

Birmingham City Council

Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 15th December 2022



Subject: Annual Report of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership

Report of: Cllr John Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities

Report author: Pam Powis, Senior Service Manager, Birmingham Community Safety Team

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an overview of activity linked to the work of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (BCSP) for 2021/22.
- 1.2 The report includes more recent information and activity and includes information regarding the refreshing of the governance structure and priorities of the BCSP.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note and approve the 2021/22 annual report of the BCSP.

3 Any Finance Implications

- 3.1 None

4 Any Legal Implications

- 4.1 None

5 Any Equalities Implications

- 5.1 None

6 Appendices

Appendix A: Local Partnership Delivery Group Map

Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2021/22

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) 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).
- 1.2 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; and Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group, now referred to as the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board. Co-opted members are Birmingham Social Housing Partnership, West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP), Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for the West Midlands and the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust.
- 1.3 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.
 - To work in partnership to reduce serious violence – This duty will come into effect in January 2023 and involves the introduction of an Offensive Weapon Homicide Review.
 - Consult and engage with the community.
- 1.4 In addition to the above, the BCSP will also support partner organisations to discharge their legal duties for:
- Prevent
 - Modern Slavery
 - Contextual Safeguarding
 - Domestic Abuse
- 1.5 The BCSP Executive Board is accountable for the work of the BCSP. The four thematic groups have been established to co-ordinate activity around each of the priorities above, which are led by members of the Board and supported by officers within the Birmingham City Council Community Safety Team (BCC CST). Each thematic group will set up working groups as needed.
- 1.6 As part of the governance of the BCSP, there are six Local Partnership Delivery Groups (LPDGs) which help co-ordinate tactical and operational activity in neighbourhoods.
- 1.7 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for the West Midlands is also represented at the Executive Board. The OPCC provided £660k in 2021-2022 for the BCSP to support the BCSP work programme. All projects delivered

through this funding were in alignment with the OPCC priorities, as well as the BCSP priorities. The OPCC also commission services that operate within Birmingham and the BCSP works in partnership with the OPCC to ensure linkage and reduction in duplication. The West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP), established in 2019, also commissions services and projects. The BCSP is linked in to both the VRP and OPCC to ensure collaborative working.

- 1.8 Birmingham City Council hosts the BCSP and Cllr John Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities, is Chair of the Executive Board. Chief Superintendent Mat Shaer, NPU Commander West Midlands Police acts as Vice-Chair of the Executive Board.

2. Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Activities 2021/22

- 2.1 **Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)** – The PSPO was introduced in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and is one of the tools that can be used to support the reduction of ASB. A PSPO is an order that is used in a public space and restricts certain actions. An evidence pack must be produced that meets a civil legal standard.

- 2.1.1 In the past 12 months 3 PSPOs have been introduced. These are:

- I. Erdington High Street – Conditions include an alcohol restriction area, preventing groups gathering, and being in possession of intoxicating substances.
- II. City Centre - Groups causing anti-social behaviour, being under the influence of intoxicating substance and/or alcohol while in a public place, and damage or destruction of property (graffiti).
- III. Station Road Abortion Clinic -: Protesting, namely engaging in any act of approval or disapproval with respect to issues related to abortion services. Interfering, or attempting to interfere, whether verbally or physically, with a Robert Clinic service user, visitor, or member of staff; Intimidating or harassing, or attempting to intimidate or harass, a Robert Clinic service user, visitor, or a member of staff; Recording or photographing a Robert Clinic service user, visitor or member of staff or displaying any text or images relating directly or indirectly to the termination of pregnancy.

- 2.1.2 To date there have been 53 breaches, all within Erdington High Street and the City Centre. Of the 53 breaches, 28 have been within the City Centre and have all received warning letters with no second breaches. Erdington has had 25 breaches, again all have received warning letters with 2 receiving fixed penalty notices.

- 2.1.3 There is also a PSPO in place within the Newtown shopping area, which expires in December 2022. Due to the lack of breaches this will not be renewed. Further PSPOs are being considered in the Soho Road area and Moseley and Kings Heath. The BCSP are also looking at the possibility of a PSPO as an option to deal with ASB complaints around traffic lights.

- 2.1.4 It is also worth noting that the Regulation and Enforcement team have 2 PSPOs in place for dog fouling and noise related ASB in the city centre.

