

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Climate Change, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel

27 June 2023

Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny
Venue Committee Room 3 - 3rd Floor - Civic Centre

Membership

Chair Cllr Anwen Muston (Lab)
Vice-chair Cllr Wendy Dalton (Con)

Labour

Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Sally Green
Cllr Jeszemma Howl
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN
Cllr Rohit Mistry
Cllr John Reynolds

Conservative

Cllr Stephanie Haynes
Cllr Andrew McNeil

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Scrutiny Team:

Contact Earl Piggott-Smith
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Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

Website <http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/>
Email democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk
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Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Introduction and Welcome**
- 2 **Meeting procedures to be followed**
- 3 **Apologies**
- 4 **Declarations of interest**
- 5 **Minutes of the previous meeting (16. 2.23)** (Pages 3 - 10)
[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record]

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 6 **Rough Sleeper Update** (Pages 11 - 26)
[Anthony Walker, Head of Homelessness and Migration, to present report]
- 7 **Community Safety Strategy Consultation** (Pages 27 - 40)
[Hannah Pawley, Community Safety Manager, to present report]
- 8 **Climate Change, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel - Draft Work Programme 2023-2024** (Pages 41 - 44)
[Earl Piggott-Smith, Scrutiny Officer, to present report]

EXEMPT ITEM, CLOSED TO PRESS AND PUBLIC

To pass the following resolution:

That in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information on the grounds shown below

This report is exempt from publication under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), Part 1, Paragraph 6a.

- 9 **Improvement of Housing Standards through Licensing** (Pages 45 - 66)
[Chris Howell, Commercial Regulation Manager, and William Humphries, Service Manager Private Sector Housing, to present report]

Residents, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Item No: 5

Minutes - 16 February 2023

Attendance

Members of the Residents, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Philip Bateman MBE
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Adam Collinge
Cllr Christopher Haynes (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Carol Hyatt
Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN (Chair)
Cllr Andrew McNeil
Cllr Zee Russell

In Attendance

Cllr Steve Evans (Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change)

Employees

Martin Stevens DL (Scrutiny Team Leader)
Lee Booker (Scrutiny Officer)
John Roseblade (Director of Resident Services)
John Denley (Director of Public Health)
Bal Kaur (Consultant in Public Health)
Steve Woodward (Head of Environmental Services)
Claire Walters (Environmental Place Based Developmental Manager)
Craig Watkins (Arboriculture Services Lead)
Liz Grimshaw (Arboriculture Project Transformation Manager)
Michelle Smith (Principle Public Health Specialist)
Ryan Hollings (Health Improvement Officer)

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

1 **Apologies**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mary Bateman and Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre.

2 **Declarations of interest**
None declared.

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting**
Resolved: Minutes held 17 November 2022 are correct

4 **Expanded Arboriculture Project Tree Inspections Update**

The Head of Environmental Services introduced the presentation with a summary (a copy of the presentation is attached to the signed minutes). The Developmental Place Based and Environmental Manager informed the panel that their team were about 70 percent through their yearly check on the tree population, however, they were always discovering new trees. 6 trees required urgent work, 260 have defects. The Arbor Services Lead stated that their budget plan was based off defect led inspections and these were the priority. He set out what the service covered and what it did not cover. The Arbor Services Lead then informed the panel that the arboriculture services team had been re-designed with new posts and new employees with additional roles yet to be recruited. He then showed the Panel a photograph of the tree defect logging system, which allowed the Council to monitor trees. Through this monitoring system they had a priority chart based off Health and Safety regulations, which enables them to rank trees in need of work in order of those posing the most danger to the public. Councillors could access the tree map to enable them to handle enquiries from residents; the tree map provided them with all the known historic information on local trees.

The Developmental Place Based and Environmental Manager explained that since the launch of CEU, enquiries had been unprecedented in number. This has meant they had to try engage with residents to explain what they could and could not do to try reduce the number of enquiries they received which they were not able to resolve.

The Arbor Services Lead then took the Panel through new regulations regarding the duty to consult the public in the felling of trees. The Head of Environmental Services set out future plans, which included a tree Risk-Management Plan, data storage, a proactive tree maintenance regime and more. The Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change asked it be recorded he personally thanked the team, both past and present for their hard work in this area. He said recruitment was based upon hiring skilled people with the specialist expertise in their field. The Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change was pleased with the service, its addition of data based work, increased transparency and objectivity in its work. He felt the work being done was evidence that the decision to increase investment into the department was correct.

A Panel member praised the work that had been done and expressed his views on the importance of the service to the city. He complimented the interactive data and

stated it would help Councillors in their role.

A Councillor praised the new database but asked whether a residents perspective had been or could be taken into consideration more, in reference to trees blocking light into rooms, solar panels and so on. The Councillor also shared the suggestion that the Council could contact British Telecom to trim the trees in situations where trees block or inhibit residents internet signals.

The Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change replied that there are limits to the budget and that resident requests based upon loss of light or aesthetic purposes is not quantifiable, therefore, it would open up the system to being used by anyone and would not be affordable. The Council's job was to maintain and manage risk, that is what their service was designed to do. He said that British Telecom when contacted for things they were responsible for, such as trees on phone lines, would come out and perform the work.

A Councillor asked what Proactive Maintenance was. The Councillor also enquired who they are supposed to contact about issues such as tree roots lifting foot paths.

The Arbor Services Lead explained that it was in fact Proactive Management, which was tree management after inspections. He said that the team were currently looking at different options to tackle the issue of tree roots damaging footpaths.

A Councillor raised residents with disabilities and asked how the Council responded to tree maintenance in those events. He also asked how the Council ensured trees being handled by British Telecom were being maintained within the Councils own law and policies, as a private company in his view, was not covered by the same set of laws.

The Arbor Services Lead replied that they judge cases regarding disability and accessibility on a case-by-case basis. He added that all companies that carry out work are advised by the Council to abide by the laws and do the work in line with the standards set out in regulations. The Director of Resident Services explained that the scale of the job was huge, with 300,000 confirmed trees and an estimate that this would eventually grow to just over half a million trees. He explained that they legally had to check each tree every 2 years.

