

Safer Wolverhampton Partnership

Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy 2020-2023



Glossary of Terms

CSP – Community safety partnership

DA – Domestic abuse

FGM – Female genital mutilation

FM – Forced marriage

HBV – Honour based violence

IPV – Interpersonal violence

MASH – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

PACT – Partners and communities together

SV – Sexual violence

SWP – Safer Wolverhampton Partnership

VAWG – Violence against women and girls

WASP – Wolverhampton and Walsall anti-slavery partnership

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Foreword

Issues of crime, community safety and harm reduction are very complex and require an integrated partnership response. There have already been huge improvements in steps taken to join up the city's safeguarding practices; Wolverhampton prides itself on having a well-established adults and children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and an innovative strategy which encompasses all forms of violence and exploitation holistically.¹

Broad strategic themes have been identified as priorities within this strategy. This enables flexibility in responding to changing crime trends and any emerging issues. Delivery will be reviewed annually in line with Wolverhampton's annual Strategic Assessment and local trends to ensure that delivery reflects need whilst also maximising opportunities for joint working across the region. The partnership recognises that crime practices often extend beyond geographic boundaries and can impact on several geographical locations.

The ambition is for swifter information flow, earlier identification and support for those at risk, a raised awareness and involvement with communities and a reduction in the risk of residents being victimised. This commitment to early intervention and prevention threads through this strategy and will require the partnership to extend work with schools, enhance the role of communities and deliver sustained training for frontline practitioners. The strategy will also work to strengthen the collective city response to crime using the tools and powers available across the partnership.

The strategy places a stronger focus on the need to engage residents and build community capacity. It is Recognised that Wolverhampton's communities are instrumental in ensuring that the city is a safe, secure and a positive place to live and work. This not only aligns itself with the partnership's commitments to a place-based approach but is also reflective of the City of Wolverhampton Council Plan.² This will involve focused partnership delivery in specific locations across the city which have been identified using police data, public engagement and demand.

Executive Summary

– To be added following the consultation once strategy content is finalised.

¹ <http://www.saferwolverhampton.org.uk/documents/TVE%20Wolverhampton%20Strategy.pdf>

² <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-04/Our%20Council%20Plan%202019-2024.pdf>

Keeping our Communities Safe

The Partnership

Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) is the statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Local Police and Crime Board for Wolverhampton. CSPs became a statutory function under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998; whereby a duty was placed on a number of partner agencies to form a CSP.