- 2.2 **Supported Housing Pilot** – The Community Safety Team are working in partnership with BCC's City Housing, Adult Social Care, Planning, and Housing Benefit teams on a Supported Housing (also known as Exempt Accommodation) Pilot. The community safety element involves the introduction of a small team with a focus on crime and ASB in exempt accommodation. The team also includes a seconded Police Officer, which enables the Council to work very closely with the West Midlands Serious and Organised Crime Team.
- 2.2.1 In the past 12 months, as part of the pilot, the community safety team have carried out 884 visits/inspections with partners in addition to 736 investigations, which have resulted in: 13 community protection warnings being issued, 164 evictions, and supported information that has led to 22 arrests and the decommissioning of 20 properties.
- 2.2.2 The Community Safety Team continue to manage a weekly partnership tasking meeting and have introduced a weekly new business process and ASB policy for providers/landlords to use as part of their tenancy conditions.
- 2.3 **Partnership Street Tasking (PST)** – The Partnership Street Tasking (PST) receive referrals from outreach services when ASB issues related to begging have occurred and engagement and outreach services can no longer support, or the individuals are no longer engaging with services. The PST meets fortnightly and partners include the BCC Community Safety Team, Trident Reach, BCC Housing Solutions, and WM Police. The Community Safety Team have 3 Intervention Officers who engage with the street community to offer support and signpost to appropriate services, as well as undertaking enforcement action if required when all options have been exhausted. In the past 12 months, the PST have received over 2,500 referrals. All referrals have had an element of complexity, be that mental health, substance misuse, homelessness, criminal activity, anti-social behaviour, or a combination of these factors. The partnership assesses each referral and a plan is put in place for each individual with agreed actions. Some outcomes have included increased access to support services including providing accommodation and the use of civil powers to issue warning letters and verbal warnings, community protection notices, injunctions, and criminal prosecutions.
- 2.3 **West Midlands Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Project** – The BCC Community Safety Team are commissioned by the West Midlands OPCC to look at introducing a West Midlands approach to DHRs. This has included the standardisation of templates, action plans and processes during the past year. The Team have introduced learning events across the West Midlands and have commissioned 46 events, with more planned for 2023. These events were launched in November under the '16 Days of Action Against Domestic Violence' national campaign. A West Midlands repository will be introduced that will enable all the West Midlands Community Safety Partnerships to have access to learning from the DHR's and continue to develop and learn from these each other.
- 2.4 **Operation Hercules** – Operation Hercules is held within the Section 222 injunction for car cruising. Due to the amendments heard at the London High Court

with regards to Section 222 Injunctions and the use of 'persons unknown', Birmingham's injunction was put on hold. We have received permission from the High Court to re-apply for this injunction, which is now in the process of being submitted. To ensure that the BCSP continue to deal with issues related to car cruising, a West Midlands partnership was formed and is Chaired by the West Midlands Police. Partners include the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley Community Safety Teams and legal departments, West Midlands Police Op Hercules Team, and the West Midlands Fire Service.

2.4.1 The Operation Hercules partnership has introduced a diversionary scheme that is based on the speed awareness approach. West Midlands Police carry out enforcement under Section 59 and offer the scheme instead of taking criminal action. They are referred to the Birmingham Community Safety Team who manage the payment and booking for the course, which is delivered by West Midlands Fire Service. To date, 59 people have attended the course and this has created an Op Hercules income of £3,068. Of the income received, 5% is given to charities and the remainder supports the ongoing partnership work under Op Hercules. The BCSP have also developed and introduced a joint community protection warning process, with 99 community protection warnings being issued to date.

2.5 **Community Trigger** – The community trigger is an ASB case review process that is triggered when a person who has reported ASB to any partner, including a landlord, police or regulation and enforcement, feel that their complaint/report has not been dealt with appropriately. The threshold for a community trigger in Birmingham is 3 reports in the previous 6 months, with the last report being in the last month. In the past 12 months the Community Safety Team have received 63 community triggers with 34 having met the threshold. A panel meeting has taken place with 4 having been processed through the appeal process. Each panel will produce an action plan with clear timescales for actions which can include referrals to statutory and/or 3rd sector services, to organisations making changes in their policies or approaches to ASB.

2.5.1 Following the learning taken from the community triggers received throughout 2021, a pre assessment stage was introduced in July 2022. This has enabled the Council and partners to work with applicants to ensure their concerns are dealt with much more efficiently. The BCSP have also introduced a new process for the community trigger, which includes an independent chair for all panel meetings. Members on the panel include West Midlands Police, BCC Regulation & Enforcement, Community Safety, the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board Previously known as (the Clinical Commissioning Group), and landlords (BCC and registered providers). The BCSP are currently working with the OPCC to consider how they could be involved in the appeal process.

2.6 **Partnership Consequences Management Meeting (CMM)** – West Midlands Police carry out a CMM process in response to a serious incident. Working with the Community Safety Team, the process has been further developed during 2021/22 with the involvement of additional partners. This allows partners within a certain neighbourhood to be involved in a discussion around the incident and offer information and support. To date, the team has supported 16 CMM processes.

These have been related to reports of gunfire, gang related stabbings (injury and deaths) funerals of gang members, and the death of an infant.