A Councillor stated that they currently couldn't see on the database when works had been carried out on a tree and asked if this would become a feature. He also added if policy considerations could be extended to include a threshold in regard to nuisance caused by a tree, citing an example of where a tree was so overgrown a pensioner had no house light and had to have downstairs lights on in the day with the curtains open.

The Developmental Place Based and Environmental Manager said that the tree database was extremely new and was still being filled in, with historic paper information also in the process of being transferred to digital. Once the 2 year cycle of checks were complete, every tree would have all information on it available and this would include inspections and repairs, as well as resident enquiries.

The Vice Chair stated that the Arbor team had got 8 of the 11 job vacancies filled in and asked when they would get to the 11. The Councillor also asked about how tree

planting was considered by the team.

The Arbor Services Lead informed the Panel that they were currently interviewing for the roles, and some were already filled but they were processing the successful applicant. He then explained that all future tree planning would be subject to a new tree planting strategy which would be published in the future.

5 **Gambling Related Harm in Wolverhampton**

The Health Improvement Officer opened the presentation (a copy of the presentation is attached to the signed minute). He explained that the landscape had changed regarding gambling addiction across the past 10 years with the addition of online based gambling applications coming to prominence. He set out an overview of Gambling and explained the definitions: Problem Gambling and Gambling Related Harms (GRH). GRH had been increasingly recognised as a public health issue but was not currently recognised as a public health responsibility for Local Authorities. Council's responsibilities in regard to gambling were set out under the Gambling Act 2005, which covered licensed betting premises but did not cover online related gambling. The Council try to educate the public around Problem Gambling so the public can make informed choices. He then took the Panel through national statistics related to gambling behaviours. The Council asked local residents questions in a recent "City Lifestyle Survey", of which 16% indicated they took part in a form of gambling. Of those that identified as moderate to problem gamblers, 28% suggested their gambling activities were related to alcohol consumption. 55% suggested their gambling was via remote gambling. The City of Wolverhampton Council were to look towards gaining a better understanding of gambling related activities in younger people across 2023 to 2024, in collaboration with the University of Wolverhampton. A ward-based map was displayed with statistics, these showed a high level of gambling licensed premises in wards with higher levels of poverty, whereas there were less or none gambling licensed premises in more affluent wards. Statistics taken from the National Survey covered, Mental Health, Suicide, Crime, Employment and Substance Misuse where they were related to Gambling. The Health Improvement Officer paused for questions.

A Councillor asked for further evidence to better confirm the possible link between alcoholism and gambling.

The Health Improvement Officer replied that the evidence was based off the National Statistics, which would indicate not a specific correlation between drinking and gambling, but the cultural associations the two combined within a social network/space can create a higher likelihood of the two issues. He then continued the presentation. Post-Pandemic, the Cost of Living Crisis had seen an increase in low level gambling in the City of Wolverhampton. The Council were currently looking to develop a local plan which would restrict gambling licensed premises opening in wards deemed "hot spot" areas. Between 2019 and 2022 in Wolverhampton, 70 residents accessed a form of secondary care treatment related to gambling, 74% of those who accessed the treatment were male. Nationally, education around gambling had been incorporated into parts of the Criminal Justice System Network, although no training had been incorporated into the Wolverhampton Criminal Justice System. Several secondary schools were reported as having delivered targeted education surrounding gambling as part of their curriculum. The Council were taking a lessons

learned approach from the Alcohol Services team, in regards to gambling, and would take an approach which combined partnership working, data usage and education to try tackle harmful gambling related behaviours.

A Councillor asked if an age profile was available for the two groups, Problematic Gambling and GRH.

Health Improvement Officer replied that the current lack of data made it difficult to currently quantify, however, he referenced the data they did have which stated those aged being 25 and 34, excluding National Lottery, were the most effected by GRH. The current data available was national data, so going forwards, with more surveys and work, there was a need to gather Wolverhampton related data. The Director of Public Health reaffirmed the need to gather more data, so that targeted interventions could be delivered to the public.

A Panel member talked about the Council's work to tackle digital exclusion and wanted to make sure that they did not invertedly help aid or increase those who gambled via online platforms addiction issues.

The Director of Public Health talked about partnership working and being a leader in Digital Strategy. He said the Digital Strategy was a major step in working in partnership to steer and educate people.

Further discussion occurred in the Chamber around the importance of Partnership working.

The Chair stated this was the final meeting of the municipal year and thanked the panel for the work they had done. Councillors thanked the Chair and Vice Chair for their work.

6

Alcohol Harm in Wolverhampton

The Principle Public Health Specialist introduced the aims of the presentation (a copy of the presentation is attached to the signed minutes). She set out to the Panel statistics on alcohol related deaths in a national context, with significant increases seen since the Covid-19 pandemic began. Statistics showed that Wolverhampton had the highest alcohol specific related deaths in the country. More specific data in Wolverhampton highlighted White British males and South Asian males as being over-represented in relation to alcohol related deaths, as well as being aged between 50 to 59. Socio-economic factors were a major cause of alcohol related problems nationally, with the poorest in society struggling with the effects of alcoholism. The Principle Public Health Specialist asked if the Panel had any questions.

The Vice Chair asked why the localised data graph seemed to go up and down in extremes across the years.

The Director of Public Health answered that they had recently finished a survey on lifestyles in the City which would help the team to understand the behaviours of people in the City, which would allow them to understand more about alcoholism in the City. He explained that the smaller numbers being measured in local data compared to national data which has millions of people was the reason why Wolverhampton's data line seems more dramatic.

A Panel member gave historical context around alcoholism within the City, highlighting a 2012 study on school children who had drunk alcohol under the age of 15. He wanted to know if lessons had been learnt from that and if any action had been taken on this, believing the two issues to be linked.

The Director of Public Health clarified that the 2012 and subsequent surveys on children's consumption of alcohol was specifically about if they had ever consumed alcohol at all, rather than a survey about long term use age, he said it was key to understand the cultural context people live in and how that played a role. He said they had continued to monitor the schools and was pleased to report those levels have been declining since the 2012 survey.

Discussion occurred around economics, how much unemployment contributes to alcoholism with countering views as to the level it contributes.

A Councillor enquired what could be done from a social housing perspective, citing examples of multiple recovering alcohols being housed within the same street and therefore contributing to their relapses. He asked if a better dispersal plan or policy would be possible.

