

Safer Wolverhampton Partnership

# Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2020-2023



**Wolverhampton**

A Safe City

Operating as Wolverhampton's Local Police & Crime Board

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# Glossary of Terms

**ACE** - Adverse Childhood Experience

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**CSP** - Community Safety Partnership

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**DA** - Domestic Abuse

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**FGM** - Female Genital Mutilation

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**FM** - Forced Marriage

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**HBV** - Honour Based Violence

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**IPV** - Interpersonal Violence

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**MASH** - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

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**PACT** - Partners and Communities Together

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**SV** - Sexual Violence

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**SWP** - Safer Wolverhampton Partnership

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**VAWG** - Violence Against Women and Girls

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**WASP** - Wolverhampton and Walsall Anti-slavery Partnership

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**WMP** - West Midlands Police

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**VRU** - Violence Reduction Unit

# Foreword



Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) understands that issues of crime, community safety and harm reduction are very complex and require an integrated partnership response. There have already been huge improvements in aligning the city's safeguarding practices; Wolverhampton prides itself on having a well-established adults and children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). SWP and the Safeguarding Together Board have developed an innovative strategy; Tackling Violence and Exploitation. The strategy encompasses all forms of violence and exploitation holistically. The two boards share governance for delivery of the strategy which strengthens the joint response and accountability.<sup>1</sup>

Broad strategic themes have been identified as priorities within this strategy. This enables flexibility in responding to changing crime trends and emerging issues. Delivery will be reviewed annually using Wolverhampton's annual Strategic Assessment and will consider local

trends to ensure that delivery reflects need, whilst also maximising opportunities for joint working across the region. The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership recognises that crime often extends beyond geographic boundaries and can impact on several different locations. This strategy sets out the strategic vision for the partnership over the next three years; as such it is imperative that certain interventions and programs are available across the region. To achieve the vision and the intended outcomes detailed in this strategy, actions will be agreed and formalised into a plan and refreshed on an annual basis. Performance against the action plan will be overseen and monitored by both SWP Delivery Group and SWP Board on a quarterly basis.

The ambition is for swifter information flow, earlier identification and support for those at risk, increased involvement and co-production with communities and a reduction in the risk of residents being victimised. This commitment to

early intervention and prevention threads through the strategy and will require the partnership to extend work with schools, enhance the role of communities and deliver sustained training for frontline practitioners. The strategy will also work to strengthen the collective city response to crime using the tools and powers available to colleagues across the partnership.

The previous strategy (2017-2020) saw achievements across various workstreams including an increase in the reporting of hidden crimes, increased public engagement and targeted interventions to tackle youth violence. These achievements are celebrated in this strategy, however there is recognition and strong commitment to continue to address crime and disorder across the city.

The strategy places a stronger focus on the need to engage residents and build community capacity. It is recognised that Wolverhampton's communities are instrumental in ensuring that the city is a safe, secure and a positive place to live and work. This not only aligns itself with the partnership's commitments to a place-based

approach but is also reflective of the City of Wolverhampton Council Plan.<sup>2</sup> The place-based approach will involve focused partnership delivery in specific locations across the city which have been identified using police data, the indices of deprivation, public engagement and by understanding levels of demand.

Safer Wolverhampton Partnership recognises the unprecedented and significant impact across all our communities, businesses and partnerships brought about by Covid19. In the early months of the UK Government's restrictions we have demonstrated our ability to work collectively to support the most vulnerable in society. Also to engage and explain with individuals, groups or businesses across Wolverhampton concerning the public health advice and restrictions.

As a partnership we will continue with such activities as the Government's future advice continues to mature and reserve the right to review the strategy in light of any potential significant national advice, policy or legislation changes that are, as yet, unknown.



**Chief Superintendent  
Andy Beard**  
*(West Midlands Police)*  
Chair of SWP Board



**Cllr Jasbir Jaspal**  
*(City of Wolverhampton Council)*  
Cabinet Member for Health  
and Wellbeing

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.saferwolverhampton.org.uk/documents/TVE%20Wolverhampton%20Strategy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-04/Our%20Council%20Plan%202019-2024.pdf>

# Executive Summary

## Context

SWP is the statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in Wolverhampton. SWP Board representation is diverse; voluntary, community and resident representatives sit alongside statutory members, public sector organisations and elected members to ensure the board is fully inclusive and can make informed decisions on issues relating to community safety, community cohesion and community empowerment.

The Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2020-2023 has been co-produced with our partners. An independently facilitated session with board members, key partners, stakeholders and community members enabled collaboration and productive discussions to agree the vision and priorities for the coming three years.

The Board does not work in isolation. Many of the priorities identified in the strategy will also be priorities for other boards across the council and the city. To ensure a robust and collaborative approach SWP Board has strong links with the Health and Wellbeing Board, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together and the Strengthening Families Board so that planning and delivery can be collaborative, aligned and have the maximum impact possible for Wolverhampton's communities and residents.

## Overarching Strategic Priorities

To set the priorities for 2020-2023 a range of information and data has been considered, including strategic assessments, crime and deprivation data, thematic trends and local knowledge and intelligence from the key partners and community members. The range of information used has allowed SWP to build strong foundations and a detailed picture of the

challenges Wolverhampton continues to face; allowing for the implementation of a Public Health approach to addressing crime, disorder, cohesion and inequalities.

It is clearly recognised that there is a need to provide sustained intervention and preventative activities at the earliest possible opportunity as well as providing support and interventions for those who have already been harmed. This will help to prevent both young people and adults coming to harm or engaging in criminality. Positive engagement will not only help to reduce harm, it can also improve aspirations, confidence, empowerment and build capacity within communities.

Considering the evidence and the desire to embed a public health approach to delivery, the overarching priorities for the coming three years have been widened and include;

## Reducing Offending

***Reducing offending by identifying those at risk of criminality at the earliest stage and offering the appropriate intervention and support.***

Where individuals have already entered the criminal justice system, they must be managed effectively to reduce the risk of reoffending. The causal factors linked to offending such as substance misuse and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) will be explored. Work will be undertaken to strengthen the transition between youth and adult systems of support. The Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy provides focus for an evidence-based approach, adopting innovation and best practice.

## Preventing Violence

***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.***

There is a commitment to continue to deliver robust preventative interventions using a multi-agency collaborative approach. This will ensure that those in need of specialist services receive them at a much earlier point to reduce risk to themselves and the wider community. Innovative approaches are being taken to address youth violence and ensure both our mainstream and specialist services (including voluntary and community sector) identify those in need of support at the earliest possible opportunity.

## Harm Reduction

***Reducing the harm caused by victimisation and repeat victimisation will ensure those who are most vulnerable are more effectively safeguarded, supported and empowered.***

SWP will build resilience, providing safeguarding and pathways for individuals and communities so that people are confident to manage their own risk and are supported through their local community.

## Building Community Capacity

***Everyone deserves to live in a place which they are proud of and to be part of a strong and cohesive community.***

It is recognised that Wolverhampton's communities are instrumental in ensuring that the city is a safe, secure and a positive place to live, work and grow. SWP will use a place based approach to work with partners and communities; supporting people to become active within their local area and find proactive

solutions to issues they may face. This method of co-production will help to build and strengthen family relationships and social connections, increase confidence, knowledge and resilience whilst decreasing inequalities and deprivation.

## Delivery

Underpinning this strategy will be a multi-agency action plan. The action plan is subject to robust performance management arrangements; SWP Board provides rigorous quarterly oversight to monitor outcomes and provide scrutiny and challenge over delivery when necessary. The action plan will be reviewed annually to allow the partnership to monitor delivery and respond to any emerging issues or trends in a timely manner.

To inform the delivery of interventions and commissioned services SWP will use information and data from strategic assessments to analyse current crime trends and ensure that priorities delivered remain relevant. Assessing the need on an annual basis and proactively capturing and addressing community concerns will provide greater flexibility to respond to new and emerging risks and address priorities across Wolverhampton.

# Safer Wolverhampton Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy - Plan on a Page

## Our Aim

SWP works to implement section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and ensure that crime and community safety issues are central to the delivery of statutory partners in Wolverhampton.

This strategy has been co-produced with our partners and communities. Priorities were agreed by a broad spectrum of board members based on data, partner intelligence and community knowledge. The following four priorities were determined for the coming three years.

## 1 Reducing Offending

SWP aims to identify those at risk of offending at the earliest stage and provide appropriate intervention to prevent criminality whilst working with partners to manage those who have already entered the criminal justice system to encourage behaviour change.

The Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy provides focus for the prevention of reoffending in Wolverhampton based on best-practice and evidence-based approaches.

## 2 Preventing Violence

SWP will continue to work with communities and partners to promote a shared understanding that all forms of violence are unacceptable. The partnership will continue to work to identify those at risk of perpetrating or becoming victims of violence or exploitation at the earliest possible opportunity.

Working with partners, robust preventative interventions will be provided to ensure that specialist support is received to reduce the risk to individuals and communities.

## 3 Harm Reduction

SWP will work with partners to safeguard the most vulnerable to prevent victimisation and repeat victimisation and support them to manage their own risk.

The partnership will work with communities to empower them to report crime and increase their knowledge of hidden crimes including interpersonal violence, modern slavery and hate crime.

## 4 Building Community Capacity

It is recognised that SWP cannot achieve its aims and objectives without the support of communities who play a vital role in ensuring Wolverhampton is a safe place to live, work and grow.

SWP will use a place-based approach to work with communities and empower them to play an active role within their area, using coproduction to reduce deprivation and inequalities and find local solutions to local concerns.

## Snapshot of Outcomes

Over the next three years we hope to be able to achieve the outcomes detailed in this strategy, including:

- Reduce adult and youth offending
- Earlier identification of those in need of support
- Reduce prevalence of violent crime across all ages
- Build on trust and confidence to increase reporting of crime, strengthen community cohesion and encourage residents to build a community response to crime and vulnerability
- Ensure Wolverhampton is a safe place to live, work and visit

# Keeping Our Communities Safe

## The Partnership

SWP is the statutory CSP and the Local Police and Crime Board for Wolverhampton. CSPs became a statutory function under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998; whereby a duty was placed on a number of partner agencies to develop a partnership board.

### Statutory Partners

City of Wolverhampton Council  
(including Youth Offending Team)

West Midlands Police

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

National Probation Service and  
Community Rehabilitation Company

Wolverhampton Clinical  
Commissioning Group

### Non-Statutory Partners

Resident Representatives for  
each constituency area

Business sector

Third sector representation (5 seats)