- 2.7 **Commonwealth Games (CWG)** – The Community Safety Team led on a partnership approach to reduce incidents of ASB within the street community, having secured extra funding from the CWG Board. The team increased its presence within neighbourhoods and routes to and from key CWG locations. Working with the Violence Reduction Partnership, the team introduced eight ‘Step Together’ routes which provided chaperones during the Games. The chaperones engaged with groups or individuals and signposted to services within that location. Colleagues within the BCC Housing Solutions Team commissioned services to work with, and support people begging, and the Community Safety Team had 9 Community Safety Intervention Officers available on the streets over this period who engaged with over 9,000 people. Although these were short term engagements, they resulted in 1,232 referrals being made to support services.
- 2.8 **Domestic Abuse (DA)** – The Community Safety Team continue to work in partnership at a strategic and local level to reduce domestic abuse and increase awareness. The six Local Partnership Delivery Groups continue to focus on a partnership approach to dealing with offenders and supporting victims at a local level. There are currently 12 cases a day being heard at MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and the Community Safety Team have been working with Adult Social Care to improve the support provided by Birmingham City Council at these meetings.
- 2.9 Officers within the Community Safety Team have established a working group that will help develop the Birmingham Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (VAWG). This includes working with 3rd sector providers to ensure we include lived experiences. As a result, the team are developing a partnership with survivors of domestic abuse.
- 2.9.1 Funding was also secured within the Safer Streets 3 programme, which enabled the team to provide training for partners who work with our street community to raise awareness about the risks of sexual violence that female rough sleepers can face and the support they can access. Approximately 280 people received this training provided by the delivery partner RSVP (Rape and Sexual Violence Project), a specialist sexual violence charity based in the city.

3. **Projects and Commissioned Services**

- 3.1 During 2021/22, the BCSP Board commissioned several interventions to support the BCSP priorities and delivery programmes. These are set out below:
- 3.2 **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)** – Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) came into effect in April 2011 under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime, and Victims Act 2004. Since then, Birmingham has received 52 notifications, 48 of which have been progressed as DHRs. 18 have been concluded and published, 5 are with the Home Office and there are 4, for different reasons, that have been concluded but will not be published. The remainder are at different stages within the

DHR panel process. The Community Safety Team continue to work with other Local Authorities where cases have crossed boundaries. In the last 12 months the team have delivered 8 learning events focused on early intervention and coercive control and a further 16 have been commissioned and will start in January 2023. The BCSP Board introduced a process just before the covid lockdown which included a DHR core group made up of Executive Board members. This process is now under review and a task and finish group has been established. The group is Chaired by the Strategic Director of Nursing, Quality and Safeguarding for the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System and members include West Midlands Police, Birmingham Children's Trust, The Coroner's Office, and the BCC Community Safety Team.

- 3.3 **Modern Slavery** – Within the Community Safety Team, there is a dedicated and externally funded Modern Slavery Coordinator role. Although this post is currently vacant, the team are actively looking to fill it. During the last 12 months, there have been a number of successful outcomes achieved under this project. The coordinator has continued to provide a strategic and operational point of contact for all BCC concerns related to modern slavery, including attending all relevant forums, and representing BCC at strategic forums across the region, including the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategic Board and the Local Authority Modern Slavery Leads forum. The coordinator has provided second-tier advice on 57 individual cases and delivered training and input to 232 persons, including presenting on work of Birmingham City Council on Modern Slavery at the Liberty Conference in Northumberland.
- 3.3.1 The Community Safety Team have helped recruitment to the Home Office's Multi-Agency Assurance Panels, supporting the review and challenging of negative National Referral Mechanism (NRM) decisions where appropriate. The team have also updated the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 22-23, which has been signed off at all relevant governance levels.
- 3.3.2 A new training package has been developed for BCC Housing Officers as part of the Housing Directorate redesign and will be offered as a rolling training offer. A three-part Modern Slavery Champions training package for Housing Officers has also been developed and will be delivered in three phases. This was also offered out to Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid staff and the modern slavery project at St Basils. 75 new Champions across Housing, St Basils, and Women's Aid were also trained.
- 3.3.3 The Community Safety Team has continued to collate and distribute the BCC Modern Slavery Monthly Updates, now reaching a distribution list of over 300 people and with further amplification through the Birmingham Migration Forum, the Violence Reduction Partnership, the EMPOWERu Hub, and the Birmingham Safeguarding Adult Board. The team has also collaborated with the OPCC on developing work around a public health approach to modern slavery across the

West Midlands region. New pieces of work and guidance have been developed, including: collaborative work with HMPPS on the NRM referrals in prison; working with the Commonwealth Games Association; a landlords' forum through West Midlands Police; a Roma Exploitation working group and developing the Serious and Organised Crime Exploitation (SOCEX) partnership forum. Work was also undertaken with the Commonwealth Games B2022 Committee to support their modern slavery processes and provide a single point of contact for any concerns raised during the games.

3.4 **SIFA - Modern Slavery and Homelessness Project** - This project has emerged from ongoing work over the last few years and reflects learning to date. It also reflects ongoing discussion with West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network (WMASN) about collaboration to develop a joint approach and strengthening systems to identify, reach and support a very vulnerable (and often hidden) group of people. Officers from SIFA have been trained as Modern Slavery Champions and now sit within the community safety team champion list. Since June 2022, SIFA have supported 12 people through this project. The champions also work in partnership with our EUSS project worker, who has provided specialist settled status support to 3 of the cases.

3.5 **Street Intervention Officers** – Within the Community Safety Team, there are 3 intervention officers that operate within the city centre. They work in partnership with West Midlands Police, Trident Reach, Business Improvements Districts (BID), outreach services and BCC Regulation & Enforcement Team including City Centre operations. Their focus is to intervene at an early stage to reduce crime and ASB related to issues within the street community. The officers carry out daily patrols and, in some cases, this is with other partners e.g. WM Police, BID Wardens or Outreach Services.

