climbing onto the roof of the Warndon Hub. A partnership approach over a number of weeks deployed officers to engage with the individuals and their parents. This work stopped the activity.
- 6.33 Residents and local police reported issues and ASB around the Horizon Community Centre. Officers engaged with the adults regarding concerns including county lines and conflict between families. This engagement has made a positive impact and is still under surveillance.
- 6.34 Residents in Victoria Court, Worcester contacted the council regarding skaters and boy-racers using St Martins Gate car park during unsociable hours. Police and council officers made visits to the car park to initially engage with those causing the nuisance to make sure they were aware of the impact of what they were doing for the neighbours. Further visits led to dispersal and whilst mediating between residents and their social housing provider further issues such as hoarding were identified, and support provided through safeguarding.
- 6.35 Police and residents reported an issue with a group of young people causing alarm and distress in and around The Cross. Officers provided support to local businesses and engaged with young people to try and understand what was happening. Officers identified that young adults were recruiting people to be part of a gang. Officers put in place an engagement plan to reach out, disrupt activity and support young people. The gang used social media to recruit and promote their activities. Officers were able to work with the social media provider to monitor and accounts and remove content.

- 6.36 Residents and police reported issues on the A4440 where people were racing in cars and motorbikes, causing nuisance, alarm and distress to residents. As part of a multi-agency response, officers engaged with the drivers on a nearby industrial estate and educated them on the impact of their behaviour local residents and the legal consequences of their behaviour. A mobile cctv camera was deployed and the police conducted an operation to disrupt the activity. This partnership approach has stopped the activity, but the issue is still being monitored.
- 6.37 During the year Worcester increased its mobile CCTV cameras from 3 to 6, to be deployed in locations identified by West Mercia Police as locations in need of support in response to ASB.

Community Triggers

- 6.38 Worcester City Council has received 4 community trigger enquiries, but none resulted in formal applications during 2022-2023 as lead agencies were resolving the issues for the residents. This multi-agency review of responses to ASB incidents includes the offer of home visits, support and mediation to resolve ongoing issues.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)

- 6.39 A PSPO is an official measure that is an enforceable part of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. PSPOs can be used to protect the public from behaviour that is having, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and is persistent and unreasonable (or likely to be). Worcester currently has 3 PSPOs.
- 6.40 Dog Control. Following a public consultation on the control of dogs in public places, Worcester City Council received no objections. The Communities Committee authorised the making of the PSPO which came into force on 25th November 2021 and expires on 5th July 2024. The order provides for:
- The removal of dog faeces by a person in charge of a dog.
 - A dog must not be taken into or kept in a "dog exclusion area"
 - There is a maximum number of 4 dogs that can be under the supervision of a single person.
- 6.41 Alcohol. Following a public consultation, the Communities Committee authorised the making of the PSPO on 25th July 2018 which came into force on 13th August 2018 and now continues to have effect for a period of three years from 13th August 2021 to 2024. The order provides for individuals:
- To desist from the Activity (or any action reasonably believed to be the Activity): and/or
 - To surrender any alcohol (or any item reasonably believed to be the Activity, including a container for alcohol) in their possession. An Authorised Officer may dispose of anything surrendered under this Order.
- 6.42 City Centre. The Communities Committee authorised the making of the PSPO on 10th March 2020, subject to a public consultation which was subsequently carried out. The Order came into force on 29th March 2021 and expires on 28th March 2024.

The effect of the PSPO is to prohibit aggressive begging, intentional feeding of seagulls and dangerous cycling-skateboarding from within the city centre.

6.43 Railway Level Crossings. Network Rail requested the temporary closure of 2 rights of way which include railway level crossings in response to ASB, known as footpath Wr858 (Brickfields Crossing) and Wr678 (Kays Crossing). Following public consultation Communities Committee authorised the making of the order on 8th June 2022. Officers are working with Network Rail to carry out the order. Whilst this work is ongoing Worcestershire County Council have put temporary footpath closures in place until January 2024.

7. Reviewing Performance and Impact

7.1 Crime, anti-social behaviour, and other relevant data sets are collected, processed, and analysed by the OPCC analysts. Reports are produced for each SWCSP meeting, highlighting performance against priority areas and any identified emerging issues. The SWCSP meeting in July will review the action plan for 2022-23 and propose a new action plan for 2023-24 and set out how it plans to allocate its budget for 2023-24 to deliver against the priorities. The outcomes from this will be brought back to Communities Committee in 2024.

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Background Papers:	None