

Title	Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Annual Report (2018-19)
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1. Purpose

1.1 This annual report provides an overview of Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (BCSP) activity and impact during 2018-19. However, the report will refer to more recent information and activity to provide a more up to date context for the Committee.

1.2 Additional and more detailed information can be provided to the Committee on individual areas of business, if required.

2. Background

2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1997) mandated all local authority areas to establish Crime and Disorder Partnerships. In Birmingham, this partnership is referred to as the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (BCSP).

2.2 The core membership of the BCSP includes all Responsible Authorities. These include: Birmingham City Council; Birmingham Children's Trust; West Midlands Police; West Midlands Fire Service; National Probation Service; Community Rehabilitation Company and Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group. Co-opted members are Birmingham Social Housing Partnership and Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust.

2.3 The BCSP has responsibility for discharging the following statutory requirements:

- Work together to form and implement strategies to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse. This will include producing an annual plan.
- Produce plans to reduce reoffending by adults and young people
- Manage the Community Trigger process
- Commission Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Serious Violence – this is a new duty and we are waiting for further information from Government on how this will be delivered.

In addition to this, the BCSP will also support partner organisations to discharge their legal duties for:

- Prevent
- Modern Slavery

2.4 The work programme of the BCSP falls under the following priorities:

- Violence and Reoffending
- Victims and Vulnerability
- Crime, ASB and the Community

2.5 The BCSP Executive Board is accountable for the work of the BCSP. Further groups have been established to co-ordinate activity around each of the priorities above, which are led by members of the Board. There is also a local offer to co-ordinate tactical and operational activity in neighbourhoods.

2.6 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is also represented at the Executive Board. The OPCC provided £1, 1173, 017 in 2018-19 for the BCSP to support the BCSP work programme. In 2019-20, this funding has been reduced by 46% to £632, 952. However a number of projects continue to be delivered in Birmingham but commissioned directly from the OPCC rather than via our grant. All projects delivered through this funding must be aligned to the OPCC.

2.7 Birmingham City Council hosts the BCSP. The Chair of the BCSP has recently changed and is now Cllr John Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities. This role had previously been undertaken by Dawn Baxendale, Chief Executive Birmingham City Council. The Vice Chair is Chief Superintendent John Denley, NPU Commander West Midlands Police.

3. Key Headlines

3.1 Total Recorded Crime is up by 6% in June 2019 compared to June 2018. However, the number of offences has fallen each quarter since December 2018. This follows a national trend in rising crime rates, but Birmingham remains below average for its crime rate compared to other core cities.

3.2 Knife crime offences have increased by 9.7% in June 2019 compared to June 2018. These levels were the highest for over a decade in the last 6 months of 2018-19. However, there has been a 16.4% reduction in April – June 2019 compared to the previous quarter. Op Guardian and partnership activity has contributed to this reduction.

3.3 The youth reoffending rate for Birmingham remains at 36.5%. This is below the average for other core cities (40% average). The first time entrant rate for young people has also reduced, and Birmingham is now only slightly above the national average.

3.4 More victims of Domestic Abuse are reporting and accessing support. Recorded offences to West Midlands Police have increased by 28.2% in June 2019 compared to June 2018, and have increased every quarter since April 2018. This increase is mirrored in significant increases to Domestic Violence Helpline. In addition to this, the BCSP has commissioned 2 new Domestic Homicide Reviews.

3.5 Anti-social behaviour and Public Safety Welfare calls to West Midlands Police have reduced by 9.4% in June 2019 compared to June 2018.

3.6 This annual report covers immense changes in the BCSP. During 2018-19, a review was undertaken to ensure BCSP can meet the current challenges in Birmingham. This review identified a number of areas of improvement, which have been implemented over the past 12 months. The improvement journey for

the BCSP continues, although the partnership is in a significantly healthier position than for a number of years. These include:

- **Leadership.** Partners identified the quality of leadership had to improve. Membership of the partnership is now at a senior and decision making level across responsible authorities. Dawn Baxendale (Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council) was nominated as Chair by the Board and Chief Superintendent John Denley (West Midlands Police) as Vice Chair. Board Members agreed to lead on developing priorities within the work programme, which enables a more collaborative partnership. The secretariat function has been increased to support the Chair/ Vice Chair and Priority Leads.
- **Refocus on what matters.** Partners identified that the partnership had become unfocused and had lost sight of core business. A new work programme has been implemented together based on current risks and challenges, and there is a re-emphasis on discharging our statutory functions. This will be further reinforced by the new community safety strategy which will be finalised in December 2019.
- **Evidenced based practice.** The BCSP has recognised that it needs to improve its use of performance information and intelligence to inform its partnership activity. This will ensure that there is a focus on 'what works' and will deliver better results for residents. A new performance management framework and processes have now been put in place. This will continue to be developed.
- **Strategic relationships.** Partners identified that the BCSP was not making effective use of regional and national partnerships to make a difference in the city. The BCSP understood it was missing chances to identify and implement best practice from other areas. Significant progress has been made in developing the relationship with the OPCC. In addition to this, the BCSP is now an active member of both the Core Cities Network and LGA network.

