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| **Report Title:** | SWP Strategy development – Proposed Priorities |
| **Purpose:** | Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board Consultation on Proposed Strategic Priorities |

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.0 To seek feedback on proposed priorities for Safer Wolverhampton Partnership for the next strategy period.

**2.0 Background**

2.1 Community Safety Partnerships are statutory bodies under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act. Safer Wolverhampton Partnership is the Community Safety Partnership in Wolverhampton and is required to bring together partners to set out a coordinated strategy to tackle crime and disorder in partnership.

2.2 The current Safer Wolverhampton and Harm Reduction Strategy will come to end in 2023 and therefore work is underway to refresh the strategic priorities of the partnership in order to develop the Safer Wolverhampton Strategy for the next strategic period.

**3.0 Priority Setting**

3.1 In order to inform strategy development an independently facilitated workshop was held with Board members on 30th March 2023. The key views and reflections of the Board members present included:

* + 1. Flexibility is important in being able to respond to emerging issues but it is also important to be able to show progress against specific priority areas and outcomes;
    2. Strategic priorities should focus on complex issues which require a partnership response;
    3. More alignment is needed with the strategic priorities of other key Boards within the City including Health and Wellbeing Together and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together as well as regional partners such as the Police and Crime Commissioners Office and Violence Reduction Partnership;
    4. Strategic priorities should reflect issues that our important to Wolverhampton residents and impact on their trust and confidence in agencies;
    5. The partnership will continue to deliver against statutory priorities, these include overseeing the City response to the Domestic Abuse Act and Serious Violence Duty. As part of these duties separate strategies are under development for both domestic abuse and serious violence. Whilst the SWP strategy should not duplicate the content of these strategies it is important that it makes reference to these strategies and the importance of the issues within them.

**4.0 Proposed Priorities**

4.1 As such the following strategic priorities were agreed by board members:

* Safety of women and girls
* Public place violence
* Neighbourhood crime
* Alcohol and substance related crime
* Anti-social behaviour

4.2 In addition to the priorities identified, key themes were considered which will guide the approach to delivery against each of the strategic priorities:

* Early intervention and prevention
* Vulnerable and repeat victims and offenders
* Tackling inequalities
* Mental health and trauma informed practice
* Community confidence and participation.

4.3 Following the workshop task and finish groups have been established to develop the scope and desired outcomes for each strategic priority. Initial proposed outcomes for consultation with the task and finish groups and wider partners are outlined below:

**4.4.0 Safety of Women and Girls**

4.4.1 Any incident of violence or harassment against women and girls is unacceptable.

4.4.2 Tragic, high-profile incidents nationally involving women and girls being victim to serious crimes including sexual assault and murder in recent years have had an immeasurable impact on victims, their families and communities and partners in the city acknowledge that far too many women and girls still feel vulnerable and unsafe in public places.

4.4.3 Therefore, SWP will redouble efforts to prevent these crimes and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

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| **What do we want to achieve?** | **Early areas of focus for delivery** | **How will we measure success?** |
| Women and girls feel safe at home, education, in the night-time economy and in public spaces in Wolverhampton;  That inappropriate and problematic behaviour and attitudes towards women and girls are consistently challenged at the earliest opportunity;  That those who offend or are at risk of offending against women and girls are proactively identified, managed and given the support necessary to change their behaviour;  That women and girls are empowered to report incidents, seek support and keep themselves safe. | Engage with women and girls to build trust and confidence and empower them to report concerns and incidents;  Work with partners to ensure that the physical environment promotes feelings of safety;  Work with partners, particularly educational settings to challenge misogyny and positively equip women and girls;  Work with partners and businesses within the night-time economy to extend women’s safety campaigns and safe places. | Increased reporting of underreported crimes which disproportionately affect women and girls;  Increase in perceptions of safety amongst women and girls;  Decrease in repeat victimisation of vulnerable women and girls;  Increase in those engaging with preventative and educational activity. |

**4.5.0 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

4.5.1 Anti-social behaviour is defined in legislation as:

*“behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person”*

4.5.2 This definition is wide ranging and can cover a range of issues which include threatening and intimidating behaviour, car cruising, dangerous dogs, the selling and use of drugs and street drinking and aggressive begging.

