

Agenda

Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

Thursday, 21 October 2021, 10.00 am
County Hall, Worcester

All County Councillors are invited to attend and participate

This document can be provided in alternative formats such as Large Print, an audio recording or Braille; it can also be emailed as a Microsoft Word attachment. Please contact Scrutiny on telephone number 01905 844963 or by emailing scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and **'other disclosable interests'**

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
 - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
 - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

Thursday, 21 October 2021, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

Membership

Councillors:

Cllr Tom Wells (Chairman), Cllr Richard Morris (Vice Chairman), Cllr Alastair Adams, Cllr Brandon Clayton, Cllr Kyle Daisley, Cllr Mike Rouse, Cllr Shirley Webb and Cllr Richard Udall

Co-opted Church Representatives (for education matters)

Mr T Reid (Church of England)

Parent Governor Representatives (for education matters)

Mr M Hughes

Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	Apologies and Welcome	
2	Declaration of Interest and of any Party Whip	
3	Public Participation Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance in writing or by e-mail indicating the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting (in this case 20 October 2021). Enquiries can be made through the telephone number/e-mail address below.	
4	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (to follow)	
5	Worcestershire County Council Community Safety Update Report	1 - 12
6	Member Update, Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Plan	13 - 22

Agenda produced and published by the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP. To obtain further information or hard copies of this agenda, please contact Alyson Grice (01905 844962)/Samantha Morris 01905 844963 email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website [here](#)

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE 21 OCTOBER 2021

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE 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; and
 - the update on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
2. Key partners involved in community safety have been invited to attend this meeting.

Background and context to community safety

3. The OSPB has been designated by the Council as its statutory Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee and is responsible for the consideration of Crime and Disorder matters. As part of this responsibility, the Board usually meets on an annual basis with Crime and Disorder partners, to discuss issues of mutual interest.
4. 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, Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Probation Service), to develop policy and operational approaches to prevent crime and disorder, combat substance misuse and reduce reoffending.
5. Community Safety is not a specific “service” as such and the wide ranging s17 requirements are carried out through a range of Worcestershire County Council (the Council) and Worcestershire Children First (WCF) duties and activities.
6. These include some significant commissioned services. Activities for instance include the wider safeguarding management responsibilities within the People Directorate and WCF (such as the GET SAFE child criminal exploitation services and tackling issues such as modern slavery and trafficking). There is strong partnership working which extends into to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and private sector. Much of the work is about systems leadership, coordination, and reassurance, to ensure that these responsibilities are brought together as appropriate and co-ordinated in a way that helps protect the local population. There are good working relationships with the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) across the Council and WCF, with excellent examples of co-operation in commissioning of services relating to child exploitation and domestic abuse in particular.

7. At County level, in two tier Local Government, there is a requirement for a group to take strategic oversight of community safety matters, although it does not have the same operational duties that are required of Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's). The Worcestershire Safer Communities Board (SCB) discharges the statutory duty under S17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (within two tier authority areas) to provide strategic coordination and support to community safety and criminal justice activity, in Worcestershire, taking account of national legislation and guidance. It produces an annual Community Safety Agreement and action plan and has oversight of several priority areas overseeing the work of subgroups on domestic abuse, substance misuse, reducing offending and Prevent and Prepare (violent extremism). The Board is chaired by the Director of Public Health, Dr Kathryn Cobain and administered by dedicated officers in the County Council's public health team.

Coordination with other partnership boards

8. All members have key strategic roles and are responsible for reporting back to their own organisations. They are also engaged in other, related, forums such as the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel, the West Mercia Criminal Justice Board, the Health and Well-being Board, Adults Safeguarding Board and Children's Safeguarding Partnership.

9. The Safer Communities Board (SCB) has a joint working agreement with the Adults Safeguarding Board, Children's Safeguarding Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB). There is a regular meeting between the Chairs and senior officers of these groups.

