

Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership

COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2021- 2024

Our plan to keep you safer



Foreword

Councillor Ange Tyler and Superintendent Edd Williams present the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) Strategy 2021 – 2024. The Partnership consists of a number of organisations that work together to tackle crime and disorder.

The Strategy focusses on priorities by committing resources to deliver valuable outcomes to make a difference to those affected by crime and disorder. There is no better time to make a difference, and to help Herefordshire residents, children, families, men, women and the elderly population to feel and be safe within their communities.



Councillor Ange Tyler - Chair of the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership



Superintendent Edd Williams - Vice Chair of the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership

1.Introduction

The Community Safety Partnership consists of a number of organisations that work together to tackle crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), combat the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, and to reduce re-offending. The Partnership also undertakes Domestic Homicide Reviews and anti-social behaviour case reviews. We assess local crime priorities and consult partners and the local community about how to deal with them.

We want all citizens in Herefordshire to be safe and to feel safe, and we are committed to make a difference to improve outcomes and life chances for all, irrespective of their characteristics, locality, needs, or circumstances.

This strategy sets out:

- The partnership's ongoing areas of focus and objectives
- Current priorities based on the evidence we have, and how we will achieve them
- How we work together to guide and inform our work.

The Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership approach works on the premise that no single agency can deal with these issues on their own, and we can work more effectively and efficiently by working together. Every agency recognises the part and value they have to play in helping to deliver this Strategy and keep people safe.

Community Safety Partnerships were set up under Sections 5-7 of the *Crime and Disorder Act 1998*. The statutory agencies that comprise the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership are; Herefordshire Council, West Mercia Police, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, Integrated Care Board, and the Probation Service. All agencies are committed to making a difference over the next three years and to work with the community and partner agencies to tackle crime in Herefordshire.

The Five Statutory Members of the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership are:

Councillor Ange Tyler -

Chair of the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership
Herefordshire Council
Cabinet Member - Housing, Regulatory Services, and
Community Safety

Superintendent Edd Williams -

Vice Chair of the Herefordshire Community Safety
Partnership
West Mercia Police

Jon Barnes -

Chief Transformation Officer
One Herefordshire Partnership/ Integrated Care Board

Anna Davidson –

Assistant Director: Prevention
Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service

George Branch –

Head of Probation
Hereford, Shropshire and Telford PDU
HM Prison & Probation Service

2. Context

Herefordshire is a predominantly rural county, with the fourth lowest population density in England. As of mid-2018, Herefordshire’s resident population was estimated to be 192,100. Over half of the population live in areas defined as “rural,” with the majority of these in the most rural “village and dispersed” areas. The county has a relatively older age structure compared with nationally with almost a quarter (24%) of the population aged 65 years or over.

Between November 2019 and October 2021, Herefordshire recorded an upward trend in all crime.¹ This was due to increases in rape and other sexual offences, “modern slavery non-crime incidents,” violence without injury, and “other crimes against society.” Other offence groups saw decreases or no change between 2019/20 and 2020/21, including theft, burglary, personal robbery and shoplifting. These trends are highly likely to have been impacted by the effects of Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions, which limited contact with people and places. There were also three homicides during the 2-year period.

The Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership is committed to identifying priorities and objectives that meet the local needs of our community, based on the evidence and knowing where the Partnership can make a difference.

3. Areas of statutory responsibility and objectives

There are statutory responsibilities for the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership that remain constant and in place. Our strategy also recognises that new challenges can emerge quickly, that can impact on the safety and wellbeing of our citizens. We need to be ready to respond in the short term and prioritise our focus when we have identified that interventions are required.

¹ Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership Overview – 1 November, 2019 to 31 October, 2021. Authored by West Mercia Police for the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership. Published November 2021.

In accordance with the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and subsequent legislation; the statutory agencies that comprise the Community Safety Partnership should fulfill the following responsibilities (listed below in bold text).

For each statutory responsibility the HCSP has identified specific objectives. These objectives were agreed and informed by evidence from the HSCP Strategic Assessment 2017-20 and Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership Overview data (November 2019 – October 2021). These objectives are listed as bullets under each statutory responsibility.