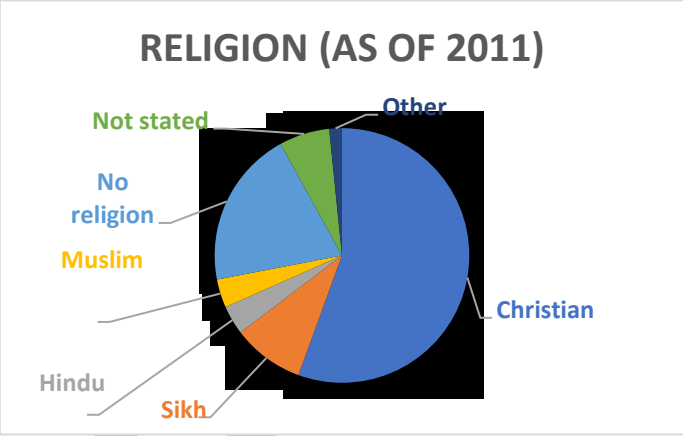
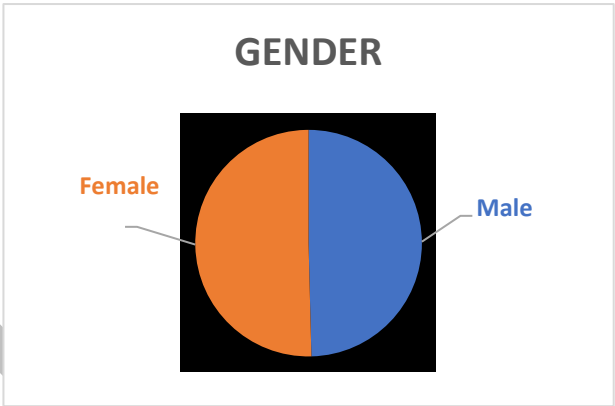
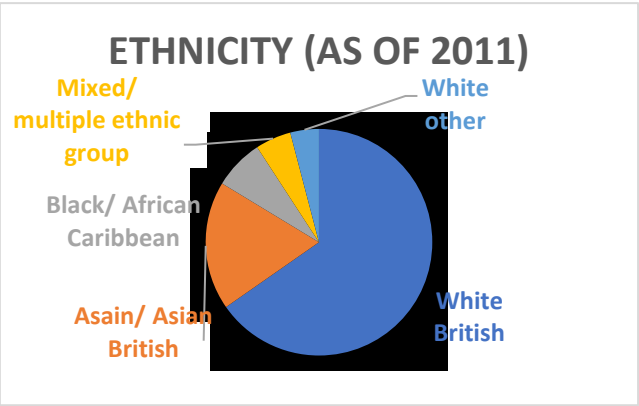
Statutory Partners	Non-Statutory Partners
City of Wolverhampton Council (including Youth Offending Team)	Resident Representatives for each constituency area
West Midlands Police	Business sector
West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority	Third sector representation (5 seats)
National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company	Cabinet Lead Councillor – Public Health and Wellbeing
Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group	Wolverhampton Homes

SWP not only develops and delivers strategic plans for the city; it works **to implement section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, which places a duty on all statutory partners to consider issues of community safety at the center of their delivery**. As such the Board works;

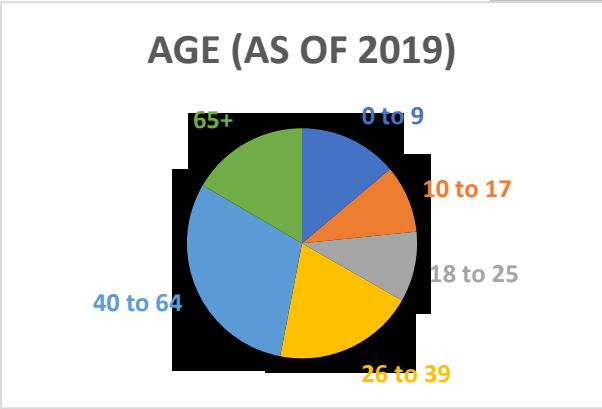
- To influence partner delivery
- With local communities to increase engagement and co-design solutions to address neighbourhood concerns
- To commission valued third sector partners to provide specialist provision in targeted locations
- To embed best practice into mainstream services

SWP is a strong and robust CSP, having excellent relationships with both the voluntary and third sector, many of the board partners input into commissioning and sit on delivery groups across a variety of sectors to help shape services and delivery across Wolverhampton.

Wolverhampton on a page



10.9% of residents do not have English as a first language and 3.4% do not speak English very well or at all



Reflections on 2017-2020 – Reducing Reoffending

In 2016-2017 the **reoffending rate** in Wolverhampton was

30.8%



(below the national baseline of 40%)

145 people engaged in **Youth Offending Team** interventions during 2017-18



Employment, training and education support has supported

191 people out of the criminal justice system and into jobs across the Black Country since 2017



Development of a **Black Country wide reducing reoffending strategy**

Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2019 – 2022



175

young people took part in **community resolution workshops**

Employment, training and education providers have completed **287** training and education courses in the Black Country since 2017



