

Title	Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Annual Report (2019-20)
Date	22nd October 2020
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1. Purpose

1.1 This annual report provides an overview of Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (BCSP) activity and impact during 2019-20. Given the impact of COVID this report will include more recent activities in addition to the usual reporting cycle for the previous year to provide a more up to date context for the Committee and include information on the BCSP response to the COVID pandemic.

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, Violence Reduction Unit 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
- To work in partnership to reduce serious violence – This duty is led by the WM Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)
- Consult and engage with the community.

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

- Prevent
- Modern Slavery
- Contextual Safeguarding

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

- Violence and Reoffending (this group is in the process of merging with the Serious Organised Crime, Guns & Gangs Board)
- Victims and Vulnerability
- Crime, ASB and the Community
- BCSP has joint governance with the Children Safeguarding Board for the Contextual Safeguarding Hub (Empower) and is working with the Health & Wellbeing Board to jointly produce a Drug & Alcohol Strategy and Delivery Plan.

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 and supported by officers within the Birmingham City Council Community Safety Team (BCC CSPT). 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 £660k in 2019-20 for the BCSP to support the BCSP work programme. All projects delivered through this funding must be aligned to the OPCC priorities. The West Midlands VRU, established in 2019, also commissions services and projects with a funding package of £3.3 million from the Government. The BCSP are linked in to both the VRU and OPCC to ensure joined up working.

2.7 Birmingham City Council hosts the BCSP. The Chair of the BCSP is Cllr John Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities. The Vice Chair is Chief Superintendent Steve Graham, NPU Commander West Midlands Police.

3. Partnership working /outcomes

3.1 Birmingham City Council is the accountable body for the BCSP and a team within the City Council has been established to respond to the community safety priorities of the city and the BCSP Executive Board.

3.2 Birmingham City Council Community Safety Team (BCC CSPT) manages the BCSP Board structure, including both the thematic Priority Groups and subgroups that support the thematic delivery. These include the Community Safety Operational Group, Serious Organised Crime Operational Group, Domestic Abuse Partnership, the Hate Crime Partnership and the Local Partnership Delivery Groups. The team also manages projects and interventions on behalf of Birmingham City Council to address locally identified community safety issues and priorities. Over the last year, these have included:

- A successful bid for Birmingham to be one of the Modern Slavery pilot areas and design a victim's pathway. The pathway has now been successfully introduced and 38 Modern Slavery Champions have been trained to support this work across a series of City Council departments. The Council has also adopted a Modern Slavery Statement; working with Procurement to ensure supply chains

are free from Modern Slavery and with WM Police through a partnership group designed to disrupt Modern Slavery offences and protect and support victims of trafficking.

- Connecting Communities Project: We successfully secured Home Office funding to introduce this initiative, designed to bring together citizens from our Eastern European communities with those from other backgrounds in order to build cohesion and greater cross-community understanding. The project runs until March 2021. To date we have worked with partners to introduce 12 community champions within the Eastern European community who are now working with existing community leaders and community navigators to start building relationships. Although the project is not yet complete, the champions and community navigators have worked together to deliver workshops within communities in the form of pop up events to engage the community and show a joint approach. A video is being produced to highlight the diversity of the Eastern European community and the experiences of individuals arriving and settling in Birmingham.
- Domestic Homicide Reviews: a new process for DHRs is now in place, following a full review of practice and procedures, Furthermore, the BCC CS Team has been successful in obtaining funding from the WM OPCC to develop a DHR process for the West Midlands region. This will ensure consistent, high quality authors are in place for DHR reports and that a variety of training events are delivered to share good practice. We are developing an eLearning package and working with the Home Office to introduce a more robust monitoring process, which will ensure that learning from DHRs is fully embedded into the policy and practice of all organisations involved. This will include whole staff process changes. To date there have been 34 DHR notifications within Birmingham, 11 have been published, 2 not published. Of the 21 cases currently being worked on, 12 are at the end of the process, 5 are within the panel process and 1 is on hold. 2 DHR notifications were received within lockdown.
- The introduction of six Local Partnership Delivery Groups (LPDGs) to ensure a localised response to community safety issues. The LPDGs are facilitated by the BCC CSPT and have a place and people focused approach. These groups are geographically based and have continued throughout the lockdown to engage with local groups and partners, working together to resolve local issues. They continue to have a Place and People based approach. The partnership groups are:
 - 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)