Annual Update on developments in relation to Community Safety in Worcestershire

Drug and Alcohol Abuse (Substance Misuse Oversight Group (SMOG)):

10. The purpose of the SMOG is:

- To provide oversight and strategic support for the coordination and alignment of health, well-being, criminal justice, and community safety outcomes in relation to reducing drug and alcohol related harms and promoting recovery in Worcestershire.
- To ensure effective communication and productive joint working arrangements between key agencies and stakeholders to deliver reductions in drug and alcohol related harms and an increase in visible recovery in Worcestershire

11. The SMOG's current activities include:

- Overseeing the development and drafting of a new five-year Alcohol and Drugs Strategy.
- Overseeing the development of a Partnership Outcomes Framework to monitor progress of the strategy's key strategic priorities.
- Overseeing the local implementation of the recommendations of the Dame Carol Black Review.
- Reviewing and responding to drug related deaths (through the Drug Related Deaths Sub-group).

- Reviewing local drug alert processes in the context of new and emerging threats such as fentanyl.
- Scoping the requirements of implementing Community Sentence treatment Requirements (combining alcohol, drug and mental health community treatment orders).
- Developing recovery support networks and interventions with a particular focus on supporting access to employment, education, training, and volunteering.

Prevent

12. The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is also known as the Prevent duty. The Worcestershire Prevent Strategy Group (PSG) role is to provide strategic co-ordination and support to the Government's PREVENT agenda, in Worcestershire, taking account of national legislation and guidance. It receives an annual Counter Terrorism Local profile for Worcestershire. From this, a local risk assessment has been created and the annual action plan has been developed.

13. The principle focus this year is on the new Training Strategy and awareness raising in schools. The new, national prevent training modules that were reported on in last year's update as being developed by the Home Office have been delayed and, despite assurances from the Home Office that they would be available in support of the Council's mandatory training, they are not now expected to come online before the end of the year. An Advanced PH Practitioner continues to support Schools Safeguarding Leads with training on Prevent awareness and referrals.

14. Referrals to the Worcestershire Channel Panel have increased recently which may be related to schools returning to the physical classroom. Advice from the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) is that it is inappropriate to share statistics, but common themes include an increase in Right Wing referrals and a consistent issue with individuals with mental health issues and learning difficulties.

15. The Home Office has recently created a new Prevent role for a Regional Advisor in the West Midlands. The PSG Chair and Channel Chair met with the newly appointed Advisor on 14 September to start to build a relationship and ensure mutual understanding.

16. This new Regional Home Office Advisor attended the 6 October PSG, taking away some examples of best practice and some local issues to consider with the Home Office and Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU). He then attended the 8 October Channel Panel and, in an informal review, commented favourably on the meeting and its members professionalism.

17. In September 2021, panel members attended and completed an immersive learning event in Birmingham, receiving very positive feedback about their decision-making processes and records.

18. The government (Home Office) created a new duty in 2021 upon the Tier 1 Local Authority to issue an Annual Assurance Statement regarding Channel Panels. This assurance statement captures local authority compliance with the requirements laid out under sections 36 – 41 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA) (as amended by the Counter Terrorism Border Security Act 2019) relating to Channel panels. It forms part of a self-assessment for local authorities capturing Channel practice within each local authority area and levels of compliance against aspects of Channel delivery articulated in the Channel Statutory Duty Guidance 2020. Section 36 (7) of the CTSA states that panels must have regard to this guidance. The Statement considers processes and whether the Chair and Deputy Chair have the appropriate skills and authority to discharge the duties of the Panel. This document was endorsed by the Council's Chief Executive and returned to the Home Office on 12 April 2021.

Protect

19. The Protect arrangements (forming part of the CONTEST, Counter Terrorism Act response) have been given significant prominence in this year's Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP), on account of the Government proposal to legislate on a new "Protect Duty" and the findings coming out of the Manchester Arena bombing. The Government recognises that there needs to be a robust approach and guidance, similar to that provided for Prevent, around protecting spaces to which the public have access. The Home Office have now completed a Consultation on a new Protect Duty, as part of the Government's approach to improving protective security and preparedness at public places to mitigate the impact of a terror attack. They sought views on proposals for certain owners and operators of public places to consider possible threats, assess the risk and take reasonable steps to protect against them.

20. Following discussions with the CTU Police, Worcestershire Local Authorities and the West Mercia Local Resilience Forum (LRF), it was agreed that a Worcestershire Protect Group would be established. The Council's Assistant Director Economy, Major Projects and Waste was nominated and agreed as Chair. The Protect Group will be a sub-group of the SCB, who will require assurance of the Worcestershire approach on Protect.

