

Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

14 March 2024

Subject:	Implementation of Sandwell Community Safety Strategy 2022-26
Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board Chair:	Chief Superintendent - Kim Madill West Midlands Police
Director:	Alice Davey Director of Borough Economy
Contact Officer:	Tessa Mitchell Business Manager Community Safety & Resilience tessa_mitchell@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendation

- 1.1 To consider and comments upon the work undertaken to deliver on the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board's Community Safety Strategy 2022-26 which outlines the partnerships key priorities and direction of travel over these 5 years.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Sandwell's Community Safety Strategy is overseen by the multi-agency Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board (SSPPCB) who oversee the Boroughs approach to community safety. The Board adopted a new partnership strategy in 2022, which built upon the work of



the previous strategy, reinforced by feedback from residents obtained over the previous three years and Sandwell's annual strategic assessments.

2.2 The key priorities within the strategy are:

- The prevention of violence and exploitation
- Reducing offending, reoffending and serious organised crime
- Preventing crime & antisocial behaviour in our Neighbourhoods

2.3 The strategy also encompasses two other significant cross cutting themes: **tackling substance misuse to save lives and reduce crime**, aligned with the Government's new Drugs Strategy and **delivering on the new Serious Violence Duty**. The Duty is a key part of the Government's programme of work to prevent and reduce serious violence; taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focused on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence which requires a joined up holistic approach.

2.4 The golden thread running through all these priorities is our commitment to protecting and supporting vulnerable victims. We will deliver these priorities through adopting a public health approach, understanding that violence is preventable and identifying the reasons why people get drawn into crime. We will also support organisations to become trauma aware and embed such approaches into their practice and tackle these issues through the adoption of a 4 P Plan which aims to: prevent violence, abuse and exploitation; protect those affected; reduce harm and pursue those who perpetrate.

2.5 The strategy is driven through the work of the Boards 3 subgroups who oversee annual work plans which are regularly reviewed throughout the year and updated annually. This ensures the flexibility to predict and respond to any emerging trends in the fast paced and ever-changing arena that is community safety.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

The Sandwell Community Safety Strategy is a partnership approach developed through the SSPPCB so that all statutory partners were content that the contents aligned to their own individual agency strategies and plans. Please see how this aligns with the Sandwell LA corporate plan as below.

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on prevention of violence and exploitation • Reducing opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour • Multi-Agency support for children and families • Delivery of awareness and resilience building work in our schools.
	<p>People live well and age well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on tackling substance misuse • Community Engagement
	<p>Strong resilient communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place based tasking processes using evidence to focus on specific issues across each town • Community awareness work through our ASB, Community Safety and Prevent Teams • Tackling perpetrators • Building community capacity and resilience
	<p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of our CCTV stock to support community safety across our estates and towns

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 To ensure that the communities of Sandwell, feel safe, protected, and confident in their homes and neighbourhoods, it is important to take a comprehensive approach to community safety. This means working with a range of stakeholders, including residents, community groups, law enforcement agencies and all of the statutory partners listed in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to develop and implement effective strategies that



address crime and ASB across the Borough. Year to date (26/2/24), there has been a 5.52% decrease in total recorded crime in Sandwell, equivalent to 1,925 offences.

4.2 One important element of a comprehensive community safety strategy is community engagement. This involves listening to the concerns and priorities of residents and working together to develop solutions that address their needs. In developing the strategy, a range of engagement opportunities were undertaken which are referenced on p14 of the strategy including a resident survey. A further community safety survey was undertaken at the end of 2023 and results are currently being compiled. Residents were given a number of options and an opportunity to make comments. The initial comparisons between the two surveys are outlined below.

4.3 Respondents Top 5 Priorities were:

2021	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug dealing (10.7%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Littering/fly tipping (38%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth disorder (9.3%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Dealing (37%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burglary (7.4%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuisance Bikes (33%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent crime (7.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise Nuisance (32%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Littering/fly tipping (5.8%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of drugs in public places (27%)

4.4 Respondents thoughts on improving safety:

2021	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased police presence 91% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased police presence 95%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More CCTV (69.5%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More CCTV (73%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well maintained estates & streets (59.9%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well maintained estates and streets (61%).



4.5 Residents top 5 Concerns

2021	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ineffective response by authorities (23%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knife crime (70%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth crime and intimidation (15%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-social behaviour (67%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug dealing and use (10%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth violence involving under 25s (67%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No deterrence for crime (10%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuisance bikes (57%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime and ASB getting worse (6%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public place violence (57%)

Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this report show the work being done through the priority leads which aligns with the concerns highlighted in the most recent survey.

4.6 SHAPE Survey Results 2022: Sandwell's annual young person's survey revealed that their perception of Sandwell is adversely affected by high levels of crime and deprivation and that they were particularly concerned regarding gangs, youth violence, knife crime, drug and substance abuse, and bullying. The influence of social media and concerns about online safety were also notable points.

As a result of the above, a group of children who took part in the survey will be taking over a police meeting in March 2024 to discuss their concerns with the local police senior team and seek reassurance as to what is being done about their safety from a police perspective. Any learning will be shared with the wider partnership for any appropriate supportive or additional action by the partnership.

4.7 As well as formal surveys ongoing engagement takes place during the year through walkabouts, pop up events, feedback from partners via tasking and throughout the annual Safer 6 community safety campaign.

5.0 Priority 1: The Prevention of Violence and Exploitation (PoVE)

5.1 Tackling the significant challenges posed by violence and exploitation in



in Sandwell’s communities needs a multifaceted approach encompassing early intervention, robust response mechanisms and sustained prevention efforts. Integrated data-driven insights, community feedback and expert knowledge inform actions. This report outlines the key initiatives undertaken, the progress made, and the challenges encountered over the past year and the collaborative efforts undertaken with various partners, including law enforcement, health services, community organisations, and educational institutions, which are pivotal in creating safer, more resilient communities.

5.2 The following outlines the work undertaken demonstrating our commitment to safeguarding citizens and the ongoing adaptation to effectively address the dynamic landscape of violence and exploitation.