3.5.1 In the past 12 months the officers have made 1,285 contacts/engagements, of which 265 were rough sleepers with no accommodation. 234 referrals were made to outreach services including: Shelter, Trident Reach, and Change Grow Live (CGL). 128 verbal warnings and 99 written warnings were issued by the team, as well as a Community Protection Warning and a Community Protection Notice. The lower number of formal civil enforcement measures demonstrates the effectiveness of the engagement first and early warning approach that was introduced during 2020/21. Officers have also issued 1 injunction which was obtained against an individual causing ASB in the city centre, following the individual breaching the conditions within his community protection notice. The injunction also included positive requirements.

3.6 **Exploitation and Homelessness Project (Young Adults 18-24)** - This project introduces a role that will have partnership support from the BCC Modern Slavery Coordinator, particularly in arranging training and on oversight of the deliverables. The Barnardo's ICTG service will also offer specialist training support too. This role

also has some cross-organisational partnership support from the Modern Slavery Project at SIFA Fireside. The project supports young adults aged 18-24 who had either been identified in the youth accommodation schemes or had presented at the youth hub experiencing homelessness and exploitation. It includes the support to understand their options, rights, and entitlements as victims of modern slavery, including access to safehouse provision through the NRM or safeguarding within the local community where appropriate. Since June 2022 exploitation and homelessness role is now active, and casework is being delivered 10 individuals have been supported. St Basil's' Modern Slavery Pathway has been revised.

- 3.7 **Forced marriage, Honour Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Engagement** – In the past 12 months, 21 community awareness sessions on FGM have been delivered. FGM training for staff/volunteers has been provided to organisations including Restore, British Red Cross, The Salvation Army, St. Chad's, BAOBAB, and Women with Hope. Individual support is provided to women/victims that is tailored to their needs, including health, psychological, housing, and legal and immigration support. This work is done in partnership with an NHS midwife with responsibility for FGM. 24 Community Champions have now been recruited and trained offering support/advice and sign posting in their neighbourhoods. Since April 2022, open support has been provided to 35 women. There have been several training events delivered which included 155 professionals. Contact has been made with 133 GP practices to offer training, support, and referral process.
- 3.8 **Virtual Decisions (VD)** – This project is delivered in partnership with Round Midnight who have developed a virtual reality educational tool 'Virtual Decisions', in which participants can experience a simulated true-to-life scenario covering the themes of peer pressure, gang culture, anti-social behaviour, and youth violence. By wearing a VR headset, each participant is placed in a realistic live-action scenario in which they must make a number of choices. Each choice results in various outcomes, demonstrating that every action has a consequence. Following the 8-minute VR film is a workshop that explores the issues raised in more depth. The Project looks at the motivations behind the characters' behaviour, whether peer pressure contributed to the outcome and the positive/negative responses each user receives from characters based on their decisions. Several sessions have been held since April 2022, with 53 children across Birmingham attending in total. These have consisted of shorter sessions and workshops during the summer holidays. A programme has been developed aimed at victims of violent crime, which started in October 2022. This project will be delivered into 12 schools and to young people referred by WM Police who have received an out of court disposal.
- 3.9 **For the Community by the Community Phase 2** – This is a project that is delivered in neighbourhoods and engages with parents/carers who are now ready to build on journey by advocating for each other and learning experientially from this process Crime & Exploitation. Parents/carers with complex needs around

poverty, school exclusion, poor health, poor housing, child exploitation, serious youth violence, being subject to a care plan by social services or the local authority (sometimes experiencing all these factors); advocates enabled parents to navigate these issues; with better outcomes for their children and themselves. Since May 2022, 15 parents/cares have been supported to complete OCN level 3 courses to undertake community research in their communities strengthening understanding of the causes of serious youth violence and the solutions people want to see.

- 3.9.1 Communities of Kingstanding & Newtown, Lozells were badly shaken by community tensions following the trial for the murder of a child, a significant house fire (which disposed 30 people), and the murder of another child. Having this initiative in place meant that partners were able to respond to issues at hand via timely and meaningful interventions. Funding and volunteer support was identified and brought in to support a Kingstanding Event, held on the 3rd July 2022, to respond to community tensions which provided free food and helped bring the community together at a critical time; parents and professionals took part in roundtable discussions to bring better interventions to the area, provided a presence in the area to ensure there was no conflict between White and Black communities, and donated gifts for families disposed. The event was a success with 1,000 attending right help at the right time.
- 3.9.2 The Newtown/Lozells community was further traumatised and rocked by a murder of 16-year-old child 8 days later, on the 11th of July. Because of the project footprint in the area (parents/carers, young people, professionals, CICs, and faith leaders) the providers were able to implement an intervention within 24 days that greatly reduced the severity and quantity of further violence, including retaliatory action.
- 3.10 **Re-deployable CCTV** – The Community Safety Team currently have access to 11 re-deployable cameras and 2 automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras that are used in line with Government legislation to reduce the impact of Crime and ASB in a neighbourhood. A process is now in place for approval to deploy the CCTV, which is managed through the LPDG's and approved through the BCC Resilience team. The 2 ANPR cameras are being used to support Operation Hercules which is the Section 222 injunction for car cruising.
- 3.11 **Re-Engage** - This Project focuses on targeting those young offenders who due to experience of trauma and a history of offending are unable to engage successfully with mainstream Education, Training and Employment and are at risk of permanent exclusion from college / school / training provision. There is increasing evidence of the causal link between adverse childhood trauma experiences and disengagement with education and training. This disengagement leads to an increased propensity to go on and commit serious youth violence or become at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation or Child Sexual Exploitation. There are now 4 providers in place and referrals are being received. The Re-Engage Programme

