

Worcestershire County Council activities on Community Safety

Worcestershire Safer Communities Board (SCB) and North and South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs):

In two-tier Local Authority areas such as Worcestershire, there is a requirement for a strategic oversight on County wide community safety issues and this is provided through the SCB. The Board carries out this **strategic function** and also oversees a number of sub-groups, the Worcestershire Forum against Domestic Abuse, the Worcestershire Prevent Strategy Group, the Worcestershire Reducing Offending Group and Worcestershire Substance Misuse Oversight Group, which lead on the county-wide response to priority community safety issues. The SCB is co-ordinated and led by Public Health (PH) and the Director of Public Health (DoPH) is the Chair.

The north and south Worcestershire CSPs have the statutory community safety function and their remit is to focus upon the analysis of local community safety issues and support strategic and specific operational approaches to help make local communities safer. They produce and deliver against annual action plans that are backed up by a strategic assessment. They receive funding from the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to support their work. PH officers represent the Council on both CSPs and fully engage and support delivery of their plans. This is a significant contribution by WCC to meeting its s.17 duty.

2016/17 Outcomes

- Annual reports received from the chairs/lead officers from the Forum against Domestic Abuse, the Integrated Offender Management Strategy Group, Substance Misuse Oversight group and Prevent Strategy Group on their activities and outcomes.
- Monitoring of the annual Community safety Agreement (CSA) action plan.
- Commissioning and completion of an external peer review of the governance and operation of partnership working arrangements across Worcestershire and reporting back to the SCB with a series of recommendations. Decision to review it in March 2018

2017/18 current activity

- Peer Review outcomes to be reviewed with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) considering specific recommendations at SCB 20/3/2018
- CSA to be completed 2017/18 completed and actions being monitored.
- SCB has become a signatory to a joint working protocol which is currently in place between the two Safeguarding Boards and the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Co-ordination meetings take place between the Chairs of the two Safeguarding Boards, Health and Wellbeing Board and SCB.
- Finalising the Worcestershire Community Safety Information Sharing Protocol between statutory agencies.
- Review of the current community safety governance in March 2018.

Crime Data/monitoring: Information is provided as required in relation to specific reports from SCB sub groups. Standardised PCC scorecards and Police data are utilised

to monitor crime trends.

West Mercia PCC and West Mercia Police and Crime Panel (PCP):

PCC: WCC works closely with the PCC and his office and in particular continue to develop areas where the Council can co-commission and develop joint working approaches, current examples being the financial support for substance misuse, domestic abuse commissioning and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Council officers support work with the PCC through the West Mercia Crime Reduction Board and regular contact and exchanges. The PCC is currently consulting on whether he should take on oversight of Herefordshire and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service (H&WFRS)

PCP: The Council is responsible for the administration and support of the Panel and this is managed by officers from Legal and Democratic and supported by the Public Health team. The PCP is responsible for scrutinising the PCC and his Police and Crime plan. It meets quarterly and sub groups are set up for reviewing the PCC's proposed annual precept and on an ad hoc basis for specific pieces of work.

2016/17

- Senior officer attendance and support at the West Mercia Criminal Justice Board and close co-operation with the PCC and the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan
- Support for the PCP sub group scrutiny of the PCC budget and precept proposals.
- PH analysts continue to work in formal joint meetings with counterparts in the Police and CSPs to improve data quality and share best practise.
- WCC responded to the PCC's consultation on the new Plan.
- Best practise training for Councillors in their PCP role organised and provided, including preparing for confirmatory hearings of the Chief Constable, the Deputy PCC and finance officer
- Officers worked with a Members sub group on the advertising, shortlisting and interviewing of independent PCP members.

2017/18

- An Induction Programme designed for new members in September.
- Full consultation with and consideration by the PCP of the PCCs consultation on the future of the Fire Authority
- Full report on the increase in reported sexual violence offences and how the PCC is responding due in September.