The Director of Public Health replied that partnership working was required to better respond to people's needs.

The Principle Public Health Specialist continued the presentation, in which statistics of estimated unmet needs from alcohol treatment were shown. Wolverhampton had an 82% unmet need estimate, which was consistent with the national trend. The Principle Public Health Specialist stated this would be where work would need to be focused upon. Recovery statistics were presented to the Panel. With 120 out of 228 Wolverhampton recovering alcoholics supported to successfully obtain employment during their treatment phase. Partnership responses in the local area have been formed and continue to be developed under the Local Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership, which was formed in July 2022. This partnership was designed to align with the national drug strategy with additional funding from the government granted to local authorities. The plan to address alcohol harm in the City was shown. With a planned increase in workforce, this equated to an increase in detox and other alcohol dependency services. Bullet points covered further areas for consideration for the Council and its partners.

The Chair asked what the treatment entailed.

The Principle Public Health Specialist answered that the treatment is a holistic approach, with includes group recovery, one on one treatment, housing, welfare support and more. The Individuals needs and their ranking in risk play a part in the treatment they receive. The Director of Public Health added that individual care plans whilst being surrounded by a specialist workforce were key in the strategy. He informed the Panel that Wolverhampton's alcohol treatment success rates were some of the highest in the country, as well as the probability of patients gaining employment during their treatment.

A Councillor wanted further explanation around the plan to reduce alcohol serving premises in the area. He also wanted to know how cultural norms in communities fit

into the plan, as well as situations such as poor parenting.

The Director for Public Health replied that they plan to consider licensed premises and where a licensed premise would be granted going forwards, based off the data. If it was apparent somewhere that sold strong alcohol would not be beneficial to a community, it would likely not be given permission to set up business.

The Vice Chair asked what the approach towards licensed premises who were caught selling to people under the legal age was.

The Director of Public Health stated that a partnership approach was always taken with businesses towards how they managed those issues and the response was decided on a case by case basis. The Director of Resident Services raised the work of licensing, environmental health and trading standards, citing test purchases which were done to ensure licensed premises were complying with the law. He stated it was important to understand intent, and some cases have resulted in a removal of license to serve to sell alcohol on the premises.

A Councillor felt work needed to be done with licensees to help them better understand risks within their communities. He felt a culture of responsibility needed to be pushed, through training and partnership. He suggested a forum for the licensees could be set up, which would enable better communication and collaboration to ensure community cohesion.

The Director of Resident Services agreed that prevention was better than the cure and agreed working with traders to help in the prevention of enabling alcoholism was important. He said their team did already work with traders on this. Through "Trade With Confidence", Officers work as pseudo-consultants with those businesses to ensure compliance with the law and more responsible trading.

A Councillor welcomed the information but requested further clarity on the role housing could play in tackling the City's issues. Speaking from a Fire Services perspective he stated that statistically, many fires on premises have a higher rate were linked to residents with alcohol or drug addiction. He said involvement in the fire service would be welcomed. He recommended that data on people for well being purposes, if it could be done in line with GPDR, could be shared with the Fire Service so they could work in partnership with the Local Authority and Healthcare Services to help sign post people with addiction problems and help prevent fires. He requested further information on what was being done with Social Housing Providers. He also asked how the service dealt with Veterans specifically, if at all. The Councillor was keen to stress not every Veteran was an alcoholic, but deaths of Veterans from liver failure were very high, so he wanted to know what services existed for them, as he was a former Veteran himself.

The Director of Public Health recognised that tackling issues in high-stress professions was a challenge. He said that it would require "Family Working", defining family as both biological and professional families for soldiers, or police officers, fire fighters etc. He stressed the importance of those networks playing a part in tackling alcohol dependency.

Rough Sleeper Update

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Agenda Item No: 6

Presenter:

Anthony Walker
Head of Homelessness
and Migration

wolverhampton.gov.uk

Rough Sleeping Definition

The Government definition of rough sleepers is;

People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments).

People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or bashes which are makeshift shelters, often comprised of cardboard boxes). Bedded down is taken to mean either lying down or sleeping. About to bed down includes those who are sitting in/on or near a sleeping bag or other bedding.

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In Wolverhampton there are a number of individuals who are habitually rough sleeping despite having secure accommodation. The city also sees a number of transient rough sleepers who visit from out of area. Via our outreach service every individual is offered help to access support services and housing.

Rough Sleeper Annual Count

- The Annual Count took place on Thursday 10 November 2022 between 11:45pm to 2:30am across five locations in the city.
- Wolverhampton conducted a spotlight count followed by an evidenced based estimate meeting.
- Partners included: Department for Levelling Up, P3, Good Shepherd Ministry, RMC, Changing Lives, St George's Hub, Housing First, Solace, SUIT, Recovery Near You.

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The count highlighted 11 people bedded down on the night of the 10th November 2022

Of the 11 people seen bedded down in Wolverhampton on the night :


- Two people had Wolverhampton Homes tenancies
- Two people had been released from prison, reporting no accommodation
- Three people were from out of area
- Two people undergoing an immigration process

Rough Sleeping in Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton, in line with the West Midlands, saw an increase in people sleeping rough in Autumn 2022.

P3 are commissioned to provide rough sleeper services for the City, through a £1.5million contract until April 2025. This is delivered in partnership with other voluntary and community sector organisations who collectively offer;

- outreach provision
- floating support
- accommodation and support service
- Housing First.



Working to prevent and relieve rough sleeping and improve health outcomes for complex rough sleepers.

The life expectancy for people who rough sleep is considerably lower than the national average, 43yrs for women and 47yrs for men, in comparison to 82yrs women and 79yrs for men in the UK.

People who have a history of rough sleeping experience some of the most severe health inequalities and suffer much poorer health than the general population.

Rough Sleeper Annual Count - Rationale

The Annual Count highlighted a number of trends, some of which are more challenging to address due to additional factors and complex needs. This can include movement from out of area, personal choice, complex immigration status and inappropriate use of the statutory duty by other organisations.

***The majority of individuals that rough sleep in Wolverhampton are not homeless.** These individuals have accommodation options available to them but other factors, including mental health, substance misuse, negative relationships with peers and peaks in crisis cause a barrier to using their settled accommodation.

