

# Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

12 June 2018

<b>Report title</b>	Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2017-2020 – Progress Update	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Paul Sweet Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Mark Taylor, Strategic Director, People	
<b>Originating service</b>	Community Safety, Public Health	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Karen Samuels Tel Email	Head of Community Safety 01902 551341 Karen.samuels@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	People Leadership Team Strategic Executive Board	21 May 2018 22 May 2018

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## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. Comment on progress achieved to date in delivering the City's Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2017-2020.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide a summary of Safer Wolverhampton Partnership progress during 2017-2018 towards delivering outcomes detailed in the Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2017-2020.

## **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 and extensive consultation with councillors, communities and partners, the strategic priorities for tackling crime and improving community safety were agreed and reflected in the 2017-2020 Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy.
- 2.3 The following strategic priorities were detailed in the strategy:
- Reducing reoffending
  - Reducing victimisation
  - Violence prevention

## **3.0 Summary of Progress Against Strategic Priorities – Reducing reoffending**

- 3.1 A Black Country Strategic Group has been developed to reduce the number of local meetings and to allow the Black Country areas to share best practice and work collaboratively to reduce reoffending.
- 3.2 Black Country Strategic Group membership:
- Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell Community Safety Partnerships
  - Community Rehabilitation Company
  - Black Country court representatives
  - West Midlands Police
  - National Probation Service
- 3.3 Work has begun on a Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy which will complement and align with the Black Country Strategic Group. SWP are leading on this work in close collaboration with the other Black Country community safety partnerships. Local action plans will be developed to retain appropriate responses and any local variations.

## **4.0 Summary of Progress Against Strategic Priorities – Reducing Victimisation**

### **4.1 Violence Against Women and Girls**

- 4.2 The 2016-2019 multi-agency Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy is providing clear direction to the City's approach to driving forward important improvements in tackling the five strands of violence against women and girls: domestic abuse, sexual violence, female genital mutilation, honour based violence and forced marriage.
- 4.3 During 2017-2018, 651 high risk cases were discussed at multi-agency risk assessment conference, 234 of which were repeat cases (equates to 36%, a marginal decrease from 2016-2017). There were 241 early non-police referrals during 2017-2018, equating to 37%. This is a 6% increase from early non- police referrals during 2016-2017.
- 4.4 Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum training plan has been refreshed and expanded to encompass hidden crimes including honour based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation. Sessions are provided to organisations across the city to improve understanding, capacity and skills of frontline managers.
- 4.5 2017-2018 saw a successful Orange the World campaign to raise awareness of violence against women and girls, involving over 100 organisations. Eight awareness raising sessions have taken place at the Refugee and Migrant Centre, engaging directly with newly emerging communities.
- 4.6 Violence Against Women and Girls Service Transformation Fund**
- 4.7 The Home Office launched its Violence Against Women and Girls(VAWG) Service Transformation Fund in December 2016 with an aim to aid, promote and embed the best local practice and ensure that early intervention and prevention became the norm. Confirmation was received in July 2017 that Wolverhampton's submission had been successful. An allocation of £500,000 has been awarded to cover the three-year period 2017-2020.
- 4.8 The allocation will aid implementation of the 2016-2019 violence against women and girls action plan by addressing identified unmet need within the City, whilst building on the positive work already undertaken to integrate an improved response through mainstream delivery and to build sustainable change over the long term. The key work strands are:
- Behaviour change and accountability
  - Safer homes scheme
  - GP training and support
  - Building sustainable change
- 4.9 Business Crime**
- 4.10 Safer Wolverhampton Partnership contributed to a combined funding pot which enabled Wolverhampton Business Crime Reduction Group to continue their work to reduce business crime in the City. Wolverhampton Business Crime Reduction Group work with owners of small and medium enterprises to raise awareness and build resilience, helping them to protect themselves from becoming victims of crime.

4.11 Wolverhampton Business Crime Reduction Group have built solid partnerships with West Midlands Fire Service and West Midlands Police to deliver business crime reviews to help local businesses keep their properties safe and secure. 13 estates were visited during 2017-2018.

4.12 Activities during 2017-2018 included:

- Business crime reviews at locations where crime has taken place
- Helping prevent offending and reoffending by offering training skills programmes
- Cyber Crime awareness sessions, strengthening online security by providing training for 40 businesses
- The development of 21 Business Watch Groups with 742 businesses across the City of Wolverhampton
- Reducing victimisation of businesses with target hardening visits and fire safety inspections in partnership with WM Fire Service
- Increasing communication between local businesses, the police and other statutory organisations.

