

Open

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

6pm
Thursday, 3 March 2022
Council Chamber
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Members of Committee:

Chairman: Councillor M J Hart
Vice-Chairman: Councillor S E N Rook

Councillor A Coleman
Councillor P Dyke
Councillor A L L'Huillier
Councillor T L Onslow
Councillor D R Sheppard

Councillor N J Desmond
Councillor C Edginton-White
Councillor S Miah
Councillor D Ross

Would Members please note that, to ensure continuity in scrutiny, substitutes should only be appointed for the Scrutiny Committee in exceptional circumstances.

Information for Members of the Public:

Part I of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this Agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Part II of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of "Exempt Information" for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct ("the Code") requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's constitution for full details.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)

DPI's and ODI's are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council's Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

Co-opted Members

Scrutiny Committees may wish to appoint Co-Opted Members to sit on their committee in order to add value to the scrutiny process. To appoint a Co-Opted Member, a Committee must first agree to appoint either a specific person or to approach a relevant organisation to request that they put forward a suitable representative (e.g. the local Police Authority). Co-Optees are non voting by default but Committees can decide to appoint voting rights to a Co-Optee. The Co-Option of the Member will last no longer than the remainder of the municipal year.

Scrutiny Committees can at any meeting agree to terminate the Co-Option of a Co-Opted Member with immediate effect. Where an organisation is appointed to put forward a Co-Opted Member, they are able to send a substitute in exceptional circumstances, provided that they notify Democratic Services in advance. Co-Opted Members must sign up to the Members Code of Conduct before attending their first meeting, failure to sign will mean that they are unable to participate. This also applies to substitute Co-Opted Members, who will need to allow sufficient time before a meeting in order to sign the Code of Conduct.

The following will apply:

- i) The total number of voting co-opted members on any Scrutiny Committee will not exceed 25% at any one time.
- ii) The total number of voting Co-opted Members on any Review Panel will not be limited.
- iii) Those Co-opted Members with voting rights will exercise their rights in accordance with the principles of decision making set out in the constitution.

For Further information:

If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information, you should contact Louisa Bright, Principal Committee and Member Services Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Telephone: 01562 732763 or email louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Wyre Forest District Council

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 3 March 2022

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Appointment of Substitute Members To receive the name of any Councillor who is to act as a substitute, together with the name of the Councillor for whom he/she is acting.	
3.	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 3 February 2022.	6
5.	Annual Review of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2021/22 To receive a presentation from the Community Services Manager on the annual review of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2021/22.	10
6.	Recommendations from the Fireworks Review Panel To consider the final report and recommendations from the Fireworks Review Panel.	32
7.	Work Programme To review the work programme for the current municipal year with regard to the Corporate Plan Priority, Annual Priorities and the Forward Plan.	35

8.	Press Involvement To consider any future items for scrutiny that might require publicity.	
9.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor of the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
10.	Exclusion of the Press and Public To consider passing the following resolution: “That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

11.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor of the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2022 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), S E N Rook (Vice-Chairman), A Coleman, N J Desmond, P Dyke, C Edginton-White, A L L'Huillier, S Miah, T L Onslow, D Ross and D R Sheppard.

Observers

Councillors: G W Ballinger, R H Coleman, H E Dyke, F M Oborski MBE, M Rayner, J W R Thomas and P W M Young.

Observed remotely: Councillors J F Byng, I Hardiman and C Rogers.

OS.77 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

OS.78 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

OS.79 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.80 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on the 2 December 2021 and the minutes of the meeting of the Sub-committee held on the 20 December 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.81 How are we doing? Performance Update

The Committee considered a report from the HR & Organisational Development Manager which updated members on the performance of the Council for quarter 3 from 1 October to 31 December 2021.

The HR & Organisational Development Manager presented the report and appendices which included a report that detailed the progress against Wyre Forest Forward (WFF) actions that are not directly associated with a Corporate Plan Priority; progress reports against the Corporate Plan Priorities of a 'safe, clean, and green living environment' and 'supporting a successful local economy'; a capital projects report; and an exception report for all WFF and risk actions.

The Committee considered and fully scrutinised each page of the report and appendices in turn. The HR & Organisational Development Manager, Chief Executive and Head of Community & Environment Services, were able to provide members with verbal responses to their questions. A written response to any points where further clarification was sought would be circulated to members after the meeting.

Agreed: The progress in performance for quarter 3 be noted.

OS.82 Treasury Management Strategy 2022-23

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Finance Officer which provided members with background information on the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (Prudential Code) including the 2021 revision. The Committee also considered the recommendations from the Treasury Management Review Panel (TMRP) from its meeting on 31 January 2022.

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report and outlined the key issues. She advised that this was the third and final statutory report which would be presented to the Committee in the current municipal year. She said that the report had been fully scrutinised by members of the TMRP.

