

Birmingham City Council

Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6 December 2023



Subject: Annual Report of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership

Report of: Cllr Nicky Brennan, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities

Report author: Pam Powis, Acting Head of Service, 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 2022/23.
- 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 2022/23 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

- 6.1 Annual Report of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership



Birmingham Community Safety Partnership

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

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1. Foreword

Welcome to the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (BCSP) annual report for 2022/23.

This report reflects on the challenges and achievements so far across community safety in Birmingham and provide information with regards to how we intend to continue to improve and plan for the future.

By working in partnership, we can achieve better outcomes for communities. In developing community safety plans, we have considered the City's vision as outlined in Birmingham's Corporate Plan 2022-2026 for 'A Safe Birmingham': through a focus on making the city safer, safeguarding vulnerable citizens, increasing affordable housing, and tackling homelessness.¹

Our vision is to work in partnership to reduce the level and impact of crime and anti-social behaviour to keep our neighbourhood's safe, so that people can lead healthy productive lives. We want to make Birmingham a safer city for our communities to live in, whilst also making it undesirable for offenders and perpetrators, whose only interest is to have a negative impact within communities.

Whilst we work within the statutory duties as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, we have utilised the findings from our strategic assessment, partnership intelligence and community feedback to identify priorities that will have the greatest impact for Birmingham. We understand that we cannot deliver this response alone and partnership working with and across all other local statutory partnership boards is key.

The priorities for Birmingham Community Safety Partnership are:

- Violence Reduction
- Building Safer Neighbourhoods
- Protecting People from Harm
- Reducing Offending

This report will detail the work of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership, including partnership working with statutory and non-statutory partners and our communities.

Councillor Nicky Brennan – Chair, Birmingham Community Safety Partnership

¹ [Corporate Plan | Birmingham City Council](#)

2. Introduction

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).

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 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.

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 re-offending by adults and young people.
- Manage the ASB Case Review.
- Commission Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- To work in partnership to reduce serious violence – new duty came into effect in January 2023 and involves the introduction of an Offensive Weapon Homicide Review.
- Consult and engage with the community.

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. The BCSP are leading on the development of a Violence Against Woman and Girls Strategy.

The BCSP Executive Board is accountable for the work of the BCSP. Four thematic groups have been established to co-ordinate activity around each of the priorities above. Each thematic group is 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.

As part of the governance of the BCSP, there are six Local Community Safety Partnerships Groups (LCSPs) which help co-ordinate tactical and operational activity in neighbourhoods.

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 2022-2023 for the BCSP to

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support its work programme. All projects delivered through this funding were aligned with the OPCC priorities, as well as the BCSP priorities. The OPCC and the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) also commission services and projects. The BCSP are linked in to both the VRP and OPCC to ensure collaborative working and reduce duplication.

Birmingham City Council hosts the BCSP and Councillor Nicky Brennan, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities, is Chair of the Executive Board. Chief Superintendent Richard North, NPU Commander West Midlands Police acts as Vice-Chair of the Executive Board.

3. Birmingham Context

3.1 Birmingham Context

Birmingham has a population of 1.15 million people, forecasted to increase by 7.7% by 2032, Birmingham is the second largest city in the country and the largest single Local Authority. The size of our city brings about its own challenges and complexities, and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis has led to an increase in the number of vulnerable individuals and households who face significant challenges. It is often the case that vulnerabilities and societal factors can combine to increase the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour to exist.

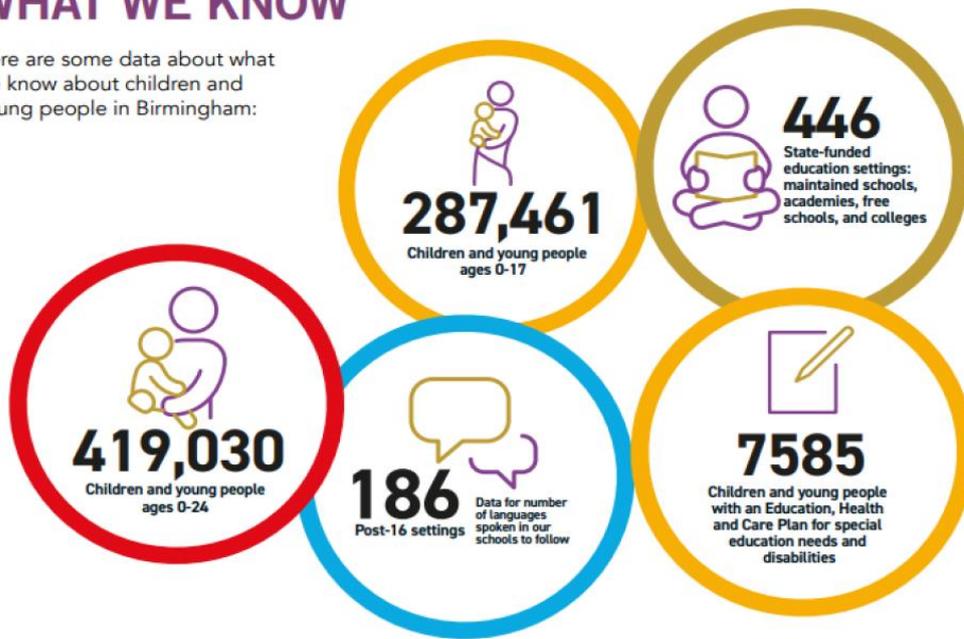
The city is made up of areas which are both the 10% most deprived and 10% least deprived areas in England. Under-25s account for nearly 40% of the population.