5.3 We Said, We Did

What we said	What we did
<p>Ensure robust, effective victims’ pathways, support and responses are in place</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rolled out Domestic Abuse and Modern Slavery strategies to strengthen victim support alongside the Child Exploitation Strategy focusing on early intervention. 2. Initiated Sexual Assault and Abuse Subgroup and integrated targeted responses for public place violence to provide comprehensive care. 3. Focused on disrupting County Lines and tackling exploitation through Organised Crime Group efforts and a collaborative approach to modern slavery. 4. Informed Serious Violence Strategy with insights from the Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) mock audit to enhance system-wide violence prevention. 5. Addressed safeguarding in out-of-school settings to reinforce the protection of young people from violence, abuse, and exploitation.



<p>Use data and analysis to develop an understanding of each type of violence, abuse and exploitation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Established enhanced data collection processes to capture a comprehensive understanding of violence, abuse, and exploitation patterns. 2. Developed new dashboards to effectively monitor and analyse trends in public place violence and school-reported incidents. 3. Launched specialised data tracking for domestic abuse and modern slavery, integrating insights into strategic planning. 4. Advanced the use of data visualisation tools to support the proactive identification and response to child exploitation cases. 5. Utilised data-driven insights from JTAI mock audits to refine strategies and bolster violence prevention initiatives.
<p>Understand and further embed a trauma informed approach</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Embedded trauma-informed care principles in responses to public place violence incidents 2. Prioritised a trauma-informed approach in domestic abuse and sexual assault cases for improved victim recovery 3. Working on adopting a regional public health approach to modern slavery and domestic abuse 4. Implemented trauma-informed and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) training, enhancing professional understanding and response.
<p>Ensure effective training is in place to continue to educate and raise awareness of violence, abuse and exploitation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Launched a comprehensive modern slavery training program and delivered diverse training sessions on child exploitation, domestic abuse, and sexual assault. 2. Executed the Safer 6 campaign to amplify public awareness of community safety issues. 3. Developed an annual communications plan to ensure consistent messaging on violence and exploitation prevention. 4. Issued regular newsletters focusing on community safety, Prevent, modern slavery, and domestic abuse.



5. Introduced a modern slavery blog to educate and update stakeholders on ongoing initiatives and best practices.

5.4 Violence Against the Person

The evidence shows that after declining for around a decade, homicide, knife crime and gun crime started rising again in 2014 across most police force areas in England and Wales. Some of this increase can be attributed to improved police recording of crime but some of the increases are thought to reflect a rise in offences involving knives and firearms. These increases have been accompanied by a slight shift towards younger victims and perpetrators, which highlights the importance of understanding potential indicators of serious violence learnt behaviours (SVLBs) especially at younger ages.

5.5 Key observations

- Year-to-date (to end of Q3) figures show a 2.4% overall reduction in violence with injury offences in Sandwell compared to the previous year.
- West Bromwich is registering the largest reduction in both volume and percentage violence with injury.
- Year to date (to end of Q3) knife crime incidents involving victims aged 10 to 17 decreased by 14.8%
- Year to date (up to end Q3) shows that knife crime involving victims and offenders aged 18 plus increased by 41 (21.5%) compared to last performance year (22/23)
- Year to date there has been an increase of 3 firearms offences (4.2%).
- Year to date there has been a decrease of 111 alcohol related violent offences (5.1%) compared to 2022/23
- Year to date 2043 young people have benefited from violence prevention activities through the VRP delivery grant

5.6 The Prevention of Violence and Exploitation (PoVE) plan in Sandwell has included several key initiatives focused on early intervention and prevention of knife and gun crime, as well as public place violence including:



- Collaboration with the Violence Reduction Partnership, including deploying a Community Navigator in Sandwell and allocation of significant funding for activities including Step Together Routes, Mentors in Violence Prevention, trauma-informed practice training and school holiday programs.
- Introduction of the 'Around Midnight' virtual training package in schools to tackle violence-related issues.
- Utilisation of OPCC Community Safety Funding for initiatives supporting young people at risk of offending including: specialist/tailored support with individuals who have previously offended; workshops with local schools highlighting the dangers and consequences of anti-social behaviour and knife crime; a multi-media programme which focuses on engaging and re-engaging disadvantaged and vulnerable young people from Sandwell Community Schools and a preventative mentoring programme for children who are showing signs of disengaging from education during Year 6 or are deemed at risk being exploited and/or drawn into violent acts or gang affiliation.
- Enhanced targeted youth services to more effectively meet the needs of young people.
- Implementation of the St Giles Violence Intervention Project in local A&E departments to connect with violence victims at crucial moments.
- Development and launch of Sandwell's Serious Violence Needs Assessment to guide strategic approaches to violence prevention. Sandwell's approach and assessment has been recognised as one of the best SNAs across the whole West Midlands area
- Improved presentation and utilisation of data and analysis for a detailed understanding of various forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation.
- Development and implementation of violence prevention plans specifically tailored for school environments.



- Public Health funded project work with boys with Afro-Caribbean heritage at risk of school exclusion, who are disproportionality represented in Sandwell's Youth Justice Service.
- A new schools and violence dashboard created to track violence reported by schools.

5.7 These initiatives will take time to embed and impact to reverse recent trends in relation to serious youth violence. However, the 2.4% reduction in violence with injury recorded so far this year and the 14.8% reduction in knife crime involving those under 17 are promising initial signs. Sandwell's Serious Violence Needs Assessment recognises that this focus must continue given the context in Sandwell and the prevalence of known drivers for violence across our communities including deprivation, homelessness, mental health, low educational attainment and substance misuse. Without this there is a risk that violence may increase for young people and wider society.

5.8 Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is a devastating crime that can have serious and long-lasting impacts on victims and their families. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has provided a new statutory definition of domestic abuse that includes a range of behaviours beyond physical violence. In Sandwell domestic abuse is a significant issue that affects a large number of people each year. According to recent statistics, around one-third of violence against the person offences and one-fifth of all homicides in the area are domestic abuse-related.

5.9 Key observations

- Year to date (23/24) has recorded a decrease of 547 reported DA offences (9.1%) compared to last year (22/23)
- Year to date to the end of Q3 877 cases have been referred to MARAC for high-risk multi-agency discussions
- 88 people have been supported so far this year through the sanctuary scheme
- There has been an increase in those supported year to date in refuge accommodation with such accommodation - 87 adults & 112 children ytd.