Alternative giving campaign



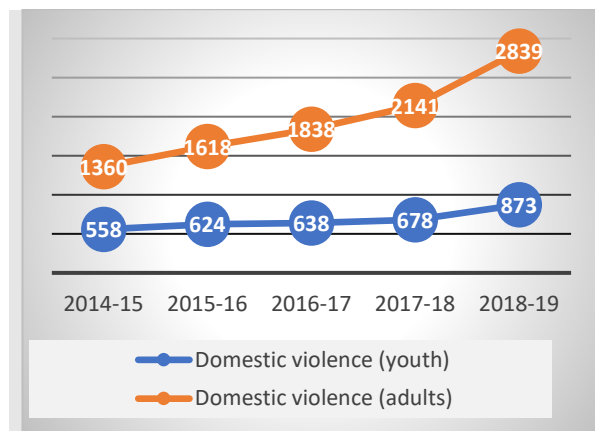
supported **16** long term rough sleepers into accommodation since April 2018

273

interventions initiated by **Wolverhampton Youth Offending Team** during 2018-2019



Reflections on 2017-2020 – Violence Prevention



Increased reports of domestic violence suggest an increase in public confidence to report this traditionally hidden crime

120 women & 60 men from newly emerging communities received training & resources to **increase confidence in reporting VAWG³ and signpost to support⁴**

During 2018-2019, more than **700 high risk cases** heard at a multi-agency panel, all received crisis intervention & safety planning

37 professional champions raising awareness of VAWG within their organisations

2,244 Wolverhampton professionals trained in VAWG strands from April 2017

In 2018 more than **100** organisations were involved in annual **Orange Wolverhampton** awareness campaign

VAWG training has taken place in **45 GP practices** across the city

(out of a total of 51)

Third Sector partners commissioned to deliver **specialist interventions** in specifically identified locations for those vulnerable to violence and exploitation



Primary school mentoring programme trains young people to become mentors

Tackling Violence and Exploitation

Wolverhampton's Strategy

In line with the regional and national picture Wolverhampton has seen an increase in youth violence. In response the **Tackling Violence and Exploitation Strategy** was launched in April 2018, setting out a holistic public health approach to reduce violence and its effects at a population level.

Girls Allowed
Project aimed at young females associated with or vulnerable to gang violence

Four knife bins in Wolverhampton where weapons can be disposed of without fear of repercussion

³ VAWG - Violence against women and girls

⁴ This was a highly successful project funded by NHS England and coordinated by Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group, Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum and Wolverhampton Refugee and Migrant Centre

Reflections on 2017-2020 – Reducing Victimisation



Wolverhampton and Walsall Anti-Slavery Partnership (WASP) providing coordination for tackling Modern Slavery

Improved **promotion of PACT⁵ meetings** via a number of social media networks, has yielded higher attendances and a wider demographic range of active residents in communities



Dedicated **Community Cohesion Forum** formed of statutory agencies, community groups, councillors and the faith sector



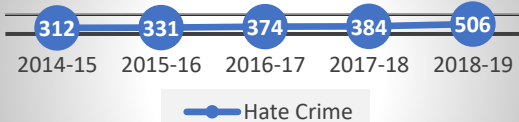
City-wide roll-out of **modern slavery training packages**, targeted communication and intelligence gathering



17 third party reporting centres to report hate crime



Reported modern slavery offences increased by **300%** during 2017-2018 suggesting increased confidence to report



Increase in **hate crime reports** suggests an increase confidence to report

Development of a **Modern Slavery Pathway** allowing timely referrals from practitioners and support for victims

Work in ward areas to improve and enhance **community cohesion** and perception



Arranging and supporting **community events** including a Women's Conference and LGBT health conference



Development of a **hate crime microsite** for the city which provides resources, information and where to access them

⁵ Partners and communities together

Determining Priorities for 2020-2023

Priorities for this strategy have been determined by using qualitative and quantitative data from a range of sources including; Wolverhampton's annual strategic assessment, local crime data, thematic trends and local community concerns. Collective findings have been used by SWP Board to agree the refreshed priorities.