continues to receive referrals from several agencies including schools. 38 young people have successfully been engaging on the Project. Due to the success of this project, Birmingham Children's Trust will now be mainstreaming the work in the 23/24 financial year. The Trust have also part funded the current project which has allowed them to introduce the Engage Through Work project. The main challenge for this project concept is whether appropriate employers and hosts for the extended work experience placements can be identified. This is because they need to be able to manage the risks associated with children open to youth offending services, particularly those with serious youth violence offences, gang affiliation and weapon offences. The first entrepreneurial business course has been successfully delivered, giving the participants experience of running a fashion design business.

- 3.12 **Locality working** - This project seeks to support the development of locality working at a neighbourhood level and increase the neighbourhood partnership working pilots being delivered in Sparkhill/Sparkbrook and Lozells. This project will be delivered in Stockland Green and Erdington as a continuation of the safer streets work delivered in 2020/21 in Stockland Green. Pioneer have been commissioned to deliver this project and lead on community engagement. They will continue to work with the existing residents in Stockland Green and expand into Erdington. This pilot will be a neighbourhood approach co-designed by the community and working in partnership with neighbourhood coordinators and will involve community 'all out' days to support the requests made from community members
- 3.13 **Safer Estates Group WEB partnership case management system (SEGWEB)** - SEGWEB is a case management tool utilised by BCSP partners for crime and ASB partnership work around individuals. It is the only partnership software platform in Birmingham that both internal (BCC) and external partners can jointly case manage. The LPDG's use SEGWEB to introduce, manage, monitor, and take joint action against individuals and groups who are having an impact in a neighbourhood. Between July and October 2022 there were 48 new cases opened by partners across the city, 5 were closed of the cases which that were closed, 2 cases had developed action plans which were monitored by the LPDG, and the others were closed as resolved. In the past 12 months 202 new cases have been opened.
- 3.14 **Training to Increase Awareness of the Impact of Gangs on Girls and Young Women** - Young women and girls affected by gangs or gang activity can remain a hidden group in our communities due to a lack of specialist knowledge and practice around working with these cohorts within statutory services. Anecdotal evidence suggests that young women affected by gangs do not believe services, understand their experiences, or believe that they can keep themselves safe. Young women can therefore find themselves dealing with adversity, risk, and harm within their peer group, rather than reaching out for professional support. This project delivers

training that will improve professionals' knowledge and skills in working with gang affected young women and girls, with the expectation that, in turn, it will improve the relationships between them and through improved understanding enable young women to reach out for professional support. The project was commissioned in October 2022 and work has started. Dates and locations will be confirmed throughout November.

3.15 **Operation Encompass** - Operation Encompass was initially set up as a charitable organisation in 2011. Operation Encompass is a police and education early information sharing partnership, which directly connects the police with schools to ensure support for children living with domestic abuse when police have attended domestic abuse incidents. The direct connection between the police, schools and early years settings means children are better safeguarded against the short, medium, and long-term effects of domestic abuse. The Operation Encompass Steering Group has become well established and meets monthly. Webinars have been delivered to schools and they have completed the Operation Encompass Key Adult training. 394 out of a possible 504 schools have signed up. West Midlands Police have contributed to the setting up of the project and helped improve capabilities and capacity. 234 key adults in schools have completed their training and sent in their certificates. This equates to approximately 175 schools and West Midlands Police have started to mainstream the project due to its success.

4. **Crime Impact in Birmingham**

4.1 Although the majority of crime measures provided in the BCSP performance dashboard have continued to rise as expected, violence related offences have, for the first time in recent years, shown a reduction both during Q2 this year (Q2 2022/23) and in comparison, to Q2 last year (Q2 2021/22).

4.2 **Increases**

4.2.1 Vehicle theft offences recorded the largest increases in the year-to-date figures. Hotspot areas are identified within the vicinity of Birmingham City Centre and may be ascribed to the return of footfall in the city centre. The increase in vehicle theft has been driven by a global shortage of car parts. Offences peaked during July 2022; although these reduced during August and September, offences remain at an elevated level. This increase is mirrored across the West Midlands.

- **Theft from a Motor Vehicle** rose by 60% in comparison to Q2 last year (Q2 21/22) and 24% since the previous quarter (Q1 22/23). During Q2 (22/23) the majority were recorded in Harborne (103), Nechells (101) and Aston (94).
- **Theft of a Motor Vehicle** increased by 53% in comparison to Q2 last year (2021/22) and 12% since the previous quarter (Q1 2022/23). The highest amount was recorded in the neighbourhoods of Harborne (60), Moseley & Kings Heath (58) and Kings Norton (54).

