

MEETING	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
MEETING DATE:	28th JANUARY 2014
TITLE OF REPORT:	UPDATE ON REFRESHED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE - HWB, SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARDS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
REPORT BY:	HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To receive an update on the proposals for developing the next three year strategy for community safety in Herefordshire and resolving governance arrangements for the community safety partnership.

Recommendation

THAT: The report be noted

Background

1. There is a statutory requirement for all local authority areas to have a Community Safety Partnership (CSP). From 1 April 2013, each CSP must have as a minimum the five 'responsible authorities', comprising:
 - police
 - local authority
 - fire and rescue service
 - probation trust¹
 - clinical commissioning group
2. A responsible authority is statutorily required to be represented on the CSP and contribute to the development of strategies relating to crime and crime reduction. Responsible authorities are jointly responsible for the formulation of a strategy to reduce crime and disorder within an area, and for the production of a strategic assessment to underpin this. Responsible authorities have to appoint a strategy group to commission this piece of work.
3. Up until March 2011, this CSP function was fulfilled by the Safer Herefordshire Strategy Group. Following a review of structures and accountabilities, the reporting arrangements were streamlined and the function became part of the newly formed cross sector senior officer group – Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group (HPEG), effective from April 2011. The remit of HPEG was to have a clear understanding of the issues facing Herefordshire and where resources were deployed to inform shaping future plans and influencing resource allocation across partners. The group identified a number of priorities: supporting the economy, support for vulnerable people, community safety and working to empower communities. At its meeting in October 2013, HPEG agreed that the environment had changed to that which set up the original framework for the group and whilst partnership working would still exist there was no longer a requirement for such a formal meeting. The group was therefore disbanded with the proviso that a solution was found for the statutory community safety function.

Community Safety Strategy 2014-17 / Governance

4. The next three year Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership strategy will cover April 2014 – March 2017. Work on the current strategic assessment has identified a number of key community safety issues (see attached appendix).
5. To take this forward and to resolve the governance issues, a workshop, chaired by the cabinet member for community safety, will be held in mid-February to which representatives of all the responsible authorities together with the chairs of the Health and Wellbeing, Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children's Boards will be invited. The workshop will be in two parts. The first part will review the evidence from the Strategic Assessment and agree the priorities for community safety in Herefordshire for the next 3 years. The second part of the workshop will then be a discussion and agreement on the future governance arrangements, informed by the setting of the identified priorities. This will then be formalised through the approval process for the Community Safety Strategy.

¹ From April 2013 at the earliest, the Transforming Rehabilitation programme will lead to alternative arrangements for representation for probation services from West Mercia Probation Trust, the current representative.

Draft Summary of Findings from Strategic Assessment Scanning Exercise

The aim of this scanning exercise is to form the basis of the strategic assessment, an annual exercise to identify key crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse issues that affect Herefordshire. This assessment considers what needs to be achieved to improve or maintain community safety and how communities can feel reassured and have confidence that their concerns and fears are being addressed.

This assessment is a tool for identifying emerging issues in the county along with vulnerable locations and people. This involves scanning partner data, identifying where further analysis is required and identifying emerging issues, vulnerable locations and people. This exercise will inform a decision by the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership on the priorities for the next Three Year Strategy and Plan (2014-17). The current priorities are: Integrated Offender Management, Alcohol Harm Reduction, Domestic Violence and Abuse and Empowered Localities.

The scanning exercise has looked at issues in terms of trends, size of the problem, the harm caused and how this compares to elsewhere in the region and nationally. The initial scanning exercise was circulated to all the responsible authorities as well as other key interested parties to verify whether the findings were agreed by partners and whether they were aware of other issues which should be taken into account.

Highlighted below are the main issues identified so far:

- Herefordshire generally has a **lower rate of crime** per head of population than across England and Wales (49 per 1,000 compared to 64 per 1,000). This is reflected in the individual crime types with only 3 crime types out of 17 ('sexual offences' 'miscellaneous crimes against society' and 'non-domestic burglary') having more offences committed per head of population than across England and Wales. The last three years has seen some convergence with crime rates in Herefordshire decreasing more slowly than across England and Wales.
- **Total recorded crime** continues to decrease with all but 'non-domestic burglary', 'miscellaneous crimes against society', 'shoplifting', 'violence without injury', 'domestic burglary' and 'drug offences' decreasing between 2010 and 2013. The scale of decrease however has not been as great as across England and Wales, but this may reflect a lower starting position.
- Crime is **concentrated in Hereford City and the market towns**, particularly Hereford City Centre. This is true for all crime types except 'burglary other' where the highest rate was in rural areas, particularly the Golden Valley.
- Based on the volume and cost per crime the crime types that appear to have the greatest cost to the county, in terms of preventing crime, the impact on victims and in response to the crime are violent crimes with injury and sexual offences.
- The number of sexual offences in the county has increased considerably in the last two years, although this may be due to reporting of 'non-recent offences'. The number of offences compared to other crime types is low, but the cost of these crimes to society (particularly the physical and emotional costs for victims) means that this change is not insignificant. The rate of sexual offences per head of population in the county is slightly above that nationally - one of only three above the national rate.

- The **'misuse' of alcohol** in the county has impacts in a number of areas particularly for the police and health services. Alcohol is linked to a large proportion of violent crime and is particularly related to the night time economy. It is also implicated in domestic abuse. The health impacts of alcohol disproportionately affect deprived areas of the county. The number of violent crimes with injury and alcohol related assaults reporting to A&E have decreased over the last few years.
- Compared to elsewhere the number of **domestic violence** and abuse offences and incidents is fairly comparable to other areas of the West Mercia force. However, there has been some increase in both DVA offences and incidents in the last two years, a fact which is reflected in violence against the person offenses.
- The number of **antisocial behavior** crimes and incidents in the county has seen a continual decrease in the last three years. The number of ASB incidents recorded by the police however, is still quite large (7,851 in 2012-13 - 15% of all incidents). In 2012-13 14% of people were fearful of antisocial behaviour in their area. Residents of the most deprived areas reported the highest rates of people thinking ASB was an issue. There is a need to further understand whether ASB is decreasing universally across the county or whether certain hot spots are bucking this trend.
- The number of **drug offences** committed in the county has increased at a far greater rate than any other type of crime, although rates remain below those nationally. Drug related admissions to hospital saw a considerable increase in 2012-13 and evidence suggests that drug related mortality is increasing. The number of problematic drugs users is similar (per 1,000 head of population) to that nationally.
- The number of people **re-offending** over the last three years has been consistently higher than would be expected given the characteristics of the cohort, although not statistically significant.
- Herefordshire continues to have a significantly higher rate of first time entrants to the **youth justice system**. It is thought that is explained by the sustained significantly higher detection rate, coupled with a lower use of community resolutions.
- **Hate crime** has seen a considerable increase in the last two years. The total volume of crimes is still fairly small, but there is a need to understand the reasons for the increase and monitor the trend.
- Evidence indicates there are **certain groups of people and families** make a disproportionate call upon a number of services from different providers. Further work to understand how individuals (single people and those within families) interact with these services, could bring advantages in terms of effectiveness of intervention, especially if adopting a "whole family approach".