- a) Work towards reducing crime and disorder in the area, including anti-social behaviour (ASB).** This will be delivered across multiple sub-groups of the HCSP. Our objectives are to:
- Reduce the harm from Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
 - Promote Community Cohesion to address anti-social behaviour, hate crime and to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism
 - Tackle Serious Organised Crime and the harm that it causes
- b) Combat the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area.** This will primarily be delivered through the Substance Misuse work stream. Our objectives are to:
- Bring to justice those that supply illegal drugs and counterfeit goods and support them to change their behaviour
 - Raise awareness of the harm caused by substance misuse and provide support for those that need help
- c) Reduce re-offending in the area.** This will primarily be delivered by the Reducing Re-offending work stream. Our objectives are to:
- Support partners to effectively work together to reduce offending
 - Deliver a local response to local problems and
 - Remain publicly accountable to reduce re-offending

In addition, the HCSP has overall responsibility for undertaking Domestic Homicide Reviews in Herefordshire.

4. Current Priorities 2022-2024

In addition to the statutory responsibilities, in section 3 above, the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership has identified two priorities for 2021-24 where evidence tells us there is a need, and where we feel that we can make a difference to lives of residents in Herefordshire.

Based on the most recent data, and to achieve our statutory responsibilities and partnership objectives, the priority areas of work that we have identified for the next two years (2021-24) are:

Priority 1. Violence against women and girls

This is important because:

Violence against women and girls has rightly received scrutiny recently due to high-profile cases where women were tragically murdered. In Herefordshire, we have seen an increase in sexual violence and sexually harmful incidents where women and girls were targeted. We want women and girls across Herefordshire to feel safe in our communities. The continued Safer Streets initiative will involve multi-agency work improving our infrastructure, landscape and support services that include the voluntary sector.

We will:

Where we want to be	How we will do it	By when	Lead Agency
Continued spend of Safer Street funding	By completing agreed activity included in the bid	April 2022	West Mercia Police
Tackling violence against women and girls and sexual violence in the county by following a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for Herefordshire	The Tackling Sexual Violence Delivery Group will develop a Sexual Violence Strategy and, follow an agreed workplan.	September 2022	Herefordshire Council Public Health
Provide a platform for women and girls to be heard	Working with Herefordshire Women's Equality Group (HWEG) as a critical friend, consulting with them and responding to feedback.	April 2023	Herefordshire Council

Priority 2. Domestic Abuse

This is important because:

Women's Aid define domestic abuse as an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer. It is very common and can include, but is not limited to, coercive control, physical or sexual abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, financial or

economic abuse, harassment and stalking, or digital and online abuse. In Herefordshire, domestic abuse offences increased between November 2019 and October 2021, while domestic abuse crimed incidents remained stable. The new Domestic Abuse Act became law on April 30, 2021, which will introduce a number of reforms to address domestic abuse.

We will:

Where we want to be	How we will do it	By when	Lead Agency
Herefordshire must implement and align to the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021	Establish the Domestic Abuse Local Strategic Partnership	Dec 2021	West Mercia Police
	Produce a needs analysis	Dec 2021	
	Refresh the Domestic Abuse Strategy	March 22	
	Ensure that the workplan is delivered	March 24	
We must ensure that we are strategically aligned across other Partnership Boards, including the Domestic Abuse Local Strategic Partnership, Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board, the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Herefordshire Health and Wellbeing Board	Robust reporting to strategic boards on the progress of Domestic Abuse, strategy, interventions and initiatives.	March 2024	West Mercia Police

5.Accountability and working together

The Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership is accountable for this strategy and plan. We will monitor progress on a quarterly basis via priority leads and sub-groups. Each Community Safety Partnership Sub-group has its own work plan and objectives outlining how success will be measured. The Sub-group Lead will report quarterly to the Herefordshire Community Partnership Board using a Highlights Report.

A Strategic Assessment will be undertaken every three years, while the HCSP Strategy will be reviewed annually by the HCSP Board to evaluate progress and ensure that the strategy adapts to changing needs.

In addition, the HCSP will have regard to the Police and Crime Commissioner Police and Crime Plan objectives. The HCSP will share the crime and disorder strategy and community safety plans and seek agreement of those with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The partnership aims to promote high standards and to foster a culture of continuous improvement and challenge, whilst each organisation retains its own existing line of accountability and delivery.

We will work closely with other:

- citizens
- services, including the voluntary sector
- employees

To find out more about the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership, email communitysafety@herefordshire.gov.uk, call us on 01432 260100, or visit <https://herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/>