- **Theft from Shop/Stall** increased by 37% in comparison to Q2 (2021/22) and 1% since Q1. Birmingham City Centre recorded the most with 316 offences.
- **Drug offences** increased by 45% in contrast to the same quarter last year (Q2 2021/22) and 9% since the previous quarter (Q1 2022/23). The highest amount was recorded in Birmingham City Centre (94) followed by Aston and Bordesley Green (56 offences in each). 78% of offences related to Possession of Drugs and 22% concerned Trafficking of Drugs.
- **Knife crime** increased by 9% in comparison to Q2 last year (2021/22) and 1% since the last quarter (Q1 2022/23). During Q2 (2022/23): A weapon was 'used causing injury' in 276 offences (27%).
 - Most common weapons used were described as knife (unknown) and kitchen knife.
 - Most common offence recorded was Robbery (Personal Property) 32%.
 - The highest neighbourhoods were Lozells & East Handsworth (59) followed by Aston (50) and Longbridge (42).
- **Modern Slavery** offences increased by 206% (109 offences) since Q2 last year and 42% since the previous quarter (48 offences). Please note that this figure is based on offences recorded during Q2 (22/23) - 70% of offences reported during this quarter were committed prior to July 2022. This increase has been partly attributed to better crime recording and on-going initiatives.

4.3 Decreases

- **Violence against the Person** offences accounted for 41% of TRC. This decreased by 4% in comparison to Q2 last year and 1% since Q2 (2022/23). YTD figures show violent offences have increased. The locations in which the most offences took place during the most recent quarter were Lozells & East Handsworth (633), Aston (581) and Shard End (562).
- **Youth Violence** measures Violence with Injury under 25 (non-DA); this decreased by 1% in comparison to Q2 last year (2021/22) and 13% since the last quarter (Q1 2022/23).
- **Domestic Abuse (DA)** DA offences rose significantly during the pandemic since October 2021 these have reduced. This follows extensive work in a number of key initiatives to help victims, which includes the promotion of Clare's Law where people can apply for information on a partner's or ex-partners previous abusive or violent offending.
- DA decreased by 4% in comparison to Q2 last year (2021/22) and 1% in contrast to the last quarter (Q2 2022/23). DA accounted for 17% of total recorded crime during Q2. The neighbourhoods of Shard End (283), South

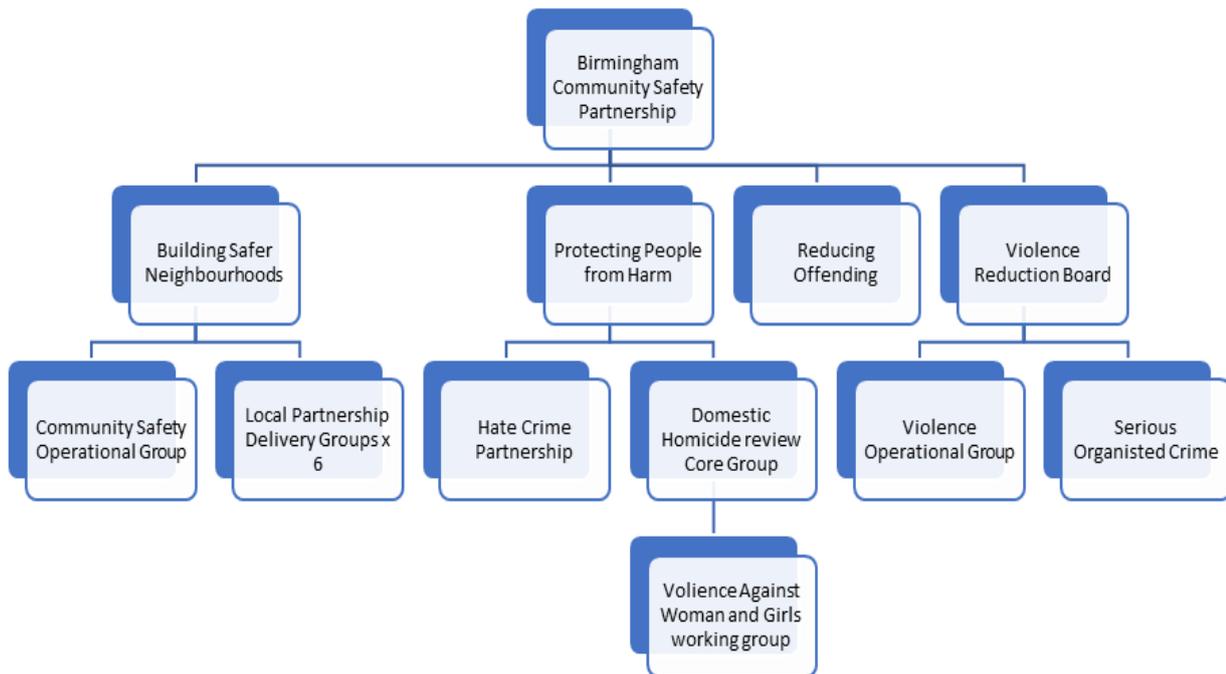
Yardley (241) and Lozells & East Handsworth (239) recorded the highest amount of DA related offences during Q2.