3.3 During 2019/20 the BCSP Board commissioned a number of interventions to support the BCSP priorities and delivery programmes. These included:

- Working with WM Probation Service and WM Police to increase the number of offenders on tag. With this system we were able to support the reduction of reoffending and encourage people into other programmes or work.
- City Centre ASB Enforcement Officers: over the past 12 months these two officers have engaged with over 600 people, issued 88 verbal warnings and 120 warning letters, supported the removal of 18 tent encampments, worked in partnership with WM Police with regards to incidents of ASB in car parks including drug dealing, and completed 202 referrals to 3rd sector

outreach services engaging with the street community. The officers have directly supported 12 people off the street and into accommodation.

- Domestic Abuse Helpline: BCC Housing Options Service introduced a Domestic Abuse Hub with the DA Helpline acting as the “front door” service for the hub. Throughout the year the helpline responded to over 6000 calls from women, professionals and family members, providing emotional support, safety planning and practical advice.
- FGM, Forced Marriage and Honour-Based Violence: Overall, nearly 1,400 people were engaged in this project. 207 women and girls were provided with support, including via clinics. 713 people engaged in training from the general public and a further 448 professionals also took part.
- CCTV: The BCSP has 11 redeployable cameras which can be used to support the reduction of ASB. In April 2020 the Council’s Resilience team took on responsibility for the management and movement of the cameras. A new process has been put in place requiring LPDGs to gather the necessary information and evidence for any request to utilise the cameras. The process also ensures that the usage of the cameras complies with the relevant legislation governing the use of CCTV.
- SPACE: This work consisted of trauma-informed psycho-educative sessions exploring topics including online safety and vulnerabilities, feelings of isolation, the law, consent, understanding CSE and grooming. This project is aimed at supporting vulnerable children identified by the Children’s Advice and Support Service (CASS) process. Each child received an individual assessment which identified a need to explore areas such as friendships and relationships, feelings and emotions, anger, their future and self-identity. In 2019/20 SPACE had 649 contacts which resulted in 51 children being supported on detailed plans. All referrals are received from Birmingham Children’s Trust through the Contextual Safeguarding Hub (now known as Empower) each child is assessed through a partnership approach via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.
- Youth engagement and monitoring programme. This programme was delivered by Birmingham Children’s Trust and delivered an assortment of programmes to directly support and divert young people away from involvement in gang culture. It delivered intensive one to one mentoring to 86 young people and over 150 group workshops.

4. COVID response

4.1 In March 2020 following the Government announcement that the Country was in lockdown, the BCSP adopted a Gold, Silver, Bronze structure to manage community safety issues.

4.2 Gold: a core group of BCSP Executive Board was agreed and meets fortnightly. The core group is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities and leads the response to strategic community safety issues. The membership includes the Birmingham Children’s Trust Chief Executive, WM Police Chief Superintendent, BCC Director of Neighbourhoods, AD and Senior Service Manager for Community Safety, Assistant Chief Executive of Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group, the Chief Executive of BVSC and the Chief Executive from Pioneer Group representing the Birmingham Social Housing Partnership.

4.3 Silver: The Community Safety Operational Group met on a daily basis during the first months of lockdown. Since July 2020 the group has met twice a week, leading the operational response to community safety issues. The membership reflects the Gold group but at an operational level and has supported delivery around issues relating to parks, the management of the Government's national asylum dispersal programme, street community and homelessness, and delivering a joined-up approach to enforcement.