21. The new duty will apply to all Worcestershire Local Authorities and District Council's (DCs), in particular, will be central to this, with their town centre management oversight and interest in planning of buildings and the street scene. Chief Executives and senior Local Government officers are invited to regular national briefings on Protect and wider CT issues by the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) and the Council has been fully engaged in this.

22. Further work will progress on widening the membership of the Protect Group, any key actions that need to be developed in advance of the new duty being introduced and fully responding once the legislation is enacted, (likely to be 2022).

Reducing Reoffending

23. The Worcestershire Reducing Re-offending Strategy Group's role is to provide strategic co-ordination, oversight and support for reducing re-offending activity in Worcestershire, taking account of national legislation and guidance. It is constituted to discharge the Community Safety Partnerships' responsibilities (S 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998) to reduce re-offending by creating a strategic action plan.

24. The Group is responsible for overseeing the two 'One Day One Conversation' (ODOC) meetings in North and South Worcestershire. It takes responsibility, on behalf of the wider Community Safety Partnerships, for areas of activity that require a countywide and West Mercia area strategic response to reduce re-offending.

25. Worcestershire Reducing Re-offending Strategy Group monitors and supports the work of the Community Safety Partnerships on re-offending reduction and work with other strategic boards to ensure that re-offending reduction responsibilities are effectively co-ordinated at a strategic level. Current activity for the Group includes:

Action Plan

26. This is a statutory requirement that falls to the CSPs; it is discharged on their behalf by the RRG. The plan is intended to focus on the Integrated Offender Management pathways, though the group has been awaiting the finalised Probation Service (West Midlands Region) Reducing Reoffending plan to ensure it aligns with this. The group are supporting a business case for an IOM Officer to be based at HMP Hewell to assist with release planning and management of risks within the community.

Accommodation

27. The prison leavers project has been renamed as the Worcestershire Criminal Justice Housing Pathway.

28. This project funded through Public Health will deliver whole systems review to support the housing and health needs of offenders across Worcestershire. The Objectives are:

- Mapping of suitable accommodation against levels of need
- Visual mapping of current system and pathways including "hand-over points" e.g. mental health and substance misuse
- Collecting qualitative data from people with lived experience of the system
- Review of legal responsibilities and challenge of historical roles
- Review and develop a multi-agency approach to collecting and reporting data and its analysis
- Review of evidence base for offender housing and health prevention and support interventions
- Develop a set of solution-focussed recommendations

Mental Health

29. Mental Health professionals from across West Mercia are engaged in work to establish a West Mercia Criminal Justice Mental Health team, led by Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Performance and Standards Group. A number of different potential intervention pathways have been identified and a gap analysis is being undertaken. This will strengthen the links between criminal justice referrals and mental health provision.

Integrated Offender Management

30. In response to the Joint Ministry of Justice and Home Office strategy (Dec 2020), West Mercia Police have established a multi-agency Task and Finish Group with partners. Key activity currently is the development of an IOM induction pack which looks to provide relevant information to nominals new on the scheme, and a pack for those leaving the scheme. A CPD event is being arranged for the end of 2021 for all IOM staff within the organisation and potentially with partners.

Child Exploitation - GETSAFE

31. GETSAFE Strategic and Operational meetings have been taking place and work against the strategy and action plan has progressed. An updated GETSAFE Strategy (based on the 2020 – 2022 document) is currently being developed.

32. The Exploitation training schedule is still progressing well with around 50 to 75 delegates on every session. Over 7000 professionals from partner agencies, charities and external businesses now trained. The WCF GETSAFE team will continue to look at attendance to ensure attendance from all business areas and address any gaps in provision.

33. The Climb program delivers diversionary activity to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children and young people in society incorporating sports, dance, arts and music, and work with young people who are missing school or college, starting to be reported as missing, or at risk of being drawn into criminal activity. The Program have now reached the end of their waiting list and more referrals are sought.

34. The breakdown of referrals are:

- Redditch and Bromsgrove – 39%
- Worcester City – 21%
- Wyre Forest – 20%
- Wychavon – 13%
- Malvern Hills – 7%

35. Multi Agency audits have been completed on 7 GETSAFE cases. Findings included:

- Advice circulated to address stereotyping and victim blaming language used by professionals.
- Learning for where interoperability between agencies could be improved.
- Comparisons between the Council's GETSAFE audits and those of Shropshire to identify good practice.