## **5.0 Summary of Progress Against Strategic Priorities – Violence Prevention**

### **5.1 Youth Offending Team**

5.2 During 2017-2018, the Youth Offending Team continued to utilise part of the Police and Crime Commissioner grant to part fund staffing to deliver bespoke Community Resolution Workshops for young people.

5.3 Young people apprehended by the police for low level offending who are on the cusp of entering the Youth Justice system are offered a brief assessment and intervention workshop which is designed to divert them from further offending and signpost them to appropriate services required.

5.4 During 2017-2018:

- 70 ONSET and ASSETPLUS assessments were undertaken on pre-court young people, (21% increase from 55 in 2016-2017). This allows targeted interventions to address their propensity for further offending and any safeguarding/wellbeing concerns.
- 75 young people took part in Community Resolution Workshops at The Way YouthZone (17% decrease from 90 in 2016-2017)

### **5.5 Preventing gang involvement and youth violence**

5.6 Delivery against the Preventing Gang Involvement and Youth Violence Strategy 2016-2019 has continued with a strong focus on providing early intervention and prevention activities to those either at risk of gang involvement or to young people who are already affiliated with gangs or involved in youth violence.

5.7 The Gangs Steering Group continued to grow its membership during 2017-2018. Strong partnerships have formed with Early Help and social care, who are now working

closely with the police and Safer Wolverhampton Partnership to identify young people of concern so that interventions are targeted at those who are most in need of support.

- 5.8 This is in line with other West Midlands areas and the national picture, 2017-2018 presented fresh challenges around youth violence and gang related violence. In response, specialist partner agencies have been commissioned to deliver services in specifically identified locations where both gang activity and youth violence are prevalent.
- 5.9 The Community Reference Group was re-commissioned to provide the critical call out mediation service in 2017-2018. The service, which is deployed in response to escalating gang and youth violence tensions, provides support to individuals who have been directly involved as well as the wider family and community; this has proved to be invaluable in providing community reassurance and reducing the risk of further incidents, including retaliations. The local knowledge they have along with the trust of the community means that they are best placed to deliver the service effectively and respond promptly as soon as they are deployed.
- 5.10 Additional projects commissioned include:
- School mentoring programme
  - Girls Allowed project (funded by comic relief)
  - Preventing violence project
  - Family intervention project

### **5.11 Prevent and Cohesion**

- 5.12 Delivery of Wolverhampton's response to the Prevent duty is both a statutory and priority area for the partnership. Wolverhampton continues to be considered a low risk area, and as such does not receive Home Office funding. Despite this, Safer Wolverhampton Partnership continues to promote workshops to raise awareness of Prevent training within the City, utilising its bank of trainers.
- 5.13 All schools in the city have now received workshops to raise awareness of Prevent training and Prevent e-learning has been made compulsory for all council employees. 2017-2018 has also seen substantive engagement with the health and housing sectors.
- 5.14 Channel Panel and Contest Board continue to run and are well attended by partner agencies. Contest is organised around four principle work streams, which remain as: pursue, prevent, protect and prepare.
- 5.15 SWP has a robust approach to monitoring community tensions across the city:
- A standardised form is circulated monthly to community leaders requesting that they provide details of tensions that they are aware of.
  - The City has a dedicated Community Cohesion Forum, formed of statutory agencies, community groups and organisations, councillors and the faith sector.
  - Both Community Cohesion and Prevent agendas link with the Safeguarding Boards, acknowledging that both form part of a larger Safeguarding agenda within the city.

5.16 SWP worked with statutory partners, alongside the third and faith sectors to develop a Faith Covenant for Wolverhampton. The Covenant, an initiative created by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society, reinforces the City's commitment by local authorities, partners and the faith sector to cooperate on issues across the city.

## 6.0 Domestic Homicide Reviews

6.1 During 2017-2018 Safer Wolverhampton Partnership received two notifications of domestic violence related deaths in Wolverhampton that could meet the criteria for undertaking a Domestic Homicide Review. Neither were undertaken as a full Domestic Homicide Review. One had no agency contact with Wolverhampton and therefore there was deemed to be no possible learning. This was supported by the Home Office. The other case was reviewed in Birmingham as the victim was a resident there.

## 7.0 Performance Summary

7.1 2017-2018 saw 21,225 offences in Wolverhampton. This is a 13.6% upturn in total recorded crime since 2016-2017, equating to 2541 offences. This is synonymous across the West Midlands, with Wolverhampton sustaining one of the lowest increases. Vehicle crime, business crime, violent offences and robbery were all contributing factors, as well as a small increase in traditionally hidden crimes such as violence against women and girls and modern slavery which can be viewed as a reflection of local efforts to increase confidence in reporting.