4.4 Bronze: The six Local Partnership Delivery Groups (LPDGs) have been meeting since April 2020, initially on a fortnightly basis and now on a monthly cycle with the exception of the City Centre which still meets fortnightly.

4.5 The BCSP has also established additional structures to respond to several emerging key agendas. These include:

- Domestic Abuse: – In preparation for the creation of statutory boards once the Domestic Abuse Bill becomes law a Domestic Abuse Strategic Shadow Partnership Board has been established. In addition to taking forward the city's Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy, the Board is working alongside the BCSP to deliver on the increased demands for support around domestic abuse. It has enabled a joined-up approach with all services, including working with and supporting the Police and Crime Commissioner's regional campaign against domestic abuse. There has been an 20% increase in cases dealt with at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), a meeting where information is shared on domestic abuse cases deemed to be high risk, and includes representation from the local authority, police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors.
- Young People: Through work within the CSP Ops Group a Youth Focus Group was developed. This brought together partners to support young people, redirect services and extend our engagement with young people in lock down.
- Thematic Priority Groups – Quick reviews took place around the three thematic priorities of Victims & Vulnerability, Violence & Offending and Place. Some changes made as part of the review included:
 - Violence & Offending - A core group has been established to oversee delivery of the recommendations of the Reducing Reoffending Strategy which is led by WM Probation Service, and having oversight of prison releasees during COVID. Also, the Violence & Offending Thematic Group is in the process of merging with the Serious Organised Crime, Guns & Gangs Board. This will allow a joined-up approach to reducing violence with a focus on Serious Organised Crime. An operational group now sits under this Thematic Group to focus on a partnership response to WM Police's approach to Serious Organised Crime, 4 P Plans: Prepare, Protect, Pursue and Prosecute.
 - Place – With the LPDG's now in place we have introduced processes to support the exempt accommodation offer. The issues around exempt accommodation are a significant problem and the BCC CSPT are working closely with the WM Police Gangs Team to identify any links between poor accommodation and Serious and Organised Crime (SOC). There is a SOC Operational Group, where information is shared and actions agreed, to help reduce the impact of crime on these properties and support victims. The BCC CSPT are also working with colleagues in Housing, Revenues and Adults to increase the capacity and capability of the Council to deal with these issues. The Council has also made a submission to the Ministry for Housing Communities

and Local Government (MHCLG) to deliver a pilot aimed at improving standards in the supported housing exempt sector. The submission brings together cross-directorate and partnership expertise which if successful will enhance our capability and impact in this area.

- Strategic relationships - Throughout lockdown the BCSP has continued to strengthen relationships with the OPCC and the other Community Safety Partnerships within the West Midlands. This initially took the form of joint meetings to ensure that evidence of individuals crossing borders to commit crime was responded to swiftly. We also continued to develop relationships with the WM Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), Core Cities Network and Local Government Association (LGA) network.
- Community Engagement - Throughout lockdown the BCC CSPT have continued developing relationships with a number of new community groups and individuals and have now introduced a community reference group to:
 - increase awareness, trust and confidence in Birmingham’s Community Safety delivery
 - support and identify issues and concerns in communities
 - provide opportunities for community members to engage and help shape delivery
- Tension Monitoring - The BCC CSPT developed a tension monitoring process at the early stage of lock down and developed the process with partners as lock down continued. We have now in place a partnership tension monitoring process which also tracks our response.

5. Community Safety transitioning arrangements as a result of COVID pressures

5.1 The Community Safety Team is working to a transition plan to ensure that it can deliver the community safety agenda, whilst continuing to work in a COVID compliant manner.

5.2 Joint working: processes are now in place to support activity to reduce non-COVID related anti-social behaviour. This includes a weekly partnership meeting to address ASB issues within the street community. Partnership work within the LPDGs has been amended to support work around community based ASB issues, including hate crime and domestic abuse.