Cabinet Lead Councillor – Public Health  
and Wellbeing

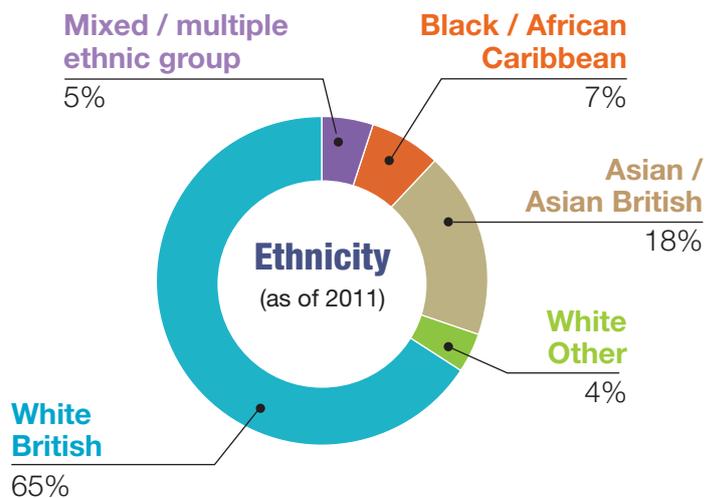
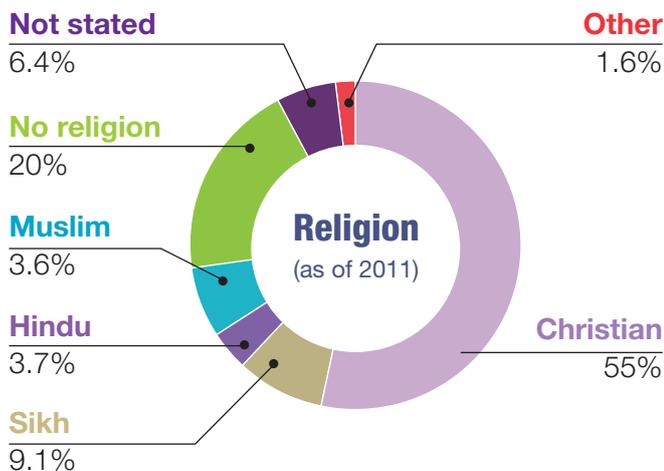
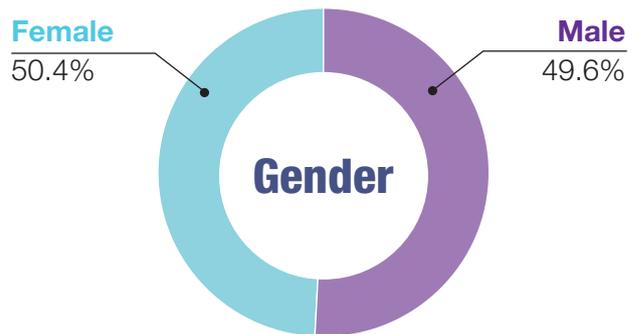
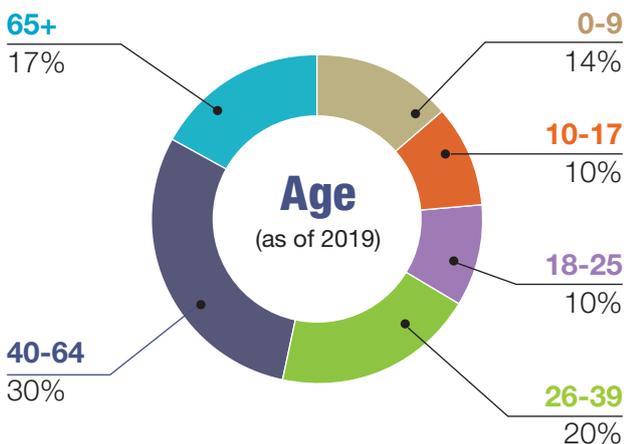
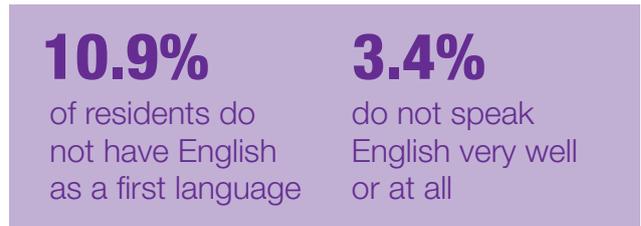
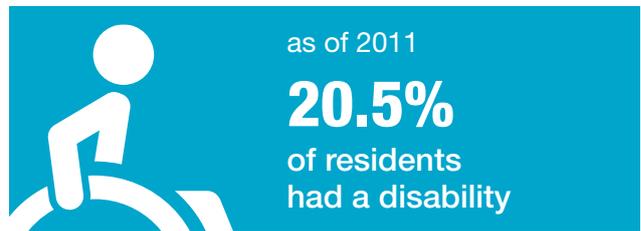
Wolverhampton Homes

SWP not only develops and delivers strategic plans for the city; it works **to implement section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, which places a duty on all statutory partners to consider issues of community safety at the centre of their delivery**. As such the Board works:

- To influence partner delivery
- With local communities to increase engagement and co-produce solutions to address neighbourhood concerns
- To commission valued community and voluntary sector partners to provide specialist provision in targeted locations
- To embed best practice into mainstream services

SWP is a strong and robust CSP, having excellent relationships with both the voluntary and community sector, many of the board partners input into commissioning and sit on delivery groups across a variety of disciplines to help shape services and delivery across Wolverhampton.

# Wolverhampton on a page



<sup>3</sup> As of 2018

<sup>4</sup> Data is not produced about sexual orientation at a local level by the Office for National Statistics. However, they do ask about sexual orientation nationally as part of the 'Sexual Orientation UK' release. The latest edition (2017) estimated that 2% of adults in the UK identified themselves as LGB, this would equate to 4,210 adults in Wolverhampton. It is likely that 2% is a conservative estimate and under representative.