5.10 Tackling Domestic Abuse in Sandwell

Work to address domestic abuse across the Borough over the past year has included:

- Development and Implementation of Strategic Plans to address various aspects of domestic abuse within the community.
- Development of multi-agency implementation groups to oversee and review the effectiveness of actions being progressed aided by new data dashboards
- Incorporating domestic abuse concerns into the broader strategy for preventing serious violence in the community.
- Restructuring processes to enhance governance and coordination, such as the integration of the West Midlands Ending Male Violence Against Women (EMVAWG) Alliance into the West Midlands Community Safety Partnership.
- Aligning plans and strategies with a regional public health approach to comprehensively address domestic abuse from a public health perspective including building strong foundations through robust data, prevention and intervention, care and support, enforcement and criminal justice and establishing best practices.
- OPCC Community Safety Funding supports provision of A&E IDVA
- Significant progress in implementing the Delivery Plan for New Burdens Funding. This funding ensures that Sandwell MBC fulfils its statutory duty defined within Domestic Abuse 2021, ensuring that victims of domestic abuse have access to safe accommodation. Over the past year work has been undertaken to increase the availability and accessibility of safe housing options, providing survivors with a secure and supportive environment to rebuild their lives. This has been significantly supported through the implementation of the new 5-year refuge contract which came into place in February 2023. Occupancy rates are averaging 98%.
- In alignment with the Domestic Abuse Strategy and Implementation Plan, the partnership has commissioned community-based support services tailored to the specific needs of children who are victims of domestic abuse. These services are designed to provide specialised care and assistance, focusing on the safety, well-being, and recovery of these children. April 2023 saw the introduction of Flourishing Futures, which is the refreshed framework for children's services



commissioned to Black Country Women's Aid. To date 62 children have been referred to the services and have received a range of therapeutic and practical recovery interventions and support. Four families have completed the first 10-week Domestic Abuse Recovery Together (DART) programme, which is a nationally evaluated NSPCC programme of recovery.

- Coordination of the partnership response to Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), which were established on a statutory basis under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.
- During 23/24 3 DHR's have been progressing, each with an Independent Chair, commissioned via the LA. In addition, a joint learning panel and review is progressing for a fourth case, which is highlighting learning opportunities for working with and safeguarding adults with care and support needs, who are living with domestic abuse. Ensuring DHRs are undertaken is a statutory duty on the Local Authority and partners.
- The partnership remains committed to learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and using the insights gained to adapt policies and practices. This commitment aligns with legislative frameworks and best practices, ensuring continuous improvement in responding to domestic abuse cases and enhancing the protection and support offered to victims. The OPCC provides some funding for DHRs but following a change in guidelines bringing more tragic deaths into scope, the amount required is increasing and is currently presenting a pressure on the partnership and in particular the local authority. This is being followed up by DASP and the SSPPCB.
- Ongoing work regionally with the OPCC to revise the current MARAC processes and ensure that this provides a timely and holistic service to high-risk victims. MARAC demand has increased and waiting times had become an area of concern. A co-ordinated and robust partnership response has supported wait times to come down to no longer than 3 weeks to be heard, which is within expected guidelines.
- DA Perpetrator Needs Assessment completed and Sandwell chosen as pilot area for the Pathways to Change custody suite project focusing on support to change behaviour.
- Building a great awareness and understanding of child to parent abuse and suicides related to abuse.



- Ongoing partnership training provision regarding domestic abuse with 408 individuals' year to date accessing the wide range of training available from specialist providers.
- Ongoing awareness raising through regular publicity campaigns, Safer 6 and 16 Days of Action which included the Borough tour of the Quilt of Hope. The team are also exploring media via a local radio station following a recent DHR learning discussion.

5.11 Sexual Assault and Abuse

Sexual assault and abuse in Sandwell is a significant concern with local and national research indicating that the problem is increasing. The threat of child sexual abuse continues to rise, with two-thirds of cases occurring in family environments and only one in eight coming to the attention of authorities. The internet is a major contributor to the problem as it allows offenders to groom multiple victims simultaneously and can lead to contact abuse, the production of indecent images and extortion. Sexual offences are defined under the law of England and Wales and are a significant form of serious violence in a local area.

5.12 Key observations

- Year to date there has been a 9% increase in sexual offences reported

5.13 Tackling Sexual Abuse and Assault in Sandwell

Work to address sexual abuse and assault across the Borough over the past year has included:

- Implementation of Sexual Assault and Abuse Implementation Plan by a multi-agency group ensuring that objectives are met, barriers understood and adjustments made as needed
- The SAA are aligning the SAA plan with the regional public health approach, which focuses on building strong foundations, prevention & intervention, care & support, enforcement & criminal justice and establishing best practices.
- Sexual abuse and assault has been incorporated into the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) and the overall strategy for preventing



serious violence. Recognising gendered violence as a key driver of violence in communities, the strategy aims to address sexual abuse and assault as part of a comprehensive approach to reducing violence and ensuring individual safety.

- Respondents to Sandwell's Sexual Abuse and Assault Survey in 2021 said that they would feel safer through awareness raising & education, safe spaces and more visible security/police presence. Safer Streets 4 Funding has enabled new CCTV in Bearwood and the roll out of a Safe Spaces Scheme with businesses.
- BCWA provides the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service, which is dual funded by SMBC & OPCC. This service has seen a 38% increase in referrals year-to-date compared to the previous year, indicating a growing need for support for sexual assault survivors.
- Sandwell are currently the only West Midlands LA to fund ISVA services and this is something others are seeking to replicate. Feedback from the ICB & PCC colleagues highlights Sandwell as ahead of other LA's.

5.14 Modern Slavery

Modern slavery is a heinous crime that involves the exploitation of individuals through the use of force, fraud or coercion. Millions of people, including children and adults, fall victim to this global issue, which takes on various forms such as forced labour in agriculture, construction, manufacturing, commercial sectors, sexual exploitation and domestic servitude. In Sandwell, victims of modern slavery are often lured into situations of exploitation with false promises of good jobs or better lives, only to find themselves in conditions of debt bondage, unable to escape because they are made to believe that they owe their exploiters money. Other victims are forcibly taken or abducted and subjected to physical and emotional abuse.

5.15 Key observations

- In 2023, there were 205 modern slavery concerns reported, representing a 26% increase on the previous year.
- 277 potential victims were assessed and safeguarded
- 128 multi-agency visits were undertaken.
- 107 locations linked to modern slavery activities were disrupted.



- 63 individuals were referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for ongoing support.