7.2 Key headlines include:

Crime type	2016-2017	2017-2018	Comments
Business Crime	4,256	4,954	Business crime and vehicle crime accounted for 7,403 offences, compared with 6,146 offences in 2016-2017. This equates to 49% of the total recorded crime increase over the 12-month period.
Vehicle Crime	1,890	2,449	
Robbery	389	423	This equates to a 9% increase. However, those with an offender aged 10-24 years old reduced by 40%
Violent crime with a knife or bladed weapon	191	221	This equates to a 16.5% increase, the 4 <sup>th</sup> lowest increase across the West Midlands
Violent crimes committed with use of a firearm	37	63	This increase is in line with the West Midlands and national trend.

Modern Slavery offences*	8	32	This increase reflects local efforts to increase confidence in reporting
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\*Recorded offences may also reflect data transfer/investigation delays between National Crime Agency and West Midlands Police.

7.3 The SWP Annual Report is currently in development and will be presented to SWP Board for approval at its meeting on 19 July 2018. This can be circulated to scrutiny panel following SWP approval.

## 8.0 Future Developments

8.1 The partnership will face new challenges over the next 12 months. The grant issued by the Police and Crime Commissioner has been reduced for the third year running, resulting in a streamlined programme of commissioning to meet Safer Wolverhampton Partnership strategic priorities. The Police and Crime Commissioner has announced that the way that funding is distributed and services commissioned will significantly change.

8.2 Some services, including funding for Youth Offending Teams, will be funded directly by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner; it is anticipated that moving forward more services and programmes will be commissioned this way. From 2020 the West Midlands Mayor will subsume the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Information regards these changes is currently limited, however it causes more uncertainty for Community Safety Partnerships from 2020 onwards.

8.3 2017-2020 Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy identifies the following areas of focus for 2018-2019:

### 8.4 Reducing Reoffending

- Implement a Black Country wide Reducing Reoffending strategy
- Improve recovery rates for offenders & those at risk of substance misuse problems
- Improve city image and business confidence by tackling aggressive begging and rough sleeping
- Address drug dealing amongst individuals, with a particular focus on New Psychoactive Substances
- Identify young people at risk of offending at an early stage and provide interventions, considering a 'whole family' approach
- Reduce volume crime with focus on vehicle crime, burglary, shoplifting and DA

### 8.5 Reducing Victimisation

- Develop interventions to deter young people from committing violent acts
- Provide early interventions to deter young people from carrying bladed weapons
- Provide critical call out mediation services to reduce tensions and escalations of violence
- Apply available legislative tools and powers to increase the effective management of offenders

- Delivery of Domestic Abuse perpetrator programmes inside and outside of the criminal justice system

## **8.6 Violence Prevention**

- Engage with identified communities to break the cycle of cultural acceptance of domestic related abuse and vulnerability
- Build confidence within communities subjected to hate crime to increase reporting and strengthen cohesion
- Work with partners to strengthen and integrate the collective response to domestic abuse
- Increase understanding of modern slavery and build confidence of victims to report issues and access support
- Targeted engagement with businesses to reduce the risk of business victimisation

## **9.0 Financial Implications**

- 9.1 Implementation of the Community Safety Strategy will be largely delivered through existing mainstream partner resources. Wolverhampton's grant allocation of £229,000 in 2018-2019 will be used to support the programme, the full cost of which would be met from within the grant resources available. Subject to agreement from the Police and Crime Commissioner, the anticipated carry forward of £15,000 will be added to the 2018-2019 programme.
- 9.2 The PCC allocation, when received, is ringfenced for Community Safety use by Safer Wolverhampton Partnership in line with conditions of grant. The grant is received by the City of Wolverhampton Council as accountable body for Safer Wolverhampton Partnership.  
[SB/18052018/O]

## **10.0 Legal implications**

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 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.  
[RB/18052018/V]

## **11.0 Equalities implications**

- 11.1 Delivery detailed within the Annual Report is reflected in the 2017-2020 Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy, Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and Preventing Gang Involvement and Youth Violence Strategy which have been subject to full equality analyses. Delivery strengthens the City's efforts to further equalities and actively addresses disproportionality associated with certain crimes.
- 11.2 As an update report of the issues and actions described in the overall strategy and its associated equality analyses there are no new equalities issues that have arisen between the adoption of the strategy and this update report.

## **12.0 Environmental implications**

- 12.1 There are no environmental implications within this report.

## **13.0 Human resources implications**

- 13.1 There are no human resource implications within this report.

## **14.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 14.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications for the Council's property portfolio.

## **15.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 15.1 There are no background papers.