

# Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

10 April 2018

<b>Report title</b>	Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy Consultation	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Paul Sweet Public Health and Wellbeing	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Mark Taylor, Strategic Director	
<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>	Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board	20 April 2018
	Senior Management Team	22 May 2018
	People Leadership Team	04 June 2018
	Strategic Executive Board	05 June 2018
	Cabinet	11 July 2018

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## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. Comment on the draft Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy.
2. Approve in principle the draft strategy proposal.
3. Agree to receive an update on the outcome of the public consultation to panel meeting on 27 November 2018.

## 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The members of Safer Wolverhampton Partnership are working with partners from the Black Country, which include Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall to develop a strategy to reducing reoffending across the Black Country area.
- 1.2 Managing repeat offenders is key national priority – it is estimated that around half of all crime is committed by individuals with previous convictions with an estimated cost to the taxpayer of £9.5 to £13.0 billion per year. A high number of offences are committed by a very small group of individuals.
- 1.3 The panel are asked to contribute to the consultation on the draft Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy Document which sets out plans for achieving this. The consultation ends on 8 May 2018.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out a statutory obligation for Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) to produce a strategy to reduce reoffending.
- 2.2 The Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2017-2020 underlines the commitment from Wolverhampton to reducing reoffending across the city. This commitment is strengthened by the development of the Black Country Reoffending Strategy Document.
- 2.3 The decision was taken by Wolverhampton, in collaboration with CSPs from Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall and support from the National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company and Youth Offending to produce a joint Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy. Several factors influenced this decision, namely:
  - The close geography and demographics of the Black Country area
  - Offending behaviour spanning across authority areas
  - Financial and capacity constraints, and organisational changes across partners agencies
  - To align to the strategic ambitions of the West Midlands Combined Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner
  - To provide value for money, improve intelligence and allow for joint commissioning

## 3.0 Progress

- 3.1 The Document (Appendix 1) has been written in collaboration with CSPs across the Black Country and the National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company and Youth Offending. These agencies have provided performance data, and, this combined with local knowledge and intelligence from West Midlands Police have informed the priorities listed within the document.

3.2 All partners agreed three main overarching priorities:

- **Prevention:** Development of a model which will provide early identification and interventions preventing offending and re-offending.
- **Reducing Reoffending:** Strengthening pathways to prevent the cycle of reoffending.
- **Reducing the Risk of Harm:** Management of high risk offenders and targeting of key cohorts to reduce reoffending and the seriousness of offences committed.

3.3 Each priority has a list of identified outcomes

Priorities	Outcomes
<b>Prevention</b>	Development of a prevention model to achieve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Earlier identification and engagement into support</li><li>➤ Improved use of civil interventions</li><li>➤ Increased victim resilience (including children where appropriate)</li><li>➤ Improved communication and awareness</li><li>➤ A 'whole family' approach</li></ul>
<b>Reducing Reoffending</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Reduced repeat offences (adult and youth)</li><li>➤ Strengthened pre-release support</li><li>➤ Improved care pathways to challenge attitudes and behaviour</li><li>➤ Increased successful court outcomes</li><li>➤ Reduced volume crimes</li></ul>
<b>Reducing the Risk of Harm</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Development of risk-based stepped model for volume offenders</li><li>➤ Reduced escalation of risk</li><li>➤ Disruption of organised criminality</li></ul>

3.4 An action plan will be developed by each Black Country area to ensure that local delivery is tailored to meet need and to drive forward the commitments made within the strategy document. A local action plan will allow for local distinctions to be recognised and will focus delivery as identified by each CSP.

3.5 A performance framework will be developed once the strategy has been approved, which will monitor delivery and allow for scrutiny if required.

#### 4.0 Consultation

4.1 The draft Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy Document is currently out for consultation, which is due to end on 8 May 2018. The consultation is available electronically as a [Survey Monkey Questionnaire](#) and as a paper copy for both individuals and groups to complete. A paper copy can be sent by email: [safer@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:safer@wolverhampton.gov.uk) or telephone 01902 550042.

4.2 Each Black Country CSP is using the same consultation document so that views and opinions can be collated for the region.

- 4.3 Within Wolverhampton the consultation document has been shared and published widely using the following forums:

Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council	Youth Groups
X2Y	Youth Offending Service
Community Cohesion Forum	Community Rehabilitation Company
SWP Board and Delivery Group	Stakeholders
Councillors	Police and Crime Commissioner
Social Media – Facebook, Twitter	City People
West Midlands Police	National Probation Service
Youth Council	

## 5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications for the City of Wolverhampton Council, Wolverhampton CSP receives an annual grant allocation from the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver services which align to the partnerships strategic priorities.
- 5.2 The strategy, once finalised will be used across all four CSPs to inform delivery and as such, a contribution will be made by each Black Country area to the development and printing of the document.
- 5.3 Each Black Country area will fund, via their CSP grant, activities within their local area.
- 5.4 Joint service commissioning will be considered if it is identified as best practice and provides value for money.

[NM/28032018/Q]

## 6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 (the regulations), was created following ss6 and 114 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (the Act).

Regulation 3 requires the creation of strategy groups in each areas, the function of which is to prepare strategic assessments and prepare and implement a partnership plan for the area on behalf of the responsible authorities. This report has been compiled under this remit.

Section 6(1)(c) of the Act requires the responsible authorities for a local government area to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area. This report is produced in order to fulfil this statutory duty.

The Act itself recommends partnership working as widely as possible, and although it does not impose partnership working with adjacent authorities, working across the Black Country is the obvious way forward and would be supported by both the Act and the Regulations.

Under section 6(8) of the Act, implementation of a strategy includes keeping it under review to monitor its effectiveness, and making changes as and when they appear necessary, so this policy will require reviewing on a regular basis.

Regulation 12, dealing with Community Engagement, requires a wide consultation exercise for the preparation of the strategic assessment, specifically to obtain the views of persons and bodies who live or work in the area, about the levels of patterns of re-offending and matters that should be prioritised to reduce re-offending.

This exercise will therefore fulfil all the statutory requirements imposed on the City of Wolverhampton Council in relation to its initial re-offending policy.

[LW/29032018/B]

## **7.0 Equalities implications**

7.1 It is recognised that the strategy will positively discriminate to ensure those who are at greater risk of reoffending receive the correct support, however a full equalities assessment will be completed once the consultation period is over as this may contribute to and/or inform the assessment. A full equalities assessment will be completed before the final Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy document is completed.

## **8.0 Environmental implications**

8.1 None

## **9.0 Human resources implications**

9.1 None

## **10.0 Corporate landlord implications**

10.1 None

## **11.0 Schedule of background papers**

11.1 None