The Chairman of the TMRP, Councillor S Miah, said that members had received a fantastic training session from the Council's Treasury Management Advisors, Link Asset Services, and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

Agreed: The Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommends to Council to:

- 1.1 Approve the restated Prudential Indicators and Limits for the financial years 2022-23 to 2031-32 included in Appendix 3. These will be revised for the February 2022 Council meeting, as per paragraph 7.2 of the report, following any changes to the Capital Programme brought about as part of the budget process.**
- 1.2 Approve the updated Treasury Management and Investment Policy and Strategy Statements for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 (the associated Prudential Indicators are included in Appendix 3 and the detailed criteria is included in Section 10 and Appendix 5).**
- 1.3 Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement that sets out the Council's policy on MRP included in Appendix 1.**
- 1.4 Approve the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator included in Appendix 3.**
- 1.5 Notes that the separate, but intrinsically linked, Capital Strategy 2022-32 to be approved separately by Council, sets out the policy statement covering non-treasury investments including the related suite of prudential indicators.**

- 1.6 Notes the implications of the revised Codes as detailed in section 3.1. the new Codes apply with immediate effect, in particular that an authority must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return. Implementation of the new reporting requirements is deferred until the 2023-24 financial year.**

OS.83 Car parking charges 2022-23: Consideration of Call in Request

The Committee considered the call in request signed by the three members of the Liberal Democrat group.

The Chief Executive presented the report which provided the Committee with relevant facts, figures and information on the wider context and background to the decision.

Members were reminded that the system of car parking charges and permits was the subject of significant changes that took effect in April 2020. The new regime that was implemented at that time had been the subject of a detailed report and extensive scrutiny by the Committee in December 2019. It was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the proposed approach, which was then agreed by the Cabinet later that month.

The Chairman invited Councillor F Oborski MBE to address the Committee and outline the reasons for the call in.

A robust discussion ensued. Several members spoke in support of the call in. It was acknowledged that car parking was an emotive issues, however it was felt that the proposed 50% increase in the cost of a full season ticket price was unjustifiable, particularly as many people were facing a cost of living crisis. Another member raised serious concerns about the impact on residents' parking for those living on the outskirts of Kidderminster town centre.

Several members spoke against the call in. A member spoke about the lack of on-street parking in Bewdley and said that parking issues were wide and varied across the district. Members felt that a one-year freeze on current car parking charges would not address these issues. It was acknowledged that the authority had an agreed strategy for car parking charges, expectations of which formed part of the Council's ability to balance its budget.

The Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Operational Services, Chief Executive, Head of Community & Environment Services and Head of Resources were able to provide members with verbal responses to their questions and provide clarification on issues raised.

A member proposed that the Committee support the Cabinet decision that had already been taken, which was seconded. An amendment was moved and second to the effect that the Cabinet revert their decision and increase the charges in line with inflation, and that a cross party working group be set up to look at this issue. Upon a show of hands, a vote on the amendment was taken and lost.

A vote on the substantive motion was taken and agreed.

Agreed: The Committee support the Cabinet decision that has already been taken in respect of car parking charges for 2022-23.

OS.84 Work Programme

The Committee reviewed the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year. The Chairman advised that if there were no items to consider in April, the meeting would be cancelled.

Agreed: The work programme be noted.

OS.85 Press Involvement

There were no further items for scrutiny that might require publicity.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.20pm.



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Kathryn Underhill, Community Services Manager
Date: Thursday, 3 March 2022
Open

Annual Review of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2021/22

1. Summary

- 1.1 To receive a presentation on the annual review of the North Worcestershire CSP 2021/22. This will provide an update on the priorities, performance, successes and challenges in relation to the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP). It is a statutory duty for local authorities to scrutinise the work of its local Community Safety Partnership, under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

2. Background

- 2.1 NWCSP has been in existence since May 2013, following the merger of the three district CSPs in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest. The community safety teams that support and administer the Partnership continue to sit within the respective local authorities.
- 2.2 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDA98) provides the framework for the establishment of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). Membership must include the 'Responsible Authorities' as defined by Section 5 of the CDA98.

The Responsible Authorities on the NWCSP are Bromsgrove District Council, Redditch Borough Council, Wyre Forest District Council, Worcestershire County Council, West Mercia Police, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, Probation Service, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group.

These organisations are charged with working together, along with relevant partners, to formulate strategies to reduce crime and disorder in their local area.

- 2.3 Local representation on the NWCSP is fulfilled through a number of positions. Wyre Forest District Council's Elected Member representative is the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety, Councillor Graham Ballinger. Steve Brant, Head of Community and Environment Services is the Council's Responsible Authority representative and is also the Vice Chair of

the NWCSP. The Council's Community Services Manager, Kathryn Underhill, provides support to the NWCSP and is also chair of the Safer Wyre Forest Operational Group.

- 2.4 The strategic arm of the CSP brings together chief and senior officers of the Responsible Authorities, along with relevant partners, to provide strategic level leadership and co-ordination. The Safer Wyre Forest Operational Group, locally known as Tasking, meets locally on a bi-monthly basis with relevant stakeholders to develop and implement responses to district-based community safety issues.
- 2.5 Alongside the relationship the Council has with the CSP, there is also a direct role in holding the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), John Campion, to account through the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel (PCP), which meets four times a year. Wyre Forest District Council's representative on the PCP is the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety, Councillor Graham Ballinger.