5.16 Tackling Modern Slavery in Sandwell

Work to tackle modern slavery across the Borough over the past year has included:

- Operational work co-ordinated through Slavery and Human Trafficking Operational Partnership (SHOP) recognised regionally and nationally as a best practice exemplar.
- Improved training and capacity-building for frontline staff to identify and support victims effectively, Year to date, 38 training sessions delivered to 1254 individuals.
- Delivery of a wide range of modern slavery training programs to various stakeholders including Domiciliary care agencies, Housing, income management, safeguarding adult team, welfare rights, LGA, Human trafficking foundation.
- Collaboration across council departments involved in commissioning, procurement and contract management to ensure awareness and consistent approaches.
- Identification of significant concerns within the care sector and delivery of co-ordinated initiative to bring multiple agencies together to support exploited care workers and raise the profile of this sector nationally.
- Ongoing engagement with local communities, businesses and stakeholders in the fight against modern slavery. Examples include training domiciliary care workers to recognise and respond to modern slavery. Working with 'It's a Penalty' to develop a toolkit for universities to recognise and respond to modern slavery and delivered a workshop to faith leaders on modern slavery.
- Victim pathway and safeguarding responses for modern slavery reviewed and refreshed.
- Collaboration with the regional Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Board to adopt a public health approach.
- Strengthened and enhanced communication channels to raise awareness of modern slavery including the launch of a modern slavery newsletter and blog, which has already had over 1000 views.



- Development of resettlement pathways for survivors of modern slavery, working towards Trusted Assessor status with the Salvation Army.

5.17 Child Exploitation

Sandwell has taken a proactive approach to addressing child exploitation, particularly through its Horizons team, which is dedicated to working with young people who are at risk of or who have experienced exploitation.

5.18 Key observations

- Year-to-date Police figures indicate a 25% drop in CSE offences compared to the previous year.

5.19 Tackling Child Exploitation in Sandwell

- Ongoing work to increase professionals' confidence and competence in identifying and responding to child exploitation, abuse, and violence.
- Focus on early implementation of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for improved quality of referrals in potential exploitation cases.
- Agencies encouraged to collaborate and share information to better understand the scale and nature of criminal exploitation in Sandwell and the wider region.
- Successful embedding of an effective response around Operation Aidant and County Lines Intensification Weeks, involving regional and local coordination. Sandwell's work on this has been commended by WMP.
- Sandwell's partnership approach to County Lines recognised nationally for best practice award and partners have been to Westminster to be part of a panel around polices regarding exploitation, trafficking and county lines.
- Production of an outcome summary report showcasing efforts to address child exploitation and county lines issues.
- Collaboration with Border Force to enhance screening measures for new arrivals on care work visas.
- Support to services to recognise and respond to risks and vulnerabilities faced by young people at key transition points in their lives.
- Delivered an Exploitation Summit in October focusing on exploitation and transitions.



- Development and implementation of the Police Serious and Organised Crime Exchange (SOCEX) model, ensuring effective integration within Sandwell's exploitation hub.

6.0 Priority 2: Reducing Offending, Reoffending and Serious Organised Crime

6.1 Year to date (26/2/24) recorded crime in Sandwell is down by 5.2% equivalent

1925 offences. This section provides an overview of the work of the Boards subgroup to mitigate the impact of crime in Sandwell particularly focusing on the critical areas of offender management, reducing reoffending and disruption of serious organised criminal activities. These complex challenges are tackled through strategic interventions, innovative practices, and collaborative partnerships. It also provides insight into the successes achieved, the obstacles encountered and the lessons learned, providing a transparent overview of the partnerships ongoing commitment to reduce crime and enhance community resilience.

6.2 Multifaceted strategies are in place to support offenders on their path to rehabilitation, with an emphasis on preventing reoffending and providing sustainable solutions for integration back into society. Proactive measures are also in place to target and disrupt serious organised crime which are essential in ensuring public safety and community well-being.

6.3 The following outlines the work undertaken to create a safer environment for all those who live, work and visit Sandwell.

6.4 **We Said, We Did**

We said	We did
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Support offending pathways	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced inter-agency cooperation to streamline support services for offenders, ensuring cohesive rehabilitation pathways. 2. Implemented offender management programs with a focus on risk assessment and personalised intervention strategies. 3. Expanded access to education and employment opportunities as part of reintegration efforts for offenders. 4. Strengthened monitoring and support systems post-release to reduce recidivism and aid community re-entry.
Management of high-risk offenders and targeting of key cohorts to reduce rates and seriousness of offences committed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified and managed high-risk offenders through specialised interventions, reducing the rate and severity of offences. 2. Employed data-driven strategies to target key cohorts, using predictive analytics to prevent serious offences before they occur.
Continue to strengthen and develop partnership approaches around tackling serious organised crime	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthened partnerships with law enforcement, community organisations, and other agencies to combat serious organised crime more effectively. 2. Developed joint operational strategies and shared intelligence systems for a more cohesive and proactive approach to organised crime.
Confirming and being able to clearly articulate the Boroughs approach to prevention and diversion as it relates to youth crime	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Established a clear and articulated strategy for youth crime prevention, focusing on diversionary tactics and early intervention. 2. Implemented community-based programs and educational initiatives aimed at preventing youth engagement in criminal activities, promoting positive alternatives.

6.5 Reducing Adult Reoffending



Reducing reoffending sits at the heart of HM Prison and Probation Services work. Around 80% of people who receive cautions or convictions have offended before, so to cut crime, make communities safer and prevent people from becoming victims of crime, the focus needs to be on reducing reoffending.

6.6 The latest data from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) website, updated in October 2023 for the period January to December 2021, shows a decrease in the proportion of Sandwell offenders who reoffend with a 1.3 percentage point reduction compared to the previous year. Notably, the most significant reductions in reoffending rates were observed in the 45-49 years age group, which dropped from 15.9% to 7.7%, and in the 50+ age group, which decreased from 15.7% to 8.9%. This trend suggests effective measures in reducing reoffending, especially among older offenders.

