



# Vibrant, Safe and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel

4 December 2014

<b>Report title</b>	Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drugs Strategy 2014-17 – Progress Update	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Elias Mattu Leisure and Communities	
<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 considered by</b>		

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## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Panel is recommended to:

1. Comment on progress achieved to date in delivering the city's Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drugs Strategy 2014-17.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To monitor progress to date in delivering outcomes detailed in the 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 Following a period of priority setting during 2013 and extensive consultation with councillors, communities and partners, the strategic priorities for tackling crime and improving community safety were agreed and reflected in the 2014-17 Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drugs Strategy. The draft strategy was discussed at Vibrant, Safe and Sustainable Scrutiny Panel on 13 March 2014 as part of the consultation process and the final strategy approved at Cabinet on 14 May 2014.
- 2.3 The following strategic priorities were detailed in the strategy with key outcomes set against each:
- Reducing Reoffending
  - Substance Misuse
  - Gangs and Youth Crime
  - Violence Against Women & Girls
- 2.4 To aid Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) Board in monitoring progress, a performance management framework has been established through which quarterly monitoring of progress is monitored.
- 2.5 A risk management matrix has also been developed which identifies potential risks to delivery. This is considered at SWP Board meetings to ensure potential risks are identified and mitigating actions put in place to safeguard delivery.

## **3.0 Summary of Progress**

- 3.1 A short summary of progress in delivering the outcomes against each of the strategic priorities is provided below.

### **3.2 Reducing Reoffending**

Wolverhampton has continued to perform as one of the top ten authorities, nationally, for reducing reoffending through its model of Integrated Offender Management (IOM). IOM brings agencies together to actively manage offenders to reduce their risks of reoffending. Probation services, now split under the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation agenda, (the National Probation Service (NPS) manage high risk

offenders, and the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) manage low-medium risk offenders) lead offender management arrangements for adults, whilst the Youth Offending Team (YOT), provide multi-agency management of offenders aged under 18.

<b>Reducing Reoffending Key outcomes for 2014-2017</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduction in reoffending</li><li>• Increase of offenders achieving stable employment</li><li>• Increase of offenders moving into stable accommodation</li></ul>
<b>Progress to date</b>
IOM widened to bring in a range of offenders causing most damage and concern (e.g. high priority domestic violence (DV) perpetrators)
Tighter co-location of Agencies at Wolverhampton Police Station.
Q1 and Q2 management of: 68 Prolific Offenders, 60 High crime causing users (Drug Misuse), 10 Domestic Abuse offenders and 39 Gang-related offenders.
Development of pathways for short term prisoners into support services as part of new specification for CRC's – to come into effect from the point of "share sale" into non-public status.
Reduction of reoffending (current SWP target is to reduce reoffending to 12% better than the predicted rate) Previous performance was 18.3% below predicted rate (Q3 2013/14)*
Increased number of offenders moving into stable employment by end of order/licence (current SWP target 45%) = 44.7% Year To Date (YTD)
Increased number of offenders moving into stable accommodation by end of order/licence (current SWP target 87%). = 86.4% (YTD)
*Data is not available further to this. This data is centrally collected by the Ministry of Justice and published quarterly. Notification has been received that due to changes in systems of data collection and revised reporting framework (in line with Transforming Rehabilitation changes), such localised performance data will not be available until further notice.



### 3.3 Substance Misuse

Local delivery of the drugs intervention programme is through the drug and alcohol service 'Recovery Near You' (RNY) which was awarded a 3 year contract with Public Health in April 2013. 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. During the first 12 months, embedding a re-designed service with a consortium of new providers provided an added challenge. Implementation of the city's alcohol strategy ensures a coordinated approach to reducing alcohol harm.

**Substance Misuse Key outcomes for 2014-2017**

- Prevent substance misuse through earlier identification and effective interventions amongst children and young people.
- Improve the long term health outcomes for substance misusers.
- Managing convicted offenders to tackle their substance misuse needs

**Progress to date**

Multi-agency care package that addresses multiple needs of clients to access a range of specialist interventions

Activities delivered in the cells and court, through the arrest referral scheme - RNY has redeployed staff to enable a support worker to provide daily coverage in court to target people coming from police custody who have tested positive for Class A drugs. Workers will also be available for the IOM courts.

Reductions in young people who indicated they had had an alcoholic drink and an increased awareness of young people's drug and alcohol services.\*

Improved testing and access to available support services for low prolific offenders - RNY setting up weekly outreach with the IOM police to reduce the Required Assessment breaches.

