

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 7 SEPTEMBER 2017

ANNUAL WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

Summary

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is asked to:
 - consider the Annual Update on developments in relation to Community Safety in Worcestershire:
 - consider the County Council's role, with partners in relation to:
 - Prevent/Cohesion
 - Modern Day Slavery and Trafficking
 - Cyber Crime
 - Sexual Violence

Background

2. Key partners involved in community safety have been invited to attend.
3. Appendix 1 to this Report sets out an overview of the activities that the Council has been and is engaged in relating to its community safety function. It confirms the statutory duties of both the Local Authority and the Director of Public Health (DoPH) relating to community safety and ways in which those duties are complied with and the assurance arrangements that are in place in this regard.
4. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) as a Responsible Authority has to comply with its duty under s.17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended), which requires each Authority to exercise its functions with due regard and to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and the misuse of drugs and alcohol and other substances and reduce reoffending.
5. This is a corporate responsibility for all Directorates, although the strategic co-ordination of community safety partnership working and corporate leadership sits with the DoPH in the Directorate of Public Health (PH).
6. Section 30 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, gives the DoPH, responsibility for, amongst other matters, their Local Authority's role in co-operating with the police, the probation service and the prison service to assess the risks posed by violent or sexual offenders. They should also work with local criminal justice partners and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) to promote safer communities.
7. WCC fulfils its s.17 duty in a number of ways across Directorates, through commissioning and operational activity and ensuring that policies reflect the duty.

8. A diagram showing the bodies engaged in community safety in Worcestershire and the links between partners is attached as Appendix 2.

9. Short briefings by the Police and WCC will enable the Board to consider the following topics:

- Prevent/Cohesion
- Modern Day Slavery and Trafficking
- Cyber Crime
- Sexual Violence

10. An update on actions from the Reducing Crime Against People at Risk, Scrutiny Task Group recommendations (June 2014) is provided at Appendix 3.

Conclusion:

11. WCC continues to meet its own duties relating to community safety as far as it reasonably can and makes a significant contribution across Worcestershire and West Mercia through its leadership role and its commissioned services.

12. The Directorate of Public Health and the DoPH will continue to ensure that systems assurance and rigour is embedded in the Council's responsibilities for community safety.

Purpose of the Meeting

13. The OSPB is asked to consider:

- (a) The content of the Annual Community Safety report;
- (b) Whether it wishes to make any comments to the Cabinet Member for Health and Well-being, WCC officers or partner agencies; and
- (c) Whether there are any issues which should be the subject of future scrutiny work.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1: Worcestershire County Council activities on Community Safety
- Appendix 2: Diagram setting out Community Safety governance in Worcestershire and the links between partners
- Appendix 3: Update table on Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Task Group (June 2014)

Contact Points for this report

Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

All Agendas and Minutes are available on the Council's website at:
<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/democratic-services/minutes-and-agendas.aspx>