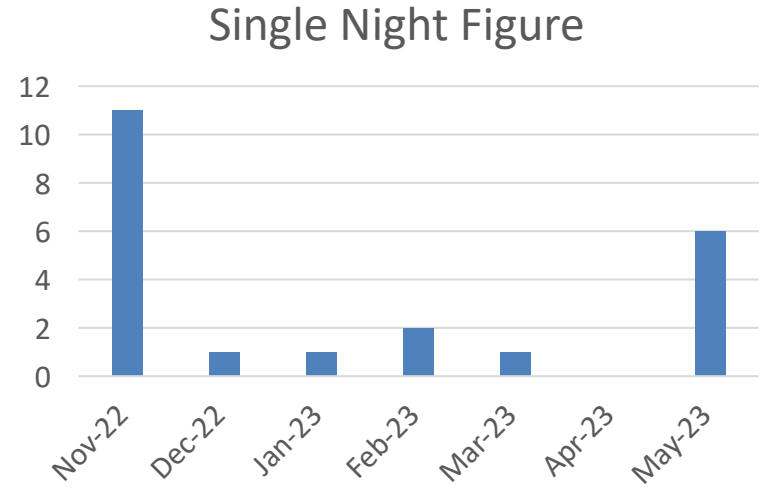
***Substance misuse** was a common factor in people choosing to leave their accommodation as was travelling to Wolverhampton and **refusing to engage** with the requirements for immigration processes.

Single Night Figures

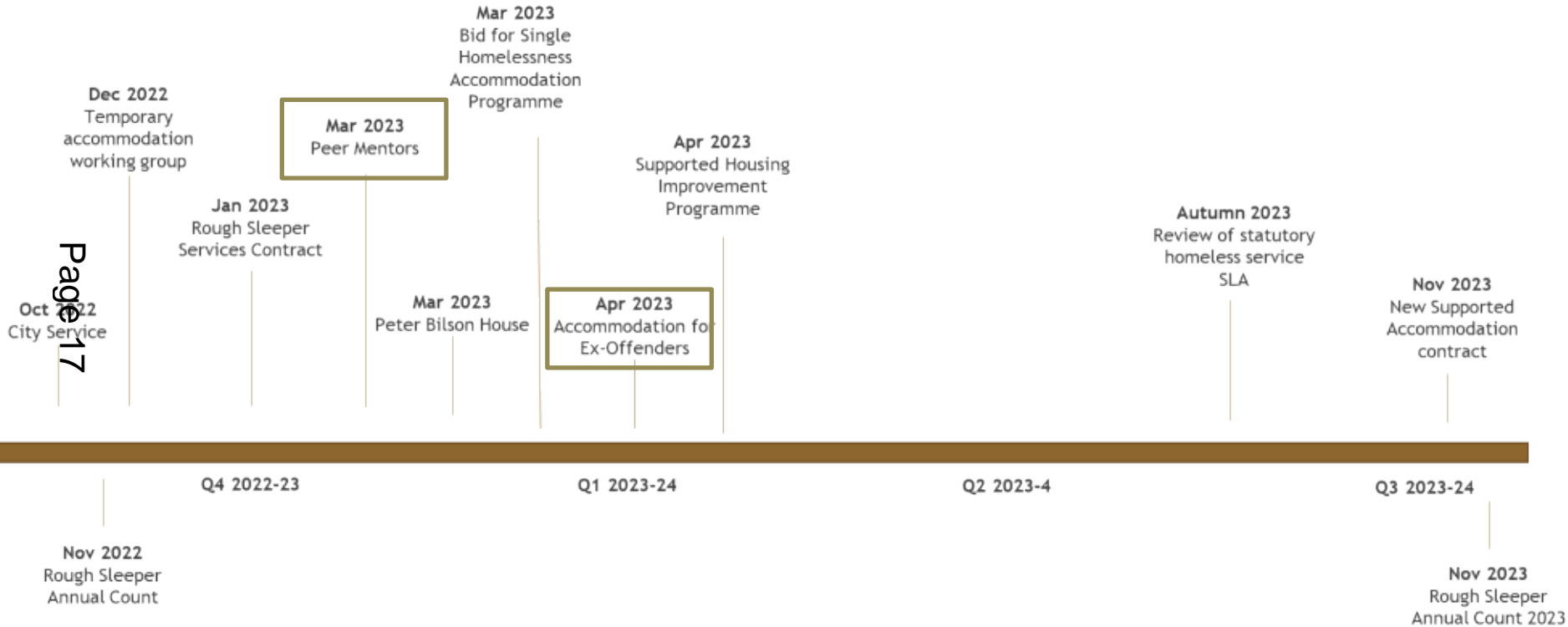
Outreach is carried out daily, with monitoring submitted to DLUHC, including a single night figure based on the last outreach session of the month.

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Apart from November the numbers of people regularly sleeping rough has been single figures, including April where no one was regularly out sleeping rough.



Ongoing and upcoming projects



Additional areas of work – Addressing the issues

A **peer mentor system** is being developed to further understand the reasons why some people refuse suitable accommodation options and choose to continue rough sleeping.

The current review of the SLA for the statutory homeless service will help to ensure a more consistent and responsive service for single people. This includes improved use of temporary accommodation.

CWC's contract for supported accommodation will be reviewed for implementation in late 2023.

The Supported Housing Improvement Programme provides opportunities to create savings within this contract, whilst improving outcomes for our residents.

Children's Services' Commissioning team and Homelessness & Migration are currently consulting on a bid for the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme.

Peter Bilson House

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Opened in April to provide settled and emergency accommodation for people with a history of rough sleeping

- Of the **22** settled rooms
- 11 residents on site
- 2 to move in by 23rd June
- Full occupancy by end of July
- Emergency beds have a high occupancy rate with people being referred on a regular basis
- Referrals are via <https://www.p3charity.org/services/p3-places-to-stay-peter-bilson-house> or 01902 552211



Opportunities and Best Practice

Homeless Health Needs Audit in partnership with Homeless Link

In partnership with the voluntary and community sector and contracted services, the audit aims to engage with rough sleepers, and those with a history of rough sleeping to better understand the health implications and needs of those without permanent accommodation. The findings of this audit will help to evidence any gaps in provision and highlight trends. Very early findings include identification of: dual diagnosis and mental health.