# Achievements in Reducing Reoffending 2017-2020

In 2016-2017 the reoffending rate in Wolverhampton was

**30.8%**

(below the national baseline of 40%)



Development of a Black Country wide reducing reoffending strategy

People engaged in Youth Offending Team interventions

**increased from 145 to 273**

between 2017-2019



Employment, training and education support has supported **191 people** out of the criminal justice system and into jobs across the Black Country since 2017

**Alternative giving campaign** supported **16 long term rough sleepers** into accommodation since April 2018, reducing the number of homeless on the streets

# Achievements in Violence Prevention 2017-2020

Increased reports of domestic violence suggest an increase in public confidence to report this traditionally hidden crime



120 women & 60 men from newly emerging communities received training & resources to increase confidence in reporting VAWG<sup>5</sup> and signpost to support<sup>6</sup>

**37** professional champions raising awareness of VAWG within their organisations



In 2019 more than **120 organisations** were involved in annual Orange Wolverhampton campaign to raise awareness of violence against women and girls

Over 700 domestic abuse victims were provided with safeguarding interventions through Wolverhampton multi-agency risk assessment conference.



**Over 2,244**

Wolverhampton professionals trained in VAWG strands from April 2017



VAWG training has taken place in **48 GP practices** across the city, upskilling the workforce (out of a total of 51)



Third Sector partners commissioned to deliver **specialist interventions and preventative activities** in specifically identified locations for those most vulnerable to violence and exploitation

**Primary school mentoring programme** works with young people to help them make positive decisions, highlight risk factors and become peer mentors



**The Tackling Violence and Exploitation Strategy** was launched in April 2018, setting out a holistic public health approach to reduce violence and its effects at a population level.

**Girls Allowed Project**

reduces the risk to young females associated with or who are vulnerable to gang violence



**FOUR KNIFE BINS**



in Wolverhampton where weapons can be disposed of without fear of repercussion

<sup>5</sup> VAWG - Violence against women and girls

<sup>6</sup> This was a highly successful project funded by NHS England and coordinated by Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group, Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum and Wolverhampton Refugee and Migrant Centre

# Achievements in Reducing Victimisation 2017-2020

**Wolverhampton and Walsall Anti-Slavery Partnership (WASP)** providing coordination to tackling Modern Slavery and protect victims



City-wide roll-out of **modern slavery awareness training packages**

Development of a **Modern Slavery Pathway** allowing timely referrals from practitioners and support for victims




Improved promotion and awareness of PACT<sup>7</sup> community meetings has yielded higher attendances and a wider demographic range of active residents in communities

Dedicated Community Cohesion Forum to empower communities and co-produce ideas alongside our voluntary and faith groups, statutory agencies and councillors

Reported modern slavery offences **increased by 300%** during 2017-2018 suggesting increased confidence to report

Increase in **hate crime reports** suggests an increase in trust and confidence to disclose incidents




Development of a dedicated hate crime microsite<sup>8</sup> for Wolverhampton, accessible for community members and practitioners.

Work in ward areas to improve and enhance community cohesion and perception



Supporting community events across the city including Eid in the Park and LGBT Health Conference



<sup>7</sup> Partners and communities together

<sup>8</sup> [www.stophatewv.net](http://www.stophatewv.net)

## Determining Priorities for 2020-2023



Priorities for this strategy have been determined by using qualitative and quantitative data from a range of sources including; Wolverhampton's annual strategic assessment, crime and deprivation data, thematic trends and local community concerns, local knowledge and intelligence. Collective findings were considered by SWP Board when agreeing the refreshed priorities.