3. Options

- 3.1 That progress by the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership and the Safer Wyre Forest Operational Group be noted.
- 3.2 Members note the partnership activity engaged in tackling the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership priorities in Wyre Forest.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety, Councillor Graham Ballinger
- 4.2 Head of Community Wellbeing and Environment Services

5. Related Decisions

- 5.1 None

6. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 6.1 Wyre Forest District Council Corporate Plan 2021-23

7. Implications

- 7.1 Resources: Staff time and funding from internal and external budgets.

- 7.2 Equalities: There are no negative impacts on equality, which arise as a result of the NWCSP and its associated activities.
- 7.3 Partnership working: The NWCSP Strategic Group and its delivery groups involve a number of partners at a strategic and operational level.
- 7.4 Human Rights: No direct implications from this report.
- 7.5 E-Government: No direct implications from this report.
- 7.6 Transformation: No direct implications from this report.

8. Equality Impact Needs Assessment

- 8.1 As this is an update report, no equality impact needs assessment is required.

9. Wards affected

- 9.1 All wards and across the administrative boundaries of Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest.

10. Appendices

- 10.1 Appendix One: North Worcestershire Partnership Plan 2021-24

11. Background Papers

West Mercia PCC's Safer West Mercia Plan 2021-25

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Partnership Plan 2021-24

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FOREWORD

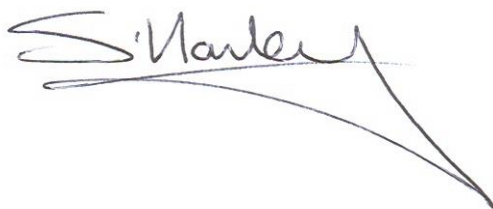
I am pleased to present North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership's (NWCSP) Community Safety Plan for 2021-24. It outlines our priorities over the next three years and the actions we will take to address them.

NWCSP is committed to building on the progress made in recent years and will continue to drive down crime and disorder across Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest. Our partnership is innovative and full of people who are passionate about creating a safe environment for our communities.

Our aim for this plan is to continue to build safer, stronger and more confident communities whilst navigating and adapting to the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 global pandemic.

We will do this by working together to decrease crime, improve community safety and address the threats, harms and risks associated with criminality; and at the same time implementing and responding to the requirements and regulations necessary to support our communities to move toward post-Covid recovery.

In the following pages, we have captured the areas of work that we will focus on as a partnership and the actions we will take to achieve our aims. I hope by reading this plan, you will see how NWCSP works together toward these aims, for the benefit of all who live, work in and visit our towns and villages.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Hanley', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Sue Hanley
Chair of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership

INTRODUCTION

This partnership plan has been prepared by NWCSP to help set out its community safety objectives and aims for 2021-24 in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Since the first national lockdown implemented in March 2020 Covid-19 has continued to pose significant challenges to public agencies, local businesses and voluntary & community sector organisations as they work to support, protect and maintain services to our local residents.

Our partners continue to meet the ongoing challenges of redesigning processes and altering ways of working to provide services that are Covid-safe for both customers and employees alike and this has meant significant change, at an extraordinarily quick pace. Despite this, there also remains a consistent level of customer service and support offered by all partner agencies whilst adapting to and working within the various restrictions and requirements of national Coronavirus policy and regulation.

Both individually and collectively, Community Safety Partnership members are managing the effects of this unprecedented situation, constantly adapting service delivery and working practices in order to continue to support customers and clients, many of whom have been deeply affected by the many and sometimes life-changing consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

Whilst the long term effect Covid-19 will have on crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour is unknown; this Partnership Plan is intended to inform residents, parish and town councils, and other stakeholders including the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner of the specific community safety actions NWCSP will carry out during the forthcoming years.

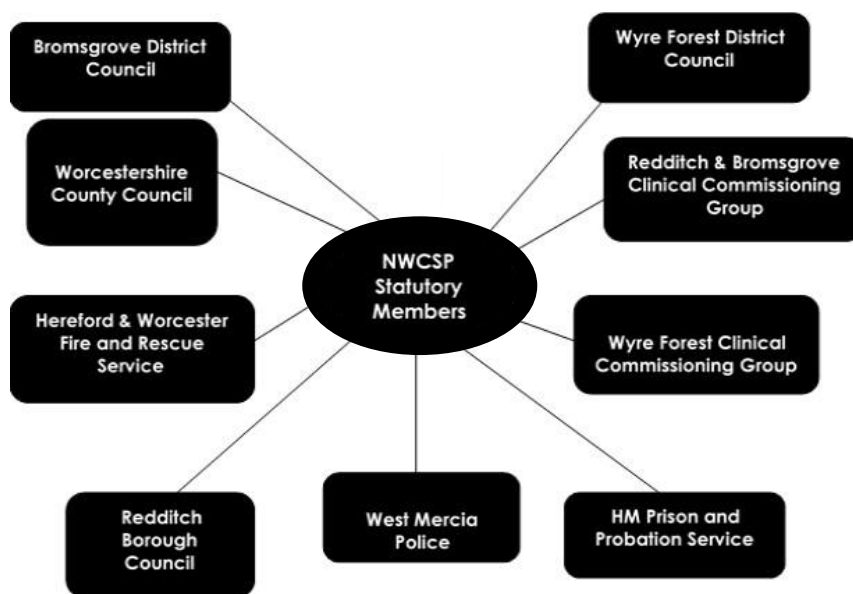
The Partnership vision for North Worcestershire is: -

‘to keep North Worcestershire a safe place to live, work and visit’.

NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (NWCSP)

NWCSP is a strategic partnership, bringing agencies together to reduce crime and offending in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The Partnership is made up of the following statutory organisations, together with a wider range of local agencies such as victim support services, housing associations and voluntary & community sector organisations. NWCSP aims to provide added value to the individual partnership agencies' day to day functions; working together to reduce the risks and harms associated with crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.



NWCSP could not achieve its objectives without help from the public. It is the responsibility of everyone to play their part in helping to make themselves and their communities safer. Anyone can contribute to crime reduction and prevention by reporting crime and disorder when it happens; supporting criminal justice agencies by providing information and intelligence about offences that have taken place; and by taking responsibility for personal safety and the safety of others, particularly the most vulnerable in society.

For ideas on other ways to get involved, please visit www.nwcsp.org

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER

The Partnership has a statutory duty to produce an annual Strategic Assessment which provides the data and evidence for proposed community safety activities and actions, as set out in the Partnership Plan. The Strategic Assessment also provides the framework for the CSP to measure performance and progress towards meeting its agreed outcomes for each of the community safety priorities.

Usually the Strategic Assessment collates the latest information and data, detailing recent levels of crime and ASB. This allows the CSP to consider the current position and assess any changing circumstances or emerging issues that could require multi-agency approaches or interventions. However, this year Covid-19 has had a significant effect on crime figures and data reporting.

Following a report by the Office for National Statistics Centre for Crime and Justice (ONS) released on 3rd Feb 2021, statisticians stated that:

“The coronavirus pandemic and related lockdown restrictions have resulted in fluctuations in the level of crime experienced in England and Wales. Data from the survey [Telephone operated Crime Survey for England and Wales 2020] showed decreases in crime at the start of the pandemic, with rises seen over the summer months, specifically in theft, following the easing of lockdown measures, with overall crime now back at pre-lockdown levels of January to March 2020. There were also fluctuations in police recorded crime, but total recorded offences for July to September 2020 were below that seen in the same period in 2019.”

[ONS - Crime in England and Wales: year ending September 2020](#)

In light of the challenge of 2020/21 crime data, the Partnership has also utilised Strategic Assessments and other CSP data products from previous years to inform priority setting for the refreshed Partnership plan. Alongside this, certain other considerations are also taken into account, such as:

- Level of harm – the impact offences have on victims and wider communities.

- Community concern – the level of priority that local residents attribute to a particular offence.
- Partnership added value – the extent to which multi-agency working can enhance the ability of agencies to tackle a particular pattern of offending behaviour.

This year's priority setting has also been developed with due regard to:

- Existing and emerging national priorities
- NWCSP's statutory duties and obligations
- West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Plan – Safer West Mercia
- Policing priorities included in the West Mercia Force Control Strategy
- Worcestershire Safer Communities Board's Community Safety Agreement

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

John Campion was re-elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia on 6th May 2021. Mr Campion's focus will be on increasing the number of police officers on the streets and ensuring they are visible and accessible to communities. He has also prioritised the fight to reduce crime, bring criminals to justice and spend the public's money on efficient and effective policing. The PCC will be producing a new Police and Crime Plan, which will set out the strategic aims and priorities for his second term in office.

The PCC has a duty to co-operate with CSPs to reduce crime and disorder and there is a reciprocal duty on CSPs to collaborate with the PCC. The PCC and the CSP must also have regard for each other's priorities within their respective plans. PCC's vision has focused on four key areas:

- Building a More Secure West Mercia
- Reassuring West Mercia's Communities
- Putting Victims and Witnesses First
- Reforming West Mercia

This North Worcestershire CSP Plan has been developed to ensure that it aligns with the PCC's vision for policing across West Mercia and will continue to support the aims and objectives of the next West Mercia Police and Crime Plan.

Serious Violence Statutory Duty

In July 2019, the Government announced plans for a new legal duty on public bodies to prevent and tackle serious violence. The new 'public health duty' will cover the police, local councils, local health bodies such as NHS Trusts, education representatives and youth offending services.

The Home Office's intention is that the duty will ensure that relevant services work together to share data, intelligence and knowledge to understand and address the root causes of serious violence including knife crime. It will also allow those services to target their interventions to prevent and stop violence altogether.

The Government intends to amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships, by making sure they have a strategy in place to tackle violent crime.