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WHAT WE KNOW

Here are some data about what we know about children and young people in Birmingham:



3.2 Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Violence

During Quarter 1: April to June 2023, and Quarter 2: July to September 2023 several measures have displayed a reduction. 17/18 out of 22 measures including Total Recorded Crime have decreased.

Yearly comparisons continue to show a reduction in violence-related offences. Despite a reduction in total recorded crime, offences related to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents, theft from shop/ stall and theft (other) have recorded increases on both a yearly and quarterly basis.

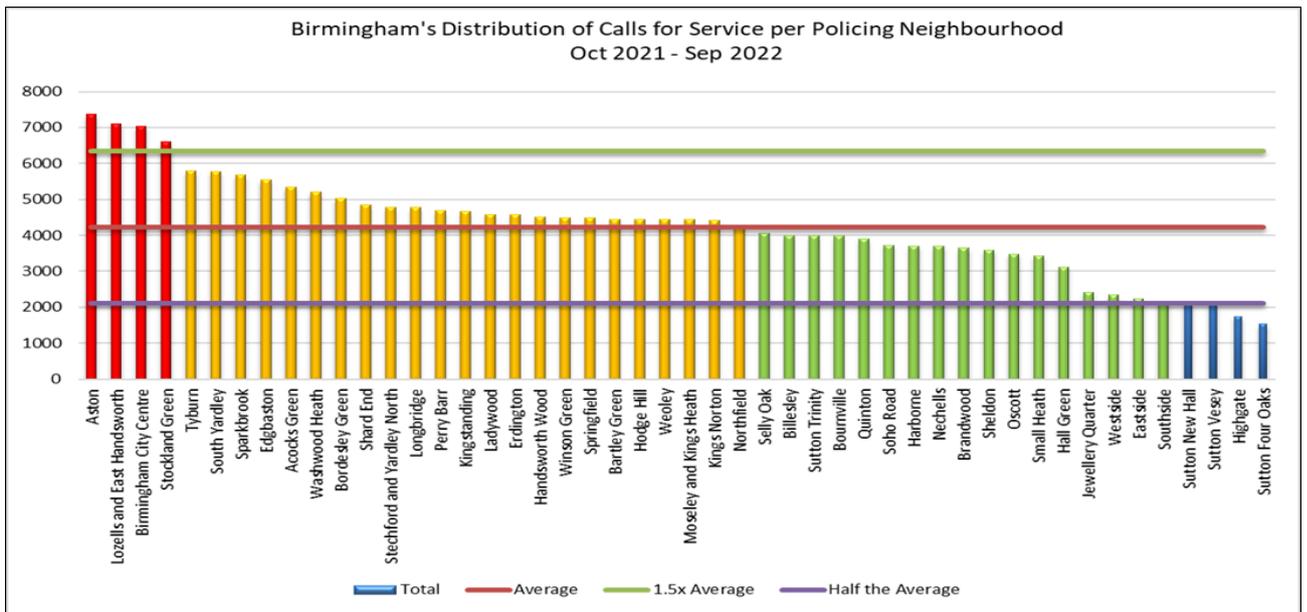
Violence-related offences have sharply decreased by comparison to last year and have continued to display a downward trend in both Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2023/24.

The yearly and quarterly comparisons highlight continued reductions in Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime.

Measure (All crime figures are based on Date Recorded)	Q2 Jul - Sep 2022	Q2 Jul - Sep 2023	Q1 Apr - Jun 2023	YTD 2023/24 (Apr 23 - Mar 24)	YTD 2022/23 (Apr 22 - Mar 23)	Year Difference & Direction (2022/23 v 2023/24)			iQuanta Grouping (12 months ending Jul 2023) Most Similar Group = 15 in total			
						Difference	% Difference	Travel	MSG Rank	Group Rate/1000	Birmingham Rate/1000	WMP Rank
Total Recorded Crime	41,880	36,302	37,994	74,296	82,757	-8,461	-11.3%	↓	10	137.919	137.175	7
Theft from Shop/ Stall	1,479	2,146	2,073	4,219	2,948	+1,271	+30.1%	↑	5	9.616	6.912	5
Theft from Motor Vehicle	2,207	1,588	1,728	3,316	3,985	-669	-16.7%	↓	13	4.650	6.957	6
Theft of Motor Vehicle	1,498	1,196	1,216	2,412	2,842	-430	-15.1%	↓	13	3.221	5.229	4
Theft Other	1,554	1,594	1,583	3,177	3,041	+136	+5.1%	↑	8	10.773	10.504	7
Violence Against the Person	17,396	14,866	15,908	30,845	34,877	-4,032	-11.5%	↓	12	53.352	56.501	7
Violence with Injury	4,652	4,215	4,478	8,693	9,317	-624	-6.6%	↓	11	14.781	15.126	7
Violence with Injury under 25 (non-DA) (Serious Youth Violence)	885	790	942	1,732	1,911	-179	-9.3%	↓				
Assault Occasion ABH	2,629	2,363	2,590	4,953	5,305	-352	-6.6%	↓				
Common Assault	5,037	4,852	4,805	9,657	9,880	-223	-2.2%	↓				
Drug Offences	1,041	956	833	1,789	2,001	-212	-10.5%	↓	6	4.649	3.267	6