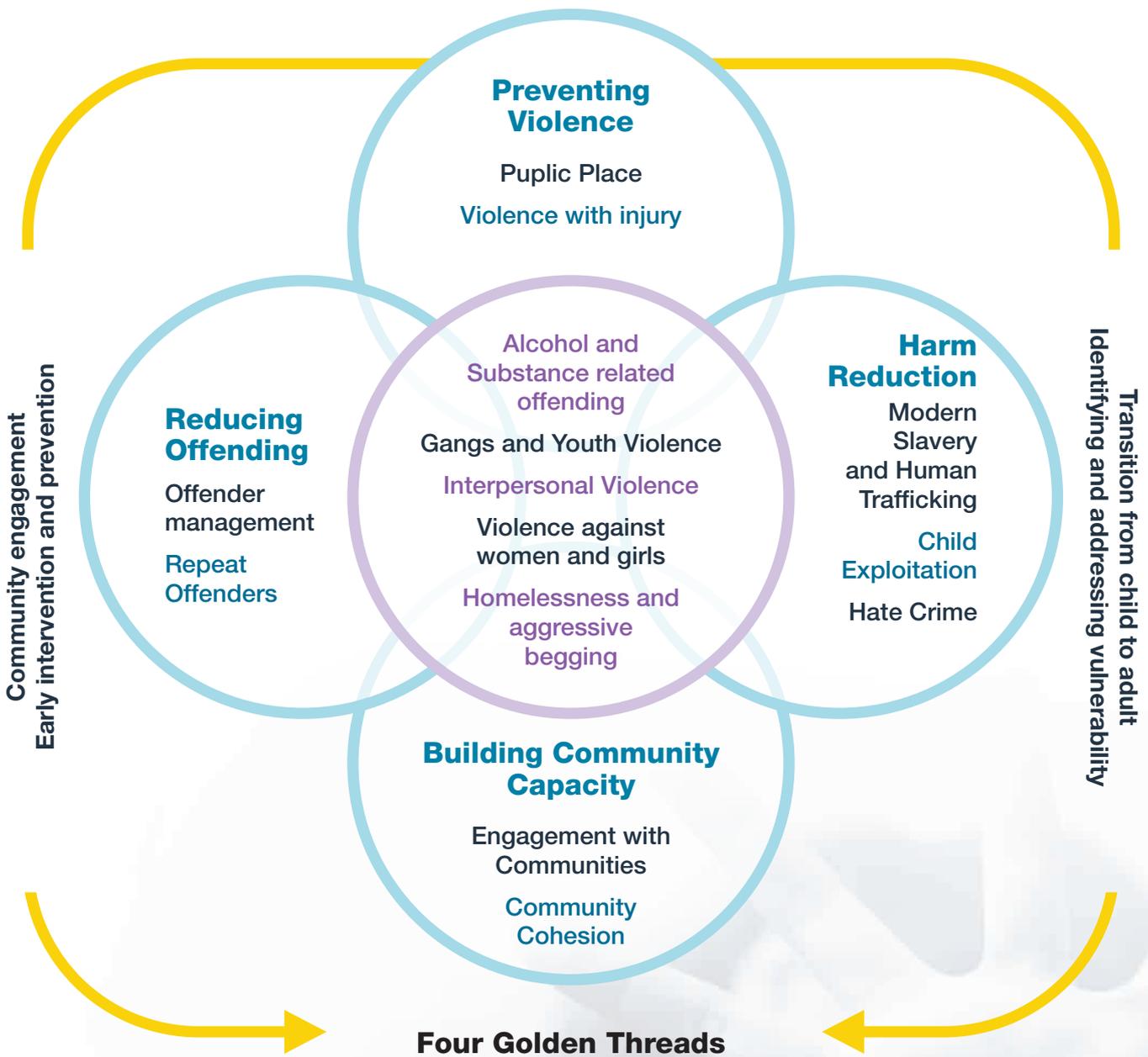
SWP recognises that early intervention and prevention is key to reducing harm and vulnerability across all of the priority areas. The provision of positive activities alongside education and training can build both individual and community capacity and can empower people to make positive changes.

The previous strategy introduced broad overarching priority areas, this successfully provided the flexibility to respond to changing trends and to address emerging risks promptly. Due to the effectiveness of this approach, this refreshed strategy will continue using broad overarching themes. Progress against workstreams will be monitored using a robust performance framework which will be monitored by SWP Board. Where workstreams have joint governance, updates will also be provided to Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together for

oversight, scrutiny and agreement. If necessary, partners will be held to account against their delivery and will be supported to achieve the desired outcomes. As with previous strategies, workstreams will be reviewed annually to ensure that they remain fit for purpose and continue to respond appropriately; addressing risk and responding to newly identified trends or concerns.

***The overarching priority for SWP board is to work as a cohesive partnership to reduce crime, address the perceptions of crime and build community resilience to keep Wolverhampton safe.***

The priority areas and workstreams agreed by SWP Board are detailed below. Many of the workstreams will straddle multiple priorities demonstrating that taking a prevention and intervention approach is equally important to, and will complement enforcement action. It also reinforces that some perpetrators of crime are first and foremost victims being exploited due to their vulnerabilities. Board members have agreed that the strategy will have four golden threads which are set out on the following page and will be considered in all priority areas and workstreams included in this strategy.