6.7 **Table: Reoffending Rates Adults 18+**

Reduce re-offending of adults 18+	April to March		Jul to Jun		Oct to Sep		Jan to Dec	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
	23.6	18.1	22.5	17.3	20.8	17.5	19.3	18.0

6.8 **Tackling Adult Offending / Reoffending in Sandwell**

- It has been a difficult year for the Probation Service locally and nationally with significant resourcing issues, meaning the management of offenders has needed to be carefully prioritised according to risk through the implementation of a National Probation Prioritisation Framework. Positively there has been increased resourcing and a move to a full application of National Standards. With increasing numbers of Probation Officers being trained it is expected that the service will be fully staffed by December 2024
- Six large commissioned rehabilitative service contracts are available to support offenders accessing tailored interventions to address factors contributing to their offending, commonly known as pathways. These are: Accommodation; Women’s Services; Well-Being; Neurodiversity; Dependency & Recovery; Finance, Benefit & Debt. Each sees a



dedicated service offering intervention and support to reduce the associated offending risks.

- Successful launch of the Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 (CAS3) to provide paid accommodation for a set period, reducing homelessness and associated risks of crime, with an 85% success rate at 3 months. 11 bed spaces available, all of which are utilised.
- Accommodation at 3 months is over target at 81% compared to the 80% target, however there remain significant issues in housing offenders with a lack of suitable accommodation and this needs further focus and multi-agency cooperation to minimise the impact.
- Strong referrals to Substance Misuse providers, with ongoing work to strengthen referral processes for opiate users on probation.
- Collaboration with CF3 providers and the DWP to ensure offenders receive appropriate and targeted support as Education, Training, and Employment contracts wind down. Employment at 6 months 38% exceeding the national 30% target.
- Upcoming launch of the Reconnect Service to assist individuals leaving custody in accessing health services.
- New multi-agency Black Country Community Sentence Treatment Requirement Board established, chaired by the Head of Probation, focusing on increasing the numbers of offenders with alcohol, drug or mental health needs accessing appropriate treatment more quickly.
- Introduction of new Transitions Team with Probation focusing on 18–25-year-olds. This specialist young adult team continues to strengthen with focused interventions and positive processes in place to manage this cohort in line with evidenced best practice. A robust transitions process is in place from youth offending to adults and Probation Officer seconded support has been strengthened to provide further resilience.
- Community Payback continues to provide offenders who undertake community based projects.
- The supervised Probation caseload in Sandwell is 1001 and 807 in the community.
 - Of those, 359 are eligible for the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
 - 87 are jointly managed through the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) program.
 - There are also 409 individuals identified as domestic abuse perpetrators.



- Specialist Women’s Team created delivering services on a co-located basis with providers at Lanchard House. Women make up 12% of the statutory caseload.
- The government have announced a number of measures designed to ease the pressure on prison capacity and Probation locally are fully involved in helping to carefully manage this. More recently a scheme enabling some offenders to be released up to 18 days early has been extended to local prisons, so this will increase the number of Sandwell offenders who will be included in the cohorts.
- The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) system has been successfully implemented, providing targeted support to offenders at risk of reoffending. Fixed, Free and Flexible cohorts have clear definitions, ensuring tailored support for different groups. In January 24 210 individuals managed through IOM. 233 male and 23 females. The highest category were 57 DA perpetrators. The reoffending rate for those subject to IOM in Sandwell is 7%.
- Collaboration between the Police and Probation to establish a performance framework for IOM, measuring the cost of crime, reductions in offending rates, sentence compliance, and impact on reducing neighbourhood crime captured through annual updates.
- Successful commissioning of a Mental Health Nurse to work across IOM, starting in November 2023, with initial referrals and support provided.
- Acknowledgment of the strength of partnerships across Sandwell and ongoing exploration of opportunities for co-location
- Suite of nationally approved Structured Interventions and Toolkits have been implemented to address offending behaviour with offenders, to supplement Accredited Programmes
- Systems implemented to ensure speedy and effective information in relation to Domestic Abuse and Child Safeguarding checks between key partners.
- Implementation of new electronic monitoring scheme for offenders successfully launched in Sandwell. This incorporates a range of requirements including: Alcohol Monitoring on licence; Alcohol Abstinence Orders for Community Orders; GPS tags for Domestic Abuse perpetrators and licence conditions can now be varied to add GPS monitoring if needed to manage specific or increasing risks. The Acquisitive Crime Tag pilot continues and there are currently 21 individuals subject to this in Sandwell with mandated monitoring on release from prison for specific offences. The governmental appetite for



expanding the use of electronic monitoring is likely to increase especially with the pressures on prison capacity.

- Regular production of a comprehensive performance data set demonstrating Sandwell's strong performance compared to other West Midlands areas.

6.9 Reducing Youth Offending & Reoffending

6.10 The Sandwell Youth Justice Plan overseen by the Youth Justice Partnership Board focuses on early intervention and prevention for children and young people who are at risk of or who have already engaged in offending behaviour. This plan includes working with partners to identify and support vulnerable children, providing diversionary activities and restorative justice approaches, as well as providing targeted interventions for those who have already offended. The plan focuses on ensuring that the needs of children and young people are met, such as their educational and mental health needs, in order to reduce the likelihood of reoffending. Overall, the aim is to support children and young people to turn their lives around and to prevent them from becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

6.11 An analysis of the top ten young repeat offenders in Sandwell between April and June 2022 highlighted some important trends and issues related to serious violence and the need to support young people to reduce their offending. This included a recognition of the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach by agencies. Young people are often involved with several agencies including criminal justice, education, social care and health and agencies need to work together to address the underlying causes of offending behaviour and provide tailored and holistic support, to help young people turn their lives around and build positive futures.

6.12 Key Findings

- Offending profile: A high number of previous sentences and interventions, a prevalence of aggravated vehicle taking and knife possession are indicators of persistent and serious criminal behaviour among these young people. Criminal justice responses



alone may not be effective; a personalised, holistic approach is needed.

- Education profile: Low attendance and high exclusion rates suggest academic and behavioural challenges, increasing the risk of disengagement and further offending. Support to stay in education or training and to address underlying causes can reduce risks of offending and improve life outcomes.
- Social care profile: High referrals to social care, with child protection, children in care and exploitation indicating complex needs and vulnerability. Coordinated support should address physical, emotional and social needs as well as offending behaviour.
- Family life profile: High house moves, homelessness applications and anti-social behaviour reports, along with domestic abuse, suggest significant instability and trauma. Support to strengthen family relationships and address housing, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse can reduce the risk of further offending and improve well-being.
- Police profile: High intelligence, custody and crime logs, prevalence of weapons, knives, county lines and gang activity all indicate serious and violent criminal activity. Interventions should address not only offending behaviour but also broader social and environmental factors contributing to involvement in such activities.
- Violence profile: High prevalence of weapons, knives and violent offences including attempted murder and sexual offences indicate serious offending behaviour. Support should address underlying factors such as trauma, poverty and social exclusion and promote positive alternatives to violence and crime.

