

# Worcester Safer Communities Board Community Safety Agreement 2017 to 2018

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## 1. Introduction:

1.1 Community Safety responsibilities are primarily set out under s.17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act details the requirement for Responsible Authorities (Local Authorities, the Police, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups, the National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC)), to develop policy and operational approaches to prevent crime and disorder, combat substance misuse and reduce reoffending.

1.2 In two-tier Local Authority areas such as Worcestershire, there is a requirement to have in place a county strategy group and to publish a county Community Safety Agreement (CSA). In Worcestershire the strategic coordination of community safety takes place through the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board (SCB). The management and support of the SCB is led by Worcestershire County Council's (WCC) Public Health team (PH). The SCB now reports annually into the Worcestershire Public Executive Group (PEG).

1.3 This CSA and Action Plan (Appendix A) are high level strategic documents that reflect national and local priorities and take into account legislative and guidance changes that impact upon community safety, criminal justice and the wider roles and functions of public, private and voluntary sector organisations. The CSA highlights the strategic and cross cutting priorities across Worcestershire and these are delivered by joint working arrangements through a series strategic SCB sub groups, linkage to other statutory bodies such as Safeguarding Boards, the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and the commissioning of services such as substance misuse and alcohol and domestic abuse. The SCB and CSP's support other relevant strategic activity and for instance this will involve contributing to the forthcoming refresh of the Children and Young Persons Partnership Plan 2017-21.

1.4 Planning and operational delivery to tackle local community safety priorities takes place through the North and South Community Safety Partnerships, whose Strategic Assessments and Annual Plans are a key consideration for the completion of the CSA. There is a similar link to the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) "[Safer West Mercia Plan](#)" and there is a duty to co-operate with and consider the PCC's plans. The SCB supports the CSPs and ensures strategic oversight across the county, its priorities primarily being reflecting those of the CSPs and the PCC and this is illustrated in Table 1. Crime trends are monitored, but the detail and response to crime statistics is primarily dealt with at the local CSP level.

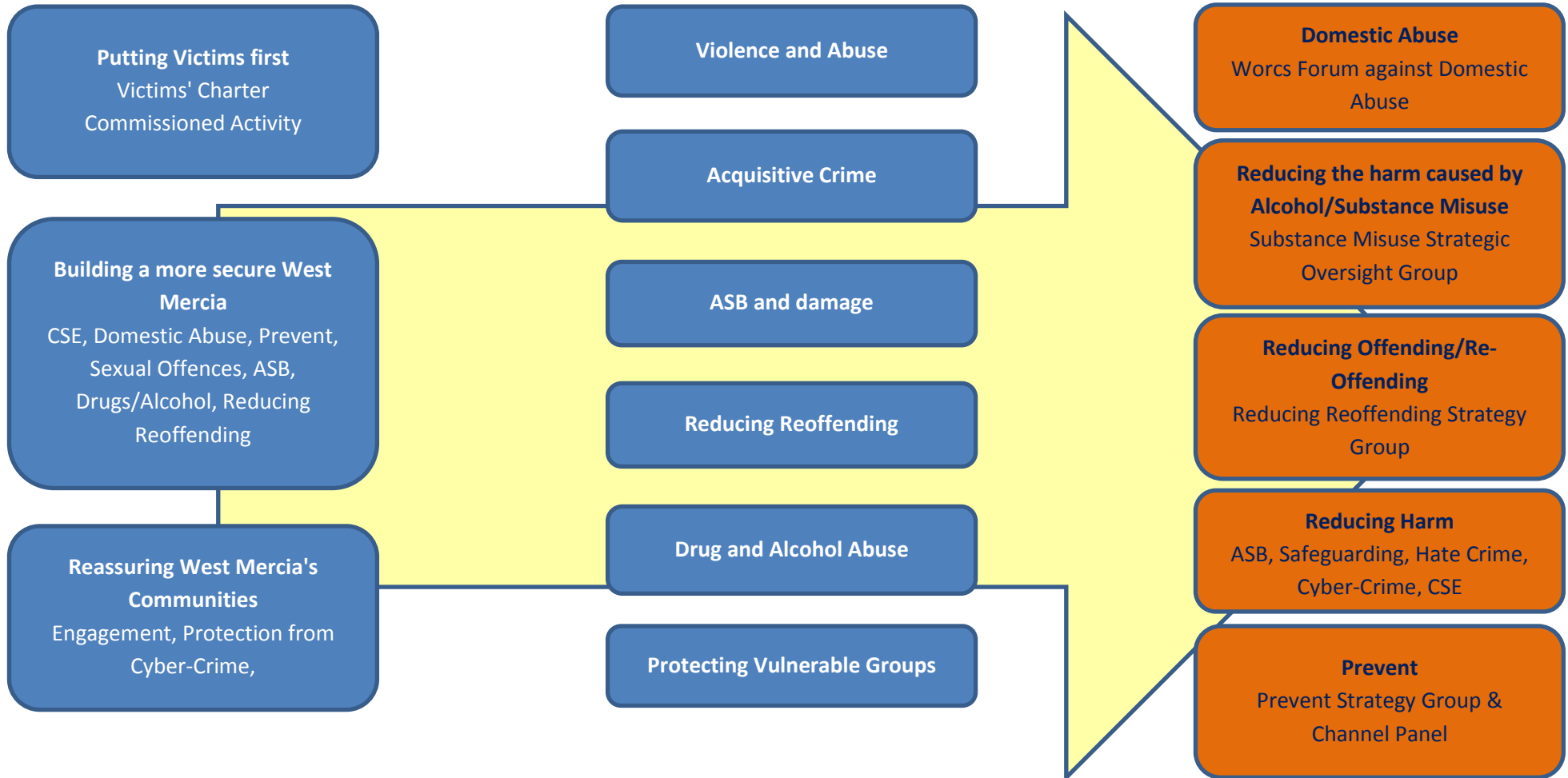
1.5 Appendix B sets out the overarching governance arrangements of Community Safety within Worcestershire and its link into the West Mercia area.