Improved identification of mental health issues within custody – clients are assessed and referrals to other services made if required. Good liaison with mental health, police and RNY are present to ensure people in need of additional support are referred appropriately.

Improved information sharing between RNY and Police regarding test results can be shared in accordance with appropriate client consent.

Meetings with Public Health England (PHE ) continue to ensure criminal justice data collection is accurate and pathways from cells, courts and prisons are working effectively.

Monthly meetings with the criminal justice team take place at RNY with police and probation to ensure a cohesive working relationship.

\*Health Related Behaviour Survey 2014 – based on 7,790 primary and secondary pupil responses.

**3.4 Gangs/Youth Crime**

The Reducing Gang Harm Strategy 2011-15 has provided a particular focus for tackling Gangs and Youth Violence over the last few years. With well-established provision in place to aid gang exit, a revised problem profile is being developed to inform a refreshed strategy to include a greater focus on earlier identification and support for young people. A multi-agency approach has led to the development of exit pathways and targeted interventions to support gang exit. A commissioning model is in place which is reviewed annually to enable contracting with a few specialist providers to deliver one-to-one support; this provides excellent value for money. Youth Crime reduction is currently led through YOT where concentrated preventative work is delivered to an identified under 18's 'deter cohort', with an opportunity to include this work within the city's new Early Help Strategy.

**Gangs and Youth Crime Key outcomes for 2014-2017**

- Reduced incidents of gang violence and harm
- Improved gang and youth crime interventions (providing support and employing civil and legal remedies where needed)
- Gangs dismantled and offenders diverted using offender management pathways such as education, employment and training
- Fewer knife and firearms incidents
- Reduction in young people aged 10-17 committing crime
- Improved community engagement by working in partnership
- Improved awareness within schools and educational establishments

### **Progress to date**

Delivery of bespoke interventions for individuals deemed as high risk of being involved or associated to gangs. Contracting arrangements in place with local specialist providers delivering services for:

- Individuals at medium/high risk
- Women and girls associated with gangs
- Responsive community mediation – in response to heightened community tensions involving gangs

7 client referrals have been received for these services, where their needs are assessed and clients sign up to an agreed intervention plan where they will work alongside a support worker.

Shift in focus towards younger cohort of gang members following success of Operation No Deal which resulted in jail sentences totalling over 50 years for 23 individuals in Jan 2014 including entrenched gang members.

There have been 4 occasions where heightened gang tensions have arisen which have required crisis intervention call outs to be utilised. The interventions have diffused these tensions and avoided escalations of violence.

Delivery of Youth Inclusion Support Programme to aid youth crime reduction in the city - Youth crime rates remain low, and our reoffending rates remain in the top performance quartile in the country.

Work with pre-court concerns and Out of Court Disposals has contributed to the continued maintenance of low reoffending rates, maintenance of low numbers of First time Entrants into the Youth Justice system and general diversionary activities that keep rates of crime in the local neighbourhood low.

### **3.5 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

VAWGs, whilst including provision for men and boys, recognises the gender bias that exists with these crimes. The VAWG Strategy 2012-15 which covers domestic and sexual violence, forced marriage, honour based violence and female genital mutilation is in the process of review. VAWG, and particularly 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 with alcohol a significant factor acting as both a disinhibitor for violence, and an inappropriate coping mechanism for both victims and perpetrators.

<b>VAWG Key outcomes for 2014-2017</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased confidence in reporting VAWG</li><li>• Reduction in repeat offending &amp; victimisation</li><li>• Reduction in serious harm and homicide</li></ul>
<b>Progress to date</b>
Increased reporting - there has been a 41% increase in reported DV over the first half of the 2014/15 compared to the same period last year.
Increased number of offenders brought to justice - there were 375 DV perpetrators brought in front of the specialist DV and Crown courts in Wolverhampton during the first 5 months of the year, an increase of 18% for the same period last year.
Reduced criminal justice attrition rate – the successful prosecution rate for the first 5 months of this year is 70%, similar to last year’s overall position.
During the first half of 2014/15 the high risk Independent DV Adviser (IDVA) provided crisis intervention and safety planning for 205 victims at highest risk of serious harm and homicide at the co-located multi-agency team.
Alongside colleagues in Social Care, the Police, and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust, the IDVA has also jointly screened and assessed 1354 reported domestic violence incidents involving children and pregnant women during the first half of this year.