- **Hate crime** decreased by 9% in comparison to last year Q2 (2021/22) but has increased by 6% since the last quarter. The highest reporting neighbourhoods were Birmingham City Centre (90), followed by Lozells & East Handsworth (67) and Winson Green (58). 78% of offences were classified as 'racial', 15% 'sexual orientation', 7% 'religious', 4% 'disability' and 2% 'transgender'.
- **ASB (Police)** reduced by 5% (-151 incidents) since the last quarter and 31% (-1136 incidents) in comparison to Q2 last year. High levels of ASB over the last 2 years have been attributed to increased reporting due to Covid-19 breaches. Levels of ASB has continued to decrease since the end of national restrictions last year. The majority were reported in the neighbourhoods of Aston, Ladywood and Acocks Green
- **ASB (BCC)** reduced by 8.4% (-142 incidents) since the last quarter and 4.2% (-82 incidents) in comparison to Q2 last year. The majority were reported in the neighbourhoods of Bartley Green, Longbridge & West Heath, and Glede Farm & Tile Cross. The top three types of ASB reported are noise, aggressive behaviour, and harassment.

5. 2022 Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Governance Review

- 5.1 A key focus of the activity in 2022 has been to review the governance of the BCSP and to revisit priorities. The BCSP Board met in September 2022 and agreed that BCSP Governance required adjustment to ensure effective oversight and accountability for strategic priorities and to enable effective collaboration with, and across, other strategic boards such as: the Health and Wellbeing Board and their priorities to deliver on the '*From Harm to Hope*' 10 Year drug strategy, which includes crime reduction; the Adult Safeguarding Board to ensure joint working around modern slavery, exploitation and victims of crime; the Children's Safeguarding Partnership and their work on tackling child exploitation, early help and prevention; the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership in preparing for the introduction of the new serious violence duty and the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board delivering against responsibilities within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- 5.2 Under the existing thematic groups, a number of sub-groups and partnerships had been established. However, these had little connection or information flows back to the overall BCSP and unclear lines of accountability/communication with other key structures in the City. The discussions at the BCSP away day resulted in a new governance structure being introduced that better reflects and facilitates

oversight and delivery against the statutory responsibilities and function of the BCSP.



5.2 Partnerships with joint responsibilities include: Youth Justice Board, Domestic Abuse partnership Board, Contextual Safeguarding Board, and the Violence Reduction Partnership.

5.3 The work programme of the BCSP for 2022/23 falls under the following thematic groups:

- **Building Safer Neighbourhoods** – Chair, Rob James - Strategic Director City Operations BCC
- **Protection People form Harm** – Chair, Di Rhoden – Director of Nursing – Quality & Safeguarding, NHS, Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Care System.
- **Violence Reduction Board** – Chair, Superintendent Sally Simpson - West Midlands Police
- **Reducing Re-Offending** – Chair, Glen Baynton - Director HMPPS, Probation Services

5.4 The Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Board and thematic groups will be supported and facilitated by the BCC Community Safety Team with support from West Midlands Police.

5.5 The BCSP has joint Governance with the Children Safeguarding Board for the Contextual Safeguarding Hub (EMPOWERu) and is working with the Health &

Wellbeing Board to have joint Governance of the Drug & Alcohol Strategy and Delivery Plan.

5.6 Birmingham City Council is the accountable body for the BCSP, and the Community Safety Team facilitates the management and administration of the BCSP Board structure, including both the thematic priority groups and subgroups that support the thematic delivery.

5.7 **Violence Reduction Board (VRB)** - The purpose of the VRB is to provide co-ordinated oversight of joint working to disrupt gangs, serious violence, and organised criminality in the city. This includes preparing for the new Serious Violence Duty which comes into effect in January 2023. To prepare for this, a violence profile has been produced and the Birmingham Reduction Violence Strategy is being developed. These arrangements seek to ensure each agency will safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults, and protect the public in Birmingham. The VRB will develop and implement the strategic objectives within the new Serious Violence Duty, as well as a whole system approach incorporating policy, prevention, disruption, protection, and support across multiple agencies. This work is being done in partnership with the VRP, Public Health, the Children's Trust, and CCG. Key activity includes:

- Working with the Home Office on an Offensive Weapon Homicide Review pilot which is due to start in early 2023. West Midlands has been nominated to deliver the pilot in Birmingham and Coventry.
- Working in partnership with the VRP providing strategic overview of delivery of programmes within Birmingham and ensuring the community navigators and educational programmes are delivered and supported within Birmingham.
- Supporting the introduction of the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF). The BCSP and the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership have been working closely with the YEF throughout the initial stages of the project development and are actively supporting the programme. The first part of the programme which is to carry out a feasibility study has been completed. The next stage is to co-design the action community plan working closely with the selected location. Based on the findings of the feasibility study, the proposed area of focus covers the whole of Lozells and parts of Newtown that border the south and east of Lozells.
- Serious Organised Crime – a partnership scoping exercise and report was produced in June 2022. The recommendations from this report have been developed into an action plan and a tasking group is in place to delivery.
- Continuing partnership work to help reduce knife crime and county lines activities within Birmingham.

