

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel 28.01.2020
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Report title	Safer Wolverhampton Partnership – Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2020-2023	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Public Health and Wellbeing	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable Director	John Denley, Director of Public Health	
Originating service	Community Safety, Public Health	
Accountable employee	Lynsey Kelly Tel Email	Head of Community Safety 01902 550042 Lynsey.kelly@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Public Health Leadership Team Scrutiny Board	5th November 2019 28th January 2020

Recommendation for decision:

The Board is recommended to:

1. Comment on the draft Safer Wolverhampton Strategy (2020-2023) and provide feedback on identified priority areas.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report will outline the draft SWP Strategy (2020-2023) as well as timelines for consultation and approvals.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP), acts at the local Police and Crime Board for Wolverhampton. The strategic board develops and delivers (in partnership with the voluntary and community sector) strategic plans for the Wolverhampton; working to reduce crime and disorder across city and to ensure the robust implementation of section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act places a duty on all statutory partners to consider issues of community safety at the centre of their delivery.
- 2.2 SWP Board is a partnership board, membership make up includes statutory members from regulatory authorities; West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, Clinical Commissioning Group and the Local Authority. To ensure balance on the board, five voluntary sector organisations are invited to sit on the board and three resident representatives.
- 2.3 The Board refresh the Community Safety Strategy every three years to ensure that it remains relevant and fit for purpose. The current strategy ends on 31 March 2020.
- 2.4 The draft Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2020-2023 (Appendix One) outlines successes of the current strategy (2017-2020) and outlines the agreed priorities for the next three years of delivery.

3.0 Agreeing Priorities

- 3.1 Priorities for 2020-2023 were determined during an independently facilitated workshop held June 2019. The workshop was attended by board members, statutory partners and a number of third sector representatives who delivery specialist interventions to reduce crime and disorder.
- 3.2 A number of priorities were discussed at the workshop; partners were asked to consider their importance against a number of indicators and were informed by qualitative and quantitative data from a range of sources including Wolverhampton's annual strategic assessment, local crime data, thematic trends, public health data and local community concerns.
- 3.3 The following overarching priorities were agreed:
 - Reducing offending
 - Preventing violence
 - Reducing harm
 - Building community capacity

- 3.4 Following the success of the current strategy; broad overarching priorities were selected to allow flexibility to respond to any emerging crime trends or risks and focus delivery according to demand and need. Delivery will be monitored by an annually refreshed action plan which will outline specific actions sitting underneath each outcome, action owners and timescales.
- 3.5 An overarching performance framework is monitored by SWP Board and partners are held to account if areas are identified as under performing.

4.0 Overarching Priorities - Reducing Offending

- 4.1 The priority of reducing offending is slightly broader than the previous priority which was reducing reoffending. This allows an increased focus on earlier intervention and prevention; agencies can support people from the earliest possible point to stop them from offending at all, as well as working with those who have already entered the criminal justice system to reduce the risk of them reoffending.
- 4.2 Over the duration of the current SWP strategy, Wolverhampton's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) led on the delivery of the Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy in collaboration with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) from Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall. This will attract additional resources and strengthen collective capacity and partnership working.
- 4.3 The draft Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy outlines what we hope to achieve in Wolverhampton:
- Reduce adult and youth offending
 - Earlier identification of those in need of support
 - Work effectively with the partnership to utilise appropriate enforcement and implement interventions to change the behaviour of offenders and prevent reoffending
 - Effective management of high volume/risk offenders
 - Improved use of pathways to change offender attitudes and behaviours

5.0 Overarching Priorities - Preventing Violence

- 5.1 Identifying those in need of support at an early stage to prevent escalation of violence and reduce crime continues to be a focus for SWP Board. There is a commitment to continue to deliver robust preventative work using a multi-agency approach to ensure that those in need of specialist services receive them at a much earlier point to reduce risk to themselves and the wider community.
- 5.2 The Tackling Violence and Exploitation Strategy outlines SWP's commitment to tackling all forms of exploitation and violence in a holistic manner with a particular focus on contextual safeguarding, whilst the Interpersonal Violence Strategy continues to deliver against the priority to tackle domestic abuse, sexual violence, female genital mutilation, honour-based violence, forced marriage and stalking and harassment across all genders.

5.3 This strand will also complement the work and aims of #YES – Youth Engagement Strategy, (currently in development at time of writing) recognising that targeted specialist services for those young people most at risk will be complemented with generic outreach support and activities which will be commissioned in consultation with young people so that they are engaging and relevant for young people across the City.

5.4 The SWP Strategy (2020-2023) aims to:

- Promote a shared understanding that all forms of violence are unacceptable, therefore increasing confidence in reporting and help seeking
- Reduce the prevalence of violent crime across all age groups
- Ensure Wolverhampton is a safe place to live, work and visit
- Work effectively with the partnership to support offenders and utilise appropriate enforcement when necessary
- Influence implementation and delivery of the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit to ensure that it meets local need.

6.0 Overarching Priorities – Harm Reduction

6.1 Reducing the harm caused by victimisation and repeat victimisation will ensure those who are most vulnerable are more effectively safeguarded and supported to reduce the risk that they continue to suffer harm.

6.2 The Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy (2017-2020) named reducing victimisation as a priority and progressed many workstreams relating to harm reduction. This included the development of a modern slavery pathway, hate crime microsite and the progression of the Wolverhampton and Walsall Anti-Slavery Partnership.