### 3.6 Prevent

An annual briefing of the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) ensures the risk and threat of terrorism is widely understood by key stakeholders in the city; especially those organisations delivering front-line services or community organisations or Councillors active in communities. Invitation to the briefing, held in October 2014 was extended to include wider representation and was well attended by a range of partners.

Following the briefing, the current CTLP Plan will be updated to factor in emerging risk and threat and ongoing areas of work stemming from the Prevent Scrutiny Review held in 2013. Whilst the majority of the Scrutiny Review recommendations have been fully completed, some areas of work are still being progressed as they require a longer-term commitment before being fully realised. In particular, engagement with schools is ongoing, training provision for councillors and partners is being progressed in the New Year and awareness of Prevent and Channel is being promoted across partners as an extension to existing safeguarding practice.

### 3.7 Support for Victims

Support for victims continues to be delivered by a range of agencies, predominantly through third sector services. The PCC allocated funding to each of the West Midlands Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to support capacity and capability building within the third sector; Wolverhampton received £67,000 in 2014/15 ringfenced for this purpose.

Future need and commissioned activity will be determined through the PCC's Victim's Commission where third sector agencies represent the themed areas where support for victims is needed.

### **3.8 Safeguarding: Reducing Harm & Vulnerability**

SWP continues to work closely with Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children's Board and Safeguarding Adults Board to identify areas of commonality. Particular focus has included interventions to support young people to exit gang lifestyles and provide support for those at risk, supporting safeguarding activity around child sexual exploitation, implementing changes from serious case reviews and domestic homicide reviews and contributing to the development of the Early Help plan.

### **4.0 Key Risks and Mitigating Action**

4.1 Delivery of the strategy is being undertaken against a backdrop of unprecedented organisational change and resource reductions across all sectors. Development of the SWP annual strategic assessment and Local Policing and Crime Plan enables sufficient flexibility to be maintained within partner operating models to respond to changing need. This needs to be supported by regular monitoring and negotiation with Partners.

4.2 SWP has developed a risk register which is regularly monitored and updated to enable identified risks to be managed effectively. From the risks identified, the red rated risks (which have a risk rating of 15 and above based on probability and impact), are summarised below:

- i) Impact of ongoing funding reductions and organisational change on delivery of planned CS programme from 2015/16 onwards.

Mitigation: SWP has charged a task and finish group to consider alternative delivery options and opportunities for joint commissioning; alternative funding options are being explored including re-allocation of resources; SWP Board to be alert to current and planned cuts and potential impact on delivery of SWP priorities.

- ii) Lack of Prevent and Channel awareness across partners resulting in continuing low rates of Channel referrals and failure to identify individuals who pose a risk.

Mitigation: Extended partner involvement in Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) briefings; updated CTLP Action Plan developed; roll out of available training to key stakeholders; appointment of Prevent Coordinator role to build staff capacity; integration of Channel into partner safeguarding training.

iii) Areas of SWP underperformance are not improved:

Contracted drug and alcohol service continues to under-perform; an outline of performance was discussed in detail at SWP Board meeting in July 2014.

Mitigation: An improvement plan has been put in place with RNY; the Director of Public Health will be updating SWP Board on the latest position and any improvements in performance at the SWP Board meeting in January 2015.

Levels of Public Place Violence with Injury (PPV) continues to increase with the Local Policing Unit (LPU) recording an additional 107 offences (+16.8%) year to date as at 17 November 2014.

Mitigation: PPV is a Force and LPU priority and the Force is co-ordinating its response to this as part of Operation Greenshield. From a LPU perspective, each Sector has identified a Neighbourhood for activity throughout November and the forthcoming period to have an impact on the current levels that the LPU is experiencing.

## **5.0 Financial implications**

- 5.1 Implementation of the strategy requires targeted mainstream resource allocation from a broad range of delivery partners. An annual allocation of Home Office Community Safety Grant (CSF) via the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is made to SWP to deliver the community safety programme. Cabinet (Resources) Panel 11 March 2014 agreed that the 2014/15 allocation of £493,000 from PCC be delegated to SWP for this purpose in line with conditions of the funding. It is currently unknown to what extent the new PCC elected in August 2014 will divert from this arrangement to passport CSF to local areas. A decision regarding the CSF allocation for 2015/16 is expected in early 2015.  
[CF/20112014/T]

## **6.0 Legal implications**

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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 draft strategy.  
[AS/20112014/W]

## **7.0 Equalities implications**

7.1 A full equality analysis has been undertaken with the development of the strategy informed by strategy consultation responses. 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.

## **8.0 Environmental implications**

8.1 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.