



## Health and Wellbeing Together

21 October 2020

<b>Report title</b>	Safer Wolverhampton Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy (2020-2023)	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards	
<b>Accountable director</b>	John Denley, Director of Public Health	
<b>Originating service</b>	Public Health	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Lynsey Kelly	Head of Communities
	Tel	01902 5550042
	Email	Lynsey.Kelly@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report has been considered by</b>	Public Health Leadership Team	5 November 2019
	Scrutiny Board	28 January 2020
	Senior Executive Board	5 February 2020
	Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board	22 May 2020
	Full Council	16 September 2020

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### Recommendations for action:

Health and Wellbeing Together is recommended to:

1. Endorse the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy (2020-2023).
2. Collaborate with SWP where possible to strengthen the City response to crime and harm reduction.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 This report will outline the SWP Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy (2020-2023) for endorsement.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP), acts as 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 Wolverhampton; working to reduce crime and disorder across the 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 and 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 previous strategy ended on 31 March 2020.
- 2.4 The final Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2020-2023 (Appendix 1) outlines successes of the previous 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 in June 2019. The workshop was attended by board members, statutory partners and a number of third sector representatives who deliver specialist interventions to reduce crime and disorder across the City.
- 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 2017-2020 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 and supported to achieve delivery outcomes.

#### **4.0 Overarching Priorities - Reducing Offending**

- 4.1 The priority of reducing offending is slightly broader than in the previous strategy, which was reducing reoffending. This allows an increased focus on early intervention and prevention. Agencies can support people from the earliest possible point to stop them from offending in the first instance, 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 2017-2020 SWP strategy, Wolverhampton's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) led on the delivery of the Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy in collaboration with CSPs from Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall. This joint strategy will allow the Black Country to attract additional resources to address offending and assists in strengthening our collective capacity and partnership working arrangements.
- 4.3 The Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy outlines what SWP, as a partnership, 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 Wolverhampton's 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. SWP recognises the need for targeted specialist services for those young people most at risk as well as universal outreach support and activities. These 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 Overarching Priorities - 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.
- 7.5. 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 was developed following analysis of current data trends and intelligence, and from gathering the views from organisations across the partnership through ongoing consultation. SWP sought wider views of stakeholders, residents and the communities of Wolverhampton during the consultation period.
- 8.2 Consultation for the draft strategy ran for a 12-week period to comply with Wolverhampton's compact agreement.
- 8.3 Consultation responses were received from;
- An online survey
  - Community Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings across all Wards
  - Wolverhampton Health and Wellbeing Together
  - Youth Offending Team (YOT) Board
  - Safer Wolverhampton Delivery Group
  - St George's Hub
  - Youth Council
  - Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum Executive Board
  - Wolverhampton Resilience Board
  - Interfaith Wolverhampton
  - The Haven Wolverhampton

The Consultation was also distributed to:

- All Councillor in-boxes and copies made available in members lounge

- CWC staff, using 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.
- 9.3 Option three – Endorsement of the renewed strategy for 2020-2023. This allows SWP to meet its statutory obligations and continue to tackle crime and disorder across Wolverhampton, responding to local trends and issues.

## **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 has been ringfenced for Community Safety use by Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) in line with conditions of grant.

[JB/29092020/G]

## **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.  
[SB/24092020/D]

### **13.0 Equalities implications**

- 13.1 A full equalities analysis has been undertaken to inform the strategy and its delivery (appendix 2).
- 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 (FMG), so called honour-based violence (HBV) and forced marriage (FM) are most prevalent within communities where these practices are widespread 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 climate change and environmental implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

### **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 Covid-19 Implications**

16.1 SWP has adapted during the Covid-19 pandemic so that delivery against all statutory and priority functions can continue. For example; engagement and activities to prevent young people from becoming involved in crime and disorder has been commissioned and provided online by video link and by providing physical materials to young people.

16.2 Statutory meetings and forums continue to run via online forums such as Skype and Microsoft Teams, ensuring continuity and where possible business as usual. Daily meetings with colleagues and partners have provided an up to date picture of any risks or community tensions, which colleagues are then able to proactively address and mitigate.

16.3 Moving forward, these new methods will continue to be the operating model in the short term so that core business functions can continue to reduce the risk of crime and harm. SWP have worked closely with commissioned providers and partners, supporting them ensure that their services can also continue to function and deliver services safely to protect our most vulnerable residents and communities.

16.4 Where there are statutory functions which require home visits, risk assessments have been put in place and relevant PPE required so that staff and residents are protected.

## **17.0 Human resources implications**

17.1 There are no Human Resources Implications.

## **18.0 Corporate Landlord implications**

18.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications.

## **19.0 Schedule of Background papers**

19.1 Appendix 1 - Safer Wolverhampton Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy (2020-2023), Full Council, 16 September 2020.

19.2 Appendix 2 – Equalities Analysis Template

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