Table 1: Strategic community safety prioritisation in Worcestershire

**PCC Safer West Mercia Plan**

**CSP Priorities 2017/18**

**SCB Priorities**



## **2. SCB Priority areas:**

2.1 Set out below are the key strategic priorities, with some highlight commentary, where the SCB, primarily through its sub groups, develops and supports practical outcomes, in tandem with other Boards and partnerships.

## **3. Domestic Abuse:**

3.1 The Worcestershire Forum Against Domestic Abuse focuses upon preventing and reducing domestic abuse and encourages victims to report these crimes through targeted campaigns and information and the calls to the 24hour Domestic Abuse helpline are a reflection of the success of this approach. Calls for the last 12 months (to January 2017) are up 53% compared to the previous year. One area of challenge is that only 0.03% of those calls are from men. In respect of recording of domestic abuse crimes / incidents by the police we have seen a 3% decrease in incidents but a 16% increase in crimes. Trends are positive in respect of children repeatedly being exposed with an 8% reduction in children exposed 3+ times and an 11% reduction in children being exposed 5+ or more times. However, the overall figure of children being exposed to domestic abuse has seen a 2% rise overall.

3.2 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) arrangements continue, with 502 high risk cases being discussed in 2015-16, a 56% increase on the previous year. The MARAC arrangements are currently subject to a review to ensure an effective response whilst dealing with the increased demand being placed on all agencies.

3.3 The last 12 months has seen the introduction of the Family Front Door which has embedded a daily domestic abuse triage, reviewing every domestic abuse incident within the preceding 24 hours.

3.4 The Forum has worked closely with its partners and the Safeguarding Boards and successes over the past 12 months include the launching of a Healthy and Respectful relationships toolkit for schools, the re-introduction of the Specialist Domestic Violence courts (SDVC), a second full day's conference for Magistrates around domestic abuse and Worcestershire being awarded National White Ribbon Status.

3.5 This year has seen the Forum support 3 domestic homicide reviews with the reports published on the respective community safety websites, with another 3 cases being referred. Developing a strategic approach to domestic abuse training and developing work with Housing Associations will be a focus into 2017.