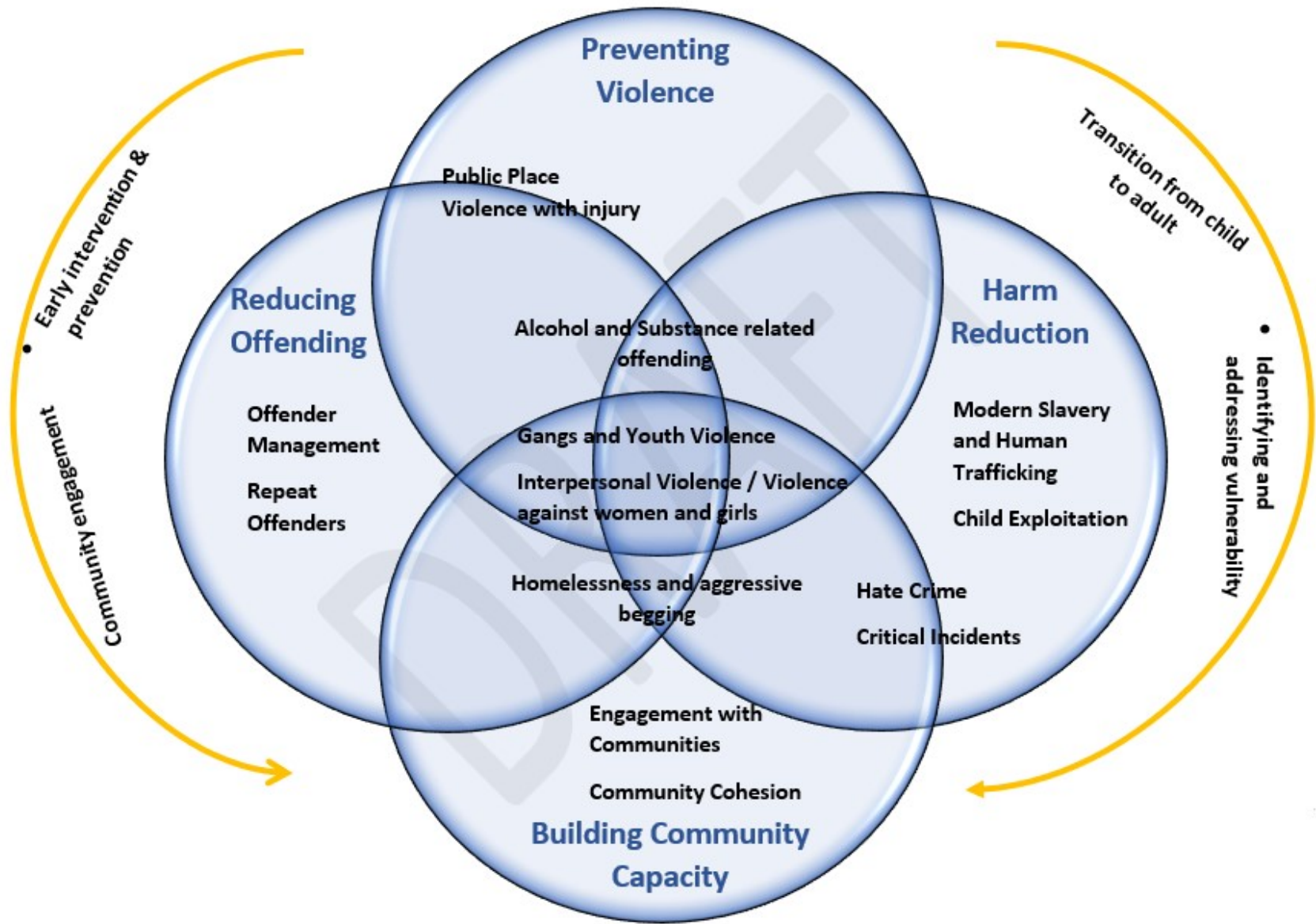
SWP recognises that early intervention and prevention is key to reducing harm and vulnerability; training, raising awareness of issues and challenges, and the provision of positive activities can build both individual and community capacity and empower people to make positive decisions and changes. Early intervention and prevention is of key importance in addressing the identified priorities for next three years.