Crime data/monitoring: Specific quarterly reports and crime trend data and analysis presented to the PCP, plus ad hoc reports as requested.

Reducing reoffending:

The duty to support the reduction of reoffending primarily sits with the CSPs. Worcestershire Reducing Offending Strategy Group oversees the Partnership work in this area and receives funding from the PCC to support activities to reduce offending and re-offending across the county. It is supported by an Operational Management Group, but the focus of the work is through the One Day One Conversation (ODOC) multi-agency meeting that considers individual offenders and tactical responses to reduce their risk of reoffending. This area of business is primarily led by the Police, probation agencies and the CSPs.

2016/17

- Work completed against Integrated Offender Management (IOM) annual work plan
- Officers supported the updating of the IOM reducing reoffending strategy and action plan.
- Officers are working with the IOM team to develop approaches to working with Domestic Abuse Serial Perpetrators so ODOC now deals with MAPPA nominals
- IOM group is now split into Reducing Offending Strategy Group and Operations Group

2017/18

- A sub group of the Strategy Group has been established, the Operational Management Group, to drive progress and performance.
- The Operational Management Group is working on delivering the existing action plan and has produced ToR
- Each group is now now using a standard set of performance figures across W Mercia
- Mental health representation has been secured on both groups.
- PCC's Reducing Reoffending Strategy was published in June and informs the updating of the Worcestershire Reducing Offending Strategy

Crime data/monitoring: A range of data is produced to monitor the offender cohorts which is in turn reported to the OPCC. Work continues with analysts to present data and analysis at a West Mercia wide level with a clear understanding of performance in relation to the 7 pathways:

- Education, Training & Employability,
- Substance Abuse ,
- Accommodation,
- Health and Social Care,
- Children and Families of Offenders,
- Attitude, Thinking and Behaviour
- Finance, Benefits and Debt.

In comparison to the first quarter of 2016, reoffending by the IOM Cohort is much lower, suggesting the intensive work being done with the cohort is having a tangible impact on their offending rates. It also reflects the changing makeup of the cohort, as more high harm offenders continue to be included, who do not tend to commit crime in volume. There are currently 141 IOM subjects from Worcestershire of whom 56 are being managed in the community.

Harm Reduction

Hate Crime:

Hate crime is not recorded as a specific crime type, but a marker is applied to offences to enable analysis. It is primarily led by the CSPs through their Hate Incident Partnerships (HIP)

2016/17

- Support for the Police campaign on Hate Crime week commencing 8 October 2016. Supporting Fortis Living's event "Pride and Prejudice" event.

2017/18

- Officers to support the Hate Crime week campaign October 2017.

Following the EU Referendum there was an increase in reported Hate Crime in both North and South Worcestershire, specifically Racial/Religious Hate Crime affecting the years totals: 467 in 2015/16, 661 in 2016/17 an increase of 41%. Hate Crimes are reviewed on a daily basis and it is apparent that the volume of reports is now increasing too. Local Authorities and CSPs are working locally to try and reduce community tensions and are closely monitoring the situation.

Recent terror attacks have also resulted in a spike this year (2017/18).

There has been no formal analysis into the causes behind the rise but it is likely that it is a mixture of, on the one hand, an *actual* increase on the ground (spurred on by Brexit rhetoric and terror attacks) and on the other hand because of the former there has been an increase in media coverage re hate crime in the media, which has no doubt encouraged more people to come forward than may have done otherwise.

Tension monitoring is to be a focus for the Prevent Strategy Group in 2017/8.

Prevent Duty:

The duties placed on Local Authorities under the counter terrorism legislation have required the Council to review its previous approach to Prevent. This is an area of significant officer activity to ensure WCC complies with the Prevent duties.

A WCC PH officer chairs the statutory Channel Panel which is a multi-agency group that considers voluntary referrals of children, young people and adults where there are specific Prevent related safeguarding concerns about radicalisation or extremism.

