



# Cabinet Meeting

14 May 2014

<b>Report title</b>	Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drugs Strategy 2014-17	
<b>Decision designation</b>	RED	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Elias Mattu Leisure and Communities	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Tim Johnson, Education and Enterprise	
<b>Originating service</b>	Community Safety	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Karen Samuels	Head of Community Safety
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Vibrant Safe and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel (Pre-decision item)	13 March 2014

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## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

Recommend the Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drugs Strategy 2014-17 to Full Council for approval and implementation.

## 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval for the city's Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drugs Strategy 2014-17.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 As part of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, responsibility is placed on Local Authorities and the Police in England and Wales to work together in auditing crime and disorder and producing and delivering strategies to reduce local crime and disorder.
- 2.2 The previous strategy document was in place until 31 March 2014; over the period of the strategy (2011-14) significant reductions were realised in levels of total recorded crime and positive outcomes realised against strategic priorities. Out of 27 key performance indicators that can be compared against the previous year, improvements were achieved or exceeded against 20 of these (74%). In particular, the city has experienced marked reductions in reoffending, weapon-related crime, first time entrants to the youth justice system and an increased uptake of drug and alcohol treatment services.
- 2.3 Whilst there is evidence that people who come into contact with Police and partner agencies were generally satisfied with the service they received, and there have been improvements in public feelings of safety, further work is needed to turnaround negative public perceptions of crime; other external factors such as the economic downturn, welfare reforms and employment opportunities will also impact on perceptions.

## 3.0 Strategic Priority Setting

- 3.1 Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board (SWP) has undertaken a robust prioritizing exercise, taking account of ongoing financial constraints and organisational change, to determine the priorities which will be the focus for the revised strategy over the next 3 years. This identified priorities which would achieve the greatest impact in communities and which, by virtue of their nature, will show an improvement in other crime types. The strategy priorities have been informed by the annual Strategic Assessment, City Strategy priorities and consultation with stakeholders which included seeking views from local communities.

## 4.0 Strategic Priorities

The following strategic priorities were agreed at a meeting of SWP Board on 18 October 2013. Proposed outcomes have been negotiated through discussion with partner organisations operating in the city. The full strategy is attached at **Appendix A**.

### 4.0 Reducing Reoffending

- 4.1 Wolverhampton continues to be at the forefront of the Government's Integrated Offender Management (IOM) initiative and during each of the last three measured quarters, we have been in the top ten authorities, nationally, for reducing reoffending. Within IOM

agencies come together to actively manage offenders to reduce their risks of reoffending. Specific groups targeted for multi-agency interventions include Prolific and Other Priority Offenders (PPOs), gang members and individuals who have committed sexual offences and serious violent offences, managed under Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). The Wolverhampton Youth Offending Team, comprising staff from a whole range of disciplines, continues to provide a template for partnership working with all offenders aged under 18, as it has done for many years, and is a key partner for IOM both strategically and operationally.

The Government's 'Transforming Rehabilitation' agenda will drastically change the way offenders are managed in future. With the abolition of Probation Trusts by end of May 2014, a public sector National Probation Service will be formed which will continue to manage offenders who pose the highest risk. Low and medium risk offenders will be managed within newly formed Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC), which are due to be sold through a competition process which should be completed by October 2014. Accordingly we are entering a year of massive change with two significant new providers replacing existing probation provision.

**Key outcomes for 2014-2017:**

1. Reduction in reoffending
2. Increase of offenders achieving stable employment
3. Increase of offenders moving into stable accommodation

**4.2 Substance Misuse**

The drugs intervention programme (DIP) has played a key role locally and nationally in tackling drugs and reducing crime; the programme is aimed at getting adult drug-misusing offenders who misuse specified Class A drugs (heroin and cocaine/crack cocaine) out of crime and into treatment and other support and rehabilitative services. Many of the offenders who have benefited from DIP are among the hardest-to-reach and most problematic drug misusers, and are offenders who have not previously engaged with treatment in any meaningful way.