The previous strategy introduced broad overarching priority areas, this successfully provided the flexibility to respond to changing trends and to address emerging risks promptly. This approach proved to be effective, and as such SWP Board agreed to continue using broad overarching themes in the 2020-2023 strategy. Progress against workstreams will be monitored using a robust performance framework which is governed by SWP Board. Where workstreams have joint governance, updates will also be provided to Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together for scrutiny and agreement. If necessary, partners will be held to account for delivery and will be supported to achieve the desired outcomes.

As with previous strategies, workstreams will be reviewed annually to ensure that they remain fit for purpose and continue to respond appropriately; addressing risk and responding to newly identified trends or concerns.

The overarching priority for SWP board is to work as a cohesive partnership to address crime, address perceptions of crime and build community resilience to keep Wolverhampton safe.

The priority areas and workstreams agreed by SWP Board are detailed below. Many of the workstreams will straddle multiple priorities demonstrating that taking a prevention and intervention approach is equally important to, and will complement, enforcement action. It also reinforces that some perpetrators of crime are first and foremost victims, being exploited due to their vulnerabilities. Board members have agreed that the strategy will have four golden threads which will be considered in all priority areas and workstreams included in this strategy.



Reducing Offending

SWP is committed to reducing offending by identifying those at risk of offending at the earliest stage and offering appropriate intervention and support. Where individuals have already entered the criminal justice system, they must be managed effectively to reduce the risk of reoffending. This includes both youth and adult offenders and the full spectrum of risk and offending type. The causal factors linked to offending such as substance misuse and the transition between youth and adult systems will be strengthened. The Black Country Reducing Reoffending Strategy provides focus for an evidence-based approach, adopting innovation and best practice.

What do we hope to achieve?



Reduce adult and youth offending



High volume/ risk offenders managed effectively



Earlier identification of those in need of support



Improved use of pathways to change offender attitudes and behaviours



Work effectively with the partnership to utilise appropriate enforcement and implement interventions to change the behaviour of offenders and prevent reoffending

Early Areas of Focus:

- Work with primary schools and education settings to support young people and their families at the earliest possible stage; providing interventions to address their attitudes and behaviours whilst considering a 'Contextual Safeguarding' approach
- Continue to increase the use of restorative justice for lower level offences
- Improve pathways for offenders to access employment and housing in Wolverhampton
- Management of offenders of high-volume crime, for example domestic abuse

Preventing Violence

Identifying those in need of support at an early stage to prevent escalation of violence and reduce crime continues to be a focus for SWP. There is a commitment to continue to deliver robust preventative work using a multi-agency approach to ensure that those in need of specialist services receive them at a much earlier point to reduce risk to themselves and the wider community. Innovative approaches are being taken to address remaining challenges of youth violence and ensure both our mainstream and specialist services (including third and voluntary sector) identify those in need of support at an earlier point to reduce the risk of

What do we hope to achieve?



Promote a shared understanding that all forms of violence are unacceptable, therefore increasing confidence in reporting and help seeking



Work effectively with the partnership to support offenders and utilise appropriate enforcement when necessary



Reduced prevalence of violent crime across all ages



Influence implementation and delivery of the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit to ensure that it meets local need



Ensure Wolverhampton is a safe place to live, work and visit

Early Areas of Focus

- Maintain engagement with communities to break the cycle of cultural acceptance of domestic related abuse and vulnerability
- Continue to work in partnership to reduce both violence (particularly knife crime), and exploitation (specifically with youths under 24yrs)⁶
- Work with Education partners to identify the earliest opportunity to intervene to prevent the exploitation of young people, including Delivery of Domestic Abuse programmes in school settings

⁶ This will include tackling Urban Street Gangs

Harm Reduction

Reducing the harm caused by victimisation and repeat victimisation will ensure those who are most vulnerable are more effectively safeguarded, supported and empowered. SWP will build resilience, provide safeguarding and pathways for individuals and communities so that people are confident to manage their own risk and are supported through their local community.