If successful there may be potential to widen the Audit out to all people in TA and with a full homeless duty.

Best Practice Considerations

Leeds City Council offer targeted incentives and support to private landlords who accommodate people with a history of rough sleeping.

Camden Council (2019) created a health related rough sleeper team that engaged with over 700 people in its first year, supporting with health related interventions.

North Devon Council provide a targeted mental health service for rough sleepers providing rapid support to individuals with mental health and addiction issues whilst they are street homeless.

Street and aggressive begging

In Wolverhampton begging and homelessness are **not** linked.

The majority of rough sleeping reports made by the public are in fact people who are currently in accommodation and begging.

There is also a rise in people aggressively begging at traffic lights along the main routes into the city.

An Engagement, Education and Enforcement approach is required to deal with begging effectively:

Engagement: working with people who are begging to access treatment services, support and employment

Education: working with the public to educate around the Alternative Giving programme
<https://wolverhamptonchange.co.uk/>

Enforcement: using legal interventions related to people who are persistently and aggressively begging, even though they are accommodated or continually offered accommodation

Street and aggressive begging

Education and engagement need to be separated from enforcement to allow the more effective use of civil and criminal powers.

Powers can include:

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- Civil injunctions
- Criminal Behaviour Orders
- Community Protection Notices
- Public Spaces Protection Orders
- Dispersal powers

Consideration - explore opportunities to use the Big Issue in Wolverhampton, for Wolverhampton based residents. This is a legitimate social enterprise that could support this group. The current sellers in the city are from Birmingham.

Recommendations

1. Endorse the approach to rough sleeping as outlined in this presentation.
2. Agree to support opportunities for a one Council and city-wide approach to street and aggressive begging.

Anthony Walker

Head of Homelessness & Migration,
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Community Safety Strategy Consultation

Board on a page

Role of the Board

Statutory Board established under the Crime and Disorder Act

Provide strong local leadership to reduce crime and disorder

Promote coordination in the planning, commissioning and delivery of services

Identify shared priorities and appropriately coordinate activity

Commitment to a partnership response to preventing and reducing crime and disorder

Key Responsibilities

Produce an annual assessment of crime and disorder within the local area

Publish and implement a **Strategy which sets out the partnership approach to addressing crime and disorder**

Provide a platform for residents to raise concerns and contribute to crime prevention

Oversight of response to specific duties, i.e. Serious Violence Duty and Domestic Abuse Act

Domestic Homicide reviews

Anti-social behaviour case reviews

Key workstreams

Serious Youth Violence

Modern slavery/ exploitation

Community engagement

Hate crime

Anti-social behaviour

Neighbourhood Crime

Vulnerability and repeat victimisation

Community cohesion

Domestic abuse

Safety of women and girls

Violence

Members

City of Wolverhampton Council
Community Safety, YOT, Children's Services, Adult safeguarding

Probation Service

Integrated Care Board

Resident representatives

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Violence Reduction Partnership

West Midlands Police

Fire Service

Voluntary sector

Priority Setting Workshop

Flexibility is important in being able to respond to emerging issues but it is also important to be able to show progress against specific priority areas and outcomes

Agreement that the new strategy should focus on complex issues which require a partnership response

Must continue delivery against statutory duties but align these more with other priorities/ workstreams/ partnerships

More alignment needed with other key Boards within the City including Health and Wellbeing Together and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together

Our Approach



Anti-Social Behaviour

- **Key local concern** – is an issue consistently raised by residents, Councillors and partners and has a significant impact on public confidence.
- **Emerging legislation/ guidance** – based on recent guidance from the Home Office and a current consultation is likely that additional responsibilities relating to ASB will be placed on Community Safety Partnerships in the near future.
- **Requires a partnership response** – depending on the type of ASB delivery can be led by a number of agencies/ teams, it is therefore necessary to ensure that there is a coordinated city-wide response.
- **Addressing vulnerability and harm** – Often anti-social behaviour is linked to wider vulnerabilities (in both victims and offenders) and more far-reaching crime types.

What do we want to achieve?

Communities are aware of what constitutes ASB and how to report concerns;

Pathways for victims of ASB to seek support are clear and accessible;

There is a robust multi-agency response to complex and persistent cases of ASB;

Enforcement against preparators of ASB is coordinated and timely, resulting in positive outcomes;

ASB is prevented through the use of education and diversion;

Communities and local neighbourhoods are informed, tolerant and cohesive;

How will we measure success?

Increased community confidence to report incidents of ASB and increased appropriate reporting;

Decrease in repeat reports of anti-social behaviour;

Increase in positive outcomes relating to cases of ASB, including the use of tools and powers and restorative justice;

Increase in those engaging with diversionary and prevention activity;

Increase in numbers of residents who report to feel safe within their neighbourhoods.

Public Place Violence

- **Contribution to high volume offence** – Violence against the person accounted for 45% of total recorded crime in Wolverhampton between October 2021 and September 2022.
- **Emerging areas of focus** – whilst violence against the person includes a number of offences many already have a significant partnership response. Therefore there is a need to focus on broader public place violence, particularly amongst adults.

Page 33	2021-2022	2022-2023	% change
Violence with Injury	3964	3950	-0.3
Violence with Injury (U25)	1119	1011	-9.6
Violence with Injury (25+)	2690	2882	+7.1

- **Community concern** – violence in public places causes significant fear and tensions within communities and significantly impacts public confidence.
- **Links to other strategic priorities** – public place violence is closely linked to other strategic priorities, for example safety of women and girls and alcohol and drug related crime.

What do we want to achieve?

All residents feel confident and empowered to report incidents of PPV;

Support for victims of PPV is coordinated and accessible;

Those who are at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of PPV are identified and supported at the earliest possible opportunity;

Where necessary, enforcement against incidents of PPV is coordinated, effective and timely;

Agencies work collaboratively to prevent incidents of PPV and ensure that those who work, live, visit and do business in the City feel safe.

How will we measure success?