Deliberate Fires (WMFS)	No data available	N/A	NB: No data available from WMFS due to change in IT systems.									
Honour Based Abuse	72	32	42	74	134	-60	-81%	↓				
Female Genital Mutilation	1	1	0	1	1	0	0%	↔				
Modern Slavery	121	59	59	118	209	-91	-43%	↓				
Forced Marriage	2	6	7	3	13	-10	-59%	↓				
Knife Crime	904	817	910	1,727	1,809	-82	-4.5%	↓				
Robbery (Personal)	1,008	1,029	1,111	2,140	2,025	-115	-5.3%	↓	15	1.869	3.758	7
Burglary Residential	1,342	1,315	1,216	2,531	2,538	-7	-0.2%	↓	Per 1,000 Households			
									11	2.855	3.824	7
Domestic Abuse (Crime)	7,155	6,051	6,159	12,210	14,319	-1,873	-9.9%	↓				
Hate Crime	1,225	1,189	1,509	2,414	2,926	-512	-21%	↓	Racially / Religiously aggravated offences			
									12	2.228	3.086	7
ASB Incidents	2,493	3,332	2,951	6,283	5,143	+1,140	+22%	↑				
ASB Non-Crime Investigations	601	498	493	991	1,191	-200	-16.7%	↓				

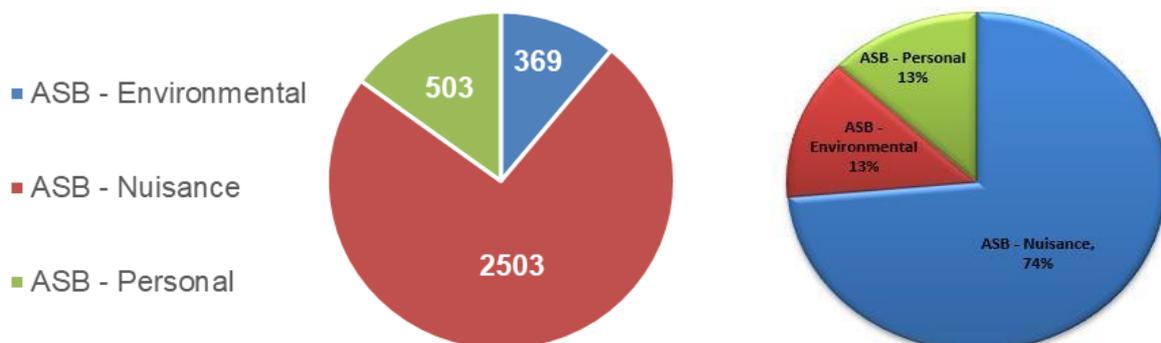
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ASB increased significantly during Quarter 1 (2023/24) notably, for the first time since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. ASB continues to rise in Quarter 2 (2023/24) with an increase of 22% (1,140 incidents) compared to Quarter 2 of 2022/23 and a rise of 381 incidents since Quarter 1 of this year.

The largest increases occurred in July, followed by September and August. This correlates with the WMP seasonality profile which indicates that ASB is highly likely to increase during the Spring and Summer months April to August due to the warmer weather, although this does not fully explain the substantial rise during this calendar year, the majority related to general ASB and disorder. It is likely recent rises in ASB are linked with prevailing economic trends as families struggle with the increasing cost of living.

The highest number of reported incidents occurred in the neighbourhoods of Lozells and East Handsworth (152 incidents), Ladywood (132) and South Yardley (125). Incidents were primarily classified as ASB Nuisance accounting for 74% (2,503) of all incidents.



3.3 Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Governance

The BCSP has 4 thematic groups, these are partnership groups that help to discharge the statutory duties of the BCSP. Each thematic group leads on the statutory responsibilities appropriate within their theme and associated priorities agreed upon by the BCSP. A list of the projects and commissioned services that support the thematic work is provided in section 3 of this report.



The Contextual Safeguarding Board, Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, Youth Justice Board and Prevent Board also help to discharge key statutory duties linked to community safety.

4. Birmingham Community Safety Team Activities 2022/23

4.1 Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

The PSPO was introduced in the ASB Act 2014 (amended in March 2023) 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.

The Birmingham Community Safety Team (BCST) have 3 currently active PSPOs in place, these are:

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- I. Erdington High Street – conditions include an alcohol restriction area, groups gathering and being in possession of intoxicating substances.
- II. City Centre - Groups causing Anti-Social behaviour, being under the influence of intoxicating substances 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.

In the past 12 months there have been 178 breaches. 27 breaches from Erdington High Street, 4 from Station Road Clinic and 147 have been within the City Centre.

At the time of writing there are 2 PSPO applications pending for Soho, Lozells and East Handsworth (consultation ends on 29th October 23) and Moseley and Kings Heath, consultation has been completed responses are being reviewed, with a view to implement. Both PSPO have had positive responses from the consultation, and we are in the process of implementation.

It is also worth noting that there are 2 PSPO's in place for dog fouling and noise related ASB in the city centre that are managed by the Regulations and Enforcement Division of the Council.