Trading Standards

36. The Council's Trading Standards Team is moving back to its more usual focus of crime relating to consumer issues from its activities in support of the response to Covid-19. Doorstep Crime, rogue traders approaching older and vulnerable consumers about unnecessary home improvement or repair work didn't go away during the pandemic and will remain a focus, as will dealing with the victims of mailing and telephone scams. Illicit tobacco was one area that had to be put on hold during Covid but, since January this year over 100,000 illicit cigarettes and several kilogrammes of illicit hand-rolling tobacco have been removed from Worcestershire shops, helping to disrupt the organised criminal groups behind the activity. The service is also currently assessing the penetration of counterfeit goods into Worcestershire markets and car-boot sales. Again, this is with a view to potential disruption activity against organised crime. For more legitimate businesses, the relaunch of the Food law control regime by the Food Standards Agency will see the team required to visit its highest risk food businesses in the coming months.

37. Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) is also restarting its food hygiene inspection programme and has already targeted many of its lowest rated businesses as part of an intelligence-led operation. Formal actions will follow for some from this. Several high-profile Health and Safety enforcement cases, including one fatality hit the courts in Spring 21, with significant fines being awarded. The re-opening of the economy has also resulted in a rush of nuisance issues as the night-time economy gets going again and visitor attractions re-open. Work on Covid continues for the team, but with the focus on business risk assessment for health and safety at work as opposed to specific legislative requirements. The service also continues to support the Local Outbreak Response Team with capacity and running a number of work-streams including the development of local Contact Tracing systems which is funded through Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF).

Conclusion

38. The Council continues to meet its duties relating to community safety as society starts to return to some form of normality after the COVID-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding interim changes in some staffing responsibilities and the move to home and distanced working during 2020, officers across the Authority and in commissioned services continued to maintain front line, strategic and support services to assist and support those who are most at risk and vulnerable and the various partnerships.

39. Managing the consequences of COVID-19 over 2020 and 2021 has significantly impacted on PH, where staff were redeployed to lead and manage the emergency response. Staff who ordinarily worked on community safety were used to support the emergency planning response, managing advice and support, including to care homes and schools and providing daily data and analysis on COVID-19 to a range of leadership groups. Over 2021, this impact has reduced as dedicated staffing has been engaged within the Local Outbreak Response Team

40. What were, in 2020, shorter, virtual, partnership meetings, have become established and embedded virtual meetings conducted on Zoom and, latterly, Teams. This has offered benefits in terms of environmental impact and travelling time offering cost benefit savings as well as maintaining the health of staff. The two Community Safety Partnerships have returned to regular remote meetings in their District areas. At the time of reporting (October 2021) it is likely that partnerships will return to either face-to-face meetings or a hybrid of virtual and face-to-face.

41. There will undoubtedly be considerable adaption still ahead, particularly to working practises and it is unclear what the full direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 will be in the longer term. Some early understanding and learning is being applied and this may result in different ways of service delivery going forward.

Domestic Abuse and the implications of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

42. The impact of Covid-19 has seen a significant change in the way in which services to Domestic Abuse (DA) victims have been provided and Women's Aid confirm that some of their services that have operated remotely and securely will continue, as they have assisted people and staff not having to travel for some appointments and group work. There has been a lot of partner external communications in relation to supporting victims to obtain assistance, the ability to leave home in lockdown if at risk and how to safely communicate and seek advice via phone and IT. During the Covid pandemic the broad trends have shown reductions in cases in the earlier lockdowns, with concerns about suppressed abuse and lack of reporting. The refuge and safe accommodation services did manage demand, despite covid outbreaks in the premises. More recently, cases reported by the police and partner agencies suggest levels returning to those of pre pandemic. Work by WCF and the Police suggest increases in the level of reporting of cases by family members and broadly an increase in DA in families where DA is known, rather than a surge in new cases. There will inevitably be further national and local learning that will influence, strategy, policy and commissioning going forward.