A Worcestershire Prevent Strategy group is led and chaired by WCC PH to ensure that Prevent is being effectively embedded across the area. The Group consists of the "Specified Authorities", to whom the Prevent duty applies. The Group will collectively reassure itself and other key agencies such as the SCB and the two Safeguarding Boards that the Specified Authorities are doing what they need to do meet the Prevent duties. A short action plan is being finalised to that end and it will also incorporate some of the recommendations from the annual Police Special Branch Counter Terrorism Profile (CTLTP) for Worcestershire, which is a restricted document.

There are a number of Prevent duties, the most significant being to ensure that the WCC workforce is fully aware of the Prevent duty and how to apply it where required. Other duties include a requirement that new WCC commissioned contractors ensure that their

staff are appropriately briefed on Prevent and that other WCC policies such as the booking and use of WCC public buildings to ensure they are not used for purposes of radicalisation and extremism.

Ofsted, as part of their examination of Children's Services, considered WCC's Prevent arrangements and found " Effective governance arrangements, accountable through the 'Safer communities' board, enable the local authority to meet its statutory requirements concerning 'Prevent' and 'Channel' panel duties. An increased number of referrals from a broad spectrum of agencies are considered by a well-attended monthly 'Channel' panel."

The CTLP concludes that Worcestershire is considered to be a safe and low risk area in relation to risks of terror attacks but all parties must be vigilant and have polices and processes in place to ensure that risk is mitigated.

2016/17

- WCC Senior Leadership Team were fully briefed on the Prevent duties and they agreed the establishment of an officer task and finish group to steer this work.
- Reports on the Prevent duty to the Adults and the Childrens' Safeguarding Boards.
- Staff awareness raising events on radicalisation and extremism provided for WCC staff via the Home Office Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) briefings and Prevent eLearning packages.
- The Council finalised its arrangements to receive Prevent referrals and make onward referrals to the Channel Panel where there are concerns about radicalisation or extremist views.
- Setting up of triage arrangements via the WCC Family Front Door and Adult Safeguarding team for referrals.
- PH officers briefed WCC Elected Members on Prevent and the Channel arrangements in three sessions
- Prevent briefing for Worcestershire Voices Board to assist the voluntary sectors response to prevent and dealing with any Channel referrals.
- Prevent presentation at the Hate Crime day Oct 2016
- Prevent is a part of all contracts, the HR handbook and Room Booking policies

2017/18

- Reports on the Prevent duty scheduled for the Adults and the Childrens' Safeguarding Boards.
- Presentations on Prevent at the Learning Disabilities carers and Autism Forums have taken place
- PH officer has presented at Christopher Whitehead School on radicalisation during citizenship day
- Work ongoing to identify and share tension indicators in a timely fashion
- PH developing a new approach to awareness raising and training within WCC and Partners' staff
- WCC SLT has agreed an organisational mandate for awareness training across the Authority.
- SLT have received a briefing on Operation Argus (the strategic response to the threat of marauding terrorist attack)
- New Elected Members to be briefed on Prevent as part of their induction
- Focus on Engagement and Cohesion through District activity is being discussed as part of a T&F sub-group of the Prevent Strategy Group

Redacted data is presented to Adults' and Children's Safeguarding Boards as well as to the Prevent Strategy Group.

Domestic abuse:

The Worcestershire Forum against Domestic Abuse has continued to work towards the prevention and reduction of domestic abuse in all its forms.