3.7 A new local offer has also been developed. Six new Local Partnership Delivery Groups (LPDGs) are being implemented across Birmingham to provide an enhanced approach at a local level to problem solving local issues. This will integrate a people/ place approach. These LPDGs will replace the former Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs) and Safer Communities Groups (SCGs).

3.8 The BCSP has recently started to develop its new 3 year strategy. This is scheduled to be completed in December 2019.

4. Violence and Reoffending

4.1 Knife crime offences have increased by 9.7% in June 2019 compared to June 2018. These levels were the highest for over a decade in the last 6 months of 2018-19. During February/ March 2019, there were a number of murders in the city where victims had been killed with a knife. The BCSP responded to this challenge through developing and implementing a three tiered approach: emergency/ crisis response; medium term and a longer term strategy to reduce violence as a whole.

4.2 The emergency/ crisis response involved daily partnership tasking; joint patrols in key locations, and sharing of intelligence in real time. In June 2019, West Midlands Police secured £7M funding from the Government and commenced Op Guardian, which has driven this approach through to the medium term. This has supported additional policing capacity (both in terms of staff and equipment), as well as provided a fund for young people to access to improve their neighbourhoods. A longer term strategy to

address violence is being developed through the new Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). The impact of these interventions has been a 16.4% reduction in April – June 2019 compared to the previous quarter.

- 4.3 The Knife Angel visited Birmingham as part of its national tour in May 2019 and to promote anti knife crime messages. Examples of events supported by the BCSP linked to the statue include: Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) used the statue as part of their education work with offenders; youth groups visited the statue as part of their anti-knife crime programme and a theatre production company performed highlights from their school programmes about knife crime.
- 4.4 The Bleed Control Kits project was launched in Birmingham in June 2019. Its purpose is to save a life in the event of an injury caused by a knife, but also to raise awareness of the risks of carrying knives and the harm they can cause. Since the launch 50 kits have been installed in City Centre venues and a further 6 in police vehicles. All of these locations have been recorded by West Midlands Ambulance Service. They will be able to direct members of the public in the event they are needed to where they are located, and also to advise them on how to use them. The Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) continue to work with venues to encourage more premises to become involved with the project.
- 4.5 BCSP has worked closely with regional partners to develop the new Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). This follows the successful and similar unit in Scotland which evidence suggests has led to significant reductions in violent crime. The new VRU will deliver a long term programme of change which is based on 6 key areas: Strong Foundations; Primary Prevention; Secondary Prevention; Tertiary Prevention; Enforcement and Criminal Justice, and Changing Behaviour. The VRU will be hosted by the OPCC and has received £3, 370, 000 from the Government to achieve this. This is a rapidly developing programme of work, so further information can be provided as it moves forward.
- 4.6 A new 3 year Youth Justice Plan has been agreed and replaces the previous annual cycle. This will enable more focused partnership activity. The youth reoffending rate for Birmingham remains at 36.5% and the first time entrant rates are reducing but remains above the average for core cities. A key challenge for the next 3 years will be to continue to ensure fewer young people are entering the criminal justice system, or are supported to more positive lifestyles if they do offend to deter future offending. Evidence from existing programmes infers strong links between poor educational outcomes and offending. As part of the Youth Justice Plan partners will be exploring how a broader educational offer can support young people to remain (or return) to education if they have begun to offend.
- 4.7 Birmingham secured Early Intervention Youth Funding (EIYF) as part of a regional bid by the OPCC. Birmingham Children's Trust established this project on behalf of the BCSP and it is now overseen by the OPCC. The programme benefits young people who are involved with (or at risk of) offending with a vocational course and mentoring as part of their educational offer. The purpose of the programme is to reduce offending through better engagement at school. Young people attend these sessions once or twice a week for approximately one term. By the end of the quarter one, 67 young people had successfully engaged in the project with a further 65 referrals received by mid-September. We can provide more detail on outcomes as young people complete the programme.

