

## **Report to brief Herefordshire Council on the activity of the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP).**

### **Introduction:**

1. This document is to brief the council on the activity of the Herefordshire community safety partnership (HCSP).

### **Report:**

2. Over the past year the Herefordshire community safety partnership (HCSP) has met on four occasions. The priority sub groups that sit below the HCSP met every other month.
3. HCSP is a statutory partnership. Herefordshire Council is one statutory member. The cabinet member for health and wellbeing chairs HCSP, with the police area commander as vice chair.

4. HCSP board consists of:

Cabinet member with responsibility for community safety (health and wellbeing)\*

West Mercia Police – Herefordshire Policing Area Commander\*

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service – Group Commander\*

Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group - Chief Officer\*

Warwickshire and West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company – Assistant Chief Officer with responsibility for Herefordshire\*

National Probation Service – Chief Officer for West Mercia and Warwickshire\*

Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia

Director of Public Health

Director of Adult Well Being

Director of Children’s Wellbeing

Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board

Chair of Safeguarding Adults Board

Chair of Safeguarding Children’s Board

\*Responsible authorities with a duty to work together to reduce crime and disorder.

5. HCSP has continued to focus activity on four priorities, plus a fifth joint priority shared with the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB).

6. Priority - reducing harm from alcohol and drugs

Over the past 12 months, partnership activity has focussed on assisting the new alcohol and drug treatment provider, Addaction, to commence the contract and get established in Herefordshire. Working alongside the sub group responsible for addressing anti-social behaviour (ASB), the working group has combined efforts with agencies to make the night time economy safer. This includes supporting the street pastor initiative.

Key performance indicators to be improved over the forthcoming year include an increase in the number of successful treatment completions for opiate users and an increase in successful treatment completions for alcohol misuse.

7. Priority - reducing harm from antisocial behaviour and improving community cohesion

Key projects over the past year include implementation of the integrated community management system in Hereford city, the continued successful stop rogue trading and 'scam' awareness scheme, and the summer period night time noise initiative.

The partnership has worked to introduce national anti-radicalisation/ anti-terrorism initiatives in the county, known as Prevent, Channel and WRAP. These are designed to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being radicalised and drawn into violent extremism.

In the year to the end of May 2016, 6501 ASB incidents in Herefordshire were recorded by West Mercia Police – a 4.3% decrease year on year. In the year to the end of July 2016, the number of hate offences was up 69% (44 from 26 last year). Numbers are low, so an increase in reporting may reflect increased confidence in reporting hate incidents and crimes, which is a priority for the Board.

Regarding the successful scams initiative; in Herefordshire over 180 referrals from the national scams team have been actioned. Total losses uncovered to date in the county are approximately £325,000 (mass marketing). Money saved during the financial year to the end of March 2016 was approximately £35,000.

8. Priority - reducing harm from domestic violence and abuse

Domestic violence continues to challenge Herefordshire; it has a devastating impact on the community and the families it occurs in. Over the past year HCSP has piloted a voluntary domestic violence perpetrator programme, produced research investigating barriers faced by those who need to access help from violence, and the HCSP continued to offer training to raise awareness of domestic violence.

For the financial year 2015/16 referrals to West Mercia Women's Aid increased by 24% and the calls to and from the help line increased by 55%. The increase in the number of referrals and help line business has put significant pressure on the service. The reason for the increase is unknown, but may reflect an increased confidence in victims seeking help to escape abuse.

9. Priority - reduce reoffending

Probation services and Warwickshire and West Mercia police drive this priority. They are supported by other key agencies such as housing and substance misuse services. Offenders are managed to reduce their reoffending behaviour by intensive supervision and wrap around help to address their accommodation, employment, training, relationship, substance misuse, financial and health concerns.

Accurate and up to date reoffending data is difficult to obtain, what is known is that reoffending rates in Herefordshire are around 11%.

West Mercia Youth Offending service continues to work with Herefordshire young offenders. During 2015 Herefordshire had 566 first time entrants per 100,000 youth population. This represented a -49% decrease since 2009. However, challenges remain in that Herefordshire has the second highest rate in West Mercia. Research has identified factors for this include a high detection rate and a lower use of informal disposals, eg community resolutions. Youth reoffending rates are significantly lower.

10. Shared priority - reducing harm from child sexual exploitation

This priority sits with the Herefordshire safeguarding children board on behalf of both the HSCB and HCSP. During the 2015/16 year HSCB established a child sexual exploitation (CSE) sub-group in order to drive improvements in our collective response to this threat within Herefordshire.

This has led directly to clear pathways, guidance and tools to support recognition, referral and response to CSE. Extensive work has taken place over the year to raise awareness of

CSE, including a multi-agency conference in March 2016, close work with the licencing authorities, and delivering key messages to children and young people. This has in turn led to an increase in the identification of cases

11. Future developments

Over the next 12 months HCSP will work with the new Police and Crime Commissioner to tackle crime and disorder in Herefordshire. HCSP has commissioned a strategic assessment of community safety in Herefordshire. This will inform a new three year community safety partnership strategy for 2017 to 2020.