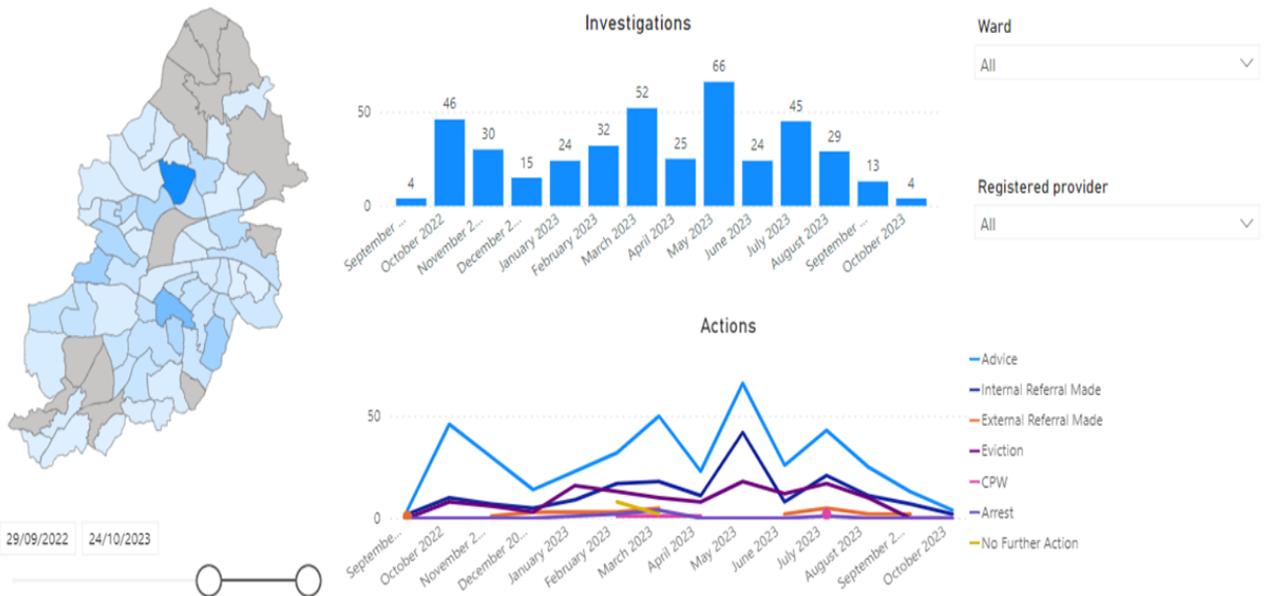
4.2 Supported Housing Project

The Community Safety Team are working in partnership with BCC City Housing, Adult Social Care, Planning and the Housing Benefit team 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 community safety team to work very closely with the West Midlands Serious and Organised Crime Team.

In the past 12 months, the Community Safety Team have carried out 839 visits/inspections with partners, in addition to 409 investigations, which have resulted in; 5 community protection warnings being issued, 121 evictions, and supported information that has led to 8 arrests and the decommissioning of 11 properties.

The Community Safety Team continue to manage a weekly partnership tasking meeting and introduced a weekly new business process and ASB policy for providers/landlords to use as part of their tenancy conditions.

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4.3 Partnership Street Tasking (PST)

The partnership street tasking (PST) receives 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 other options have been exhausted.

In the quarter 1 and 2 of 2023 the Community Safety Intervention Officers have:

- Dealt with 1,260 interactions.
- Completed 403 referrals to support services.
- Issued 122 warnings these include Community Protection Notices.
- Issued 6 Injunctions

All referrals to the PST 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 referral with agreed actions.

4.4 Operation Hercules

Operation Hercules is the operational name for the partnership work being delivered around car cruising in the West Midlands, the CST hold the responsibility for the Section 222 injunction. West Midlands Police carry out enforcement and the CST progress the breaches through Court. 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. In the past 12 months the BCST have attended Court several times to ensure the injunction remains, currently we have an interim injunction in place and have made a number of amendments and delivery activities based on the Courts request E.g. – advertising the order to satisfy the court request. The BCST continues to work with regional partners including West Midlands Police, Wolverhampton LA, Sandwell LA, and Dudley LA including their legal departments and West Midlands Fire Service to deal with car cruising issues across the West Midlands. In the past 4 months the BCST have taken 4 people to court for breaching the order and have been successful with the Judge ordering sentences 28 days imprisonment suspended for 12 months and made to pay £1700 costs.

As part of the above partnership, we introduced a diversionary scheme which is based on the speed awareness approach. West Midlands Police carry out enforcement under Section 59 and/or S222 Injunction and offer the scheme instead of taking criminal action. They are referred to the Birmingham Community Safety Team where we manage the payment and booking for the course which is delivered by West Midlands Fire Service. To date 109 people have attended the course and this has generated an Op Hercules income of £5,450. Of the income received, 5% is given to charities and the remainder supports the ongoing partnership work under Op Hercules.

4.5 ASB Case Review

The ASB Case Review 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, feels that their complaint/report has not been dealt with appropriately. The threshold for a review 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 ASB Case Reviews 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, or directly to organisations E.g. Police, Local Authority, Registered Providers, to make changes in their policies or approaches to support victims of ASB.