6.13 The latest figures from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) website, reflecting data up to December 2021, show a significant decrease in youth reoffending rates. The overall reduction was 9.2 percentage points compared to the previous year. Notably, the 10-14-year-old cohort saw a decrease from 8.3% to 4.3%, and the 15-17-year-old group experienced a reduction from 29.5% to 20.3%. This data suggests effective progress in addressing youth reoffending, with both age groups showing notable improvements.

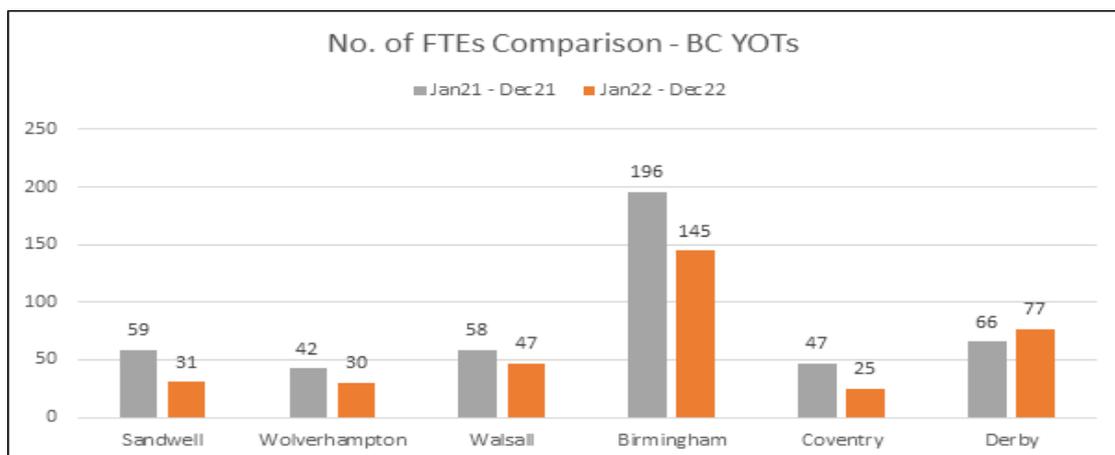


6.14 Table: Youth Reoffending Rates (10-17)

Reduce re-offending of youths aged 10-17yrs	April to March		Jul to Jun		Oct to Sep		Jan to Dec	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
	33.3	24.2	34.3	20.0	20.8	17.5	25.7	16.5

6.15 2022 has demonstrated a 51% reduction in first time entrants compared to 2021 – this is the largest reduction regionally. Sandwell is now lower than both the regional and national average – which is positive. The work of police colleagues in early help space and that of the Strengthening Families teams are all contributors toward this.

6.16 Table – Youth Justice First Time Entrants



6.17 While the number of young people involved with the Youth Justice Service is reducing (187 to 130) over the past two years the number of these that are then committing further offences is increasing. This has been recognised by the Youth Justice Partnership board that we now have a smaller number of more complex children within the Youth Justice space.



6.18 Tackling Youth Offending / Reoffending in Sandwell

- Ongoing review and development of Sandwell's Youth Justice Partnership Board Plan and alignment with new national KPIs introduced in April 2023
- Sandwell Youth Justice Team underwent a significant restructure to better meet the needs of young people.
- Launch of the Turnaround Prevention programme in Sandwell, an early intervention model to prevent youth offending through coordinated multi-agency work.
- Expansion and enhancement of mentoring programs to provide guidance and personalised support to individuals involved in offending.
- Ongoing research and analysis to identify root causes of upward trends in youth offending including exclusions and mental health with strategies being developed to address these.
- Increased referral rates to support services for individuals at risk of reoffending, streamlining access to critical support.
- Development and implementation of regional cross-agency opportunities to use a whole-system approach in working with girls / women and other priority groups.
- Ongoing work to tackle and address disproportionality in relation to young people sentenced to custody in Sandwell.

6.19 Serious Organised Crime

6.20 Serious organised crime is a complex and constantly evolving issue, making it difficult to provide a comprehensive overview of trends. Serious organised crime groups are involved in a range of criminal activities, including drug trafficking, firearms offences, fraud, money laundering, and human trafficking. As of January 2024, Sandwell had 7 mapped organised crime groups. West Midlands Police produce a Top 25 SOCEX Threat Grid. Within the top 25 threats Sandwell mapped OCG's occupy position 4 & 5, these OCG's are linked to Drugs, exploitation and firearms linked. Two unmapped OCG's which are linked to force operations occupy position 10 linked to organised immigration



crime and forced labour and position 17 Sexual exploitation and modern slavery and human trafficking.

6.21 Tackling Serious Organised Crime in Sandwell

A range of work has been undertaken by the partnership to tackle organised crime effectively over the past year including:

- Ensuring the consistent delivery of Consequence Management Meetings (CMM) across the region involving all relevant partnership agencies.
- Enhanced regular meetings between local police, local authorities, third sector organisations and community groups for intelligence sharing and coordinated responses. This partnership OCG meeting supported by the strategic RRSOC meeting supports the partnership working around this agenda. There is also child exploitation meeting structure which supports this workstream.
- Joint training and awareness-raising activities undertaken with wider partner agencies to increase knowledge of serious organised crime.
- Joint approaches developed and implemented to prevent and disrupt serious organised crime, including specific targeting and diversionary interventions to disrupt and dismantle serious organised crime networks using intelligence-led approaches.
- The operational activity focus remains a priority around Firearms enabled OCG's. There has been an increase for this period around intelligence linked to organised immigration crime and partners work together to ensure plans around safeguarding and suppression are put in place.
- Sandwell Partnership work around County Lines Intensification Weeks continues to be strong. During 2023 there were two Partnership driven County Line Intensification Weeks in Sandwell (March & October). The outcomes from the police were:-
 - Warrants x 16
 - Arrests x 28 (including work at out of force county line locations)
 - Cannabis plants/ and cannabis recovered - £592,200
 - Class A recovered- £20,610 plus (and 2 blocks of Class A, unknown value at this time)
 - Weapon Recovery: 1 x taser; 14 x combat knives; 1 x sword; 9 x large Machetes; 1 x knuckle duster; 1 x small knife & 1 x baseball bat
 - OM OCG Prison visit x 3