43. Headline data from the Police highlights the scale of the problem in Worcestershire. There were 4,973 domestic abuse incidents and 7,914 crimes reported to the Police in 2019/20 compared with 5,150 Incidents and 8,183 crimes in 2020/21, a reduction of 3.4% and 3.3% respectively. Women's Aid received a total of 7,231 calls to its helpline services in 2020/21, with a recognition of increasing numbers of callers highlighting deteriorating mental health problems.

44. The [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) introduces a number of key changes, including a new definition of DA that includes economic abuse and coercive control, improvements to the criminal justice processes and a range of new duties (Part iv) for Tier 1 Local Authorities (the Council), targeted at the provision of safe accommodation and support services for victims of DA and their families.

45. In response to the new duties, WCC has appointed a multi-agency DA Partnership Board (DAPB) which it has to consult in relation to various specified functions. These include carrying out an assessment of need, preparing and publishing a strategy for the provision of the new services with monitoring and reporting back to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) (previously MHCLG) and commissioning of housing and support for victims of DA and their families. Tier 2 Local Authorities (DC's) are required to cooperate with Tier 1 Authorities in fulfilling these duties.

46. Commissioning arrangements for the new duties have been under consideration for some time and a Joint Commissioning Group, including the Council, the DC's, the PCC and the CCG has been set up to carry out necessary commissioning of current DA services alongside new Part iv services. This is a positive approach to consolidating a variety of Council funding streams and future co-commissioning approaches, notably with West Mercia PCC. It will include for instance, expanding the number and scope of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA's), extending the Drive perpetrator programme and setting up new services to include Psychotherapy support for adults and Psychological support for children, within the new safe accommodation. Market engagement events for prospective bidders for the range of new services have taken place, with a good response from potential service providers.

47. Additional Government funding has been made available for the Part iv duties, including supporting set up and other costs (£50,000) and £1,092,703 to the Council for year one (2021/22) implementation. The DCs have also received funding totalling £160,519. This funding is being aligned with the wider commissioning of existing contracted community services and new comprehensive DA services are planned to commence from 1 April 2022.

48. There is a requirement to carry out a DA needs assessment, which is to be reported to the DAPB and a three-year strategy, both of which focus upon the Part iv duties. One of the key issues that has become evident in this assessment is that there is a requirement for more supported housing stock for the survivors of domestic abuse

49. The new DAPB arrangements: The current draft DLUHC guidance is clear that Local Authorities can utilise existing partnership arrangements, as long as they are set up to meet the new Part IV duties. These duties focus on the safe accommodation and support services and do not cover the wider community-based partnership approaches to DA and the work of the current DA Forum. As with many other Local Authorities, we have adapted the previous DA Forum arrangements, reviewed the Terms of Reference and operation and absorbed the new duties into the existing community safety arrangements to avoid more complex governance and lines of responsibility being created. The required membership is very close to that in our existing DA Forum arrangements and therefore we are retaining what is an experienced and strong representation of key agencies.

50. The main refocus will be upon the way in which we best represent the interest of victims and service users and listen to their voices, through existing partners and other means ensuring we meet the requirements of the equalities duties in identifying and supporting groups with protected characteristics. A proposal, currently under consideration, is to employ an individual tasked with pursuing this and in testing the DAPB activities and strategies with existing groups.

51. The new DA Partnership Board will report to the SCB.

52. The DAPB will support WCC by providing advice on the exercise of the following functions (from the draft DLUHC guidance):

- Assessing the scale and nature of the needs for support within relevant accommodation as described in Regulations for all victims and their children, including those that require highly specialist support and those that come from out of area.
- Preparing and publishing a whole-area domestic abuse Strategy setting out the steps needed to meet the needs of diverse victims and their children, joining up strategies across local areas where appropriate.
- Giving effect to the strategy by making commissioning and decommissioning decisions of support within relevant accommodation at a local level.
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the strategy, including local delivery of support within domestic abuse relevant accommodation.
- Reporting on progress and how DLUHC funding has been utilised.

53. The Domestic Abuse Strategy has been commissioned for completion by a company with experience in these matters. The element relating to the part iv duty will be delivered, in draft form, by 26 October 2021 in order to facilitate a local consultation process to deliver a final document for January 2022. The company are also delivering an overarching Domestic Abuse Strategy for broader Domestic Abuse activity within Worcestershire which will be completed by January 2022.