Using the learning and feedback from applicants we have taken from the ASB Case Review cases in the past year, we have reviewed our process and have introduced a 7-stage process which has been highlighted as good practice by organisations like Janine Green ASB, Resolve and ASB Help and is being adopted by other local authority areas. The following shows the stages:

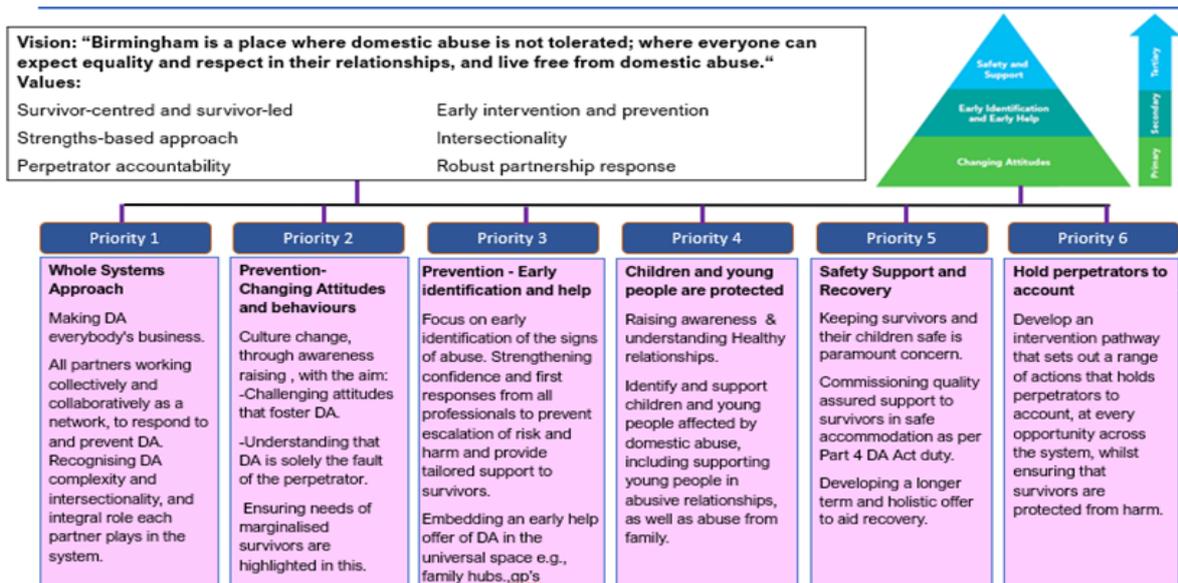
- Pre-assessment – notification is received. The application is contacted by a Community Safety Officer and a pre-assessment questionnaire is completed. The questionnaire is based on finding out what the applicant wants to resolve the issues.
- Stage 1 – Scoping. We reach out to all partners involved and request information. This includes advising the application of their point of contact within the Community Safety Team (all applicants are appointed their own case officer)
- Stage 2 – Threshold assessment is completed.
- Stage 3 – Panel meeting. This is done with an independent chair which we either commission or we have volunteers (volunteers must go through a recruitment process and we have developed a training pack) All panel members are also independent of the case, and we also have a representative from the ICB.
- Stage 4 – Customer satisfaction survey
- Stage 5 – Appeal.
- Stage 6 – On going monitoring. This may include the case being dealt with within one of our Local Community Safety Partnerships

4.6 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 2022/23 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. Since January 2023 we have supported 28 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.

4.7 Domestic Abuse

We continue to work in partnership at a strategic and local level to reduce domestic abuse and increase awareness. The six Local Community Safety Partnerships continue to focus on a partnership approach to dealing with offenders and supporting victims at a local level. We support and work in partnership with the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and the 6 priorities.



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. We have also developed a lived experiences group that provides support and guidance to ensure the VAWG Strategy is always victim/survivor focused.

4.8 Community Safety Locality working

The BCST manages 6 Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSP) Each LCSP meets monthly, and partners include – WM Police, who chair 4 of the six meetings, Registered Providers, who chair 2 of the meetings, WM Fire Services, Birmingham Children 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.

Following a review of the local partnerships which concluded in May 2023 a new term of reference is now in place, each LCSP has a monthly performance dashboard in place, have developed delivery plans and an escalation process is being developed.

The BCST has also secured Community Safety Intervention Officers (CSIO) in 2023 using internal and external funding to enhance the locality working. The role of these officers is to be the front-line community safety officer, to engage, intervene and work with communities but when needed they have the Community Safety devolved powers to enforce. We work in partnership with all existing Council services to offer a joined-up approach. The CSIO work on several functions across the team.

Locality Working

- 6 Local Community Safety Partnerships
- Problem solving partnership
- Place and People Based

CS Intervention Officers

- 2 City Centre (PCC)
- 3 Supported Housing (DLUHC)
- 2 Street Community (outside CC)
- 5 Patch based



4.9 Intervention Officers

Within the Community Safety Team, there are 3 intervention officers that operate within the city centre and selected areas outside 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, and Outreach Services.

In the past 12 months the Community Safety Intervention Officers have engage with 1820 individuals, which results in referrals to outreach and support services in the first instance, if ASB behaviour is problematic then the officer will use civil enforcement powers held within the Community Safety Team. In the past 12 months the Intervention Officers have issued:

- 91 warnings
- 18 Community Protection Notices
- 6 Injunctions.

