

Cabinet

12 September 2018

Report title	Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Annual Report 2017-2018	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Hazel Malcolm Public Health and Wellbeing	
Corporate Plan priority	People - Stronger Communities	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Mark Taylor, Strategic Director, People	
Originating service	Community Safety, Public Health	
Accountable employee	Karen Samuels Tel Email	Head of Community Safety Tel: 01902 551341 karen.samuels@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board	28 August 2018

Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

Endorse the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Annual Report 2017-2018 and support identified areas for development.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide a summary of Safer Wolverhampton Partnership progress during 2017-2018 detailed within its annual report, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, and seek support for identified areas of future development.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Safer Wolverhampton Partnership is statutorily required to produce an annual report detailing progress against its strategic plan and performance. The annual report also details services commissioned using the annual allocated grant from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, against which it is required to produce quarterly expenditure and outcome reports.
- 2.2 The annual report summarises performance against the City's 2017-2020 Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy, which encompasses the following strategic priorities:
- Reducing Reoffending
 - Reducing Victimisation
 - Violence Prevention

3.0 Progress Against Strategic Priorities – Reducing reoffending

- 3.1 A Black Country Strategic Group has been developed to reduce the number of local meetings and to allow the Black Country areas to share best practice and work collaboratively to reduce reoffending.
- 3.2 Work has begun on a Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy which will complement and align with the Black Country Strategic Group. Safer Wolverhampton Partnership are leading on this work in close collaboration with the other Black Country community safety partnerships. Local action plans will be developed to retain appropriate responses and any local variations.

4.0 Progress Against Strategic Priorities – Reducing Victimisation

- 4.1 The 2016-2019 multi-agency Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy is providing clear direction to the City's approach to driving forward important improvements in tackling the 5 strands of violence against women and girls: domestic abuse, sexual violence, female genital mutilation, honour-based violence and forced marriage.
- 4.2 During 2017-2018, 651 high risk cases were discussed at multi-agency risk assessment conference. Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum training plan has been refreshed and expanded to encompass hidden crimes and 2017-2018 saw a successful Orange the World campaign to raise awareness of violence against women and girls.
- 4.3 Confirmation was received in July 2017 that Wolverhampton had been awarded £500K from the Violence Against Women and Girls Fund to cover the three-year period 2017-2020. The allocation will aid implementation of the 2016-2019 violence against women and girls action plan by addressing identified unmet need within the City, whilst building

on the positive work already undertaken to integrate an improved response to VAWG through mainstream delivery and to build sustainable change over the long term.

5.0 Progress Against Strategic Priorities – Violence Prevention

- 5.1 Delivery against the Preventing Gang Involvement and Youth Violence Strategy 2016-2019 has continued with a strong focus on providing early intervention and prevention activities to those either at risk of gang involvement or to young people who are already affiliated with gangs or involved in youth violence.
- 5.2 During 2017-2018, the Youth Offending Team continued to utilise part of the Police and Crime Commissioner grant to part fund staffing to deliver bespoke Community Resolution Workshops for young people. Young people apprehended by the police for low level offending who are on the cusp of entering the Youth Justice system are offered a brief assessment and intervention workshop which is designed to divert them from further offending and signpost them to appropriate services required.
- 5.3 In line with other West Midlands areas and the national picture, 2017-2018 presented fresh challenges around youth violence and gang related violence. In response, specialist partner agencies have been commissioned to deliver services in specifically identified locations where both gang activity and youth violence are prevalent.

6.0 Compliance with Statutory Duties

- 6.1 Delivery of Wolverhampton's response to the Prevent duty is both a statutory and priority area for the partnership. Wolverhampton continues to be considered a low risk area, and as such does not receive Home Office funding. Despite this, Safer Wolverhampton Partnership continues to promote Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent training within the city, utilising its bank of trainers. Channel Panel case management arrangements are strong.
- 6.2 During 2017-2018 Safer Wolverhampton Partnership received two notifications of domestic violence related deaths in Wolverhampton that could meet the criteria for undertaking a Domestic Homicide Review. Neither were undertaken as a full Domestic Homicide Review. One had no agency contact with Wolverhampton and therefore there was deemed to be no possible learning. This was supported by the Home Office. The other case was reviewed in Birmingham as the victim was a resident there.