At the time of writing, NWCSP is still waiting for further information about what this new duty will mean in practice for the Partnership and will respond accordingly to any requirements emerging from the government's Serious Violence Strategy and any related legislation.

Delivering the Partnership Plan

The key to delivering North Worcestershire's priorities is effective and strong partnership working, as no individual agency alone can deliver the objectives of the CSP.

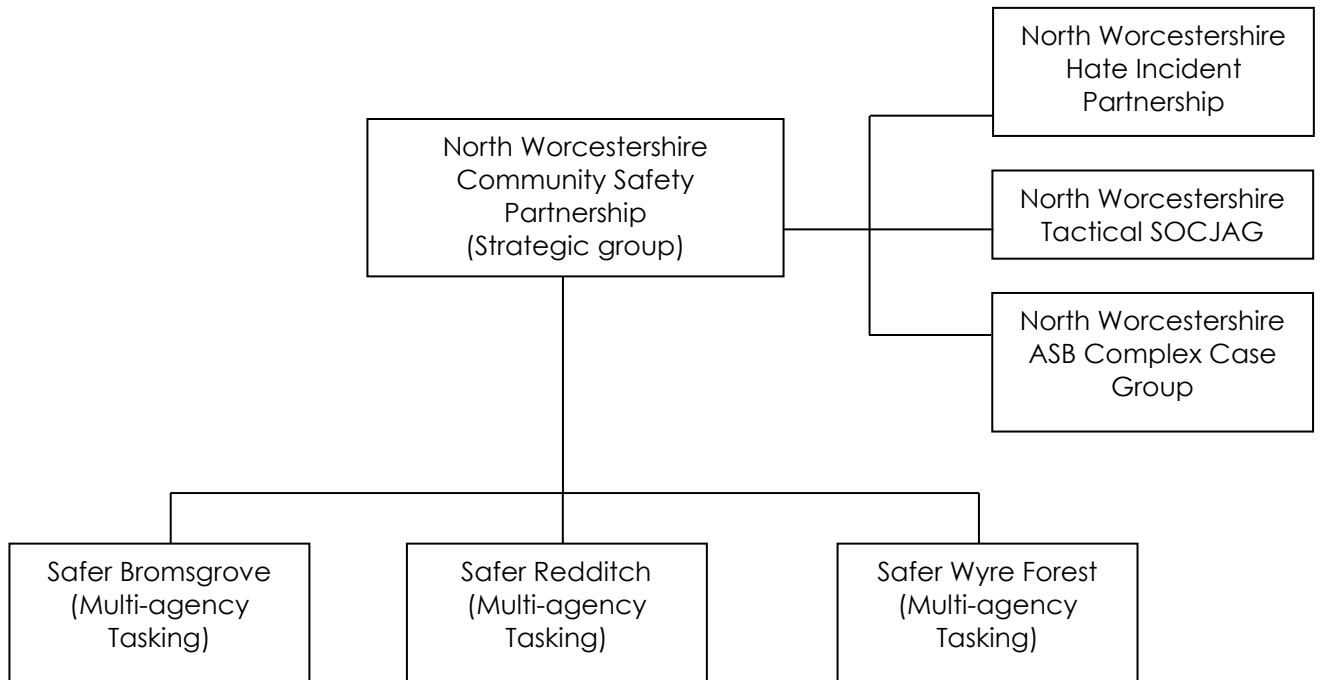
As a partnership we will set and monitor performance indicators that reflect the priorities, in order to measure progress toward the Partnership's delivery outcomes. We will measure and assess our activities a minimum of four times a year to check that we are achieving positive outcomes and making progress toward the aims of the plan.

Effective crime reduction relies on understanding what and where our problems are. This enables us to direct partnership resources efficiently and effectively – to the right place at the right time. Crime trends and patterns are regularly monitored and NWCSP receives regular reports from key officers to enable collective monitoring of actions, performance and outcomes.

The Partnership consists of senior managers from the statutory Responsible Authorities alongside co-operating organisations and the Elected Councillors with responsibility for community safety, from each of the member Local Authorities. To provide oversight of the work of the Partnership, Elected Councillors hold community safety specific scrutiny committees which inspect the Partnership's performance. West Mercia's PCC is the public's elected representative for all policing matters and as such Community Safety Partnerships and the PCC have a duty to collaborate and pay due regard to each other's action plans. In fulfilling this duty, the PCC maintains strong links with each of the Community Safety Partnerships within the West Mercia force area.

Operational delivery of the partnership plan is carried out by a number of community safety sub-groups and forums. Safer Groups in each of the district areas are the core delivery arm of the CSP, where much of the on-the-ground activity is developed and undertaken. These groups co-ordinate partnership activity at an operational district level to solve current and emerging local problems.

NWCSP Structure



OUR PRIORITIES

Partners use the Strategic Assessment and other sources to assess and prioritise the key crime and disorder issues that require multi-agency action within the Partnership's area of focus. When setting and reviewing CSP priorities consideration is also given to the local Policing objectives in the area. Partnership priorities are reviewed regularly and refreshed annually to ensure the CSP is always focused on addressing the issues that affect local communities the most.