The City Centre Intervention Officers also issue breaches of the city centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

Locality-based Community Safety Intervention Officers have only been in place since August 2023. They work within the priorities of the LCSP and have already had some good outcomes.

Working with partners and communities to reduce ASB in Fox Hollies Park, vandalism, off-road bikes, misuse of park facilities.

Northfield Highstreet and surrounding locations. Issues to be addressed -street community associations with increased. Shop thefts, Youth ASB, Street drinking. Arranged partnership ALL out days

Welsh House Farm: 3 drop-in residents meetings organised for Autumn/Winter; these are so tenants can come to us with any issues regarding ASB/housing.

Working with partners on priorities- robbery hotspots in Brookvale, Witton Lakes and Sutton Parade, sex workers at Wilton Market.

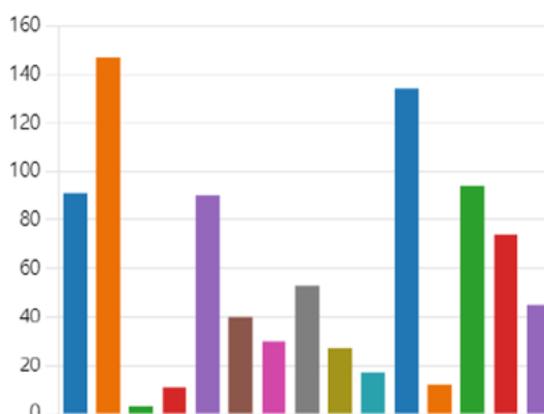
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4.10 Network Rail Community Safety Intervention Project

Due to the success of the Community Safety City Centre Intervention Officers Network Rail reached out to commission the team to deliver this service within New Street Station.

From the date of inception on 14th August 2023, the BCC Network Rail intervention officer has been well received and welcomed across the city centre by partners and the public using the Network rail facilities. During the pilot period, the officers have undergone training in administering Naloxone in cases of overdose within the Street Community, Personal Safety Training and Modern Slavery awareness. In total there have been 898 interventions since the start date of the project which have been recorded, the category of interactions are shown below.

Aggressive Behaviour	91
Begging	147
CPN Breach	3
CPW Breach	11
Drinking	90
Congregating in groups	40
Intimidation/Harassment	30
Loitering around shops	53
PSPO breach	27
Physical Abuse	17
Sleeping	134
Shop thefts	12
Under the influence	94
Verbal Abuse	74
Other (please email bhamcomsa...)	45



During 2022/23 the BCSP Board commissioned several interventions to support the BCSP priorities and delivery programmes. These are set out below.

The projects delivered are overseen by the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Board and monitored and evaluated within the thematic boards.

5. Thematic Group Activities 2022/23

5.1 Violence Reduction Board (VRB)



The VRB is chaired by West Midlands Police at Superintendent level. The projects commissioned reflect the priorities of the VRB board and support to discharge the statutory duties for the Community Safety Partnership Board

5.1.1 VRB Funded initiatives included:

- **Youth Inspector Programme** - delivered through Birmingham Children’s Trust EMPOWERU team. This programme worked with children and young people (13-18 years) from the local areas of Newtown/Lozells and Handsworth, directly impacted by serious youth violence and exploitation. The programme built on a successful youth engagement sessions (supported by the VRB) by delivering a new accredited youth leaders programme to empower children and young people to participate in the community, and solution drive initiatives for themselves by inspecting youth provision in the area, identifying any gaps and working with local services to respond to gaps through potentially commissioning new provision.
- The VRB sought to commission a single organisation to develop and deliver differing levels of training for a multiagency audience with a specific focus on **‘Supporting Girls and Young Women Affected by Gangs.’** The training would improve knowledge and skills, ensuring practitioners and community leaders understand how young women and girls are affected by gangs as they remain a hidden group in our communities. This would enable services to understand their experiences and enhance their ability to keep them safe, as well as improve the relationships between young women and professionals, through improved understanding.
- **South Birmingham Young Woman’s Group** - co-designed the programme and influenced issue-based discussions that impact their lives e.g., sexual health, healthy

living, self-worth, knife crime. The funding provided initially also assisted in ensuring that young people from surrounding areas of Druids Health and Kings Norton could attend the sessions; these young people are now travelling independently and attending regularly.

- **Youth Inspectors pilot Initiative** - The VRB provided funding to develop the Youth Inspector Programme delivered through EMPOWERU. This programme worked with children and young people (13-18 years) from the local areas of Newtown/Lozells and Handsworth directly impacted by serious youth violence and exploitation. The training was open to all children and young people and was intended to assist and build confidence by ensuring young people are equipped to share experiences and have a voice in meetings.

5.1.2 Proposals being developed and delivered include:

- In January 2023 the serious violence duty was introduced. The VRB has been working with partners to ensure we meet our statutory duties. This has resulted in the development of the **Birmingham Reducing Serious Violence Strategy**; and the **Birmingham Violence Problem Profile** being completed. This was used to formulate the information to develop the Birmingham Serious **Violence Strategic Needs Assessment Dashboard**. The VRB has also developed the Birmingham Delivery Plan 2023-2026, which will feed into the WMVRP Regional Serious Violence Strategy.
- **The STEP Together Programme** is a West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (WMVRP) led programme, originally funded as a pilot by the Home Office and the Youth Endowment Fund. The programme was launched in Birmingham in 2021, and places detached youth workers or ‘chaperones’ in busy areas, where lots of pupils commute to and from, acting as trusted adults and a point of contact. The programme has grown from initially 8 routes to a total of 11 routes by 2022. The VRB Commissioning Sub-Group will support the provision of youth engagement to young people on the journey to and from school. This would sustain some of the WMVRP Step Together routes beyond December when WMVRP funding ceases.
- **Preventing Root Causes of Youth Violence** – the VRB Commissioning Sub-Group will support local violence reduction projects through an open call to local organisations to deliver interventions between December 2023 and March 2024. The projects funded will need to include sustainability plan to continue the project as part of business of usual or a plan to acquire funding.