5.3 The Operational Groups set up for COVID, alongside existing delivery structures, will continue with new ToRs, these being – CSP and Serious Organised Crime Operational Groups, the Youth Focus Group and the DA and Hate Crime Partnerships.

5.4 Community: there was an increase in Community Trigger requests within the first four months of lockdown, 23 requests were received compared to the same period last year when 3 were received, which did create a backlog of cases. The main reason for the complaints was neighbour-related anti-social behaviour such as loud music, noise from children and garden gatherings or reports of large amounts of people gathering in residential properties. Most of the Community Trigger requests did not meet the threshold but through the LPDGs the issues related to the ASB concerns were actioned and alternative options were put in place, including the issuing of warning letters to households and increased detached youth work. The BCC CSPT introduced desk top reviews to deal with the backlog and prioritise cases to ensure that cases needing more in-depth work went to a Community Trigger Panel.

5.5 Public Space Protection Orders: at present there are 17 PSPOs in place. Taking the learning from the PSPOs that have been introduced within Birmingham since the ASB Act 2014 and best practice from other Local Authorities, a new PSPO process is being developed for Birmingham. The new process includes a partnership approach to supporting the Street Community which has seen the introduction of

a weekly partnership meeting with Outreach Services and the design of an escalation process that is instigated by the commissioned outreach service Trident Reach.

6. Headlines

6.1 The year to date crime figures for 2020/21 are as follows:

- Total recorded Crime: 3.93% reduction
- Robbery: 29.63% reduction
- Knife Crime: 6.93% reduction
- Burglary: 22.26% reduction
- Domestic Abuse: 31.98% increase
- Hate Crime: 27.53% increase

6.2 The crime figures for the first few months of the year clearly reflect the unique circumstances of the COVID lockdown and vary widely from those of the comparable period in 2019.

6.3 From June and July ASB figures started to rise and this trend has continued throughout August and September. The increase was related to increased numbers using parks and increased reporting of ASB within HMOs and exempt accommodation, mainly related to large groups, condition of properties and noise. Although there was a large increase in reports of bonfires, this reduced following the reopening of the city's waste disposal facilities.

7. Funding and Projects

7.1 BCSP received £660k funding from the OPCC this year, which the BCSP Executive Board has allocated to support the following projects:

- **Keep Safe** - This project is about delivering 'quick win' activity on behalf of the BCSP and the OPCC in neighbourhoods which are particularly affected by crime and anti-social behaviour. This will be co-ordinated at a local level through the new LPDGs, where local problems are prioritised and addressed in a partnership environment. The project will be focused on building trust and confidence in communities through demonstrating timely interventions.
- **Mediation** - Neighbour nuisance is consistently identified by both data and local intelligence as a key type of anti-social behaviour. It is also linked to many of the Community Trigger enquiries which the BCSP receive. Partners currently have limited options to offer residents beyond civil enforcement, which in many instances is not a viable option due to the quality and availability of evidence. Mediation offers an opportunity (if residents are willing to participate) to resolve issues between neighbours. This project will offer mediation to owner occupiers and tenants of private rented properties. It will link into the BCC Housing mediation process.
- **On Street Youth Project** - Youth related ASB is another issue that is frequently reported to West Midlands Police, Birmingham City Council and social housing providers. Some of these reports involve young people simply hanging around and socialising in a positive way with their friends, however there are also examples of intimidating behaviour, verbal abuse and a potential for more low level and serious violence. In previous years, BCSP funded a range of youth interventions including on street detached work most notably in East Birmingham. Through close working with local partners, positive differences for young people were evidenced together with corresponding

reductions in anti-social behaviour in the community. This project aims to bring back more positive detached youth engagement work.