What do we hope to achieve?



Increase reporting of under-reported crimes⁷



Recognition that reducing harm is everyone's business



Earlier identification of those at risk



Empower residents to build a community response.

Early Areas of Focus

- Continue to work with communities to increase reporting of hate crime, honour-based violence and other hidden crimes in order to build a community response
- Increase understanding of modern slavery and build confidence of victims to report issues and access support
- Work with families, communities, health and education settings to identify people at risk of exploitation at the earliest possible point and provide appropriate intervention

⁷ Under reported crimes include hate crime, modern slavery, domestic abuse, sexual violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, honour-based violence and stalking and harassment. The partnership's ambition is to see an increase in reports as this would reflect an improved confidence to report these traditionally hidden crimes.

Building Community Capacity

Everyone deserves to live in a place which they are proud of and to be part of a strong and cohesive community. It is recognised that Wolverhampton's communities are instrumental in ensuring that the city is a safe, secure and a positive place to live, work and grow. SWP Board will work with partners and communities to support people to become active within their local area and find proactive solutions to issues they may face. This method of co-production and a place-based approach will help to build and maintain family relationships and social connections, and increase confidence, knowledge and resilience.

What do we hope to achieve?



People are encouraged to be more involved in their local area and take pride in it



Residents take responsibility for appropriate issues within their communities and support each other



Build on trust and confidence to increase reporting of crime



Strengthen community cohesion

Early Areas of Focus:

- Develop a sustainable place-based approach to working with communities to address local concerns
- Enable residents to take responsibility of their areas by volunteering, getting involved and shaping services
- Continue public engagement to increase confidence and build trust with communities

Delivery

Strong and purposeful relationships exist between statutory and non-statutory cross-sector partners, these relationships have been developed over many years and drive the successful delivery of services and interventions.

Underpinning this strategy will be a multi-agency action plan which will be reviewed annually to allow the partnership to monitor delivery and respond to any emerging issues in a timely manner. A robust performance management system is in place to ensure delivery against strategy outcomes. SWP Board provides rigorous quarterly oversight to monitor outcomes and provide scrutiny and challenge over delivery when necessary.

To inform the delivery of interventions and commissioned services SWP will use information and data from strategic assessments to analyse current crime trends and ensure that priorities delivered remain relevant. Assessing the need on an annual basis will provide SWP with greater flexibility to respond to new and emerging risks and priorities across Wolverhampton.