4.5.3 These behaviours can have a significant impact on individuals, communities and businesses and where they are complex or persistent a partnership response may be required to tackle these issues within our communities.

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| **What do we want to achieve?** | **Early areas of focus for delivery** | **How will we measure success?** |
| Communities are aware of what constitutes ASB and how to report concerns;  Pathways for victims of ASB to seek support are clear and accessible;  There is a robust multi-agency response to complex and persistent cases of ASB;  Enforcement against preparators of ASB is coordinated and timely, resulting in positive outcomes;  ASB is prevented through the use of education and diversion;    Communities and local neighbourhoods are informed, tolerant and cohesive. | Engage with communities to raise awareness of ASB and how to report concerns;  Refresh multi-agency procedures for addressing complex ASB;  Strengthen multi-agency responses to ASB in hotspot areas;  Increase knowledge and use of restorative justice and legislative powers in addressing ASB;  Work with communities, young people and partners to enhance ASB prevention activity;  Embed a robust neighbourhood management policy which promotes tolerance within neighbourhoods and community cohesion. | Increased community confidence to report incidents of ASB and increased appropriate reporting;  Decrease in repeat reports of anti-social behaviour;  Increase in positive outcomes relating to cases of ASB, including the use of tools and powers and restorative justice;  Increase in those engaging with diversionary and prevention activity;  Increase in numbers of residents who report to feel safe within their neighbourhoods. |

**4.6.0 Public Place Violence (PPV)**

4.6.1 Violence has a devastating impact on the lives of victims and families, instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society.

4.6.2 Safer Wolverhampton Partnership will continue to prevent PPV in all it’s forms including the carriage and use of weapons, violence in the night-time economy and under 25 violence. Where necessary it will ensure a robust enforcement response to PPV to ensure that residents, businesses, visitors and commuters feel safe.

4.6.3 It is recognised that not all violence takes place in public places and therefore SWP will continue to have robust oversight of the City’s response to serious youth violence and domestic abuse (see statutory priorities).

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| **What do we want to achieve?** | **Early areas of focus for delivery** | **How will we measure success?** |
| All residents feel confident and empowered to report incidents of PPV;  Support for victims of PPV is coordinated and accessible;  Those who are at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of PPV are identified and supported at the earliest possible opportunity;  Where necessary, enforcement against incidents of PPV is coordinated, effective and timely;  Agencies work collaboratively to prevent incidents of PPV and ensure that those who work, live, visit and do business in the City feel safe. | Work with communities and marginalised groups to increase confidence and knowledge in reporting PPV;  Work with partners to ensure that the physical environment promotes feelings of safety;  Work in partnership to identify those at risk of PPV and ensure that they are positively equipped to stay safe and make positive choices;  Review and strengthen the multi-agency response to PPV in hot-spot areas;  Continue to utilise seasonality data, and forecasting to strengthen the multi-agency response to predicting and preventing PPV. | Reduction in incidents of PPV;  Increased reporting of PPV from marginalised groups;  Reduction in repeat victims and offenders of PPV;  Increase in perceptions of safety in public places amongst residents in Wolverhampton;  Increase in those who are at risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of PPV accessing support. |

**4.7.0 Neighbourhood Crime**

4.7.1 Neighbourhood crime (sometimes referred to as serious acquisitive crime) incorporates the following offences:

* Robbery
* Vehicle Crime
* Theft from person
* Burglary

4.7.2 It can have long‑lasting and profound effects on victims and communities and the response to these crimes can have a significant impact on the publics confidence in policing and wider agencies.

4.7.3 It is therefore vital that there is a robust partnership response disrupt and prevent these crimes, support victims and change the behaviour of perpetrators.

