



Cabinet Meeting

22 March 2017

Report title	Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2017-20		
Decision designation	AMBER		
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Health and Well Being		
Key decision	Yes		
In forward plan	Yes		
Wards affected	All		
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, People Directorate		
Originating service	Community Safety, Public Health and Well Being		
Accountable employee(s)	Karen Samuels Tel Email	Head of Community Safety 01902 551341 Karen.samuels@wolverhampton.gov.uk	
Report to be/has been considered by	Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel		11 July 2016

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- i. Endorse the Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2017-20 and support its implementation.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To seek endorsement of the refreshed Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2017-20.

2.0 Background and Context

- 2.1 There is a statutory requirement for SWP to have in place a strategic plan to reduce crime and improve community safety for the city. The current SWP Crime Reduction and Community Safety Strategy expires on 31 March 2017. Performance against the current SWP Crime Reduction and Community Safety Strategy 2014-17 has been reviewed with notable improvements against the strategic priorities of Reducing Reoffending, Substance Misuse, Violence Against Women and Girls and Gangs and Youth Crime.
- 2.2 These improvements include favourable performance of proven reoffending by youths and adults in comparison to national rates, reductions in first time entrants to the youth justice system, successful completions and re-presentations to treatment by criminal justice clients, small increases in reporting of 'hidden crime' (forced marriage, honour based abuse and female genital mutilation). Overall, recorded crime levels across Wolverhampton show the city is performing better than the national average. A number of challenges remain, however these will be used to inform future delivery.
- 2.3 SWP Board engaged in an independently facilitated workshop in June 2016 to refresh its strategic priorities for the city, based on crime trend analysis and applying weighted criteria. Consensus was reached on the following refreshed strategic priorities for inclusion within a revised strategy:
- Reducing Re-offending
 - Violence Prevention
 - Reducing Victimisation
- 2.4 The Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2017-20 is the overarching strategy for the city to drive SWP business over the period. It pulls together a number of more detailed, thematic strategic plans currently in place around gang and youth violence prevention and violence against women and girls.

3.0 Strategic Priorities and Delivery Priorities for 2017-18

- 3.1 The draft strategy document (attached as **Appendix A**) has been prepared in conjunction with key partners in the city involved in leading these respective areas of work. Delivery outcomes against each have been agreed upon, to be delivered over the lifetime of the strategy. Progress against these will be monitored quarterly as part of the SWP performance reporting framework and considered at future SWP Board meetings.
- 3.2 As the new strategic priorities set by SWP Board are fairly broad, a more detailed delivery plan will be produced each year to provide clarity on the particular areas of delivery to be progressed under each priority. The delivery plan will be informed by the SWP annual strategic assessment, emerging crime trends and be flexible enough to

cater for changes in national or regional policy. Using this approach, key outcomes against each priority area and the delivery priorities for 2017-18 are outlined below.

3.3 Reducing Reoffending

It is estimated that nationally 50% of crime is committed by 10% of offenders. Reducing the rate of reoffending of those offenders who are most problematic in our local communities is of benefit to everyone, making Wolverhampton a safer place, with fewer victims of crime and less fear of crime. There is also recognition that drug and alcohol misuse is linked to some crimes, so addressing these issues will impact on rates of offending and reoffending.

By targeting repeat offenders and providing a bespoke support package, which will aide their exit from criminal activity, the City will become a safer place and the number of victims harmed by criminality will be reduced.

Recognising that better reoffending outcomes can be achieved by improving access to mental health services, Wolverhampton is fortunate to be one of two pilot areas in the West Midlands focussing on strengthening mental health pathways for offenders as part of the Courts' sentencing options. This will inform wider roll-out and support the West Midlands Combined Authority's 'Thrive action Plan' to deliver better mental health outcomes.

3.3.1 Outcomes:

- Reduced adult and youth reoffending
- Improved use of tools and powers to effectively manage offenders
- Development of a risk-based, stepped model for high volume offenders
- Improved use of pathways to change offender attitudes and behaviours
- Earlier identification of young people in need of support

3.3.2 Reducing Reoffending Delivery Priorities 2017-18

The well-established model of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is considered as 'business as usual'. In order to support the move towards prevention and earlier intervention within youth offending, and to support the case management structures in both youth and adults settings, the following delivery is proposed:

- Development and implementation of a reducing reoffending strategy.
- Continuation of the Youth Inclusion Support Panel delivered through Youth Offending Team (YOT).
- Improvements to the youth and adult IOM case management structures.
- Delivery of the Health and Justice Pathways Pilot for Wolverhampton.

3.4 Violence Prevention

Preventing violence and personal harm is imperative and a priority concern for Wolverhampton. We aim to build on preventative and rehabilitative interventions to reduce the threat of violence. This will include delivery of prevention campaigns, challenging cultural acceptance of violence where this exists and holding perpetrators of violence to account for their behaviour. Provision will adopt a 'whole family' approach and

will integrate and complement new mainstream services such as Strengthening Families Hubs and the city's adults and children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.