3.6 The Forum will complete a review of its Strategy and Action Plans for 2017.

#### **4. Alcohol and Substance misuse:**

4.1 The new Health and Wellbeing Board Alcohol Plan 2016-21, which was co-produced with stakeholders including Police, PCC, elected members, Worcester University and voluntary sector organisations, sets a series of actions designed to promote responsible drinking, including work with licenced premises.

4.2 Swanswell Charitable Trust are commissioned by Public Health and deliver specialist drug and alcohol services for young people, adults and families in Worcestershire incorporating a recovery-focused outcome-approach incorporating prevention and early intervention. The service has proved effective at working within the criminal justice sector and assisting to reduce reoffending and helping people access employment and housing.

4.3 Novel Psychiatric Substances (NPS) and the health implications attached to their misuse continue to present an increasing challenge. The partnership is working with WM Police to publicise recent legislation and the dangers inherent in misusing these substances. We await a new Government Strategy on drugs and will consider our strategic response with key partners.

4.4 The Substance Misuse Strategic Oversight Group has full criminal justice and CSP representation included in its membership and is sighted on and supports community safety activity.

#### **5. Reducing Re-offending:**

5.1 CSPs have a statutory responsibility to reduce crime and re-offending in each area. Tackling crime is a partnership matter, with key local organisations working together to develop a new strategy.

5.2 The partners involved in reducing re-offending activity meet on a monthly basis at the One Day One Conversation (ODOC) meeting to discuss all individual offenders. Actions are issued in relation to the management of individuals and interventions are identified to support the individual offenders. Developing co-location arrangements continues to be a priority for all partners involved in Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme. There is now a specific focus upon perpetrators of domestic abuse and serious and organised crime.

5.3 The Worcestershire Reducing Re-Offending Strategy Group now receives performance information on a quarterly basis and once endorsed by the group, forwards the information to the PCC as part of the CSP funding monitoring return. The existing performance indicators may require reviewing, by working with the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) in order to clarify their responsibilities around performance measurements relating to reoffending. Monitoring information focuses on the local Worcestershire ODOC performance.

5.4 For 2016 (January to December) individuals on the reoffending programme have re-offended as follows:

South Worcestershire has reduced from 24 individuals in January 2016 to 15 in December. North Worcestershire has reduced from 30 to 28 in the same period. While neither of these has been a consistent reduction with significant peaks and troughs, the general direction is positive.

## **6. Harm Reduction: (incorporating Anti-Social Behaviour, Safeguarding, Cyber Crime, Hate Crime and Child Sexual Exploitation)**

6.1 ASB is prioritised and dealt with by the CSPs which are seeing a change in the profile to more "personal ASB" (a new approach to categorisation) with reducing neighbourhood ASB. The former may involve such issues as targeted ASB and online bullying and may be indicative of a generation spending more time at their computer keyboards. There is also a commensurate rise in broader cyber-crime.

6.2 Safeguarding is embedded into the working practises of the SCB partner agencies, but more formalised working arrangements with the Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards and the HWBB will be put in place with the SCB becoming a signatory of a joint working protocol with those bodies.

6.3 Cyber Crime is the emerging threat as noted in the PCCs Plan. It is unclear at this time what the scale of the threat/risk is, as West Mercia Police are developing an understanding in conjunction with the national agency Action Fraud.

6.4 A new Digital Inclusion Co-ordinator post, hosted by Public Health, with PCC support, is bringing together work to enable more people to utilise the internet, working to meet the Police and PCC priority of raising awareness of cyber security and internet safety.

6.5 The Hate Incident Partnerships (HIP) continue to operate using the same principles as the MARAC process which is widely regarded as best practice in terms of enabling a multi-agency approach to data sharing and offering support to victims of hate incidents and hate crimes. In 2017/18 consideration will be given to how the North and South HIP's can potentially work more effectively together, with a view to delivering a focus on community tension monitoring.

6.6 The SCB and CSPs are actively supporting the Children's Safeguarding Board's plans on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) both through local operational activities with the Police and by ensuring that the strategic response to CSE is co-ordinated primarily through the CSE Action Plan, which is due to be reviewed and updated, following the recent Ofsted of WCC Children's services.