5. Victims and Vulnerability

- 5.1 This is a wide ranging work area including: Domestic Abuse; Hate Crime; Modern Slavery; Sexual Violence and Hidden Crime (including Female Genital Mutilation; Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage) and Prevent and Counter Extremism.

- 5.2 More victims of Domestic Abuse are reporting and accessing support. Recorded offences to West Midlands Police have increased by 28.2% in June 2019 compared to June 2018, and have increased every quarter since April 2018. This increase is mirrored in significant increases in calls to the Domestic Violence Helpline, which is a commissioned service through BCSP and Birmingham City Council.
- 5.3 A key focus over the past 12 months has been to improve our commissioning of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), so the BCSP can be better placed to ensure the outcomes of these reviews are making a difference. A new quality assurance framework has been put in place for the dedicated DHR team. This team is commissioned through funding from the OPCC. A further 2 DHRs were commissioned in 2018-19, however 29 have been commissioned in total to date (including reviews yet to be published). From these 29 reviews, 13 key priorities have been identified for partnership action.
- 5.4 Domestic Abuse is a critical challenge for the BCSP. Birmingham has a Domestic Abuse strategy, which is being delivered through the Violence against Women and Children Steering Group (VAWCSG) in addition to the learning from the DHRs. Moving forward, we will hold quarterly deep dive sessions with the VAWCSG as part of our response to addressing this challenge. This will inform how we must change or improve services to make victims of Domestic Abuse safer.
- 5.5 The BCSP has commissioned a project via Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid to improve community awareness around Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage, as well as to run a drop in clinic for women who have experienced FGM at Heartlands Hospital. During 2018-19 254 women accessed the clinic at Heartlands (the case study below provides an example of the type of referrals they receive). A further 10 Community Champions have also been trained to deliver messaging around these crimes and 154 residents have attended awareness sessions. 75% highlighted their knowledge of these crimes had increased.

Mona* is a mother to one daughter and has been living in the UK for 4 years. She's originally from Gambia and her grandmother was a designated cutter. In her community it is based on the family name who inherits the title as a cutter.

Mona did not have a lot of knowledge of FGM and was subjected to the practice herself as a child. It was only when she came to the UK and attended our FGM awareness workshops that she got more information. She is now an active FGM community champion and passionately against FGM.

Mona's older sister is still based in Gambia and is being pressured to take over the title as the community cutter. Mona has been working hard on raising awareness to her sister on the dangers of FGM over the phone. She has succeeded in convincing her sister not to take the role as the cutter. Usually there is a big celebration for the person that takes the role as the cutter. It is seen as a respected job. Mona's sister has had to move to a different part of Gambia to escape the community pressure.

This case has been an excellent display of bravery and passionate international campaigning against FGM. Mona is very outspoken and says she talks to many women about FGM on a daily basis. She wants to save as many girls as possible from the harmful practice.

5.6 The BCSP has also commissioned Barnardo's in partnership with Birmingham Children's Trust to provide support to young people at risk of child exploitation. During 2018-19, 79 young people benefitted from this service. The following case study (see below) highlights the challenges which Barnardo's workers are supporting young people to address so they can be more resilient and less likely to be a victim of exploitation.

Sarah* is a 15 year old female. She had gone missing on several occasions and was known to abuse aerosol and cannabis. We were also aware she was associating with other young people at risk of exploitation. She no longer lived with her family, but with foster carers. She often did not attend school.

The Barnardo's support worker struggled to make contact with Sarah as she was often missing. Eventually they were able to meet with her. Sarah agreed to see the support worker again, but asked if this could be at school after the summer holidays.

After her foster placement broke down, Sarah returned to living with her mum. She did engage with the Barnardo's support worker at school. Together they covered a range of sessions such as drug awareness; harm reduction and healthy relationships.

Sarah then discovered she was pregnant, and she decided to go ahead with the pregnancy. She disclosed to professionals that the father was a boy of the same age. Following this, she stopped sniffing aerosols and smoking cannabis. Her school attendance improved as did her relationship with her mother. She stopped going missing.

At this point, Sarah then disclosed to her Barnardo's worker and her school that the father of her child was a 28 year old male. The Police were already investigating this man as Sarah had been found with him when she had previously gone missing.

Barnardo's continued to support Sarah in particular to understand exploitation, healthy relationships, consent and how to keep herself safe.

Sarah did finish school and sat a number of GCSEs. Her baby was born and remained in her mother's care subject to a Child Protection plan. She continued to engage with all professionals and her risk reduced for exploitation.

