

**Worcestershire Safer Communities
Board Community Safety
Agreement**

2018 to 2019

Worcestershire Safer Communities Board: Community Safety Agreement 2018 to 2019

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1. Introduction:

1.1 Community Safety responsibilities are primarily set out under s.17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act details the requirement for Responsible Authorities (Local Authorities, the Police, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups, the National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC)), to develop policy and operational approaches to prevent crime and disorder, combat substance misuse and reduce reoffending.

1.2 In two-tier Local Authority areas, such as Worcestershire, there is a requirement to have in place a county strategy group and to publish a county Community Safety Agreement (CSA). In Worcestershire the strategic coordination of community safety takes place through the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board (SCB). The management and support of the SCB is led by Worcestershire County Council's (WCC) Public Health team (PH). The SCB now reports annually into the Worcestershire Public Executive Group (PEG).

1.3 This CSA and Action Plan (Appendix A) are high level strategic documents that reflect national and local priorities and take into account legislative and guidance changes and local strategic plans that impact upon community safety and criminal justice. The CSA highlights the strategic and cross cutting priorities across Worcestershire and these are delivered by joint working arrangements through a series of strategic SCB sub groups, linkage to other statutory bodies such as Safeguarding Boards, the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and the commissioning of services such as substance misuse and alcohol and domestic abuse.

1.4 Planning and operational delivery to tackle local community safety priorities takes place through the North and South Community Safety Partnerships, whose Strategic Assessments and Annual Plans are a key consideration for the completion of the CSA. There is a similar link to the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) [Safer West Mercia Plan](#) and there is a duty to co-operate with and consider the PCC's plans. The SCB supports the CSPs and ensures strategic oversight across the county, its priorities reflecting those of the CSPs and the PCC; this is illustrated in Table 1. Crime trends are monitored, but the detail and response to crime statistics is primarily dealt with at the local CSP level.

1.5 Year on Year Crime trends (2012-18) are at **Appendix C** for N and S Worcestershire CSPs.

The past six years have shown a consistent increase in crime reporting which may, in part, be a product of improvements in trust. The changes in police crime recording standards have also played their part as well as the well-publicised increase in serious violence and knife crime (see 1.7 below)

1.6 The Government has placed an increasing emphasis on the importance of tackling Modern Slavery, with the Home Secretary announcing plans to reform the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in October 2017. Additionally the Government will be bringing forward a new Domestic Abuse Bill, with a new statutory definition of DA and is proposing a new