Delivery at a local level is through the new drug and alcohol service 'Recovery Near You'. The programme has developed into an integrated drug and alcohol offender pathway and the team work alongside Police and Probation in the custody environment, at Probation and within the treatment setting. The treatment system is still dealing with the challenge of embedding a re-designed service with a new provider consortia. This process has acknowledged the value of the criminal justice pathways and is exploring the 'best fit' in the new arrangements.

**Key outcomes for 2014-2017:**

1. Prevent substance misuse through earlier identification and effective interventions amongst children and young people
2. Improve the long term health outcomes for substance misusers
3. Managing convicted offenders to tackle their substance misuse needs
4. Reductions in alcohol-related crime and disorder

#### 4.3 Gangs/Youth Crime

Tackling Gangs and Youth Violence has been a particular focus for SWP over the last few years. Wolverhampton's inclusion within the Home Office 'Ending Gang Youth Violence' (EGYV) programme during 2012/13 helped to establish our approach. During 2013/14, SWP Board committed to develop exit pathways and targeted interventions. The commissioning model developed for 2013/14, through contracting with a few specialist providers experienced in working with high/medium risk gang nominals on a one-to-one support basis has provided excellent value for money. Contracting arrangements have been based on zero-hour contracts, with payments made against an outcome based model. Youth Crime reduction is currently supported through an allocation of £66,000 to YOT where concentrated preventative work is delivered to an identified under 18's 'deter cohort'.

##### **Key outcomes for 2014-17:**

1. Reduce incidents of gang violence and harm
2. Improve gang and youth crime interventions (providing support and employing civil and legal remedies where needed)
3. Dismantle gangs and divert offenders using offender management pathways such as education, employment and training
4. Fewer knife and firearms incidents
5. Reduction in young people aged 10-17 committing crime
6. Improve community engagement by working in partnership
7. Improve awareness within schools and educational establishments

#### 4.4 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

VAWGs and particularly domestic violence (DV) remains a community safety issue for Wolverhampton. In line with the general economic downturn there has been a rise in reported DV to specialist agencies. Nationally, DV retains the highest repeat offending rate of any crime. In Wolverhampton the rate is around 29% repeat victimisation. Alcohol continues to be a significant factor in DV cases, acting as both a disinhibitor for violence, and an inappropriate coping mechanism for both victims and perpetrators.

Wolverhampton continues to be part of the West Midlands Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) service provider contract, where a pooled contribution from each of the 7 local authority areas is made towards a West Midlands-wide service; consequently, WDFV's newly established Independent Sexual Violence Advisory (ISVA) Service has seen a significant rise in demand for the services during the year, providing a critical element of the care pathway for victims of sexual violence accessing the SARC services, and/or criminal justice proceedings.

##### **Key outcomes for 2014-2017:**

1. Increase in confidence in reporting VAWG
2. Reduction in repeat offending & victimisation
3. Reduction in serious harm and homicide

## **5.0 National Policy**

- 5.1 Planning and delivery of provision to address issues of crime and community safety has to be undertaken against a backdrop of significant change in national and policy and unprecedented resource reductions and organisational changes across all sectors.
- 5.2 Delivery against the strategy must be undertaken within the current legislative framework; shifts in national policy and the introduction of new legislation must still be accommodated within our local approach, therefore, an annual review of the strategy and Local Policing and Crime Plan (LPCP) will enable us to maintain sufficient flexibility within partner operating models to respond.

## **6.0 Strategic Contribution and Service Change**

- 6.1 The Community Safety strategy will directly contribute towards 'Re-invigorating the City' objectives contained within the City Strategy and is aligned to meet cross-partner plans and strategies; these contributions are featured in the 'Reinvigorating the City' element of the City Strategy. The main focus is in addressing crime and perceptions of crime in the city centre and across the city; recognising this as a main factor in the city's image affecting potential inward investment and inward migration as well as the retention of skilled labour.
- 6.2 The strategy will also support plans to develop proposals for earlier identification and interventions for families in need of support. Recognising that issues of mental health, domestic violence and substance misuse are key contributors to family crisis and the potential escalation of children to looked after status, a coordinated multi-agency response is needed to achieve improved outcomes for families.
- 6.3 The LPCP aligned with the strategy will be developed each year to provide a strategic steer for delivery across the City. An annual review of the strategy will be undertaken and any changes reflected in the LPCP; this will ensure delivery keeps abreast of changing needs, shifts in demand and address any issues of underperformance. A performance framework will measure progress against strategic objectives, with an emphasis on demonstrating the impact of delivery within communities. Delivery will be performance managed through established SWP and partner structures. Performance reports will provide tangible evidence of outcomes achieved.