6.3 The SWP Strategy (2020-2023) aims to:

- Increase reporting of under-reported crimes
- Earlier identification of those at risk of harm
- Recognition that reducing harm is everyone's business
- Empower residents to build a community response

7.0 Building Community Capacity

7.1 Whilst community empowerment and engagement have been strong themes in previous strategies, building community capacity has been identified as a priority in the 2020-2023 strategy to reflect the vital role which communities can play in helping to reduce crime and disorder, supporting victims of crime and reducing harm and victimisation.

7.2 The Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2020-2023 sets out a commitment from the partnership to work with communities and partners to support people to become active within their local communities and to co-produce proactive solutions to the problems they may face.

- 7.3 Using a place based approach, the ambition is to understand specific area issues and to empower communities to identify how they can work together to make small improvements in their local area.
- 7.4 This strand will also link with the ambition of Public Health and Wellbeing, to reduce deprivation and health inequalities by empowering communities and vulnerable residents to seek support, assistance and build resilience through support networks.
- 7.3. The partnership aims to:
- Encourage and enable residents to become more involved in their local area and take pride in it
 - Build on trust and confidence within communities to increase reporting of crime
 - Enable residents to take responsibility for appropriate issues within their communities and support each other
 - Strengthen community cohesion

8.0 Consultation

- 8.1 The strategy has been drafted following analysis of current data trends and intelligence and gathering views from organisations across the partnership and sectors through ongoing consultation. The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership is now seeking wider views of stakeholders, residents and the communities of Wolverhampton.
- 8.2 Consultation for the draft strategy will run for a 12-week period to comply with Wolverhampton's compact agreement. You can see the full draft strategy in Appendix One and a copy of the consultation questions in Appendix Two.
- 8.3 Consultation responses have been received from;
- Survey Monkey responses
 - Community PACT meetings across all Wards
 - Health and Wellbeing Board
 - YOT Board
 - Safer Wolverhampton Delivery Group
 - St Georges Hub
 - Youth Council
 - Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum Executive Board
 - Resilience Board
 - Interfaith Wolverhampton
 - The Haven Wolverhampton

The Consultation has also been distributed to:

- All Councillor in-boxes and available in members lounge
- City People
- Wolverhampton Anti-slavery Network

- Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector
- Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together
- Third Sector Providers

9.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 9.1 Option one – not to refresh the strategy; There is a statutory requirement to have a current and up to date Community Safety Strategy as per the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Not renewing the strategy would result in the board failing to meet statutory obligations.
- 9.2 Option two – continue with the current strategy; Although this would allow the statutory obligation to be met, the strategy would not be addressing current and emerging issues which the city is experiencing and therefore would not be fit for purpose.

10.0 Reasons for decision

- 10.1 Renewing and updating the strategy will allow the strategy requirement to be met and allows partners to understand current and emerging trends and plan to respond accordingly.

11.0 Financial Implications

- 11.1 The Community Safety Strategy will be largely delivered through partners of the responsible organisations, partners will continue to meet their statutory responsibilities which contribute towards the overall strategy.
- 11.2 Wolverhampton's grant allocation from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for 2020-2021 is £150,000. The PCC allocation, when received, is ringfenced for Community Safety use by Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) in line with conditions of grant.

[NM/15012020/J]

12.0 Legal Implications

- 12.1 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.
- 12.2 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/06012020/Q]

13.0 Equalities implications

- 13.1 Once any amendments are made to the strategy (following the consultation period) a full equalities analysis will be undertaken to inform the strategy and its delivery.
- 13.2 Central to the consultation methodology was the targeting of Wolverhampton's diverse residents and communities; to ensure that the strategy reflects the views of residents and partners across the city. The addition of the priority to build community capacity will also result in empowering as many residents as possible to be more active in their area. Taking a place based approach will mean that traditionally hidden communities will be empowered to play a leading role in delivery within their areas.
- 13.3 Data suggests that some groups are particularly vulnerable to crime and harm. For example, young men are particularly vulnerable to youth violence associated with Urban Street Gangs and females are more likely to suffer domestic Abuse. Anecdotal evidence suggests that those who are expelled from school, attend a PRU or are care leavers may be more vulnerable to becoming victims or perpetrators of particular crimes.
- 13.4 When considering hidden crimes; an incident based on hatred can take many different forms. The five strands of hate crime are an offence committed on the grounds of; race, perceived religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity or disability. Whilst hidden crimes in relation to domestic abuse, such as female genital mutilation (FGM), so called honour-based violence (HBV) and forced marriage (FM) are most prevalent within communities where these practices are wide spread in the victim or perpetrators country of origin.
- 13.5 The strategy recognises this and uses a data-informed approach to target interventions and support to those most at risk (whilst also providing universal provision), thus achieving the greatest impact.

14.0 Climate Change and Environmental implications

- 14.1 There are no environmental implications

15.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 15.1 All of the overarching priorities identified will have an impact on wider Public Health. When dealing with those at risk of or involved in exploitation in any form SWP Board and the wider Community Safety Team take a Public Health approach; using preventative measures to safeguard individuals from becoming either a victim or a perpetrator of crime. Taking a harm reduction approach whilst empowering communities, will help to reduce inequalities whilst also working to reduce deprivation across the city.

16.0 Human resources implications

- 16.1 There are no Human Resources Implications.

17.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 4.1 There are no Corporate landlord implications.

18.0 Schedule of background papers

4.1 There are no background papers

19.0 Appendices

19.1 Appendix 1 – Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2020-2023 (Draft)

19.2 Appendix 2 – *Community* Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2020-2023 (Draft)
Consultation Questions