- Safer travel op x1
- Cranstoun referrals x 5
- School and adult input- 3,244 Total Adults and Pupils presented to around county lines risks
- ANPR Ops x 4
- Burner phones seized x 5
- Car seized x 1
- Stop Search - 17
- Offending Management visits - 14
- Offender Management visits to potential Cuckoo address x 19
- Research and analysis undertaken to better understand the nature and scope of serious organised crime, including root causes, key players, tactics and emerging trends.
- Effective victim support and recovery services established, including physical and emotional support, legal advice and practical assistance.
- Partnerships with local businesses and communities strengthened to reduce demand for organised crime, raise awareness of its harm and promote legitimate economic activity.
- Evidence-based best practices in tackling serious organised crime researched and shared through the development and implementation of training programs for partners on prevention and response.
- Established evaluation frameworks put in place to measure intervention effectiveness.
- Since the setting up of the WMP SOCEX team at end of 2020, this team alone (which started small but is now approx. 1 Sgt and 6 officers) have been directly responsible for improved performance and intelligence and over 100 arrests of people linked to OCG. Executed 45 warrants relating to drugs, firearms and evidential searches and recovered 7 viable firearms more than 100 rounds of ammunition. Officers have also seized significant amounts of cash and drugs.

RRSOC will continue to drive and develop all this work over the forthcoming year.

7.0 **Priority 3: Preventing Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour in our Neighbourhoods**

7.1 The strategic approach to addressing and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour within Sandwell's communities is driven through Borough Tasking and supported through Town Tasking.



7.2 Various initiatives and measures that have been put into place to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour during the year include community policing strategies, engagement activities, educational programs, and partnership work with local organisations and residents. This approach is not only reactive but also proactive, aiming to address the root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour and to create an environment where such activities are less likely to occur. Place based initiatives bring together other work from both PoVE and RRSOC and ensure that across Sandwell there is an holistic and joined up approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and cooperation to make our neighbourhoods safer and more enjoyable places to live.

7.3 Some of the highlights and achievements in this area of work, detailing ongoing efforts to improve community safety are outlined below:

7.4 **We Said, We Did**

What we said	What we did
Increase community awareness of how to prevent crime and maintain and/or improve safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Successful hybrid partnership Safer 6 campaign with some 220 events across the 6 towns and a digital reach of 176,117 2. Successful delivery of Safer Streets Round 4 project which included significant engagement with the community and businesses to raise awareness and build resilience. Some 708 people engaged with between July 22 and Sept 23 including a partnership week of action in July and regular 'Cuppa with a Coppa' events now in place. 3. Introduction of a Safe Spaces Scheme in Bearwood High Street with local businesses 4. Safer Streets newsletter to inform residents of the improvements in Bearwood through the Safer Streets project



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Sandwell Council's website has been updated along with the community safety web pages 6. Regular articles in The Sandwell Herald newspaper 7. Regular CS Newsletter sent digitally to 15231 individuals 8. Creating Safe Community events with the Voluntary sector – last event 9th November focus on child exploitation/county lines and serious organised crime 9. Distribute community safety and crime prevention materials and resources on priority issues identified
<p>Strengthen our approaches to tackling ASB</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivery of Borough-wide plan to address nuisance bikes including joint visits, tenancy action and seizures, awareness raising, launch of new leaflets to promote quality reporting and introduction of target hardening measures in Tipton and Wednesbury. 2. 363 cases ytd managed by SMBCs ASB Team with significant enforcement actions undertaken including 3 evictions. 3. New CCTV installed in Bearwood as part of Safer Streets 4 project. 91 incidents captured ytd with 81 proactively captured by operators. 4. Operation Eternity implemented in Great Bridge introducing regular high visibility patrols by WMP and the LA to tackle crime and ASB in the area. 5. £500,000 Levelling Up Funding allocated to enhance tackle ASB in Wednesbury Town Centre and Friar Park including CCTV, nuisance bike inhibitors
<p>Embed and build upon our approaches to tackling hate crime</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1576 SMBC employees have completed hate crime training ytd 2. Increased awareness during National Hate Crime week through events and social media information



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1100 pupils attended hate crime awareness talks during National Hate Crime week 36 TPRC have undertaken refresher training and there are currently 42 up to date centres across Sandwell 14 reports of hate crime made to TRRC so far this year Renewed Sandwell Hate Crime Pledge signed by Council Leader and CEO
Better informed tasking and resource deployment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> New Bi Monthly reports provided by PILT analyst to inform tasking introduced in September. This enables the prioritisation and deployment of resources based on improved data and intelligence Daily plans implemented in Sandwell's impact areas, overlaying with violence hotspots, using a range of tactics, such as ANPR operations, drone deployments, BDO, passive drugs dogs, and warrants targeting OCGs and related violence
Enhance the community safety of our high-rise estates	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> CCTV systems upgrade Phases 1 & 2 completed. Phase 3 expansion to bring CCTV and Concierge services to all SMBCs high rise estate currently being tendered and expansion ongoing with intention to expand CCTV and concierge services to all blocks

7.5 Preventing and reducing crime and ASB cannot be tackled by one single agency but needs a multi-disciplined approach to provide a holistic response. By bringing partners together both strategically and operationally, there is a focus on problem solving and bringing together resources to prevent and tackle the issues at a local and boroughwide level.

7.6 This is achieved in Sandwell by partners coming together monthly through Borough Tasking and Town Tasking meetings where there is the



opportunity for partnership data and intelligence to be shared so that an appropriate and proportionate response can be coordinated.

7.7 The meetings are used to discuss community and place-based concerns, taking a partnership approach at an operational level to prevent or resolve issues. There is also a closed element to the meetings to discuss individual cases that may involve vulnerable victims or perpetrators. At the Borough Tasking meetings, the membership focuses on the impact areas and look at issues such as hate crime, community tensions, domestic abuse and the causes of crime in more detail.