Reduction in incidents of PPV;

Increased reporting of PPV from marginalised groups;

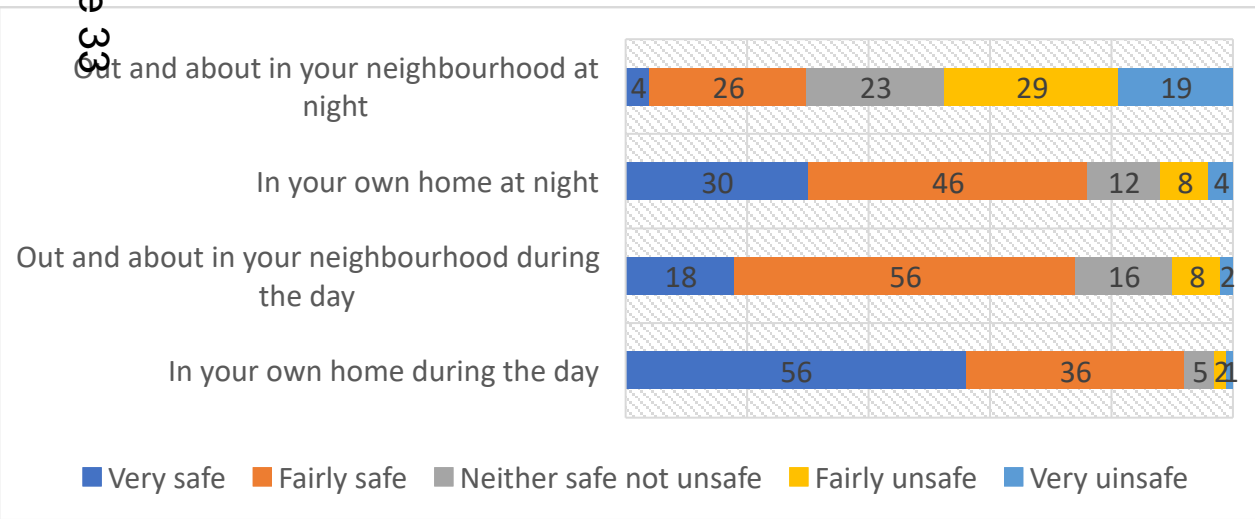
Reduction in repeat victims and offenders of PPV;

Increase in perceptions of safety in public places amongst residents in Wolverhampton;

Increase in those who are at risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of PPV accessing support.

Safety of Women and Girls

- **National concern** – high profile national incidents has heightened awareness of the importance of the safety of women and girls in public spaces.
- **Local perceptions** – the results from Wolverhampton’s Safety of Women and Girls survey found that 48% of participants do not feel safe when out and about at night.
- **Perceptions of safety and public confidence** – there is a need to improve perceptions of safety and confidence to report incidents when they arise.



Findings from Wolverhampton Safety of Women and Girls Survey
(2,216 respondents)

What do we want to achieve?

Women and girls feel safe at home, education, in the night-time economy and in public spaces in Wolverhampton;

That inappropriate and problematic behaviour and attitudes towards women and girls are consistently challenged at the earliest opportunity;

That those who offend or are at risk of offending against women and girls are proactively identified, managed and given the support necessary to change their behaviour;

That women and girls are empowered to report incidents, seek support and keep themselves safe.

How will we measure success?

Increased reporting of underreported crimes which disproportionately affect women and girls;

Increase in perceptions of safety amongst women and girls;

Increase in confidence to report incidents;

Decrease in repeat victimisation of vulnerable women and girls;

Increase in those engaging with preventative and educational activity.

Neighbourhood Crime

- **Neighbourhood crime** (sometimes called serious acquisitive crime) refers to robbery, burglary, theft from person and vehicle crime;
- **Local concerns** – an issue consistently raised by residents, Councillors and partners and has a significant impact on public confidence;
- **Addressing vulnerability and organised criminality** – often repeat offenders linked to neighbourhood crime can have underlying vulnerability which requires intervention, in addition other neighbourhood crime can be linked to organised criminality which requires a partnership response to disrupt.

Crime type	Safety rank out of 7 WM areas (1 st safest)
Vehicle crime	2 nd
Robbery	5 th
Burglary	5 th
Serious Acquisitive crime	2 nd

What do we want to achieve?

Residents and communities are educated and empowered to take proactive steps to prevent and protect themselves from neighbourhood crime;

Neighbourhood crime is prevented by offering support to offenders at the earliest possible opportunity and utilising robust enforcement where necessary;

The Wolverhampton physical environment promotes feelings of safety and acts as a deterrent to neighbourhood crime;

Neighbourhood crime is proactively disrupted, particularly where this is organised and persistent.

How will we measure success?

Reduction in neighbourhood crime;

Reduction in repeat victims of neighbourhood crime;

Reduction in repeat offenders of neighbourhood crime;

Increased positive outcomes for neighbourhood crime offences;

Increase in though actively engaging in crime prevention activity within their local areas.

Alcohol and Substance Related Crime

- **National, regional and local prioritisation** – high profile national incidents has heightened awareness of the importance of the safety of women and girls in public spaces.
- **Addressing vulnerability** – the results from Wolverhampton’s Safety of Women and Girls survey found that 48% of participants do not feel safe when out and about at night.
- **Perceptions of safety and public confidence** – there is a need to improve perceptions of safety and confidence to report incidents when they arise.

Keyword	% WV TRC (Oct 21 – Sept 22)	% WM TRC (Oct 21 – Sept 22)
Alcohol	11.6	10.6
Drug Related	3.3	5.7

What do we want to achieve?

The supply and distribution of illicit drugs is proactively disrupted;

Harm and exploitation caused as a result of drug distribution and use is minimised;

Those whose offending is related to drug or alcohol abuse have support to prevent future offending, including support for complex needs i.e. mental health;

Where necessary, there is a robust enforcement response to alcohol and substance related crime;

Establishments which are selling alcohol are doing so responsibly and not contributing to alcohol related crime.

How will we measure success?

Increased numbers of people at risk of exploitation and/or criminality linked to alcohol or drugs identified and engaging with support;

Decrease in alcohol and substance related crime;

Decreased repeat offending and victimisation by those misusing alcohol or drugs;

Increased use of arrest referral scheme, alcohol monitoring requirements, drug rehabilitation requirements and alcohol treatment requirements;

Increase in adults with a substance misuse need who successfully engage in community based structured treatment

**City
Response to
the Serious
Violence
Duty**

Work closely with other key Boards to oversee Wolverhampton's response to the serious violence duty, including the work of the violence prevention subgroup and the development of a Serious Violence needs assessment and response strategy.