Supplementary activities and resources that complement the core curriculum within Alternative Provisions i.e. half term programmes. This holistic approach aims to enhance the educational experience for excluded children and promote their overall well-being.

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Through the WMVRP Birmingham Local Delivery budget the Community Safety VRB have worked to increase and enhance outreach work and activities within School holidays.

5.1.3 Offensive Weapon Homicide reviews

Since 1st April 2023, the community safety team have been leading the Offensive Weapon Homicide Review (OWHR) pilot, which is being delivered in Birmingham and Coventry. To date, we have received 6 Notification for Birmingham 4 of which have been commissioned 2 have been decommissioned due to not fitting the criteria, this rationale was produced by the RRP's (Relevant review partners) and accepted by the Home Office, and 4 which have been received in Coventry and all have been commissioned. Birmingham has by default become the lead agency alongside West Midlands Police for the Offensive Weapon Homicide Review pilot.

An offensive weapon is anything made or adapted to cause injury or is intended to be used as a weapon This may include, for example, knives, firearms, acids and other corrosives, glass bottles, bricks, and baseball bats. It captures items which are offensive per se (i.e., items made for the use of causing injury to the person, such as a butterfly knife), which are adapted for use (e.g., a bottle deliberately broken) and an items intended by the person who possesses it to use it to cause injury. The list set out here is not intended to be exhaustive, given the nature of the test in the definition. So far, the weapons that have been featured in OWHR are a Knife, machete, rope, scissors, gun, and cars.

The criteria set out in the legislation confirms that for a homicide to be considered for an OWHR the victim must be over 18. An alleged perpetrator can be included in a review at any age, including those under 18. Since April 2023 the Offensive Weapon Homicide Team have dealt with a few cases in which the Alleged Perpetrators are 18 years or below, the youngest being 16 and was on Home Detention Curfew.

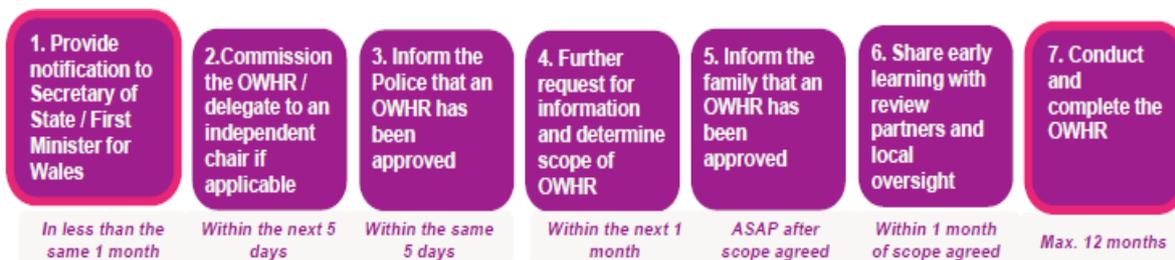
All cases within the OWHR Pilot have been commissioned by the home office and Authors have been appointed to each case and work closely with the Team. By the end of December 2023, all 8 Notifications that the Home Office has accepted and commissioned will have completed the first Panels and will meet the tight deadline set aside by the Home Office timeline.

There are 3 Main processes to follow when completing an OWHR:

1. ESTABLISHING OWHR APPLICABILITY



2. DELIVERING AN OWHR



3. FOLLOWING THE REVIEW



5.2 Protection People from Harm (PPfH)



The PPfH board is chaired by the Director for Nursing - Quality and Safeguarding within the NHS Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board (ICB). The projects commissioned reflect the priorities of the PPfH board and support to discharge the statutory duties for the Community Safety Partnership Board

5.2.1 Proposals being developed and delivered include:

- **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's)** - Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) – Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) came into effect in April 2011 under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victim Act 2004. Since then, Birmingham has received 63 notifications, currently we have 20 DHR's in progress.

Throughout 2023 we have reviewed the DHR process to ensure we are effective; part of this process has included working with the Home Office to trial a rapid review process. We have in place a well-established steering group chaired by a strategic director from the ICB.

In 2023 we have delivered 13 learning events, 11 virtual and 2 in person sessions. In total 290 people attended. A further 13 learning events are planned before April 2024.