6.7 Prevent remains a priority within Worcestershire, focusing on training and awareness raising and ensuring that all partner agencies have access to training packages and have appropriate corporate policies in place.

6.8 The Worcestershire Prevent Strategy Group has developed a practical action plan which supports and oversees the work of Specified Authorities who are required to implement duties under the Counter Terrorism Act. A key focus is to raise awareness of the Prevent Agenda amongst community members and to show how partner agencies can work together to improve cohesion and integration.

6.8 This will be reviewed with the publication of the next Counter Terrorism Profile for Worcestershire in Spring 2017.

6.9 The SCB oversees the Channel Panel process which manages referrals of cases that may cause concern in terms of radicalisation. Prevent referrals now go via the MASH / Adult Safeguarding team prior to any cases reaching the Panel. Data relating to the Channel panel is restricted but verbally reported to the SCB and both Safeguarding Boards.



## Appendix A

## CSA Action Plan 2017-18

The following actions will be monitored and the plan regularly reviewed and updated by the SCB through to March 2018

Theme	Action	Timescale	Lead
<b>Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence</b>	Completion of revised Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan	July 2017	WCC PH
	Recommissioning of the DA Service	July 2017	WCC PH
	Review of domestic abuse training requirements across the partnership	June 2017	WCC PH
<b>Alcohol and Substance Misuse</b>	Blue Light Project (Alcohol Concern) launched	June 2017	Swanswell
<b>Reducing Reoffending</b>	Reducing Offending Strategy renewed and adopted	June 2017	Reducing Offending Strategy Group
<b>Prevent</b>	Review, update and continue to implement the Prevent Action Plan.	June 2017 (New CTLP)	WCC PH/PSG
<b>Harm Reduction – Hate Crime</b>	Review of current Hate Incident Partnership arrangements.	June 2017	WCC PH/CSP's
<b>Harm Reduction - Cyber Crime</b>	Awareness delivered by WCC/ West Mercia Police on Cyber security. 12 events by June 2017	June 2017	WCC Digital inclusion / WM Police

<b>Child Sexual Exploitation</b>	Contribute to the development and implementation of the new CSE action plan	TBC	WCC PH/CSP's
<b>Other priorities</b>	SCB to become signatory of Joint Working Protocol with the HWBB and two Safeguarding Boards	May 2017	WCC PH
	Community Safety Information Sharing Protocol refreshed and signed	June 2017	WCC PH
	Work with WM Police to coordinate and support a programme of campaigns	To March 2018	CSPs / WCC PH
	Review Partnership Governance	March 2018	WCC PH/CSP's

## **Appendix B**

### **Worcestershire Community Safety Governance**

Please note that this document does not provide an exhaustive list. These are the main groups currently working to deliver against community safety objectives, however, there are further operational groups, sub groups and task & finish groups also operating underneath some of the key partnerships.

#### Worcestershire Safer Communities Board – Chair: Dr Frances Howie, Director of Public Health WCC

Provide strategic co-ordination and support to community safety and criminal justice activity across Worcestershire. Responsible for the annual Community Safety Agreement and Action Plan. Takes responsibility on behalf of the wider community safety partnerships for those areas of activity that require a countywide and West Mercia area strategic response. Membership is comprised of the Chairs of the 2 CSPs and senior representatives from the Responsible Authorities (Local Authorities, Police, National Probation service, CRC, Fire & Rescue, Clinical Commissioning Groups), the Office of the PCC and the Chair of the Health & Well-Being Board.

#### Worcestershire Reducing Re-Offending Strategy Group – Chair: Sue Hanley, Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils

A subgroup of the SCB, this provides strategic guidance, support and co-ordination to the delivery of IOM work in Worcestershire. Responsible for the development and implementation of performance measures and evaluation, working in co-operation across West Mercia where required. Membership is comprised of representatives from the Responsible Authorities and other agencies who work directly with offenders from across the voluntary and community sector.