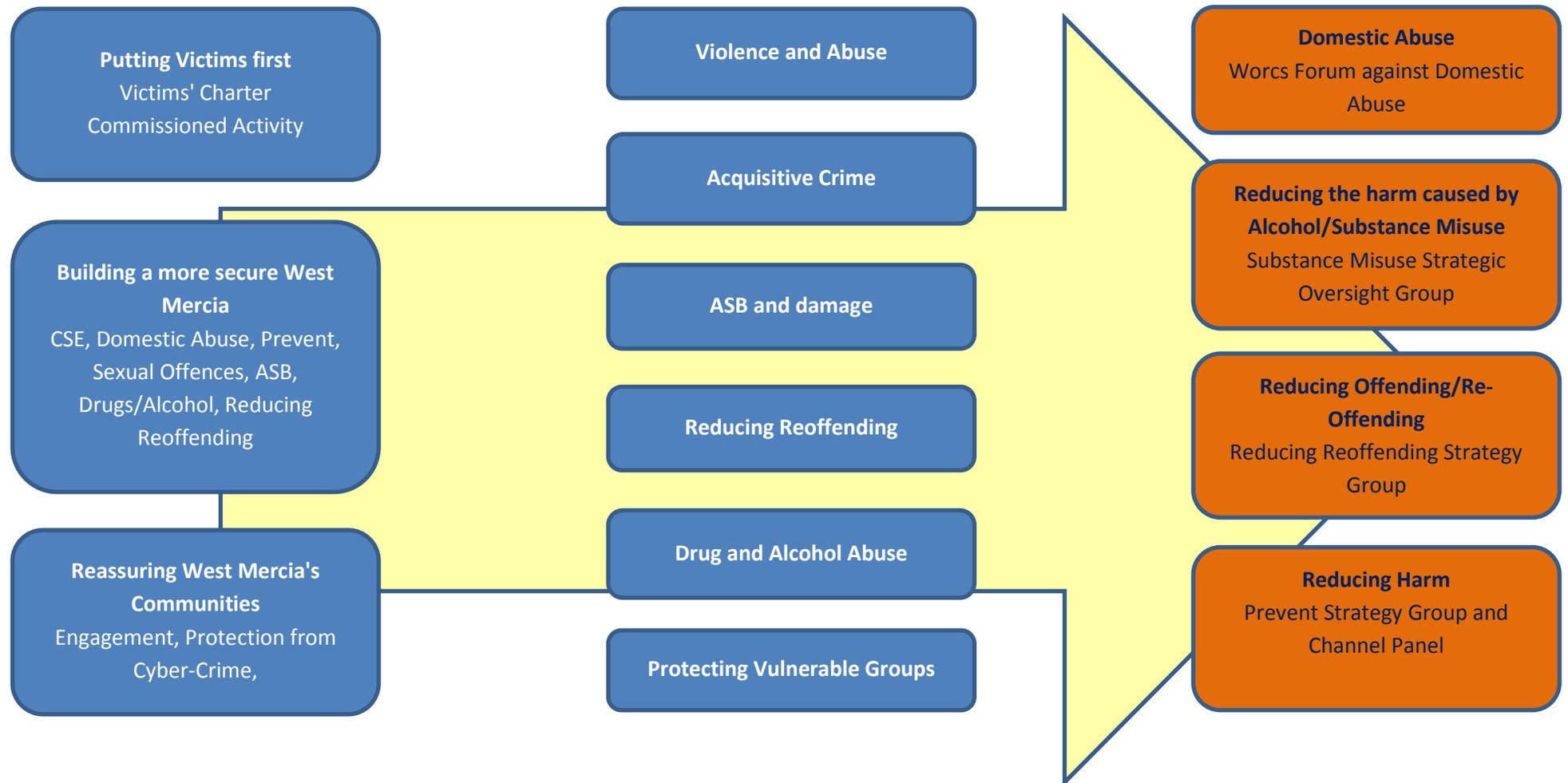
independent DA Commissioner and introducing a DA protection order. These are key priority areas for the SCB and will be a particular focus over the next year.

1.7 In April 2018 the Government published its [Serious Violence Strategy](#) with a focus upon gangs, organised crime (including county lines) and the role of communities and partnerships. We will look to develop partnership activity with the CSPs in response to this and fit with West Mercia Police and PCC's strategies in response to this document as they mature through the year.

1.8 Appendix B sets out the overarching governance arrangements of Community Safety within Worcestershire and its link into the West Mercia area.

1.9 The SCB, as a key part of Worcestershire County Council's Community Safety activity, is subject to scrutiny by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board.

**Table 1: Strategic community safety prioritisation in Worcestershire
PCC Safer West Mercia Plan**



¹ South Worcestershire CSP has aligned with the PCC's plan timescales

2. SCB Priority areas:

2.1 Set out below are the key strategic priority areas, with some highlight commentary, where the SCB, primarily through its sub groups, develops and supports practical outcomes, in tandem with other Boards and partnerships.

3. Domestic Abuse:

3.1 Domestic abuse continues to be a priority across Worcestershire with significant activity seeking to protect individuals affected by Domestic Abuse, safeguard children and with progress being made to start working with perpetrators thereby reducing abuse and altering behaviour. We have seen increases in reporting of Domestic Abuse for the past 6 years. The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process continues to be effective but is currently being reviewed together with the daily domestic abuse triage (within the WCC Family Front Door) to ensure that the right cases are being referred and victims safeguarded. This is being overseen by the Strategic MARAC Governance group.

3.2 Worcestershire continues to make more proactive use of preventive Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO's) than other West Mercia areas (57 from September 2016- September 2017). Leaflets are being produced for partners around the principles of both DVPN and DVPO's. A recent Multi-Agency Child File Audit (MACFA) conducted around domestic abuse by the Children's Safeguarding Board identified that, although the DVPOs were in place, agencies were not aware of this, leading to safeguarding opportunities being lost. Work has been undertaken and assurance is being provided that all relevant agencies will be informed in the future.