- **Modern Slavery** - Within the Community Safety Team, there is a dedicated and externally funded Modern Slavery Coordinator (MSC). 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 support and is the point of contact for Birmingham City Council with regards to partnership related work. As part of this the MSC represents Birmingham at strategic forums across the region, including the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategic Board and the Local Authority Modern Slavery Leads forum.
 - Coordinator has provided second-tier advice for 57 individual cases.
 - Delivered training and input to 232 persons.
 - Prepared a first draft of a review and sustainability plan for the Modern Slavery Champion model. The draft has been shared with CST management for approval.
 - Prepared and delivered a presentation at the West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network meeting about the work undertaken within the LA Forum and Public Health Approach to modern slavery (Prevention Pillar).
 - Supports Adult Social Care with safeguarding enquiries relating to modern slavery.
- **Domestic Abuse** - Domestic Abuse, Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Engagement – the Community Safety team commissioned BSWAD to deliver a project to raise awareness, give 121 support to victims and increase of knowledge among professionals. Individual support is provided to women/victims which is tailored to their needs including health, psychological, housing, as well as legal and immigration support. This work is done in partnership with an NHS midwife with

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responsibility for FGM. Community Champions have now been recruited and trained offering support/advice and signposting in their neighbourhoods.

- **Hate Crime Partnership** – The partnership has over 80 members taking forward a comprehensive delivery and action plan. A 10-point plan was completed with regards to hate crime within the gay quarter, this delivery plan has been used in other night time economy locations.
- **Sex Worker Project** - Turnaround have been commissioned in 2023 and have delivered the first stage of the project which is to deliver training to professionals and front-line services with regards to the complex needs and reason people get involved within the sex worker trade. This is so that professional can better support.

The second part of the program works directly with the sex worker, assessing their needs and working to identify if they are victims of a crime E.g. modern slavery or if they are doing this work because of poverty or if it is their choice. The offer of support will be tailored to their needs.

The project brings in other partners to offer support or if needed enforcement. We work with communities to identify locations and assess the best approach.

5.3 Building Safer Neighbourhoods (BSN)



The BSN board is chaired by the BCC Strategic Director for City Operations. The projects commissioned reflect the priorities of the BSN board and support to discharge the statutory duties for the Community Safety Partnership Board.

5.3.1 Proposals being developed and delivered include:

- **Safer Streets 5 (SS5) Proposal** - The community safety team made application to SS fund and have been successful, receiving a grant for £333k. The funding will be used to increase safety in and around the city centre and developed projects that we can lift into other night-time economy (NTE) locations. The fund will enable the community safety team to increase Intervention Officers in the city centre, deliver training and awareness around women's safety in the NTE, increasing projects like Ask Angela. Increase the sex worker project and increase support for the business improvement districts (BID).
- **ASB Hotspot Pilot** - The community safety team are part of a west midlands pilot following the release of the Government ASB Action Plan. For Birmingham this brings in a grant of £220k for both 2023 and 2024. The pilot will focus on a joint approach to dealing with ASB in neighbourhoods. As part of the pilot the community safety team will be recruiting Intervention Officers and have commissioned BCC youth service to delivery outreach and engagement activities, west midlands police (who have also received funding) have dedicated officers. This mini team will work together in the identified locations, these being – Aston, Weoley, Billesley and Ladywood. These locations have been identified using BCC and Police ASB data and also BCC fly tipping data. Within these Wards we will be working within 26 hotspots.
- **Re-deployable CCTV** - The Community Safety Team currently have access to 11 re-deployable cameras and 2 automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) (ANPR are used exclusively for Op Hercules) cameras that are used in line with Government legislation to reduce the impact of Crime and ASB in a neighbourhood.
- **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 LCSP's and the Street Tasking Partnership use SEGWEB to introduce, manage, monitor, and take joint action against individuals and groups who are having an impact in a neighbourhood. In the first 2 quarters of 2023 106 new cases were opened.
- **ASB Case Review** - The BSN oversees and monitors the ASB case review process to ensure that all cases are dealt with within timescale and to ensure all partners are fully engaged. They monitor the outcome of the cases and make decisions on learning events. As needed services will be commissioned to deliver the learning events with a view to amend services approach and policies towards dealing with ASB and ensuring the victim is put first.

- **Community Resilience Framework** – The community safety team are leading on developing a community resilience framework. Using guidance for the locality agenda and working with communities, the BCSP want to introduce a framework that all partners adopt when working with communities in local areas to ensure that they are at the heart of the work we do and help shape and influence the outcomes achieved for each locality. The community safety team have introduced a community reference group to support this project and have commissioned external services to bring the information from wider communities together.

4.5 Reducing Offending



The Reducing Offending board is chaired by the Head of Birmingham Partnerships for the West Midlands Probation Service. The projects commissioned reflect the priorities of the BSN board and support to discharge the statutory duties for the Community Safety Partnership Board

The Reducing Offending Board is a newly formed thematic group, and their work plan has recently been signed off.

An early intervention and prevention approach to reduce offending has been developed. The draft recommendations were presented to the Community Safety Partnership Board in October 2023 are currently out for consultation amongst members of the Reducing Offending Board. This will form the basis of the new Reducing Offending Strategy.

Preventative measures can reduce harm in a way that is superior to later interventions and achieves wider economic and social benefits. Despite this far too little is currently done to

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prevent crime and wider harm. The key reason why so many opportunities are currently missed is we lack a systemic approach to early intervention and prevention. This will form the projects and programmes being currently developed by the reducing offending board.

The reducing offending board will also be working with partners regarding the Victims and Prisoners Bill which is currently being discussed within the House of Commons. This will have implications for all BCSP thematic groups. This will place a new statutory duty on criminal justice bodies to help strengthen the rights of victims of crime and improve their treatment.

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