**Domestic
Abuse Duty**

Work closely with other key Boards to oversee Wolverhampton's response to the Domestic Abuse Duty, including the work of the domestic abuse Board and development and implementation of the Domestic abuse strategy.

**Domestic
Homicide
Reviews**

Commission domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) and oversee the implementation of associated action plans where a death has occurred as a result of domestic abuse to identify learning to prevent future deaths

**ASB Case
Review**

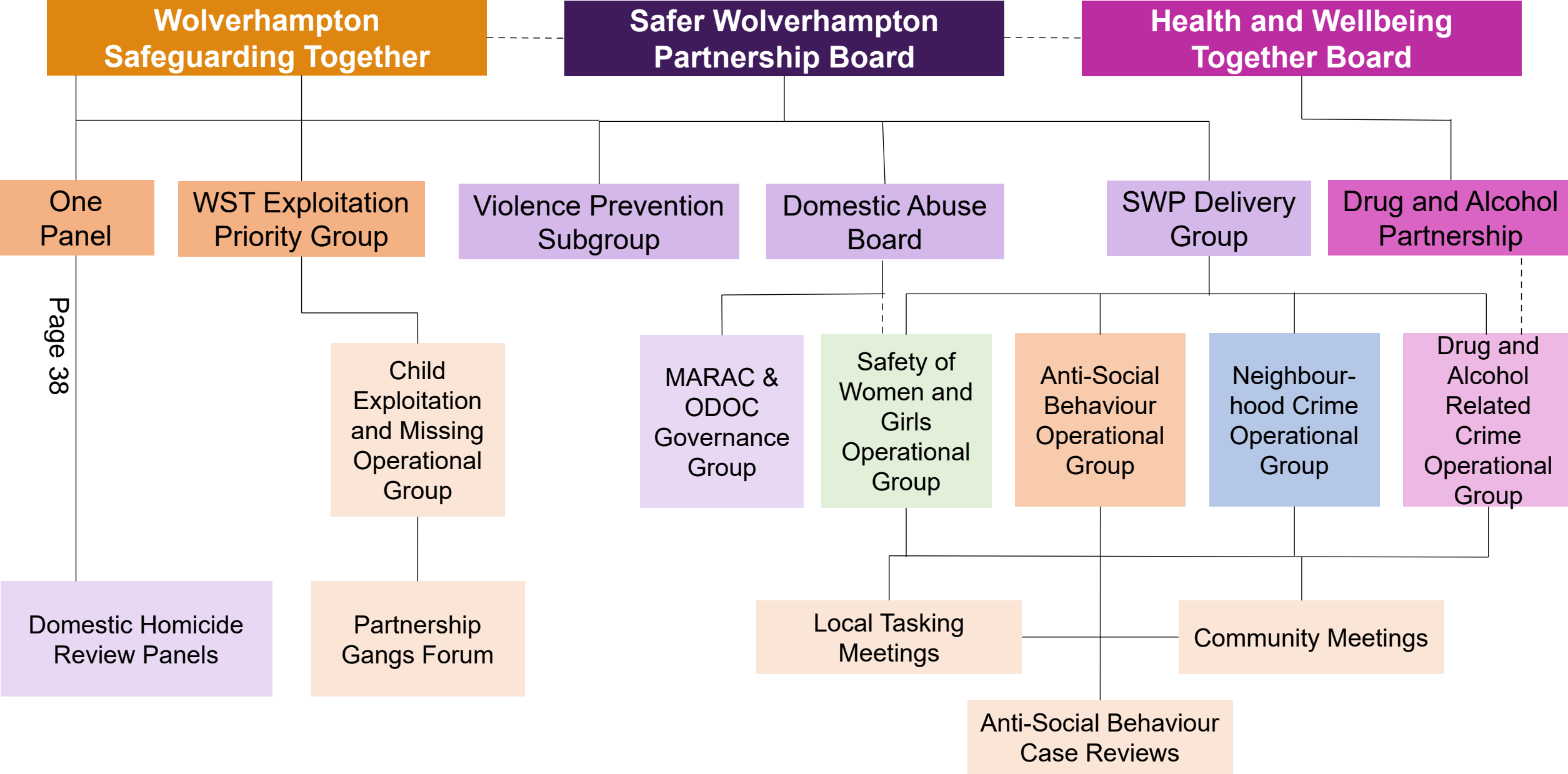
Undertake independent ASB case reviews to enable, a problem-solving approach aimed at dealing with some of the most persistent, complex cases of antisocial behaviour and share learning to improve future practice.

Statutory Priorities

Key considerations/challenges

- **Measuring prevention** – it is challenging to measure the effectiveness of a strategy which is centred around prevention, this must be reflected in the performance framework;
- **Responding to emerging legislation and crime trends** – whilst the strategy sets out priorities for delivery it is recognised that this needs to be balanced with the need to be responsive to emerging issues over the course of the strategy;
- **Alignment with other strategies and partnerships** – positive steps have been taken to align strategic priorities and therefore increase impact across the City. There is a need to continually ensure that this leads to a coordinated approach and avoids duplication.