The following priorities have been agreed by partners for 2021/22:

Priority	Aim: To Reduce/Prevent
Violence and Abuse	Public Place Violence
	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
	Child Sexual Exploitation
Theft and Acquisitive Crime	Theft from Stores
	Burglary, Doorstep Crimes & Scams
	Rural & Business Crime
ASB, Damage and Nuisance	Neighbourhood Nuisance
	Criminal Damage
	Environmental Problems and Deliberate Fires
Protecting Vulnerable Communities	Hate Crime & Targeted Harassment
	Criminal Exploitation, County Lines & Modern Slavery
	Violent Extremism
Reducing the Harm Caused by Drugs & Alcohol	
Reducing Reoffending	

A summary of the type of activity the Partnership will undertake to address these priorities is provided below.

Priority: To Reduce Violence and Abuse

Public Place Violence - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Work with local businesses, regulatory services and public health to develop further understanding and intelligence around public place violence; particularly related to the Night-time Economy as town centres and licensed premises move toward post Covid recovery.
- Respond to and implement any requirements emerging from the government's Serious Violence Strategy and any related legislation.
- District Safer Groups to develop and co-ordinate specific actions and initiatives in response to local public place violence issues.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Through MARAC and commissioned Domestic Abuse services, continue to develop and improve agency responses to high risk victims.
- Work with Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence support services to develop and promote initiatives that focus on increasing reporting, early help and education.
- Increase and promote training opportunities to ensure all services are able to identify and offer support to customers at risk of or experiencing Domestic Abuse or Sexual Violence.
- Work with services to ensure all victims are able to access the right support to meet their needs, including male victims, victims from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and victims of historical sexual violence.
- Through Drive, the Worcestershire Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme work with services to reduce offending and prevent risk and harm.
- Respond to any legislative requirements emerging from the Domestic Abuse Bill 2020 and the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2021-2024.
- Implement learning and recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews

Child Sexual Exploitation - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Support and expand the community safety Respect Programme in partnership with local schools to continue to provide therapeutic support to young people at risk of exploitation.
- Promote and deliver training and awareness raising to ensure parents, support workers and service providers are able to identify and support young people vulnerable to exploitation.
- Through work with schools, the local Respect Programme and other providers, to ensure children and young people have access to education on healthy relationships.
- Work with the Children's Safeguarding Partnership to promote Get Safe, the countywide safeguarding approach to addressing issues of Child Exploitation. [GET SAFE = **G**angs, **S**exual **E**xploitation, **T**rafficking, **M**odern Day **S**lavery **A**bsent or **M**issing, **F**orced Marriage, **C**riminal **E**xploitation]

Priority: To Reduce theft and acquisitive crime

Theft from Stores - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Work with partners such as the North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWEDR) Unit, business networks and retail partnerships to identify opportunities for crime prevention, improving store security and improved data collection and analysis.
- Work with Integrated Offender Management (IOM) partners in the criminal justice system, to ensure prolific and persistent offenders are brought to justice.
- Work with commissioned Drug and Alcohol services and IOM to promote support options and interventions to reduce reliance on theft to support addictions.

Burglary, Doorstep Crimes and Scams - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Raise awareness of criminality and provide residents with the tools and information to protect their homes and property.
- Offer support, information and advice to Burglary victims to reduce the risk of re-victimisation.
- Promote and expand the CSP's Nominated Neighbour scheme to encourage residents to look out for and protect the most vulnerable members of their local communities.
- Promote the PCC's SmartWater Village Scheme and the Police We Don't Buy Crime initiative to support a co-ordinated approach to protecting local rural areas.
- Raise awareness of scams, fraud and cyber-crime, focusing on the most vulnerable and those most at risk of being targeted.
- Deliver seasonal initiatives to raising awareness and provide advice to the public on how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of these crimes.
- Targeted joint-agency work to engage with and raise the awareness of residents/communities in areas where issues such as scams and distraction burglary are more prevalent (e.g. elderly residents).

Rural and Business Crime - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Promote the PCC's SmartWater Scheme and the Police We Don't Buy Crime initiative to support a co-ordinated approach to protecting local businesses communities and rural areas.
- Support and promote business community and rural area networks, such as Farm Watches and Business Links, providing crime prevention information and sharing intelligence to prevent victimisation.
- Support West Mercia PCCs Business and Rural crime strategies and work with local affected communities to understand and address the issues they are facing.

Priority: To reduce antisocial behaviour (ASB), damage and nuisance

Neighbour Nuisance - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Promote and utilise the powers and legislation available to the Police, Councils and other partners to tackle ASB and nuisance.
- Raise awareness of support services and provide residents with pathways to raise concerns and request action i.e. Tenancy Panels, Complaints processes, Community Trigger/ASB Case Review etc.
- Offer support, information and advice to vulnerable victims of ASB victims to reduce the risk of continued re-victimisation or escalation.
- Respond to any legislative requirements emerging from the Social Housing White Paper 2020 in relation to ASB and Safer Homes & Neighbourhoods.
- North Worcestershire ASB Complex Case Group to develop and co-ordinate specific actions and initiatives in response to local concerns about ASB issues.