- **CCTV** - Cameras are an effective tool to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and to provide images of an evidential quality for future use in prosecutions. Permanent cameras are located in high risk or high crime areas such as the City Centre. This project proposes a new way to manage and deploy 4G cameras. Moving forward, the deployment of these cameras will be decided through the LPDGs and will be managed alongside Birmingham City Council's other camera assets. This will ensure that the use of the cameras can be maximised.
- **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 available to support case work through the BCSP structure and performs an essential role in co-ordinating effective responses. The introduction of this system reduced time spent by partners in managing cases and led to improvement in scrutiny and practice.
- **Domestic Abuse Helpline** - Birmingham is experiencing increasing trends around reported domestic violence. In addition, the DA helpline is experiencing increased number of calls year on year. The DA helpline is part of a broad response to supporting women to exit abusive circumstances.
- **Forced Marriage, Honour Based Abuse and Female Genital Mutilation** - This project funds a member of staff to support women experiencing Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence and FGM who are referred to Women's Aid. In addition to this, the post provides training and awareness to community members and professionals.
- **SPACE** - This project provides specialist workers who supports high risk victims (or young people identified as at risk) of criminal exploitation including sexual exploitation. The project delivers tailored and intensive programmes of support which address individual needs and vulnerability.
- **C3** - Evidence indicates that risk of reoffending can increase in the event of a custodial sentence. This also increases risks around substance misuse, family breakdown, unstable accommodation and poor mental health. Opportunities to break this cycle are vital. Evidence also highlights the impact of custody and having a criminal record on young adults in respect of their future life chances. The project allows a number of offenders to be provided with professional motivational and rehabilitative support and expertise at the earliest opportunity to reduce the likelihood of future offending.
- **EnCompass** - This is a national initiative which is embedded across most of the WMP local authority areas, with Birmingham being the notable exception. Currently there is no software that can consistently match the names of children involved in DA incidents with school enrolments. This project will fund a part time Police Officer to engage with Schools when a young person or child is living in a household where Police have responded to reports of domestic abuse.
- **IOM Tagging** - This project will seek to increase the use of tagging for offenders in Birmingham. A national programme of court-mandated and Parole Board mandated GPS tagging is gradually being rolled out but is currently only available to those sentenced to community orders or released on licence on Parole Board direction. The majority of the Birmingham IOM cohort released on licence from standard determinate sentences, automatically at halfway, do not qualify for mandatory tagging.
- **Re-engage** - This Project focuses on supporting young offenders who due to experience of trauma are:
 - i. unable to engage successfully with mainstream Education, Training and Employment
 - ii. are at risk of permanent exclusion from college / school / training provision
 - iii. Post 16 NEET Cohort

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.

- **Street Doctors** - Street Doctors is a national network of student volunteers studying medicine at local universities, who volunteer to utilise their skills and knowledge to reduce youth violence through education and awareness raising of dangers to at risk young people. They teach young people at high risk of violence, emergency life-saving skills. When someone is bleeding, they need treatment quickly - the more blood they lose, the lower their chance of survival. This project aims to teach young people, who are likely to witness violent incidents how to call for help and what to do before professionals arrive, save lives and enable young people to acquire practical skills.
- **City Centre Intervention Officers** - Over the last few years, Birmingham City Centre has experienced an increase in anti-social behaviour. This project is a critical part of the current approach towards addressing ASB in the City Centre. The officers work in partnership with other services such as BID staff and West Midlands Police but also specialist outreach workers for rough sleepers from Trident and CGL. The aim is to ensure a holistic on street service to vulnerable street users and visitors to the City Centre with partners working as an integrated team.
- **Domestic Homicide Review Team** - Domestic Homicide Reviews are a statutory requirement for the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership. 36 DHRs have been commissioned to date, which is one of the highest in the country. This proposal increases the capacity of the BCSP to deal with DHRs in the city.
- **Serious Organised Crime & Exploitation Review** - Evidence shows that the risks related to serious organised crime, gangs, modern slavery, county lines and exploitation is increasing. This project will look to bring together a partnership approach for Birmingham ensure a joint approach and avoid duplication.