3.4.1 Outcomes:

- Improved understanding of risk to prevent offending and harm
- Improved use of tools and powers
- Increased confidence in reporting
- Reduced prevalence of violent crime
- More effective management of threat and risk

3.4.2 Violence Prevention Delivery Priorities 2017-18

SWP has made a commitment to tackling youth and interpersonal violence with the recent development of strategies to address gangs/youth violence prevention and violence against women and girls. To support delivery of both these areas, the following delivery is proposed:

- Continue implementation of youth violence and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategies.
- Specialist commissioning of VAWG services; maximising opportunities to draw in external funds in support.
- Support local implementation of the West Midlands Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme, funded by the PCC.
- Delivery of targeted community based interventions to engage and build resilience of young people as part of the gangs/youth violence agenda.
- Specialist commissioning of critical incident call outs using deployment of trained community mediators aimed at diffusing tensions and preventing escalation of violence following a critical incident.

3.5 Reducing Victimisation

Within this priority, there is a key focus on reducing the number of victims of crime and anti-social behaviour and the associated harm caused by offending. We aim to reduce the risk of repeat victimisation, ensuring those who are most vulnerable are more effectively safeguarded and supported; adopting a more systematic approach to organised criminals who take advantage of vulnerable individuals.

We aim to reduce the amount of repeat victimisation by continuing to build on the city's strong community cohesion, empowering community members to play an enhanced role in community safety delivery. We will strengthen our partnership response with improved information sharing, extending joint working opportunities using our shared intelligence to identify vulnerable victims and organised criminals.

3.5.1 Outcomes:

- Increased reporting of under-reported crime
- Reduced victimisation by adopting a whole family approach
- Improved prevention interventions
- Earlier identification of individuals at risk

- Strengthened community response

3.5.2 Reducing Victimisation Delivery Priorities 2017-18

Recognising the need to continue to increase the confidence of victims to report crimes, the commitment made to raise awareness of vulnerabilities within communities, and reduce repeat victimisation, the following areas of delivery are proposed:

- Develop a sustainable model for businesses to report crimes and reduce their vulnerability through continuation of the Business Crime Coordinator role and implementation of the Wolverhampton Business Crime Reduction action plan.
- Implementation of the Hate Crime action plan and further develop third party reporting centres across the city as a means of reporting.
- Raise awareness of modern slavery with frontline practitioners, businesses and communities.
- Work with community organisations to develop community champions to challenge the acceptance of violence, extremism and exploitation and help deliver key communications.
- Strengthen community engagement methods through implementation of the Neighbourhood Engagement Review recommendations.

4.0 Consultation Feedback

4.1 As part of the consultation process, proposals for the development of the draft strategy were considered at Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel in July 2016, where comments were invited. Following development of the draft strategy, consultation on the document was widely advertised via partner agencies, community networks, Councillors and social media with opportunities for comments fed in via survey monkey, post or email over a 12 week period.

4.2 A total of 103 comments were received from individuals and group discussions. A summary of feedback is detailed below:

- Need to strengthen reassurance for victims within communities and improve cohesion / engagement in communities
- Suggestion for trained community safety champions within the community
- Increase involvement of communities
- Make better use of technology as a tool to engage with and send out messages - particularly for young people
- Safeguarding awareness needed to help protect vulnerable people
- Calls for harsher sentencing for offenders
- Stronger emphasis needed on Restorative Justice
- Engagement with schools is required for early interventions
- Strengthen links into Early Help (develop the Adverse Childhood Experiences - ACES model)
- Frustrations raised at the high levels of support for offenders
- Plain English should be used throughout the document
- More detailed information is required of delivery plan & key activities should be highlighted

- 4.3 Consultation feedback has informed revisions to the document which are reflected in the final draft strategy attached as **Appendix A**. Endorsement for the strategy will be sought from Cabinet on 22 March 2017.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The strategy will be delivered through mainstream partner resources and allocated grant from the PCC for 2017-18 of £369,000. Future allocations of grant will be determined through the West Midlands CSP proposed by the PCC; further detail on this is expected.
- 5.2 Applications are being submitted at a local authority and West Midlands Metropolitan area for external funding, which if secured, will aid delivery of strategy priorities.
- 5.3 The annual review of the SWP delivery plan will ensure full consideration can be given to the availability of resources before delivery commitments are finalised. [GS/09032017/P]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 Sections five and six 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.
- 6.2 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. [TS/08022017/K]

7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 A full equality analysis has been completed. Whilst the strategy will impact positively on Wolverhampton residents as a whole, by driving down crime, those groups which are disproportionately impacted by certain crimes will directly benefit. The varying needs of clients will be provided for and victimisation associated with protected characteristics such as gender, religion, disability and race. The performance framework aligned to the strategy will be used to identify trends and the annual strategic assessment will assess impact and inform future planning.

8.0 Environmental implications

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

9.0 Human resources implications

9.1 There are no human resources implications associated with this strategy.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications associated with this strategy.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

11.1 Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel (Presentation) – 11 July 2016