2016/17

- Re-introduction of the Specialist Domestic Violence courts (SDVC) into Worcestershire in August 2016, with a resulting increase in first time guilty pleas.
- The second annual Magistrates conference, with 120 attending from across West Mercia. WCC are currently supporting Shropshire to deliver a half day event.
- Now holding Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for Worcestershire every two weeks.
- Three further Domestic Homicide reviews have been referred with two being undertaken.
- Successful 16 days of action campaign with a social media campaign #LeadersSayNo which had significant national social media coverage.
- In September 2016 the DA co-ordinator organised a training event "Safeguarding Children, Preventing Homicide" for Family Front Door teams. In addition further sessions have been delivered with Adult social care teams and numerous GP sessions.
- A conference for Adult Social Care entitled "Safeguarding Victims, Preventing Homicide" ran on the 2nd December. The event was a result of emerging issues that have been identified from Worcestershire Domestic Homicide Reviews and to raise awareness across the workforce.
- The DA Forum has collaborated with the Children's Safeguarding Board on developing Healthy and Respectful relationships agenda, and a new toolkit for schools of recommended materials for young

2017/18

- A new DA service has been recommissioned by WCC PH from July 2017 with West Mercia Women's Aid and Rooftop Housing Group.
- New Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-20 launched with action plan.
- A series of bids made under the End Violence against Women and Girls Home Office fund and Transformational fund.
- A successful bid made to the DCLG for funding to support work with BME victims.
- Work underway with housing providers to enhance role with domestic abuse. One workshop held, more planned.
- Working with the Children's Safeguarding Board and Adult Safeguarding Board an innovative system for approving authors / chairs for statutory reviews (DHR's, SAR's and SCR's) was launched on social media in July.
- DA training review in progress. This will seek to secure some convergence with both adults and children's services.
- Worcestershire MARAC arrangements positively highlighted within the recent Ofsted inspection of children's services
- Professionals DA information pack reviewed and re-launched August.
- Continue to work with the PCC to explore perpetrator programmes to address a gap in demand and service provision
- The DA Forum Children's Group re-formed under the chair of Assistant Director of Children's Services with new focus on audit and assurance that children are safer.

<p>people is being made available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular DA Forum Newsletter produced which sets out the activities and issues relating to DA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audits are planned on a number of children repeatedly being exposed to DA.
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Crime data/monitoring:

Between January 2016 – January 2017 there has been a 16% increase in the recording of domestic abuse across Worcestershire (10,676 cases). The increases in reported crimes are mirrored in increased calls to the specialist domestic abuse helpline by a further 53%.

a 50% increase in cases at MARAC with 753 high risk cases being discussed compared to 502 the previous year. Despite the increase we have seen a decrease in the number of children being repeatedly exposed 5 and 3 times by 11% and 8% respectively, though have seen a 2% rise in the total number of children being exposed. We have seen a significant rise in the number of repeat victims but are still within the acceptable banding level set out nationally Safelives.

Work undertaken with Children's Services has revealed that domestic abuse is the highest risk factor in assessments and significant in both those children on Child protection plans and Looked after children.

Sexual Violence/Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):

NHS England, in conjunction with the PCC is the lead commissioner of health services for victims of sexual violence and rape, with Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in England, being where the health care and therapeutic pathways and wider Sexual Assault services are provided. The SARC, based in Bransford Worcestershire, is the main centre in West Mercia and it currently operates under contract to G4S, but is due to be recommissioned. A paediatric SARC service was recommissioned earlier in 2017.

Additionally the PCC currently commissions a number of projects that support victims of rape and sexual violence primarily through WRASAC in Worcestershire, who provide a range of services including Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA) for women, males, families and children and young people.

The Children's Safeguarding Board has a CSE strategy and comprehensive action plan designed to take an overarching approach to tackling. The SCB and CSP's fully support those objectives and the work is led by the CSE strategy and operational groups. The Family Front Door has developed a triage system whereby daily multi agency meetings assess CSE and missing young people cases.

2016/17

Support for the Police campaign on "Stop Rape Now" in September and December 2016.

2017/18

- CSE strategy and action plan being updated supported by WCC officers.
- PH team completed a CSE self-assessment for Public health England.
- PCC to report back on sexual violence to the September Police and Crime Panel.

Crime data/ Monitoring:

In 2016/17

- There were a total of 702 rape and sexual offences in North Worcestershire, an increase of 24% from 2015/16. 60% of reported rapes occurred within the last 12 months.
- There were a total of 775 rape and sexual offences in South Worcestershire, an increase of 25% from 2015/16. 57% of reported rapes occurred within the last 12 months.