3.3 The Domestic Abuse Forum ([WCC Domestic Abuse website](#)) has led work with Housing Authorities and providers, to ensure understanding and awareness of DA for their residents and the impact upon their businesses, with a series of Master classes being delivered by the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA). The professional information pack, available on the website, has been updated and now includes the domestic abuse pathway.

3.4 With regards to Domestic Homicide reviews (DHR), which the SCB co-ordinates for the CSP's, we have completed a joint DHR and Safeguarding Adult Review in South Worcestershire and have a current DHR in progress in North Worcestershire. Over the Christmas period 2017 there were a further two murders which are currently subject of the process and we are working with families and the Home Office. Learning from DHRs is being disseminated to partner organisations.

3.5 The PCC has been successful in securing national funding to implement the DRIVE project, which aims to work with DA perpetrators to change behaviours. At present there is

a DRIVE multi agency governance group determining the terms of reference and structure for a launch planned for July 2018. WCC PH will commission this on behalf of the PCC and also make a financial contribution. In addition to this Shropshire are currently piloting a voluntary perpetrator programme which will be evaluated and then we will consider if it could add value to our approach in Worcestershire.

3.6 WCC PH have also commissioned a BME communities project with Women's Aid, which seeks to raise awareness of domestic abuse and increase engagement and develop sustainable networks

3.7 A review of DA training has taken place, led by WCC, and proposals are being developed for commissioning of a tiered approach to training, which seeks to meet staff training requirements in key areas, including both adults and children social care.

3.8 Public awareness campaigns continue and have received national acclaim. A series of new posters around coercive control are available and a multi-agency promotion of Clare's Law (the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme) through our "Worried" campaign is being progressed.

4. Substance Misuse including drugs and alcohol:

4.1 The negative impact of alcohol on health outcomes, risky behaviours and crime and the need to increase a range of actions to reduce its impact was recognised by the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WBB), which selected alcohol as one of three priorities for 2016-21. An action plan for this priority identifies a series of co-ordinated actions designed to reduce harm and promote responsible drinking, including work with licenced premises.

4.2 The national initiative Best Bar None, which focuses on reducing alcohol related crime and disorder, is now implemented in Worcester city, Bromsgrove and Malvern and discussions are underway in Redditch to introduce it in 2018.

4.3 Responsible licensing authorities, including Police and PH are working together in ensuring licensed premises make the appropriate steps to promote the four licencing objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. A successful representation by Police and PH in August 2017 resulted in the refusal of a significant alcohol license application in Worcester city in an area affected by high crime rates. PH has also successfully added voluntary conditions to a number of alcohol licenses granted by licensing authorities.

4.4 Swanswell recently launched a pilot Bluelight Programme in Worcestershire in conjunction with the national charity Alcohol Concern. This programme includes a range of evidence based interventions and training for professionals working with people who have

entrenched problems with alcohol, to improve their health and social care outcomes. The project is targeted at individuals who, in addition to their alcohol dependence, are significant users of emergency services and the intervention aims to reduce this engagement. These measures potentially include high volume of arrests, 999 callouts and ASB reports, amongst others. This pilot programme has been launched in Worcester City initially and there are plans to expand this work to other localities in the future.

4.5 In line with recommendations from the Public Health England (PHE) Alcohol and Drug Strategies, [National Drugs Strategy](#), PH commissions specialist services through Swanswell Charitable Trust. Swanswell adopt an evidence based, recovery-focused approach to improve health outcomes for adults, young people and families affected by substance misuse incorporating prevention and early intervention. They link closely with employment and housing services to provide support for people in recovery. The service has proved effective at working within the criminal justice sector and is assisting to reduce reoffending.

4.6 In 2017 the Government launched its new national Drug Strategy, which focuses on reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery from dependence and leading on international action. Reference is also made to new and emerging drugs and drug markets, particularly via the internet which requires different approaches to reducing harm. Public Health is now co-ordinating the development of work in Worcestershire across health, local government and police partnerships to implement these strategic approaches through the work of the Substance Misuse Strategic Oversight Group (SMOG). A new Drugs Plan is under development for Worcestershire

4.7 The SMOG includes representation from CSP, Public Health England, CCG, Police, Criminal Justice, Probation and Swanswell and is sighted on and supports community safety activity. It reports back to both the SCB and the H&WBB.