54. The duty to carry out statutory Home Office Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) sits with the two Community Safety Partnerships. In Worcestershire it has been agreed through the SCB, that these will be co-ordinated at County level, with PH officers carrying out that role as its contribution to the DHR process. Sadly, since the time of the last report, there have been 4 Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) referrals that have been identified as meeting the criteria for review. The process for conducting these reviews is, itself, under review internally and a new protocol is being developed to improve on processes and ensure a more integrated approach with other safeguarding reviews.

Purpose of the Meeting

55. The Board is asked to consider:

- (i) the Annual Update on developments in relation to Community Safety in Worcestershire; and
- (ii) the update on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021;

and agree whether it wishes to make any comments to the Cabinet Member for Health and Well-being, or partner agencies; and

- (iii) Whether there are any issues which should be the subject of future scrutiny work.

Contact Point

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Public Health) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 21 OCTOBER 2021

MEMBER UPDATE, WORK PROGRAMME AND CABINET FORWARD PLAN

Summary

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is asked to:
 - (a) Receive an update on emerging issues and developments within the remit of each Member of the OSPB, including an update on each Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Task Group;
 - (b) Consider the 2021/22 Work Programme and consider whether it would wish to make amendments;
 - (c) Consider the Council's latest Forward Plan to identify:
 - any items it would wish to consider further at a future meeting; and
 - any items it would wish to refer to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel for further consideration.

Member Updates

2. In order to ensure that Members of the OSPB are fully informed about issues relating to scrutiny in Worcestershire, communication between Members is essential. To assist in this, it has been agreed that an item will be placed periodically on the OSPB agenda to enable each member to feedback on emerging issues and developments within their remit. This will also provide an opportunity to highlight possible future agenda items. Regard for the Council's statutory requirements in relation to access to information will be critical.

3. Board Members' areas of responsibility are as follows:

- Adult Care and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Shirley Webb
- Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Kyle Daisley
- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Alastair Adams
- Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Mike Rouse
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Brandon Clayton
- Crime and Disorder – Richard Udall

4. As part of their role, it was agreed by the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) that scrutiny lead members should receive regular briefings from the Directorates they are shadowing. These briefings, alongside the Forward Plan (see below), can be used to help identify any emerging issues that may be appropriate for future scrutiny. Recognising that work across the County Council is of interest and value to all OSPB members, the notes from these briefings (where produced) are available to all members electronically.

5. Members may also be leading scrutiny task groups. It will be important for Members of OSPB to be aware of how each scrutiny is developing so that they can fully consider the final report.

6. Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairmen are asked to feedback on:

- **progress on the work of their Panels and any scrutiny task groups they are leading;**
- **key issues from the Directorate that may be appropriate for future scrutiny;**
- **performance information they have queries or concerns about;**
- **items in the Forward Plan which they consider may be possible issues to scrutinise; and**
- **any other issue which they feel is relevant/of interest to the OSPB.**

Work Programme

7. From time to time the Board will review its work programme and consider which issues should be investigated as a priority.

8. Worcestershire County Council has a rolling annual Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny, which is agreed by Council on an annual basis. The last programme was agreed on 9 September 2021

9. The main responsibilities of the OSPB are:

- Commissioning work for Scrutiny Panels
- Establishing Scrutiny Task Groups (agreeing Terms of reference and Reports)
- Advising on Council's Policy Framework ie Sustainable Community Strategy (if any), Corporate Plan, Children and Young People's Plan, Local Transport Plan, Youth Justice Plan, 'Act Local in Worcestershire' framework, such other plans and strategies as required by law to form part of the Policy Framework or which may be and have been adopted to be part of that Framework eg Corporate Plan, Budget
- Call-ins
- Designated by the Council as its statutory Crime and Disorder Committee and must meet at least annually.

10. The OSPB agreed to use a set of criteria (listed below) to help determine its scrutiny programme. A topic does not need to meet all of these criteria to be scrutinised, but they are intended as a guide for prioritisation.

- Is the issue a priority area for the Council?
- Is it a key issue for local people?
- Will it be practicable to implement the outcomes of the scrutiny?
- Are improvements for local people likely?
- Does it examine a poor performing service?
- Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?
- Is it related to new Government guidance or legislation?