Drugs and alcohol:

The OSPB scrutiny exercise underway entitled 'Effectiveness of the Prevention and Recovery Drug and Alcohol Misuse Service', which commenced following an Adult Care and Wellbeing O&S Panel on 16 March 2016, to consider the drug treatment service commissioned by PH reported favourably and the agreed contract with current provider, Swanswell, is to be extended to 4 years until March 2019

The Council's commissioned service provider Swanswell has made significant improvements in positively supporting criminal justice outcomes and works very closely with the Police and probation services in relation to arrest, people in custody, treatment orders and requirements, working in prison and supporting the wider operational and strategic meetings as necessary.

There are significant challenges for all key agencies regarding the use of Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and the impact of changes in legislation on NPS continues to be monitored closely.

2016/17

- The co-occurring MoU between Swanswell and WHACT was agreed and signed 15.12.2016
- Public Health has developed a Twitter account and a Facebook page to provide information on drugs e.g. information on NPS targeted at festival goers.
- Support for the West Mercia Police campaign around NPS in November 2016.
- Use of Public Health as a formal consultee relating to licencing applications is under way, with a focus upon the impact of crime and disorder.
- Public Health working in partnership with Worcester Business Improvement District (BID) and licensees in Worcester City to support responsible licencing schemes such

2017/8

- Following successful evaluations nationally, the Blue Light initiative, to tackle change resistant drinkers, is being introduced in Worcester City as a partnership between Alcohol concern and Swanswell.
- Critical 10 group in Worcester City working with the 10 most resource intensive individuals to be used as the "intelligence cell" for homelessness activity in Worcester.
- Best Bar None (licensee run supported by agencies including PH) is operating in Worcester and Bromsgrove and a scheme in Malvern and Redditch is being considered.
- A H&WBB Alcohol event will be held on November 15th which coincides with Alcohol Awareness Week.
- PH now provides conditions for alcohol licencing applications to ensure safe

as Best Bar None and Purple Flag.	<p>enjoyment of alcohol and a toolkit has been produced to support the process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional pilot scheme with West Midlands Ambulance service introduced to provide data to inform the licensing process. • Government National Drug Strategy released in July 2017 is under consideration by PH team.
<p>Crime data/ Monitoring: In 2016/17 and 17/18 performance against all key performance indicators, including those regarding alcohol, opiates and non-opiates, has continued to improve. In addition, improvements for opiates and alcohol are in line with the top quartile range for comparator local authorities. From this year, the HWBB is assessing its performance on alcohol & crime using the violence against person (with injury) with an alcohol marker metric – this has consistently reduced when measured as a percentage of overall violent crime (which has risen considerably): 1437 crimes constituted 8.2% of violent crime in Feb 2014 - Feb 2015 whereas 1821 made up 5.7% of the total in Feb 2016 - Feb 2017.</p> <p>Since September 2016, PH has received 60 applications for comment on new licences and variations.</p>	

Funding and commissioning:

Set out below are the headline PH costs in relation to community safety related activity. PH community safety related expenditure 2016/17 (rounded) and projected for 2017/8. The staffing equates to the Full Time Equivalent posts who have community safety related functions as part of their wider PH roles.

Staffing (2 FTE's)	<p>Actual Expenditure 2016/7 £138,580</p> <p>Projected Expenditure 2017/8 £144,380</p>
Alcohol and Substance misuse contract:	<p>Actual Expenditure 2016/7 £3,995,141 plus £106,000 funded by West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner</p> <p>Projected Expenditure 2017/8 £3,798,000 plus £106,000 funded by West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner</p>
Domestic Abuse contract:	<p>Actual Expenditure 2016/7 £462,000pa</p> <p>Projected Expenditure 2017/8 £ 417,000pa</p>