5. Reducing Re-offending:

5.1 CSPs have a statutory duty to reduce crime and re-offending in each area. Tackling crime is a partnership matter, with key local organisations working together to develop a new reducing offending strategy.

5.2 The partners involved in reducing re-offending activity meet on a monthly basis at the One Day One Conversation (ODOC) to discuss all individual offenders. Actions are agreed in relation to the management of individuals and interventions are identified to support the individual offenders. There is now a specific focus upon perpetrators of domestic abuse and serious and organised crime which is being actioned through joint arrangements between the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) meeting and Integrated Offender Management.

5.3 The Worcestershire Reducing Offending Strategy Group receives performance information on a quarterly basis and, once endorsed by the group, forwards the information to the PCC as part of the CSP funding monitoring return. Monitoring information focuses on the local Worcestershire ODOC performance.

6. Harm Reduction: (incorporating Anti-Social Behaviour, Safeguarding, Cyber Crime, Hate Crime, Modern Slavery, Child Sexual Exploitation, Prevent and Channel)

6.1 ASB is prioritised and dealt with by the CSPs who are seeing a change in the profile to more "personal ASB" (a new approach to categorisation) with reducing neighbourhood ASB. The former may involve such issues as targeted ASB and online bullying and may be indicative of a generation spending more time at their computer keyboards.

6.2 Safeguarding is embedded into the working practises of the SCB partner agencies, but more formalised working arrangements with the Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards and the HWBB has been put in place with the SCB becoming a signatory of a joint working protocol with those bodies and a joint chairs meeting taking place.

6.3 Cyber Crime is the emerging threat as noted in the PCCs Plan. It is unclear at this time what the scale of the threat/risk is, as West Mercia Police are developing an understanding in conjunction with the national agency Action Fraud. WCC PH represents the CSPs in the West Mercia Wide Cyber Crime meeting. We will work with that meeting to develop analysis that describes the demographic and locale of vulnerable individuals and to develop strategies to help them protect themselves.

6.4 The Hate Incident Partnerships (HIP) continue to operate using the same principles as the MARAC process, which is widely regarded as best practice in terms of enabling a multi-agency approach to data sharing and offering support to victims of hate incidents and hate crimes. In 2018/19 consideration will be given to how the North and South HIP's can potentially work more effectively, with a view to delivering a focus on community tension monitoring.

6.5 The Government's Prevent agenda remains a priority within Worcestershire, focusing on training and awareness raising and ensuring that all partner agencies have access to training packages and have appropriate corporate policies in place. WCC's awareness package is now available to partners and the VCS and has started to be accessed at the end of 2017.

6.6 The Worcestershire Prevent Strategy Group has developed a practical action plan which supports and oversees the work of Specified Authorities, who are required to

implement duties under the Counter Terrorism Act. A key focus is to raise awareness of the Prevent Agenda amongst community members and to show how partner agencies can work together to improve cohesion and integration. This is being updated and reviewed with the publication of the Counter Terrorism Profile for Worcestershire in March 2018.

6.7 The SCB, through the Prevent Strategy Group, oversees the Channel Panel process, which has a duty to manage referrals of cases that may cause concern in terms of radicalisation. Prevent referrals now go through the WCC Family Front Door/ Adult Safeguarding team prior to any cases reaching the Panel. Data relating to the Channel Panel is restricted, but reported to the SCB and both Safeguarding Boards.

6.8 The Channel process will change over the coming year as the Home Office's "Dovetail" proposals hand more administration to local authorities and the implementation of those changes will be the primary strategic focus for the Channel Panel in 2018/19 and beyond. At the time of writing this document, there is a lack of clarity about the final form of Dovetail or, indeed, the timescales.

6.9 The response to the Modern Slavery duty by the SCB and the partnership will form a key priority within the Action Plan and will take account of a recent WM Police modern slavery and trafficking threat assessment. The recently published Local Government Association Guide on implementing modern slavery duties will be a focus for ensuring that there is a co-ordinated approach across Worcestershire.