Sarah is now attending college doing Health and Social Care level 3 and is hoping to 'work for Barnardo's' in the future. Barnardo's are currently exploring volunteering opportunities for her at Barnardo's.

5.7 The Supporting Adults Panels (SAPs) met monthly to provide local multi-agency joint responses to support adults with a range of complex needs. These panels have been part of the Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) network since 2015. The panels provide a forum to make local partnership decisions about the progression of support for adults with complex needs; and disseminate important information and training opportunities relevant to supporting and safeguarding vulnerable adults. A range of partners are involved including: Birmingham City Council; West Midlands Fire Service, West Midlands Police, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Change, Grow, Live (CGL), Trident Group, Pioneer Group, Midland Heart and Age UK.

Jim* has been unwell and is the carer for a number of family members. He also had sole responsibility for all tasks in relation to the maintenance of the property; which was unkempt.

A referral was made to the Supporting Adults Panel with Jim's consent. Following this referral and a discussion at the panel, advice was given to the referring agency about how Jim could qualify for financial support to assist with some of his concerns. Jim received a grant for home improvement; new attendance allowance benefit for his wife; carer's premium and a rebate from his rent due to overpayment.

The referring agency highlighted: "Once again, thank you for this referral and for working in collaboration; now that financial affairs and low level support has been implemented, this gentleman and his family now has a better, brighter future."

5.8 Birmingham is one of 6 pilot areas in the country to receive funding as part of the Home Office/ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Modern Slavery Victims Pathway project. In 2018, Birmingham City Council was awarded £175,000 to create a Birmingham pathway for survivors of modern slaving exiting the National Referral Mechanism. Our programme creates a one stop 'wrap around' provision for male survivors at this critical point focusing on accommodation; mental health; physical health; education and training. Spring Housing has been commissioned to deliver this programme. Funding for this project will end in early 2019. An evaluation of this project is being prepared.

5.9 Further information on Prevent and Counter Extremism will be provided in a separate report to Committee.

6. Crime, ASB and the Community

6.1 Total Recorded Crime is up by 6% in June 2019 compared to June 2018. However, the number of offences has fallen each quarter since December 2018. This follows a national trend in rising crime rates, but Birmingham remains below average for its crime rate compared to other core cities.

6.2 West Midlands Police manages on behalf of the BCSP 12 4G redeployable cameras. These are funded through OPCC funding. West Midlands Police will deploy these cameras throughout Birmingham based on a risk/harm matrix to locations where they can make the greatest impact in reducing future crime or keeping vulnerable people safe. The timespan for deployment in an individual location will vary from a few weeks until several months depending on the problem. During April – June 2019, the cameras were deployed 19 times. This contributed to 59.4% reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour in these locations.

6.3 The BCSP also funds two GPS tagging programmes. The C3 tagging programme is delivered by Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and provides holistic support to offenders in addition to the tag; the IOM tagging programme is delivered by West Midlands Police and offenders are tagged without the additional support. The tag is offered as an alternative to custody. During 2018-19, 5 offenders participated in the C3 programme and only one individual re-offended. 36 offenders were tagged as part of the IOM programme, and 4 individuals only re-offended.

Scott* was tagged as part of the C3 programme. During this time, he has kept off drugs and has obtained full time employment. He has successfully completed a probationary period in this new job and his hours have been increased. Scott acts as a peer support to other offenders as he attends the initial session of an apprenticeship programme (run by a major company in Birmingham). At this session, he talks about the challenges he has faced and how he overcome them and being supported by Community Rehabilitation Company and other partners.

Scott also attended the Birmingham Adult Safeguarding Board Event which was hosted by Staffordshire and West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company (SWM CRC) Birmingham Division. He stood before a room full of professionals and talked about his journey through probation. He explained that he had spent 23 years of his life in prison but took the C2 opportunity and has not looked back. Scott is a shining example of how the programme can positively impact upon the life of the candidate. In terms of financial impact, he has not re-offended, his previous behaviour would indicate that had a custodial sentence been imposed, he would have been released, re-offended and re-sentenced. Scott has been on the programme since November 2018. He was released on Bail to the programme and following a deferment on sentence was sentenced to a 3 year Community Order on 6th July 2018. The Buddi Tagging is a condition of his Order. He maintains regular contact with both Police and Probation Offender Managers and has been made subject to GPS tagging on several occasions when it is felt that this would support risk management. He has requested tagging at times when he has felt that his risk is escalating as it has supported his self-management.