#### Worcestershire Domestic Abuse Forum – Chair: Tim Rice WCC PH

The Forums aim to reduce domestic abuse and sexual violence by strengthening inter-agency working, raising public awareness and changing attitudes. This is achieved through multi-agency meetings, policy development, lobbying, awareness raising campaigns and training. The Forum works closely with service providers to ensure that policy work is practice-based, consistent and up to date, and to provide resources to support the effective delivery of services. It also provides commissioning support and advice as required. Membership is comprised of representation from the Responsible Authorities plus key voluntary and community sector organisations and other key partners including service user representatives and staff from the University of Worcester.

Worcestershire Prevent Strategy Group (PSG) – Chair: Tim Rice, WCC PH

The PSG is a subgroup of the SCB and co-ordinates the partnership of Specified Authorities and the Police in their response to the Prevent agenda. It oversees the implementation of a strategic Prevent Plan

Worcestershire Channel Panel – Chair: Paul Kinsella, WCC PH

This statutory body ensures co-ordination of activity to prevent violent extremism in Worcestershire and provide interventions to individuals identified as being 'at risk' of engaging in behaviour associated with more extremist ideologies. Provides training to professionals to assist with the early identification and diversion of individuals and provides a proportionate response in line with the government's CONTEST agenda. Membership consists of all Specified Authorities.

Substance Misuse Strategic Oversight Group – Chair: Dr Frances Howie, Director of Public Health, WCC

This group reports to both the SCB and the HWBB. Its role is to support and provide advice and recommendations for the effective performance of substance misuse commissioned services, to meet health and well-being and community safety objectives within Worcestershire, to meet evidenced need. Membership is comprised of staff from WCC plus representatives from Responsible Authorities, National Offender Management Service, Housing, Public Health England, Youth Offending Services, NHS England, Job Centre Plus and the Office of the PCC.

North / South Worcestershire CSP – Chairs: Sue Hanley (North), Rose Rouse (South)

The statutory CSPs work to reduce crime and disorder, deliver projects to tackle the agreed county wide priorities of reducing reoffending, domestic abuse and sexual violence, harm reduction including anti-social behaviour, hate crime and preventing violent extremism and working to tackle drug and alcohol misuse. Priorities are established through an annual strategic assessment process identifying crime patterns and emerging issues. Membership comprises representatives from Responsible Authorities and other key partners including housing providers, victim support and other voluntary and community sector organisations.

West Mercia Community Safety Liaison Group – Chair: Andrew Gough, Shropshire County Council

The Group provides a West Mercia forum where relevant issues, relating to the Police and Crime Plan and other Crime Reduction and Community Safety Strategies, can be considered and co-ordinated. It provides an opportunity to identify, promote and discuss local best practice. Membership of the group is open to representatives of each of the five CSPs in West Mercia,

West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) – John Campion

Publicly elected in 2016 with a statutory role to ensure the policing needs of local communities are effectively met, bringing communities closer to the police, building confidence and trust in the system. PCC's aim to give the public a voice at the highest level, and give the public the ability to ensure their police are accountable. The PCC is also responsible for producing a Police and Crime Plan for their period of office and is accountable for the delivery of objectives within the plan. The PCC's Office oversees the Crime Reduction Board and Victims Board.

West Mercia Police & Crime Panel (PCP) – Chair: Cllr Brian Wilcox, Herefordshire County Council

The strategy body is responsible for scrutiny of the West Mercia PCC and performance against the West Mercia Police & Crime Plan 2016/21. Membership is comprised of 15 elected members representing each of the 10 Local Authorities of West Mercia plus 2 independent co-opted members. Worcestershire County Council is the host authority and administers the group.

West Mercia Crime Reduction Board- Chair Andy Champness OPCC

The West Mercia wide body responsible for overseeing crime reduction (Including reducing re-offending) .Membership comprises CSP leads from across West Mercia, Probation, IOM, CRC, YJS, police officers and the OPCC.

Worcestershire Health & Well-Being Board – Chair: Cllr John Smith WCC Cabinet Member for Health & Well-Being

The Health and Well-being Board oversees the system for local health commissioning. It leads on the strategic planning and co-ordination of NHS, Public Health, Social Care and related Children's Services.

Membership comprises senior representation from local authorities, clinical commissioning groups, NHS England, Healthwatch Worcestershire, West Mercia Police, Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and the voluntary and community sector.

## The Community Safety interrelationships in Worcestershire