Local Delivery Proposals

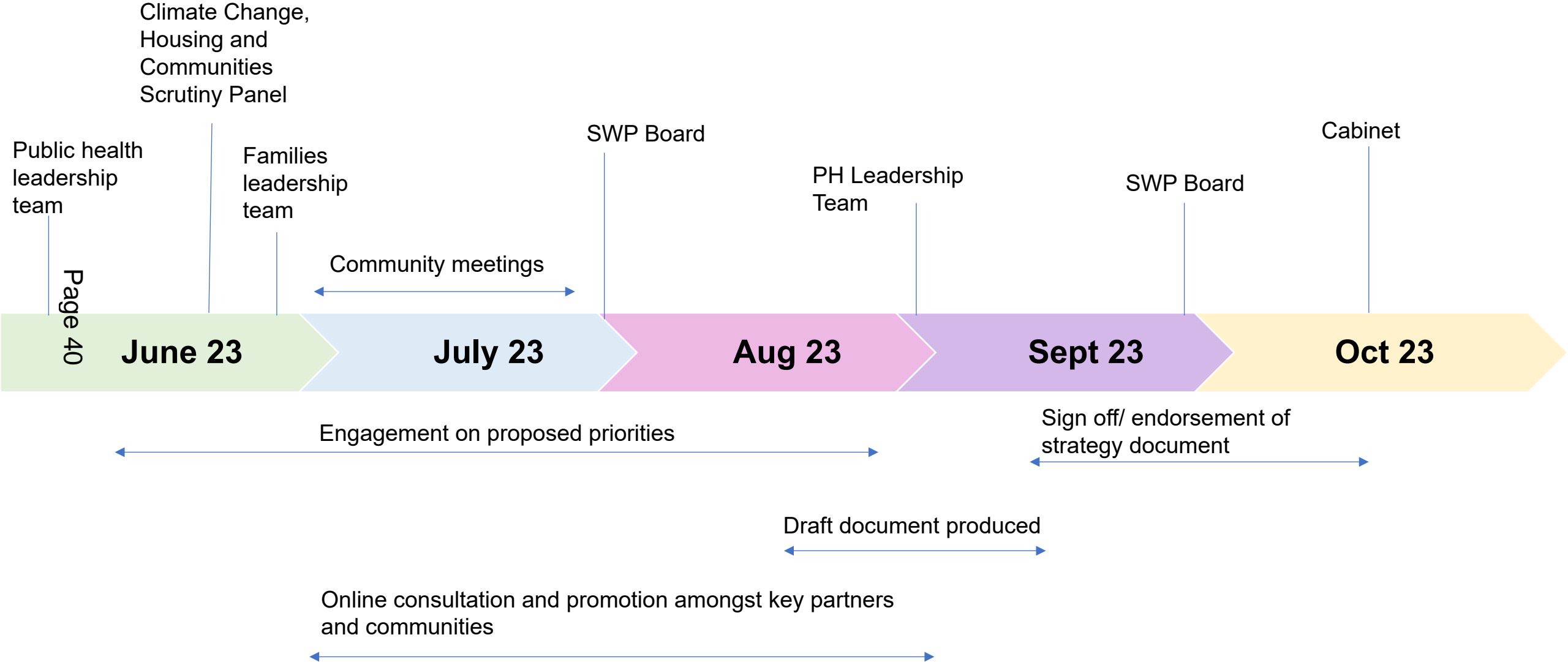


Consultation proposals

Online consultation as well as targeted promotion amongst key partners, stakeholders and communities including:

- Health and Wellbeing Together
- Education settings (including Pupil Referral Units)
- Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together
- All Councillors
- Community meetings
- One Wolverhampton
- Wolverhampton Homes and Social Housing Providers
- Equalities forums (informing an equalities analysis)
- Voluntary and Community Organisations
- Targeted focus groups with service users

Timeline



Climate Change,
Housing and
Communities
Scrutiny Panel

Public health
leadership
team

Families
leadership
team

SWP Board

PH Leadership
Team

SWP Board

Cabinet

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June 23

July 23

Aug 23

Sept 23

Oct 23

Community meetings

Engagement on proposed priorities

Sign off/ endorsement of
strategy document

Draft document produced

Online consultation and promotion amongst key partners
and communities

Climate Change, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel

Chair: Councillor Anwen Muston

Vice Chair: Councillor Wendy Dalton

Scrutiny Support: Earl Piggott-Smith

Remit, Function and Measures

- Work together to deliver more new homes
- Ensuring safe and healthy homes for all
- Ensuring access to a secure home
- Ensuring clean, green neighbourhoods and public space
- Well-connected businesses and residents
- Number of new builds completed in the city
- Net additional dwellings in the city
- % of dwelling stock that is vacant in the city
- Housing affordability ratio
- Total crime recorded per 1000 population
- % of planning application decisions made with 13 weeks or agreed timescales
- Number of homeless families moved into secure housing
- Energy efficiency of housing stock
- % fly tipping incidents resolved in 5 working days
- % of trees on public land serviced every two years
- % of carriageways in city assessed as high quality
- Number of people receiving specialist domestic abuse support in the community to prevent further harm
- Number of domestic abuse cases referred to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- WV Active membership numbers with breakdown by- long term health conditions, disabilities, low socioeconomic groups, minority ethnic groups
- % Domestic Abuse related incidents and crimes

Item	Description	SEB Lead	Officer Report/Author Lead	Date of Meeting	Publication Date	Status
Rough Sleepers Update	Presentation on the Councils homelessness team and up to date information on rough sleepers	John Denley	Anthony Walker	27 June 2023	19 June 2023	Programmed
Improvement of Housing Standards through Licensing (exempt report)	Report on Housing Standards in the private rented sector with particular focus on licensing.	John Roseblade	Chris Howell & William Humphries	27 June 2023	19 June 2023	Programmed
Community Safety Strategy Consultation	Officer request.	John Denley	Hannah Pawley	27 June 2023	19 June 2023	Programmed
Wolverhampton Homes Fire & Asbestos Safety Standards	Member requested at a previous meeting.	Shaun Aldis	Simon Bamfield	28 September 2023	20 September 2023	Programmed
West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Strategy Status	Panel received a report last year and asked them to come back in the future.	John Roseblade		28 September 2023	20 September 2023	Programmed

Community Safety Police Session 1	Panel requested more items on the police after a previous successful meeting with the Police. Provisional idea – Love your Community meetings (Formally PACT) Meetings and combatting Drugs	John Denley	Lynsey Kelly	16 November 2023	8 November 2023	Programmed
Combatting Anti-Social Behaviour	Item ties in with the Police and Community collaboration theme and enables Panel full overview with a partnership approach	John Denley	Lynsey Kelly	16 November 2023	8 November 2023	Programmed
Fly Tipping	Member requested at Scrutiny Board.	John Roseblade	Steve Woodward	16 November 2023	8 November 2023	Programmed
Budget and Financial Strategy/Performance Review	Standard item received each year.	Claire Nye	Alison Shannon	16 November 2023	8 November 2023	Programmed
Community Safety Police Session 2	To include Rehabilitation of	John Denley	Lynsey Kelly	22 February 2024	14 February 2024	Programmed

	offenders and services for reintegration into community post-sentence					
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Additional items to be scheduled: -

Climate Change

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