11. The Board is asked to consider its 2021/22 Work Programme (attached at Appendix 1) and agree whether it would wish to make any amendments

Cabinet Forward Plan

12. The Board will wish to consider any issues arising from the Council's Forward Plan. The latest version of the Plan available at the time of Agenda despatch is routinely considered at each meeting of OSPB (attached at Appendix 2).
13. **The Board is asked to consider the Council's latest Forward Plan in order to identify:**
 - **Any items that it would wish to consider further at a future meeting;**
 - **Any items that it would wish to refer to the relevant overview and scrutiny panel for further consideration.**

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1: OSPB 2021-22 Work Programme
- Appendix 2: [Forward Plan 2021](#) (available at 12 October 2021)

Contact Point for the Report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director of Legal and Governance) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website.](#)

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OSPB DRAFT 2021/212 WORK PROGRAMME

Date of Meeting	Issue for Scrutiny	Date of Last Report	Notes/Follow-up Action
21 October 2021	Worcestershire County Council Community Safety Update (including an update on the Domestic Abuse Bill)		Due to COVID-19 An interim update was received in July 2020)
	Member Update, Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Plan		
17 November 2021	How the County Council can support its communities to manage speeding		
	Performance and In-Year Budget Monitoring (Q2/period 6)		
	Member Update, Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Plan		
15 December 2021	Budget Scrutiny		
	Children and Young People Plan		
	Member Update, Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Plan		
Items to be Scheduled			
TBC	Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Report		Policy Framework Report
Possible Future Items			
TBC	Draft Scrutiny Report: Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)		Scrutiny Task Group paused due to COVID-19

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item(s)	Date of Last Report	Notes/Follow-up Action
TBC	Draft Scrutiny Report: Elective Home Education	10 December 2019	Scrutiny Task Group paused due to COVID-19
TBC	Draft Scrutiny Report: Developer-Funded Highways Infrastructure and Section 278 Technical Approval	28 November 2018	Scrutiny Task Group agreed but not started due to other priorities
TBC	Update on Trading Standards (including reporting mechanisms)		Suggested at 22 July 2020 meeting
TBC	Income Generation		Suggested at 17 March 2020 meeting
TBC	The levelling up agenda and the impact on Worcestershire (including the Towns funding allocated to Worcester and Redditch)		Suggested at 30 September 2021 Meeting
TBC	Safety of Worcestershire Parks and open spaces (Crime and Disorder)		Suggested at 30 September 2021 Meeting
Standing Items			
November/January	Budget Scrutiny		
February, April, July and October	Quarterly Performance and In-Year Budget Monitoring - Feedback from Scrutiny Panels		
July	Annual Crime and Disorder Meeting		
April	Annual Update from Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)		
July	Review of Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme		Endorsed by Council in September
As necessary	Call-ins		

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item(s)	Date of Last Report	Notes/Follow-up Action
As necessary	Commissioning work for Scrutiny Panels		
As necessary	Establishing Scrutiny Task Groups (agreeing Terms of reference and Reports)		
As necessary	Advising on Council's Policy Framework ie Sustainable Community Strategy (if any), Corporate Plan, Children and Young People's Plan, Local Transport Plan, Youth Justice Plan, 'Act Local in Worcestershire' framework, such other plans and strategies as required by law to form part of the Policy Framework		

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EEXTRACT OF THE FORWARD PLAN

FORMAL NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN BY, AND PRIVATE MEETINGS OF, CABINET (OR OTHER EXECUTIVE DECISION-MAKING BODY OR PERSON)

Forward Plan	Expected Date of Decision	Page No.
Approval of Plans for New Secondary School for Worcester <i>New Entry</i> Key Decision	28 October 2021	4
School Capital Update <i>New Entry</i>	28 October 2021	5
2022/23 Budget and Council Tax <i>New Entry</i>	9 December 2021	6
Policy and process for the determination of penalties under the Tenant's Fees Act 2019 and associated legislation <i>New Entry</i>	9 December 2021	7
2022/23 Budget and Council Tax <i>New Entry</i>	3 February 2022	8
Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Potentially Key Decision	At every Cabinet Meeting	9
'Called In' Decisions or Scrutiny Reports Potentially Key Decision	Within the plan period	10
Notices of Motion Potentially Key Decision	Within the plan period	11

All entries will be for decision by Cabinet unless otherwise indicate

APPENDIX 2