7.8 Overall, the year-to-date figures indicate a significant increase of 29.7% in ASB incidents reported to WMP. The incidents were categorised as environmental, nuisance, and personal. Notably, five towns in Sandwell experienced an increase in ASB incidents, with Rowley Regis being the only town to record a decrease. Specific locations within towns like Wednesbury, Tipton, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Oldbury, and Rowley Regis were identified as top repeat locations for ASB incidents, involving various issues such as youth disturbances, aggressive behaviour, and neighbourhood disputes. Sandwell's ASB team have dealt with 363 new cases year to date and 2060 new incidents.

7.9 Tackling Crime and ASB in Sandwell

Some of the key achievements over the past year have included:

- 72 Town Tasking Meetings held and 12 Borough Taskings
- Delivery of Borough Hate Crime Plan including:
 - Development and ongoing support to 42 Third Party Reporting Centres across Sandwell
 - 11000 pupils attending Hate Crime Awareness sessions during National Hate Crime Week
 - 14 reports of Hate Crime made through TPRCs
 - Sandwell Hate Crime Pledge renewed and signed off by Council Leader and Chief Executive Officer
- Delivery of Boroughwide Nuisance Bikes Plan including:
- All out days in hotspot areas including seizure of bikes and tenancy warnings to those living in Council Properties



- Engagement with associated businesses including petrol stations and garages
- Introduction of new Force wide Bikes Team
- Use of CCTV in strategic locations to try and identify offenders
- Increased community awareness in relation to what to report and how
- Successful delivery of annual partnership Safer 6 Community Safety campaign including:
 - 220 events across Sandwell's 6 towns – double the number in 2022
 - Litter picks and ASB walkabouts in hotspots
 - Launch of Prevent Community Toolkit and National Referral Form
 - Fire Safety checks
 - Illegal Trading operations
 - Drug and Alcohols Service Awareness and engagement
 - Quilt of Hope tour of Borough to raise awareness of DA and services available
 - Crime Prevention Awareness
- Successful delivery of Safer Streets Round 4 Project in Bearwood incorporating:
 - CCTV installation on Bearwood High Street
 - Community and Business Engagement Officer to work with local residents and businesses on resilience and target hardening
 - Introduction of radio link and safe spaces schemes on Bearwood High Street
 - Transitions work in 2 primary schools
 - Targeted youth work in Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods
- Evidence based deployment of Sandwell's deployable camera stock
- Successful bid for £500,000 from Levelling Up in Wednesbury focused on community safety including:
 - New and expanded CCTV coverage in the town centre and Friar Park
 - Community and Business Engagement Officer to work with local residents and businesses on resilience and target hardening
 - Nuisance bike inhibitors and disruptors to be installed in Friar Park
- 24 /7 CCTV Control Room and Concierge Service
- Focus on Sandwell's 3 impact areas and partnership interventions
- Delivery of new 5 year Refuge contract which commenced in February 2023
- Q1-3 – 363 new ASB Cases dealt with in 2023-24 with outcomes including:



63 verbal / informal discussions; 94 Warning letters; 19 CPN Warnings & 6 CPNs; 3 Evictions; 11 Demotions and 11 NOSPs.

As can be seen there is a considerable focus on locality-based community safety and ensuring resources are deployed to maximise effectiveness using the available evidence.

8 Conclusion & Moving Forward

8.1 Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board has a statutory requirement under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, and subsequent legislative amendments, to develop and deliver a Partnership Plan which contains community safety priorities based on the current evidence base across the Borough of Sandwell. This strategy brings together this evidence base and sets the strategic direction for community safety across the Borough for 5 years subject to annual review

8.2 Community safety is an always evolving, complex huge multifaceted area. As can be seen significant partnership work has been undertaken across the partnership to deliver on the Sandwell's identified priorities as outlined in the Community Safety Strategy. An Annual Report will be provided to the Safer Sandwell Partnership and Police Board and updated 2024-25 PoVE / RRSOC and Tasking Plans have been developed with partners to build on the work outlined above and continue to progress work in relation to enhancing and strengthening community safety across Sandwell.

8.3 This will include:

- Embedding the new Serious Violence Strategy and local Delivery Plan
- Ongoing improvements to data provision and analysis to support the work of the partnership
- Delivery of the CS element of the Levelling Up Fund
- Delivery of Operation Eternity
- Working with the OPCC and other partners on the planned review of DHRs and MARAC
- Work with the Home Office and partners on the transition arrangements for Sandwell to no longer be a funded authority for Prevent from April 2026



- Support any planned changes coming from the national review of Community Safety Partnerships

8.4 As can be seen community safety requires effective partnerships with all partners accountable in supporting delivery to achieve Sandwell’s community safety vision of: **ensuring that the communities of Sandwell feel safe, protected and confident in their homes and neighbourhoods.**

9. Implications

Resources:	The Community Safety Strategy is a partnership plan utilising existing resources deployed in accordance with the priorities identified. When available partners will tap into additional funding streams to enhance capacity and provision.
Legal and Governance:	Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board has a statutory requirement under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, and subsequent legislative amendments, to develop and deliver a Partnership Plan which contains community safety priorities based on the current evidence base across the Borough of Sandwell.
Risk:	Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour through partnership working is central to the delivery of the Community Safety Strategy 2022-26 and Strategic Assessment 2020. This is business as usual and adheres to all individual partner required risk assessments and mitigations.
Equality:	An Equality Impact Assessment was completed as part of the strategy process with no negative implications recorded for protected groups. Tackling crime and disorder and enhancing community safety helps address disadvantage and disproportionality ensuring that the vulnerable are safeguarded and community resilience increased.
Health and Wellbeing:	Reducing and managing crime and anti-social behaviour, and protecting its victims has a positive impact on health and wellbeing.



	Engaging with and supporting people in relation to community safety and building resilience to prevent the most vulnerable becoming victims of crime and exploitation will also have a positive longer-term impact on their health and wellbeing.
Social Value	Engagement with local residents and strengthening civic pride. Provision of opportunities for involvement through volunteering, engagement and positive activities.
Climate Change:	Reducing neighbourhood crime and ASB can have a positive impact on local environments encouraging ownership, use and protection of green spaces.
Corporate Parenting:	The Community Safety Strategy includes a priority in relation to preventing exploitation and has a focus on preventing youth offending. Bringing partners together can provide additional support for children in care to reduce potential disadvantages and help strengthen Corporate Parenting.

6 Appendices

Appendix One – Sandwell Community Safety Strategy 2022-26

7 Background Papers

None.