Appendix A

CSA Action Plan 2018 - 19

The following actions will be monitored and the plan regularly reviewed and updated by the SCB through to March 2019

Theme	Action	Timescale	Lead
Domestic Abuse	Implement the Drive Domestic Abuse perpetrator project	Service to commence by July 2018	WCC PH / PCC
	Ensure oversight of the DAF action plan implementation	March 2019	Domestic Abuse Forum
	Co-ordinate response to Government Domestic Abuse Bill consultation	May 2018	Domestic Abuse Forum
Alcohol and Substance Misuse	Blue Light Project scheme (Alcohol Concern) extended to Redditch	Dec 2018	Swanswell / WCC PH
	All Bar None extended to Redditch	Oct 2018	WCC PH / NWCSPP
Reducing Reoffending	Reducing Offending Strategy finalised.	Sept 2018	Reducing Offending Strategy Group
Prevent	Review, update and continue to implement the Prevent Action Plan incorporating CTLP.	June 2018 (New CTLP)	WCC PH / PSG
	Implement the changes to Channel arrangements required by the Dovetail scheme	April 2019	WCC PH / PSG
Harm Reduction – Hate Crime	Review of current Hate Incident activity in South Worcestershire CSP.	June 2018	SWCSPP
Modern Slavery	Implement the LGA guidance on Modern Slavery: carry out audit on WCC internal practise	July 2018	WCC PH and wider WCC
	Develop Worcestershire partnership arrangements through the Safer Communities Board.	Sept 2018	Partners
Violence	Work with partners across W Mercia to localise the Govt Serious Violence Strategy	Oct 2018	Partners

Appendix B

Worcestershire Community Safety Governance

Please note that this document does not provide an exhaustive list. These are the main groups currently working to deliver against community safety objectives, however, there are further operational groups, sub groups and task & finish groups also operating underneath some of the key partnerships.

Worcestershire Safer Communities Board – Chair: Dr Frances Howie, Director of Public Health WCC

Provide strategic co-ordination and support to community safety and criminal justice activity across Worcestershire. Responsible for the annual Community Safety Agreement and Action Plan. Takes responsibility on behalf of the wider community safety partnerships for those areas of activity that require a countywide and West Mercia area strategic response. Membership is comprised of the Chairs of the 2 CSPs and senior representatives from the Responsible Authorities (Local Authorities, Police, National Probation service, CRC, Fire & Rescue, Clinical Commissioning Groups), the Office of the PCC and the Chair of the Health & Well-Being Board.

Worcestershire Reducing Re-Offending Strategy Group – Chair: Alice Davey, Worcester City Council

A subgroup of the SCB, this provides strategic guidance, support and co-ordination to the delivery of IOM work in Worcestershire. Responsible for the development and implementation of performance measures and evaluation, working in co-operation across West Mercia where required. Membership is comprised of representatives from the Responsible Authorities and other agencies who work directly with offenders from across the voluntary and community sector.

Worcestershire Domestic Abuse Forum – Chair: Tim Rice WCC PH

The Forums aim to reduce domestic abuse and sexual violence by strengthening inter-agency working, raising public awareness and changing attitudes. This is achieved through multi-agency meetings, policy development, lobbying, awareness raising campaigns and training. The Forum works closely with service providers to ensure that policy work is practice-based, consistent and up to date, and to provide resources to support the effective delivery of services. It also provides commissioning support and advice as required. Membership is comprised of

representation from the Responsible Authorities plus key voluntary and community sector organisations and other key partners including service user representatives and staff from the University of Worcester.

Worcestershire Prevent Strategy Group (PSG) – Chair: Tim Rice, WCC PH

The PSG is a subgroup of the SCB and co-ordinates the partnership of Specified Authorities and the Police in their response to the Prevent agenda. It oversees the implementation of a strategic Prevent Plan

Worcestershire Channel Panel – Chair: Paul Kinsella, WCC PH

This statutory body ensures co-ordination of activity to prevent violent extremism in Worcestershire and provide interventions to individuals identified as being 'at risk' of engaging in behaviour associated with more extremist ideologies. Provides training to professionals to assist with the early identification and diversion of individuals and provides a proportionate response in line with the government's CONTEST agenda. Membership consists of all Specified Authorities.