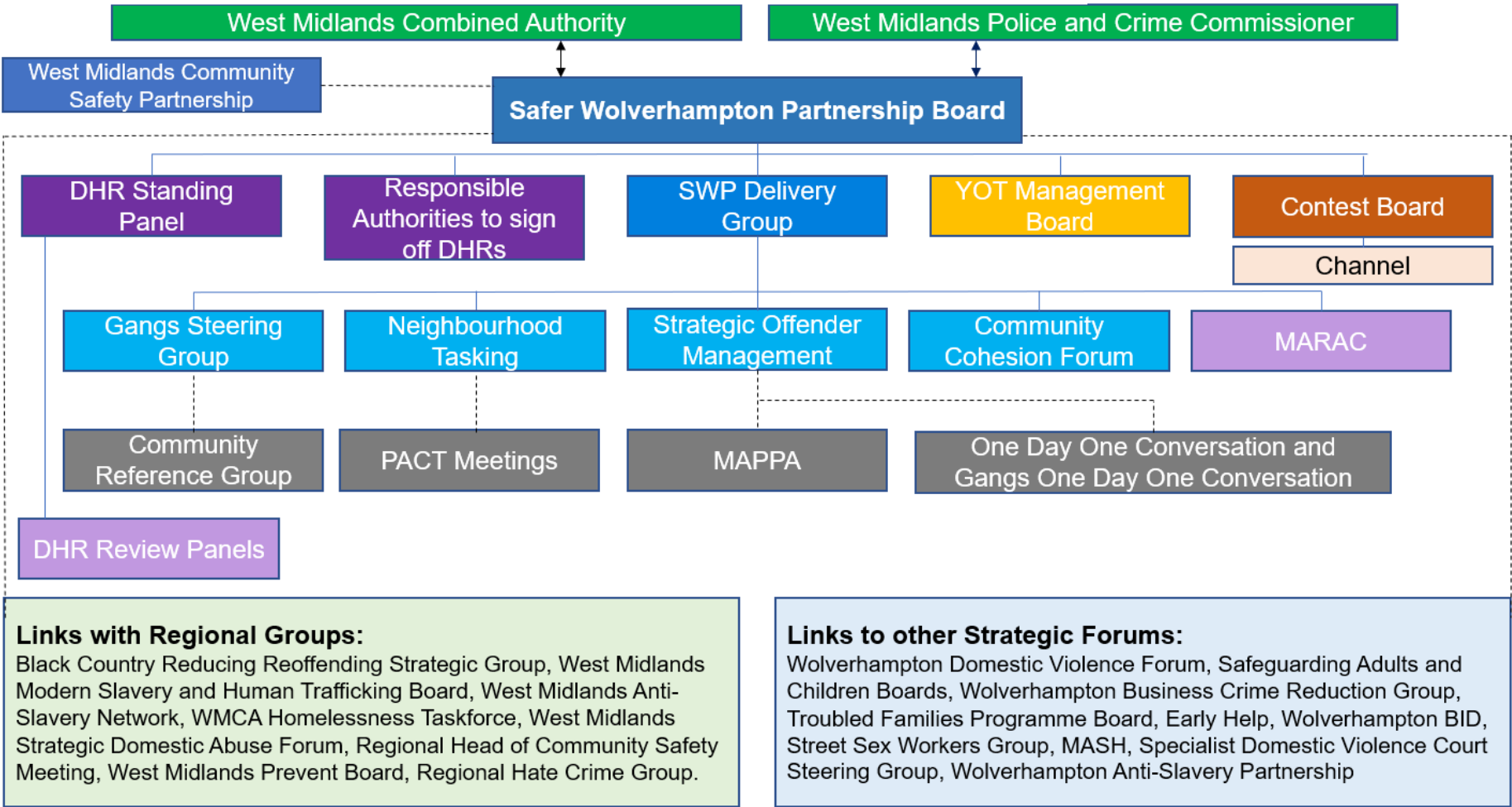
The launch of the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in 2019 will provide further opportunities and assist Wolverhampton to continue to reduce violence and exploitation. Where appropriate, SWP will influence implementation and delivery of the VRU to ensure that it is meeting the needs of the city and residents.

Important to delivery is the adoption of a place-based approach. This involves focused partnership delivery within areas of the city which have been identified using data and public engagement. It is hoped that this place-based approach will strengthen the city-wide provision; it will support and enhance the successes which have so far been evidenced in small areas of the city, whilst aligning with the work of West Midlands Police in their identified Impact Areas.

Partners, residents and communities within Wolverhampton are central to delivery of this strategy. We will continue to engage with communities and build our relationships with residents throughout this strategy to ensure that our delivery aligns with their concerns and priorities.

There are recognised areas of commonality between SWP, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Board and Health and Wellbeing Together Board and SWP will continue to work collaboratively on these issues.

Delivery Structure Chart



Equalities

The consultation responses and equalities data will inform a full equalities analysis which will inform our approach. The equalities analysis will be kept under review to revise delivery as required. SWP recognises that tailored support and interventions must be targeted towards those most at risk whilst also ensuring access to universal services.