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| **What do we want to achieve?** | **Early areas of focus for delivery** | **How will we measure success?** |
| Residents and communities are educated and empowered to take proactive steps to prevent and protect themselves from neighbourhood crime;  Neighbourhood crime is prevented by offering support to offenders at the earliest possible opportunity and utilising robust enforcement where necessary;  The Wolverhampton physical environmental promotes feelings of safety and acts as a deterrent to neighbourhood crime;  Neighbourhood crime is proactively disrupted, particularly where this is organised and persistent. | Engage with communities to raise awareness of neighbourhood crime and steps that can be taken to prevent it;  Utilise physical interventions such as CCTV and lighting to in hot spot areas;  Identify offenders to offer them support to change their behaviour and utilise robust enforcement where necessary;  Promote Street Watch and Neighbourhood Watch groups to build community responses to neighbourhood crime;  Identify hot-spot locations and work in partnership to develop a multi-agency responses;  Continue to build on existing mechanisms to share information around organised crime and multi-agencies approaches to disruption. | Reduction in neighbourhood crime;  Reduction in repeat victims of neighbourhood crime;  Reduction in repeat offenders of neighbourhood crime;  Increase in residents actively engaging in crime prevention activity within their local areas. |

**4.8.0 Alcohol and Substance Related Crime**

4.8.1 The organised criminality behind the drugs trade, as well as the misuse of drugs and alcohol makes our neighbourhoods less safe: impacting levels of a number of crimes including acquisitive crime, violence and domestic abuse.

4.8.2 Growth in drug supply has also driven an increase in county lines, putting children and vulnerable people at risk of exploitation.

4.8.3 SWP will prioritise a robust response to disrupting the supply of drugs within Wolverhampton alongside reducing the harm, criminality and exploitation caused by the distribution and misuse of drugs and alcohol.

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| **What do we want to achieve?** | **Early areas of focus for delivery** | **How will we measure success?** |
| The supply and distribution of illicit drugs is proactively disrupted;  Harm and exploitation caused as a result of drug distribution and use is minimised;  Those whose offending is related to drug or alcohol abuse have support to prevent future offending, including support for complex needs i.e. mental health;  Where necessary, there is a robust enforcement response to alcohol and substance related crime;  Establishments which are selling alcohol are doing so responsibly and not contributing to alcohol related crime. | Work with partners and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together to ensure that vulnerability is identified and support is accessed at the earliest opportunity;  Strengthen the multi-agency response to supporting offenders who misuse substances, particularly those with complex needs/ dual diagnosis;  Work with licensed premises to promote the responsible sale of alcohol, using enforcement when necessary;  Proactively identify and support those consistently consuming too much alcohol within the night-time economy. | Increased numbers of people at risk of exploitation and/or criminality to alcohol or drug misuse or distribution identified and engaging with support;  Decrease in alcohol and substance related crime;  Decreased repeat offending by those misusing alcohol or drugs;  Decreased repeat victimisation of those misusing alcohol or drugs;  Increased use of arrest referral scheme, alcohol monitoring requirements, drug rehabilitation requirements and alcohol treatment requirements;  Increase in adults with a substance misuse need who successfully engage in community based structured treatment |

**5.0 Statutory Priorities**

5.1 As well as the strategic priorites set out, SWP will continue to focus delivery against it’s statutory priorities and functions:

* + 1. **Domestic Abuse Act (2021)** - Working closely with other key Boards to oversee Wolverhampton's response to the Domestic Abuse Duty, including the work of the Domestic Abuse Board and development and implementation of the Domestic abuse strategy.
    2. **Serious Violence Duty** - Working closely with other key Boards to oversee Wolverhampton's response to the serious violence duty, including the work of the violence prevention subgroup and the development of a Serious Violence needs assessment and response strategy.
    3. **Domestic Homicide Reviews** – Commission domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) and oversee the implementation of associated action plans where a death has occurred as a result of domestic abuse to identify learning to prevent future deaths.
    4. **Anti-Social Behaviour Case Reviews** - Undertake independent ASB case reviews to enable, a problem-solving approach aimed at dealing with some of the most persistent, complex cases of antisocial behaviour and share learning to improve future practice.

**6.0 Proposed Next Steps**

6.1 A engagement is now underway is now underway with with key partners and stakeholders around proposed priorities to inform development of the strategy document.

6.2 Once priorities are agreed, a draft strategy will be developed for endorsement from key agencies and stakeholders and final sign off by Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board.

6.3 Operational groups will then be established to deliver against detailed action plans which will be developed against each strategic priority.

6.4 Delivery against strategic outcomes will be monitored by Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board, however groups will also work closely with and provide progress updates to other relevant structures, for example Wolverhampton Health and Wellbeing Together and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together.