6.4 Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and Public Safety Welfare calls to West Midlands Police have reduced by 9.4% in June 2019 compared to June 2018. Despite this, anti-social behaviour remains a priority in many neighbourhoods and communities. A new ASB Steering Group has been established to co-ordinate how we tackle ASB in the city.

6.5 Every day in the city, Birmingham City Council, Social Housing Providers, West Midlands Police and other partners are working together to tackle many different types of anti-social behaviour. During 2018-19, the more complex partnership cases were referred to the Safer Communities Groups, which met monthly. At these meetings, a wider range of partners review the case and identify a plan of action to resolve the ASB. The group will then monitor how these interventions are making a difference, and if not, agree a revised plan. A range of measures are implemented to resolve ASB including civil enforcement (Injunctions; Public Space Protection Orders; Premises Closure Orders are examples) and non-civil options (diversionary activities for young people; support agencies engaging with people on street or at their home amongst others). In June 2019, there were 415 Safer Communities Group cases live on the system (including new referred cases).

6.6 In June 2019 there were 21 active Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in Birmingham. PSPO's were introduced as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Only Local Authorities can apply for PSPOs, and it is aimed at ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed free from anti-social behaviour. All PSPO applications require a detailed evidence pack of the anti-social behaviour in the designated area as well as information on what action has been taken to date to

address it. In addition, all PSPOs are subject to public consultation before they are authorised or varied.

The following PSPO's are active in the city at this time:

- Edgbaston – expires 30 August 2020
- Edgewood Road, Rednal – expires 11 February 2021
- Fox and Goose – expires 25 June 2021
- The Fold – 5 June 2020
- Kings Road – 28 March 2021
- Moseley and Kings Heath – 27 September 2020
- Shard End – 16 February 2020
- Sutton Coldfield Town Centre – 19 October 2020
- Springfield (Bankside) – 16 January 2020
- Washwood Heath – 20 September 2020

The following PSPO's were previously designated Alcohol Restricted Zones and transferred to PSPO's in October 2018. All of these PSPOs will expire on 19 October 2020.

- Bordesley and Nechells
- Cotteridge Park
- Stirchley
- Handsworth and Soho
- Lozells and East Handsworth
- Masefield Road
- Northfield Victoria Common
- Old Oscott
- Rotten Park
- Selly Oak
- Stockand Green

The issues arising from the consultation on a possible City Centre PSPO remain the subject of ongoing dialogue with partners and Members of this Committee will be kept informed as to progress.

6.7 In May 2019, Birmingham City Council was granted an interim injunction to address anti-social behaviour outside of Anderton Road Primary School following concerns from some members of the community and parents about the teaching in some parts of the curriculum. This injunction is not intended to prevent the right of protest but instead to ensure the behaviour of protestors enables the school to continue to teach its pupils safely, and to safeguard the welfare of pupils and staff. An exclusion zone is now in place around the school site; this enables the protests to continue. A full hearing for the injunction is scheduled to take place in October.

6.8 Birmingham continues to have a s.222 Injunction in place to address street racing and car cruising. This issue particularly affects neighbourhoods in East and North Birmingham,

although the injunction is citywide. While this injunction has been in place, a number of breaches have been prosecuted most notably one breach led to a 7 month custodial sentence and £700 fine as further charges were added. The current 3 year injunction will expire in October 2019 and Birmingham City Council intends to apply for an extension which will follow the Black Country and Solihull, whose injunctions have recently been renewed. A new plan of action to tackle this issue based on best practice from Essex has also been developed.

6.9 A new local offer has been developed as part of the reinvigoration of the BCSP. This offers a new integrated and stronger operational approach towards problem solving in neighbourhoods. New partnership groups called Local Partnership Delivery Groups (LPDGs) have been established across the city, and will replace the former Safer Communities Groups and Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs). This means that instead of problem solving about where a problem is taking place and who is causing it taking place in separate groups on separate days, this will now take place in one meeting leading to a more joined up and co-ordinated plan. Birmingham City Council will continue to facilitate these new LPDGs; West Midlands Police and Phoenix Housing have agreed to chair the groups. The city has been divided into the following areas:

- City Centre
- East (Hodge Hill and Yardley Districts)
- North (Erdington and Sutton Coldfield Districts)
- South (Edgbaston and Northfield Districts)
- South East (Hall Green and Selly Oak Districts)
- West (Ladywood and Perry Barr Districts)

This is a new approach for Birmingham. Further information can be provided to Committee as these new groups progress.

*Names in this report have been changed to protect their identity.