Criminal Damage - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Utilise improved CCTV capabilities across North Worcestershire to identify and take action against perpetrators.
- Utilise and support the work of established Detached Youth Work teams in each district area to engage with young people in local neighbourhoods at risk of becoming involved in ASB and criminality.
- Make use of opportunities for community resolution and restorative justice with offenders to repair damage in public spaces.

Environmental Problems and Deliberate Fires - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Promote and utilise the powers and legislation available to the Councils, Regulatory Services and other partners to tackle environmental problems and crimes.
- Publicise environmental crime prosecutions and enforcement action taken against offenders in order to prevent and deter further offending.

- Work with partners to improve data collection and shared intelligence around environmental problems and deliberate fires in order to identify patterns of behaviour and target resources more effectively.
- Raising awareness of the dangers of fire raising and deliver fire safety messages within local communities.

Priority: Protecting Vulnerable Communities

Reducing Hate Crime and Targeted Harassment - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Through North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership continue to raise awareness of hate crime in all its forms, providing appropriate support information and increasing opportunities to report incidents securely and safely.
- Offer support, information and interventions to vulnerable victims of Hate Incidents/crimes to reduce the risk of continued re-victimisation or escalation.
- Increase and promote training opportunities to ensure all services are able to identify and offer support to customers at risk of or experiencing Hate Crime and Targeted Harassment.

Reducing Criminal Exploitation, County Lines & Modern Slavery - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Through North Worcestershire Serious Organised Crime Joint Action Group (SOCJAG) continue to raise awareness of organised crime and exploitation across agencies and with the public.
- Support and engage with the SOCJAG and MATE processes to identify areas of concern, share intelligence and take joint action to disrupt Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) operating in our areas.
- Further develop our knowledge and understanding of criminal exploitation, county lines and modern slavery locally, including areas and communities that may be more vulnerable to targeting by criminals.
- Raise awareness and provide support and information to services, businesses and organisations likely to come into contact with those vulnerable to exploitation.

Preventing Violent Extremism- Summary of CSP Activity:

- Through Worcestershire Prevent Strategy Group to raise awareness of Prevent and organisations statutory duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (as amended)
- Support and engage with the Channel Process and ensure that support is available for young people and vulnerable adults at risk of radicalisation. SOCJAG and MATE processes to identify areas of concern, share intelligence and take joint action to disrupt Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) operating in our areas.
- Further develop our knowledge and understanding of terrorism and risks of radicalisation locally, including areas or communities that may be more vulnerable to targeting by extremists.

Cross Cutting Themes

Reducing the Harm caused by Drugs and Alcohol and Reducing Re-offending remain cross cutting areas of work for partners that impact on all CSP priorities. NWCSP works closely with Public Health and Commissioned Drug and Alcohol Services and is also represented on the Worcestershire Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group.

NWCSP activity in these areas as part of the plan will include:

- Support and encourage joint Police and Licensing Team visits to licensed premises in North Worcestershire to ensure adherence to licensing conditions and to encourage the responsible sale of alcohol as premises move toward post Covid recovery.
- Support and facilitate the referral of vulnerable individuals at risk of exploitation to local support services to safeguard them against harm e.g. risk of cuckooing of a vulnerable tenant's property due to substance dependency.
- Use of enforcement powers e.g. Criminal Behaviour Order, to take action against identified persistent offenders engaging in ASB where behaviour is alcohol-related.
- Support and resource targeted outreach work delivered by youth workers to engage with young people at risk of drug or alcohol-related ASB.

- Promote use of Dispersal Orders and Community Protection Warning letters/Notices for those individuals repeatedly involved alcohol or drug-related crime.
- Continue work with Integrated Offender Management (IOM) partners in the criminal justice system, to ensure offenders are brought to justice.
- Seek to publicise prosecutions and enforcement action taken against offenders, where appropriate, in order to prevent and deter further offending.
- Make full use of both permanent and deployable CCTV camera systems in our district areas to deter offending behaviour, capture evidence and improve public safety.
- Share intelligence through the district Safer Groups and other CSP sub-groups to help bring offenders to justice.

CONTACT DETAILS

North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership
www.nwcsp.org.uk

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111
www.crimestoppers-uk.org

West Mercia Police non-emergency number 101
www.westmercia.police.uk

Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Service
www.hwfire.org.uk

Bromsgrove District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Redditch Borough Council
www.redditch.gov.uk

Wyre Forest District Council
www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Worcestershire County Council
www.worcestershire.gov.uk

NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group
www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk

NHS Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group
www.wyreforestccg.nhs.uk

HM Prison and Probation Service
www.gov.uk

Warwickshire and West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company
www.westmerciaprobation.org.uk

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3rd March 2022

Recommendations from the Fireworks Review Panel

Summary

This report provides an overview of the issues considered by the Fireworks Review Panel and sets out its conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Background

The Panel was established to conduct a review of concerns about the use of fireworks in the Wyre Forest area because of the high number of complaints from members of the public around the distress that fireworks can cause.