7.0 Performance Snapshot

- Wolverhampton saw a 13.6% upturn in total recorded crime since 2016-2017, with 21,225 offences (an increase of 2541). This is synonymous across the West Midlands, with Wolverhampton sustaining one of the lowest increases.
- Vehicle crime, business crime, violent offences and robbery were all contributing factors.
- Violent crimes with a knife or bladed weapon rose by 30 offences (16.5%); this is the 4th lowest increase across the West Midlands.

- Small increases in traditionally hidden crimes such as female genital mutilation and modern slavery reflect local efforts to increase confidence in reporting.

8.0 Future Developments

- 8.1 The partnership will face new challenges over the next 12 months. The grant issued by the Police and Crime Commissioner has been reduced for the third year running, resulting in a reduced programme of commissioning to meet Safer Wolverhampton Partnership strategic priorities. The way that funding is distributed, has changed significantly, which is impacting on the ability to commission specialist services.
- 8.2 From 2020 the Police and Crime Commissioner and West Midlands Mayor's offices will combine. The information available is currently limited, however it causes more uncertainty for Community Safety Partnerships from 2020 onwards. It has been confirmed that some services, including funding for Domestic Homicide Reviews and Youth Offending Teams, will be funded directly by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. It is anticipated that moving forward more services and programmes will be commissioned this way.

9.0 Summary of 2018-2019 Delivery

9.1 Reducing Reoffending

- Implement a Black Country wide Reducing Reoffending strategy
- Improve recovery rates for offenders & those at risk of substance misuse problems
- Improve city image and business confidence by tackling aggressive begging and rough sleeping
- Address drug dealing amongst individuals, with a particular focus on New Psychoactive Substances
- Identify young people at risk of offending at an early stage and provide interventions, considering a 'whole family' approach
- Reduce volume crime with focus on vehicle crime, burglary, shoplifting and DA

9.2 Reducing Victimisation

- Develop interventions to deter young people from committing violent acts
- Provide early interventions to deter young people from carrying bladed weapons
- Provide critical call out mediation services to reduce tensions and escalations of violence
- Apply available legislative tools and powers to increase the effective management of offenders
- Delivery of Domestic Abuse perpetrator programmes inside and outside of the criminal justice system

9.3 Violence Prevention

- Engage with identified communities to break the cycle of cultural acceptance of domestic related abuse and vulnerability

- Build confidence within communities subjected to hate crime to increase reporting and strengthen cohesion
- Work with partners to strengthen and integrate the collective response to domestic abuse
- Increase understanding of modern slavery and build confidence of victims to report issues and access support
- Targeted engagement with businesses to reduce the risk of business victimisation
- Development of a multi-agency Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2019-2022

10.0 Financial Implications

- 10.1 Implementation of the Community Safety Strategy will be largely delivered through existing mainstream partner resources. Wolverhampton's grant allocation of £229,000 in 2018-2019 will be used to support the programme. Subject to agreement from the PCC, the anticipated carry forward of £21,000 will be added to the 2018-2019 programme.
- 10.2 The PCC allocation, when received, is ringfenced for Community Safety use by SWP in line with conditions of grant. The grant is received by the City of Wolverhampton Council as accountable body for SWP.

[MI/27062018/X]

11.0 Legal implications

- 11.1 Sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 require the Council and other responsible authorities to formulate and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder in the area. Subsequent revisions to the Act (Police and Justice Act 2006) places a duty on Community Safety Partnerships to prepare strategic assessments with the purpose of informing the partnership plan revisions.
- 11.2 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (amended) requires the Council along with the other Responsible Authorities to exercise their functions with due regard to do all that they reasonably can by way of preventing crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending in the locality. All aspects of this requirement are featured within the strategy.

[TS/26062018/R]

12.0 Equalities implications

- 12.1 Delivery detailed within the Annual Report is reflected in the 2017-2020 Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy, Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and Preventing Gang Involvement and Youth Violence Strategy which have been subject to full equality analyses. Delivery strengthens the City's efforts to further equalities and actively addresses disproportionality associated with certain crimes.
- 12.2 As an update report of the issues and actions described in the overall strategy and its associated equality analyses there are no new equalities issues that have arisen between the adoption of the strategy and this update report.

13.0 Environmental implications

13.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

14.0 Human resources implications

14.1 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

15.0 Corporate landlord implications

15.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications for the Council's property portfolio.

16.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Annual Report 2017-2018