5.8 **Building Safer Neighbourhoods Thematic Group** – The purpose of this group is to work together to form and implement strategies to prevent and reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, and the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse within localities. This will include producing a 3-year rolling strategy, reviewed annually, which identifies citywide priorities. The group will also oversee the community trigger process and deliver an approach towards engaging and consulting with citizens. Key activity includes:

- Leading on the review of the ASB strategy and process; the community trigger has been the first process reviewed. The next stage is to develop an integrated ASB offer for Birmingham. This will include working with partnership from BCC City Housing, Regulation and Enforcement, Registered Social Landlords, and West Midlands Police, and will include learning from the community trigger panels.
- Governance of the LPDGs. As part of the governance review of the BCSP, work has started to review the LPDGs, providing better clarity for purpose and role, working alongside and complementing other locality forums.
- Locality working is a priority for the Building Safer Neighbourhood Group and pilot work is being delivered in Sparkbrook and Lozells. Plans to develop this work into Erdington and Stockland Green have started. This work is being delivered in partnership with WM Police and the BCC Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit.
- As part of BCSP's consult and engage priorities, the group has started to look at opportunities through different partnerships and working with the LPDGs to plan neighbourhood consultation and engagement events. The information obtained will be fed back to ensure the BCSP Board delivers against community concerns and priorities.

5.9 **Protecting People from Harm Thematic Group** – This thematic group has a focus on protecting people and ensuring the BCSP is discharging their statutory responsibilities, with particular regard to the embedding learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews, preventing violent extremism and modern slavery, supporting the BCSP Violence Reduction Board theme, and working with the Violence Reduction Partnership. Key activities include:

- Continuing to grow and develop a Hate Crime Partnership that is represented by a wide range of partners and has 83 members. The Hate Crime Partnership has an action plan in place and has had several themed workshops. On the 14 November 2022 an Islamophobia awareness event was delivered, with over 80 people in attendance.
- Develop and produce a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy. A working group is being developed, scoping has been completed and work has started to build a workplan. The working group links into existing partnerships, for example Birmingham Domestic Abuse Board,

West Midlands Sexual Violence and Rape Board and Domestic Abuse Board. The VAWG strategy will link with the Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy to ensure no duplication.

- The process around Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) is supported and monitored within this thematic group. Within the past 12 months Birmingham was notified of 3 DHRs. We have commissioned learning events which were launched during the 16 Days of Action campaign which started on 25 November.
- Modern Slavery Oversight is held within this thematic group and ongoing work includes the support and development of a clear and robust victim's pathway. A multi-agency approach to support victims has been introduced and a modern slavery awareness event was delivered by the Community Safety Team to improve collaborative working and awareness of issues amongst partners and communities.
- Oversight of joint working within the Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy and ensure that the work within the BCSP Domestic Abuse agenda is linked into the Strategy.
- Work has started to introduce a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and working group. This will include priorities around rape and sexual assault. Working groups have been set up with Adult Social Care colleagues, WM Police, Public Health and working alongside voluntary and community sector providers. A profile has been commissioned, which will help direct the work of this group.

5.10 **Reducing Offending Thematic Group** – This thematic group will focus on working with the partnership to produce plans to reduce reoffending by adults and young people and reduce first time entrants. Key activities include:

- Reviewing and updating the current reducing reoffending strategy and ensuring work involving reducing first time entrants is included.
- Introduce partnership plans and actions to reduce reoffending.
- Have oversight and support the Problem-Solving Court pilot in Birmingham, which has a focus on female offenders, and ensuring appropriate support and interventions are identified that could assist courts to consider and identify other options before sentencing.

5.11 **Community Safety Operational Group** – This is a monthly partnership meeting that looks at city-wide issues. Partners work together to look at solutions and processes that have an impact across the city. Partners include: the BCC Community Safety Team, WM Police (at Chief Inspector level), BCC Regulation & Enforcement, WM Fire Service, BCC Housing Services, BCC Youth Service, Registered Providers, and BVSC. The group has introduced the Partnership

Street Tasking Group and deals with issues escalated from the Local Partnership Delivery Groups.

- 5.12 **Local Partnership Delivery Groups (LPDG)** – Following the BCSP Board away day in September, the LPDGs are being reviewed and re-designed. This should be concluded by March 2023. The review will include a new approach to help reduce youth violence in localities, which is being led by west midlands police. Currently the LPDGs have a place and people-based focus.
- Place – LPDGs will focus on key neighbourhoods in their geography where there are higher levels of crime/ ASB demand. They will develop operational multi-agency plans which deliver and monitor targeted activity on key trends and drivers of crime.
 - People – LPDGs will provide a forum for case management discussions about complex ASB cases in their local area and/or cases where there is a significant impact on the community. This part of the meeting will be restricted in line with the current Information Sharing Agreement. This group discussion will support the development of multi-agency case plans; track enforcement action and monitor impact.
- 5.13 There are six LPDGs within Birmingham (See Appendix A for Map). Each LPDG meets monthly, and partners include: WM Police, who chair four of the six meetings, Registered Providers, who chair two of the meetings, WM Fire Services, Birmingham Children’s Trust, including the youth offending team and family support, BCC Housing, BCC Regulation & Enforcement, the Violence Reduction Partnership, Local Councillors and the voluntary and community sector.

