

# **Community Safety Update**

## **GOSC – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

**Cabinet Member:** Cllr Patricia Morgan

**Officers present:**

George Branch - Assistant Chief Officer - Warwickshire and West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)

Supt Sue Thomas – West Mercia Police

Nina Bridges – Sustainable Communities Manager,  
Herefordshire Council

Adrian Turton – Community Safety Manager, Herefordshire  
Council

# Changing Landscape for Community Safety

- Five responsible authorities for CS Partnership: Herefordshire Council, West Mercia Police, H & W Fire and Rescue, CCG, Community Rehabilitation Company / National Probation Service (see Appendix 1 for responsibilities of the CS Partnership);
- Organisational change e.g. Transforming Rehabilitation, Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Challenge of reduced budget and resources;
- New legislation e.g. Anti-social behaviour Act 2014; Care Bill 2013;
- Need to co-ordinate multi-agency interventions to meet the needs of individuals and families.

**= change, increasing complexity and diminishing resources**

# Herefordshire is a Safe County

- Herefordshire has a lower rate of crime per head of population than the rest of England & Wales
- Recorded crime in 2013/14 was 9% lower than 2012-13 (West Mercia Police)
- In 2012-13, 93% of Herefordshire residents reported feeling safe with 61% feeling very safe or completely safe (West Mercia Crime and Safety Survey)

# Achievements in 2013/14

- Domestic Violence and Abuse – multi-agency approach (based on needs assessment / action plan, case studies)
- DVA – awareness raising in schools and through White Ribbon Campaign
- Safer nights out – co-ordinated approach – street pastors, taxi-marshalling, close working between police / licensing and night clubs / pubs
- Partnership working with the PCC
- MATAC – agencies coming together to address persistent and harmful ASB incidents

# Headline Statistics 2013/14

Indicator	2012/13	2013/14	Performance
Number of recorded crimes	9,140	8294	↓ 9 % reduction
Number of alcohol related incidents recorded at A&E	281	196	↓ 30 % reduction
Number of violence against the person crimes	993	939	↓ 5 % reduction
% of repeat MARAC cases (high risk domestic violence victims)	40%	30%	↓ 10 percentage point reduction
Number of people killed or seriously injured on Herefordshire roads (calendar year)	80	61	↓ 24 % reduction

# Draft Priorities for Strategic Plan 2014/17

**Annual Strategic Assessment has led to proposal for following to be priorities for Strategic Plan 2014/17** (see Appendix 2 for executive summary)

- Reduce re-offending / bring offenders to account (adults and youths)
- Address the harm caused by alcohol and drugs
- Address domestic violence and abuse
- Promote community cohesion and reduce anti-social behaviour

**See also summary of Draft Strategic Plan 2014/17** (Appendix 3)

- Also being asked to support PCC priorities of Reducing Rural Crime and Business Crime

# Reduce re-offending - rationale

- Levels of re-offending above Ministry of Justice predicted rate. (actual rate 11.4% v predicted rate 10.5% - 2012/13)
- Rates of first time youth offenders higher than nationally  
(Herefordshire 671\* v 518\* Eng. & Wales \*per 100,000 population)
- Duty to develop and implement Integrated Offender Management strategy
- Transforming Rehabilitation – changing landscape

# Address the harm caused by alcohol and drugs - rationale

## Alcohol

- Linked to violent crime and night time economy
- 40% all violent crimes - alcohol marker
- 30% of DVA crimes and incidents – alcohol marker
- Impact on health – higher rates of under 18's alcohol related hospital admissions compared to rest of UK; significantly higher rates of admission of those from most deprived areas (someone living in the most deprived quartile in the county is 4 x more likely to be admitted to hospital due to alcohol consumption than the least deprived quartile).

(Data sources – West Mercia Police / Public Health)



# Address the harm caused by alcohol and drugs - rationale

## Drugs

- Number of drug offences committed in the county increasing (increased police activity)  
(up 68% between 2010 & 2013. Source: West Mercia Police)
- Problematic Drug Users similar to other areas
- Impact on health - increased drug related hospital admissions; drug related mortality is increasing  
(Drug related hospital admissions 197 in 2012/13 v 127 2008/09. Source: Public Health)
- Gap in intelligence relating to abuse of 'legal highs' and those substances that are new to regulation

# Address domestic violence and abuse - rationale

- Increase in DVA Incidents & Crimes – 9% increase 2013/14 (2151) compared to 2012/13 (1975)
- Increase in DVA Crimes – 19% increase 2013/14 (819) compared to 2012/13 (690)
- Increase in unique callers to West Mercia Women's Aid helpline - 33% increase 2013 (897) compared to 2012 (674)
- Demand on services: Safeguarding, Children's Services, Health Provision, Housing, Police, Probation, Social Services, Education
- Joint commissioning opportunities with PCC

(Data sources: West Mercia Police / West Mercia Women's Aid)

# Promote community cohesion and reduce anti-social behaviour - rationale

- ASB decreased over 3 years but still 15% of all reported incidents to police (greater than any other category);
- Hate Crime fairly small but considerable increase (Oct 2013 three times more than Oct 2011);
- 14% of county residents reported being fearful of antisocial behaviour occurring in their local area;
- ASB and Police and Crime Act 2014 focus on ASB including requirement for relevant bodies to carry out ASB reviews if requested;
- Need to correlate ASB incidents across partners

(Data sources – West Mercia Police / Public Health)

# Moving Forward

- Sign off of the Strategic Plan 2014/17 by partners;
- Adopted onto the Council's Budget and Policy Framework – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014
- Development / review of action plans for priorities;
- Emphasis on engagement and joint working with partners.

**One individual – multiple interventions**