# Reducing Offending

SWP is committed to reducing offending by identifying those at risk of criminality at the earliest stage and offering the appropriate intervention and support. Where individuals have already entered the criminal justice system, they must be managed effectively to reduce the risk of reoffending. This includes both youth and adult offenders across the spectrum of risk and offending type. The causal factors linked to offending such as substance misuse and adverse childhood experiences will be addressed whilst work will be undertaken to strengthen the transition between youth and adult systems of support. The Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy provides focus for an evidence-based approach, adopting innovation and best practice.

## What do we hope to achieve?

- **Reduce adult and youth offending**
  - **High volume/ risk offenders are managed effectively**
  - **Earlier identification of those in need of support**
  - **Improved use of pathways to change offender attitudes and behaviours**
  - **Work effectively with the partnership to implement interventions to change behaviours, deter criminality and prevent reoffending. Enforcement will be utilised only when appropriate to do so**
- Continue to increase the use of restorative justice for lower level offences
  - Improve pathways for offenders to access support, employment and housing in Wolverhampton in a timely manner
  - Strengthened management of offenders of high-volume crime, for example domestic abuse
  - Address issues which may be linked to offending behaviour in an individual (for example, substance misuse or mental health problems) and provide meaningful opportunities to catalyse positive behavioural change

## Early Areas of Focus:

- Work with primary schools and across education settings to support vulnerable young people and their families at the earliest possible stage; providing interventions to address their attitudes and behaviours whilst considering a 'Contextual Safeguarding' approach

# Preventing Violence

Identifying those in need of support at an early stage to prevent the escalation of violence and reduce crime continues to be a focus for SWP. There is a commitment to continue to deliver robust preventative work using a multi-agency approach. This will ensure that those in need of specialist services receive them at a much earlier point to reduce risk to themselves and the wider community.

Innovative approaches are being taken to address youth violence and ensure both our mainstream and specialist services (including voluntary and community sector) identify those in need of support at an earlier point to reduce an escalation of violence.

## What do we hope to achieve?

- **Promote a shared understanding that any form of violence is unacceptable**
- **Work effectively with partners to support offenders and utilise appropriate enforcement when necessary**
- **Reduced prevalence of violent crime across all ages**
- **Influence and input into delivery provided by the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to ensure that it meets local need**
- **Ensure Wolverhampton is a safe place to live, work and visit**
- Work with Education partners to identify the earliest opportunity to intervene to prevent the exploitation of young people, including delivery of Domestic Abuse programmes in school settings
- Continue to work with partners to support victims of violence
- Continue to commission accessible and local diversionary activity for young people at risk of perpetrating or becoming a victim of violence in order to build resilience and aspirations
- Work with safeguarding colleagues to embed contextual safeguarding and better understand wider vulnerabilities which can lead to violence and exploitation

## Early Areas of Focus

- Maintain engagement with communities to break the cycle of cultural acceptance of domestic related abuse and vulnerability, delivering key messages in a variety of formats
- Continue to work in partnership to reduce both violence (particularly knife crime), and exploitation (specifically with youths under 25yrs)

# Harm Reduction

Reducing the harm caused by victimisation and repeat victimisation will ensure those who are most vulnerable are more effectively safeguarded, supported and empowered. SWP will build resilience, provide safeguarding and pathways for individuals and communities so that people are confident to manage their own risk and are supported through their local community.

## What do we hope to achieve?

- **Increase reporting of crime, particularly hidden crimes and hate crime**
- **Recognition that reducing harm is everyone's business**
- **Earlier identification of those at risk**
- **Empower residents to build a community response**

## Early Areas of Focus

- Continue to work with communities to increase reporting of hate crime, honour-based violence and other hidden crimes in order to build community trust and resilience
- Increase understanding of modern slavery and build confidence of victims to report issues and access support
- Work with families, communities, health and education settings to identify people at risk of exploitation at the earliest possible point and provide appropriate intervention

- Ensure clearly promoted support mechanisms are available for people who report crime as well as the prosecution process to ensure that victims are fully informed
- Work with communities and partners to develop a community response to harm reduction and victim support
- Continue to deliver Wolverhampton's response to the PREVENT duty by working in partnership to identify those at risk of extremism and intervene accordingly.

# Building Community Capacity

Everyone deserves to live in a place which they are proud of and to be part of a strong and cohesive community. It is recognised that Wolverhampton's communities are instrumental in ensuring that the city is a safe, secure and positive place to live, work and grow. SWP Board will work with partners and communities to support people to become active within their local area and find proactive solutions to issues they may face.