Substance Misuse Strategic Oversight Group – Chair: Rosie Winyard, WCC PH

This group reports to both the SCB and the HWBB. Its role is to support and provide advice and recommendations for the effective performance of substance misuse commissioned services, to meet health and well-being and community safety objectives within Worcestershire, to meet evidenced need. Membership is comprised of staff from WCC plus representatives from Responsible Authorities, National Offender Management Service, Housing, Public Health England, Youth Offending Services, NHS England, Job Centre Plus and the Office of the PCC.

North / South Worcestershire CSP – Chairs: Sue Hanley (North), Rose Rouse (South)

The statutory CSPs work to reduce crime and disorder, deliver projects to tackle the agreed county wide priorities of reducing reoffending, domestic abuse and sexual violence, harm reduction including anti-social behaviour, hate crime and preventing violent extremism and working to tackle drug and alcohol misuse. Priorities are established through an annual strategic assessment process identifying crime patterns and emerging issues. Membership comprises representatives from Responsible Authorities and other key partners including housing providers, victim support and other voluntary and community sector organisations.

West Mercia Community Safety Liaison Group – Chair: Andrew Gough, Shropshire County Council

The Group provides a West Mercia forum where relevant issues, relating to the Police and Crime Plan and other Crime Reduction and Community Safety Strategies, can be considered and co-ordinated. It provides an opportunity to identify, promote and discuss local best practice. Membership of the group is open to representatives of each of the five CSPs in West Mercia,

West Mercia Police & Crime Panel (PCP) – Chair: Cllr Brian Wilcox, Herefordshire County Council

The strategy body is responsible for scrutiny of the West Mercia PCC and performance against the West Mercia Police & Crime Plan 2016/21. Membership is comprised of 15 elected members representing each of the 10 Local Authorities of West Mercia plus 2 independent co-opted members. Worcestershire County Council is the host authority and administers the group.

West Mercia Crime Reduction Board- Chair Andy Champness OPCC

The West Mercia wide body responsible for overseeing crime reduction (Including reducing re-offending) .Membership comprises CSP leads from across West Mercia, Probation, IOM, CRC, YJS, police officers and the OPCC.

Worcestershire Health & Well-Being Board – Chair: Cllr John Smith WCC Cabinet Member for Health & Well-Being

The Health and Well-being Board oversees the system for local health commissioning. It leads on the strategic planning and co-ordination of NHS, Public Health, Social Care and related Children's Services.

Membership comprises senior representation from local authorities, clinical commissioning groups, NHS England, Healthwatch Worcestershire, West Mercia Police, Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and the voluntary and community sector.

Appendix C

Crime Trends Worcestershire

2017/18	North							South					
	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18		12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Homicide	5	2	2	2	3	7		3	3	0	4	8	4
Violence With Injury	1558	1352	1667	2147	2484	2264		1466	1377	1730	2288	2372	2354
Violence Without Injury	1556	1172	1706	3064	3843	4177		1142	1193	1699	3197	3987	4231
Rape	91	84	154	202	249	261		96	96	152	193	296	290
Other Sexual Offences	214	205	277	367	445	465		205	218	350	428	478	527
Personal Robbery	100	82	95	100	167	124		82	50	92	130	130	130
Business Robbery	29	25	20	16	31	24		7	4	7	8	8	10
Burglary - Residential - National	627	732	688	720	950	1635		706	507	598	662	828	1264
Burglary - Business and Community -	1052	1014	1126	1086	1231	520		1212	1199	1300	1219	1404	529
Vehicle Offences	1666	1951	2127	2052	1862	2106		1557	1531	1463	1330	1501	1368
Theft from Person	168	149	124	150	172	210		179	171	143	159	197	255
Shoplifting	1332	1633	1738	1561	1659	1919		1378	1584	1613	1683	2125	2033
Bicycle Theft	165	194	178	164	166	225		465	394	348	334	347	368
All Other Theft Offences	2207	1996	1893	1819	1975	2205		2276	2066	2105	1877	2197	2138
Criminal Damage & Arson	2310	1954	2066	2220	2237	2512		2407	2307	2281	2366	2701	2536
Other Crimes Against Society	1681	1523	1409	1797	2072	2097		1735	1569	1647	2046	2466	2323
TOTAL	14761	14068	15270	17467	19546	20751		14916	14269	15528	17924	21045	20360

Appendix D

The Community Safety interrelationships in Worcestershire