The aims of the Panel were:

- To gain a better understanding of the laws and regulations around fireworks including licensing of events.
- To consider best practice from other areas and identify what could be of benefit in Wyre Forest.
- To identify improvements that could benefit animal welfare and resident's mental health.
- To consider a public awareness campaign.
- To consult with other interested parties including Town and Parish Council's, Community Housing, H&WFRS and organisers of large firework events.
- To consider the use of Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) land and identify how WFDC could lead by example.

The Panel met 4 times and considered information from a variety of sources which allowed these aims to be met.

Key Issues

The panel were enthusiastic to be able to respond to residents' concerns but also accepted the limitations of what the panel would be able to achieve. There was an understanding of the enjoyment that people get from fireworks and the popularity of organised displays.

It was agreed that most complaints received were regarding the noise from fireworks rather than their safe use or the fireworks themselves, and that residents were frustrated at the lack of notice of fireworks which did not allow them to prepare

themselves and their animals for the noise. This was especially a concern around events at non-traditional times of the year such as events at hotels when the public would not be expecting to hear fireworks and as such the loud noises can cause more of an issue.

The panel discussed the impact of the noise from fireworks on both animals and on people who suffer from anxiety and mental health issues. They recognised the work of the RSPCA around this area and the importance of supporting the work already being done.

The panel looked at good practice from other authorities and what could be considered for the Wyre Forest area. They also received information from Worcester Regulatory Services to gain a better understanding of the laws and regulations around fireworks including licensing of events.

The panel agreed that recommendations should reflect encouragement of good practice rather than enforcement and acknowledged that any legislation would need to be established at a national level and not a local level.

When considering the noise generated by fireworks the panel agreed to use the accepted terminology of silent, low noise or quiet fireworks and that those were available at 70 decibels rather than 120 decibels.

Recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- Contact the Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest, Mark Garnier, to ask him to support at a national level limiting the sale of fireworks to only professional displays and a change in legislation to only allow silent, low noise or quiet fireworks to be used at events.
- To create and implement a policy for the use of only silent, low noise or quiet fireworks on all land owned, or managed, by Wyre Forest District Council.
- To contact all Town & Parish Councils and Community Housing in Wyre Forest to ask them to consider using silent, low noise or quiet fireworks for any events they organise or on land they own or manage.
- To contact the Local Government Association (LGA) to ask that they consider producing a webinar to debate firework issues.
- To create a communications plan to raise awareness with residents of; the availability of silent, low noise or quiet fireworks, the importance of making neighbours aware of the intention to let off fireworks, how to report firework misuse or mis selling and the support available for those affected by the noise of fireworks.

Agenda Item No. 6

- To support the RSPCA public awareness campaign on the impact of fireworks on animals.
- Write to local organisations known for holding public displays and large local hotels to ask them to consider using silent, low noise or quiet fireworks and the importance of giving notice to local residents about planned displays.

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme 2021-2022**

May 2021

“How are we doing?” Q4 update (Housing and Planning)
Update from the Environment Agency – Flooding Outcomes
Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan Update (Recs to Cabinet)
Kidderminster 2040 - A Town Centre Vision

June 2021

Kidderminster Future High Street Fund – Update
Kidderminster Property Acquisitions – EXEMPT

Information Items:

Recommendation Tracking 2020-2021
Feedback from Cabinet 19-05-2021

July 2021

Update from the WCC – Flooding Outcomes
Climate Change Action Plan (Recs to Cabinet)
Flood Mitigation Schemes
Review of Kidderminster Town Centre Public Space Protection Order
Nominations for Treasury Management Review Panel (Chair to be appointed)

2 September 2021

“How are we doing?” Q1 update
Future High Streets Fund
Local Lettings Plans and Rural Housing Policy 2021
Worcestershire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2022

9 September 2021 (Special)

Capital Portfolio Fund – Development Funding Proposal (EXEMPT)

October 2021

Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy
Backward Look 2020/21 & recs from the TMRP 20-09-2021
Wyre Forest District Local Plan (2016-2036)
Redevelopment of land, Market Street, Kidderminster (EXEMPT)

November 2021

“How are we doing?” Q2 update
Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year
Review Report 2021-22 & recs from the TMRP 01-11-2021
Electric Vehicle Chargepoint Business Case (Recs to November Cabinet)
Capital Portfolio Fund Quarterly Performance Report Qtr 3 - EXEMPT Appendix

2 December 2021

Update on Future High Streets Fund Programme delivery
Update on the Levelling Up Fund
Update from the Firework Review Panel

20 December 2021 (Sub Committee)

Acquisition of a property in Kidderminster

February 2022

“How are we doing?” Q3 update

Treasury Management Strategy 2022-23 & recs from the TMRP 31-01-2022

Car parking charges 2022-23: Consideration of call in request

March 2022

Annual review of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2021/22

Recommendations from the Fireworks Review Panel