This method of co-production and a place-based approach will help to build and strengthen family relationships and social connections, and increase confidence, knowledge and resilience.

## What do we hope to achieve?

- **People are encouraged to be more actively involved in their local area and take pride in it**
- **Residents take responsibility for their communities and support each other**
- **Build on trust and confidence to increase reporting of crime**
- **Strengthen community cohesion**

## Early Areas of Focus

- Develop a sustainable place-based approach; working with communities to understand and address local concerns, tackle inequalities and deprivation and build community cohesion
- Enable and facilitate opportunities for residents to take responsibility in their local community by volunteering, getting involved and shaping services

- Continue positive public engagement to increase confidence and build trust with communities and improve perceptions of crime
- Build on the successes of community meetings; broaden public engagement opportunities to ensure diverse representation reflective of Wolverhampton's population
- Ensure that residents and partners have access to information about their local area, including what is available in the community and information about safety and crime

## Delivery

Strong and purposeful relationships exist between statutory and non-statutory cross-sector partners. These trusted relationships have been developed over many years and drive the successful delivery of services and interventions.

Underpinning this strategy will be a multi-agency action plan. The action plan is subject to robust performance management arrangements; SWP Board provides rigorous quarterly oversight to monitor outcomes and provide scrutiny and challenge over delivery when necessary. The action plan will be reviewed annually to allow the partnership to monitor delivery and respond to any emerging issues and trends in a timely manner.

To inform the delivery of interventions and commissioned services SWP will use information and data from strategic assessments to analyse current crime trends and ensure that priorities delivered remain relevant. Assessing the need on an annual basis will provide SWP with greater flexibility to respond to new and emerging risks and address priorities across Wolverhampton.

The launch of the West Midlands VRU in 2019 provides further opportunities and assist Wolverhampton to continue to reduce violence and exploitation. Where appropriate, SWP will input into and influence delivery of the VRU to ensure that it is not only meeting the needs of the West Midlands area, but also the needs of Wolverhampton and its residents.

Important to delivery is the adoption of a place-based approach. This involves focused partnership delivery within areas of the city which have been identified using a range of data and public engagement. It is hoped that this place-based approach will strengthen the city-wide provision; it will support and enhance the

successes which have so far been evidenced in small areas of the city, whilst aligning with the work of West Midlands Police in their identified Impact Areas.

Partners, residents and communities within Wolverhampton are central to delivery of this strategy. We will continue to engage with communities and build on existing relationships with residents throughout the course of this strategy to ensure that our delivery aligns with their concerns and priorities.

The impact of Covid19 has required the partnership to adapt the delivery of services and interventions so that our communities remain safe and continue to be supported. To ensure that SWP continues to deliver an ongoing and robust service online forums and virtual platforms will be utilised to provide statutory services and projects and maintain business as usual.

There are recognised areas of commonality between SWP, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together and Health and Wellbeing Together and SWP will continue to work collaboratively with these boards to ensure that delivery is aligned.



## Equalities

A full equalities analysis has been completed to inform the approach of SWP and will be kept under review to revise delivery as required.

It is recognised that some groups within our city will be particularly at risk of victimisation or face barriers when seeking support. For example, young men are particularly vulnerable to youth violence associated with Urban Street Gangs and females are more likely to suffer interpersonal violence. Anecdotal evidence suggests that those who are expelled from school, attend a Pupil Referral Unit or are care leavers may be more vulnerable to becoming victims or perpetrators of particular crimes.

SWP is committed to increasing the reporting of hidden crimes which some groups can be particularly vulnerable to. This includes hate crime which is an offence committed on the grounds of; race, perceived religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity or disability. Hidden crimes in relation to interpersonal violence, 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. SWP will do targeted work within these communities to build trust and confidence to encourage reporting of these crimes and help victims access the support which they need.

When considering the development of the strategy, consultation was held with a wide cross-section of the community, those involved in the consultation process included: elected members, residents, community leaders, statutory partners, service users, third sector organisations, youth groups and faith leaders. The results of this consultation have informed the strategy and ongoing engagement will continue to impact delivery.

Over the life of this strategy SWP will utilise a place-based approach to proactively seek targeted engagement with our diverse population to empower them to report concerns, share information, access services and play an active role within their communities.



*For further information*  
Email: [safer@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:safer@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