## **7.0 Consultation - Outcome**

- 7.1 **Phase 1** - Over a seven week period during July – September 2013, views from stakeholders were invited to inform strategic priority setting. A summary of responses is detailed below:-
- 7.2 A total of 40 individual responses and 6 group/organisational responses were received, reflecting the views of 127 stakeholders and the organisational priorities of partners. A rank weighting was applied to each response to show preferences.

7.3 From those received, the following top 5 priorities featured as part of both the individual and group responses:

- Reducing Reoffending
- Gangs and Youth Violence
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Substance Misuse
- Youth Crime

7.4 **Phase 2** - A further round of consultation commenced January – March 2014 covering a seven week period and concluded 14 March 2014. Views and comments were invited on the models of delivery and proposed outcomes featured in the strategy. Feedback from the consultation indicated that the strategy is clear and easy to understand. Other comments received suggested a greater emphasis should be included on arrangements to support victims.

7.5 Views of Councillors, statutory and voluntary community sector partners and residents were actively sought as part of the consultation process. Use of existing networks across the city were used to promote involvement in the consultation process; this has included distribution of flyers through Local Neighbourhood Partnerships, Neighbourhood Wardens and Multi Agency Support Teams for dissemination to local community venues encouraging comment.

7.6 The draft strategy, consultation proposals and early feedback was discussed at a meeting of Vibrant, Safe and Sustainable Scrutiny Panel on 13 March 2014, where additional input of Panel members was sought as part of pre-decision scrutiny arrangements. Feedback received from Scrutiny Panel was wholly positive of both the approach taken to develop the strategy, including the consultation proposals adopted and were supportive of the strategic priorities detailed within the strategy and the impact these would have on the city.

7.7 The draft strategy was discussed at a meeting of Strategic Executive Board on 27 March 2014; a request was made for the contribution towards providing early support for families to be referenced more explicitly.

7.8 Significant reductions in resources in recent years has resulted in a shift in focus towards changed practice within mainstream services with the need to change ways of working across a range of partners to ensure processes are streamlined and services are outcome focussed.

## **8.0 Financial implications**

8.1 Implementation of the strategy will require targeted mainstream resource allocation from a broad range of delivery partners. The Council receives a ring-fenced community safety grant allocated by the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) to SWP as the Local Police & Crime Board for the city. At its meeting on 11 March 2014, Cabinet Resources Panel

agreed that the £493,000 allocated by the PCC for 2014-15 be delegated to SWP for this purpose in line with the conditions of funding. (CF/23042014/T)

## **9.0 Legal implications**

- 9.1 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 in the planning and delivery of their services. Subsequent revisions to the Act (by the Police and Justice Act 2006) places a duty on CSPs to prepare strategic assessments with the purpose of informing the partnership plan revisions.
- 9.2 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as 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 draft strategy. (RB/23042014/A)

## **10.0 Equalities implications**

- 10.1 A full equality analysis has been undertaken alongside development of the strategy. There were no adverse impacts identified from the analysis or consultation; the Strategy will impact positively on a number of the protected characteristics by catering for the different needs of clients and addressing the victimisation associated with the gender-biased crimes within the Violence Against Women and Girls priority.

## **11.0 Environmental implications**

- 11.1 The development and implementation of a Crime Reduction and Community Safety Strategy will impact positively across all areas of the city, particularly those priority neighbourhoods adversely affected by crime and anti-social behaviour.

## **12.0 Human resources implications**

- 12.1 The report does not have any direct human resources implications

## **13.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 13.1 There are no direct corporate landlord implications.

## **14.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 14.1 Reports to: – Cabinet Resources Panel - 11 March 2014  
Vibrant, Safe and Sustainable Communities Panel - 13 March 2014