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# Community Safety Partnerships

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## 1. Introduction

This report seeks to inform the panel about the working relationship between the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Warwickshire and the Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) in the county; and in turn their collective relationship with Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board (SWPB).

The report sets out how the CSP's are constituted, what their legal responsibilities are, and the role the PCC has in relation to those functions. It includes commentary on how the PCC provides both resources and funding to support the work of the CSPs, which allows them to exercise their own judgement in prioritising and supporting activity to tackle local concerns, making use of their local knowledge. The report also highlights the benefits of closer partnership working between the CSPs.

## 2. Community Safety Partnerships

### 2.1 Key Legislation

The concept that local multi-agency partnership working was vital in preventing and reducing crime developed in the 1980s. Following a number of initiatives to create such partnerships voluntarily, they were placed on a statutory footing in 1998.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (**the Act**) is the primary legislation that sets out the statutory requirement for a local body of 'responsible authorities' to work together to 'formulate and implement strategies' in their local area. These bodies, formerly known in England as 'Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships' (CDRPs), are now known as 'Community Safety Partnerships' (CSPs).

The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 and Amendments 2010, 2011 and 2012 (**the Regulations**) are secondary legislation issued under the Act, which sets out a range of further statutory requirements in relation to the responsible authorities working together.

The following sections set out the main requirements under the Act and Regulations.

### 2.2 Responsible Authorities

Under the Act, the following bodies are designated as 'responsible authorities' in Warwickshire:

- The relevant district or borough council
- Warwickshire County Council
- Probation Service
- Chief Officer of Warwickshire Police
- Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority
- Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)

It should be noted that the PCC is **not** a responsible authority under the Act.

## 2.3 Geographic Area

The Act identifies the geographic area of responsibility for a CSP as being the relevant 'local government area', which it defines as:

- each separate district or borough area, or
- two or more district and borough areas who have combined together for the purpose.

For example, in Warwickshire, the geographic options under the Act include:

- 5 x CSPs: North Warwickshire Borough, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, Rugby Borough, Warwick District, and Stratford on Avon District
- 4 x CSPs: The current model of North Warwickshire Borough, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, Rugby Borough, and South Warwickshire (Warwick District and Stratford on Avon District combined)
- 3 x CSPs: North Warwickshire, East Warwickshire and South Warwickshire
- 2 x CSPs: North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire
- 1 x CSP: Warwickshire

The arrangement for a combined CSP for South Warwickshire is an example of where cross district collaboration can reduce duplication of effort and bureaucracy and at the strategic level but continue to allow local delivery on local district priorities at the operational level.

## 2.4 Strategies

The Act sets out the strategies that must be 'formulated and implemented' by a CSP as follows:

- a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder, including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment.
- a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances.
- a strategy for the reduction of re-offending
- a strategy for—
  - preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence (including as victims)
  - reducing instances of serious violence

These strategies are a legislative requirement. However, individual CSP's do not have to work in isolation on separate strategies where there is a shared vision. CSP's can collaborate together on a single strategic approach (a single strategy) but one that still allows for local delivery in accordance with local need.

### 3. CSP Strategy Group (i.e. CSP Strategic Boards)

The Regulations set out that for each CSP area there shall be a 'strategy group'. In Warwickshire the CSP strategy groups are each of the four CSP strategic boards (also known as CSP responsible authorities' groups).

The original 2007 Regulations set out a range of requirements about membership, attendance by district/borough council elected members who are portfolio holders, appointing a chair, meeting frequency, etc. However, these were simplified in the 2011 Amendments, which now set out that each CSP strategy group:

- shall prepare '**strategic assessments**'; and prepare and implement a '**partnership plan**' for the area.
- shall consist of two or more persons appointed by one or more of the responsible authorities in the area; and where there is more than one provider of probation services in the area, those providers shall jointly appoint one or more persons to the strategy group.
- may be attended by persons who represent co-operating and participating persons and bodies and such other persons as the strategy group invites (such as the PCC/OPCC).
- shall have in place arrangements governing the review of the expenditure of partnership monies and for assessing the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of such expenditure.
- shall have in place arrangements for the sharing of information between responsible authorities and shall prepare a protocol setting those out.

#### 3.1 Strategic Assessment

The Regulations set out that the CSP strategy group shall prepare a strategic assessment during each year, the purpose of which is to assist the group in revising its partnership plan. The Regulations identify the information to be considered in the strategic assessment and that it shall include for the area:

- a. an analysis of:
  - i. levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse
  - j. changes in those levels and patterns since previous assessment
  - k. why those changes have occurred
- b. the matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise
- c. the matters which the persons living and working in the area consider the responsible authorities should prioritise
- d. an assessment of the extent to which the partnership plan for the previous year has been implemented; and
- e. details of those matters that the CSP Strategic Board considers should be brought to the attention of the 'county strategy group' to assist it in exercising its functions (see 'County Strategy Group' below).

## 3.2 Partnership Plan

The Regulations set out how the strategy group (i.e. the CSP strategic board) shall:

1. Prepare a partnership plan for the area.
2. Revise the partnership plan before the start of each year, and;
3. When revising the partnership plan, consider the latest strategic assessment (as set out above) and community safety agreement (see below).

The Regulations determine that the partnership plan shall set out:

- a. the strategies required under the Act.
- b. the priorities identified in the latest strategic assessment.
- c. the steps the group considers necessary for the responsible authorities to take to implement the strategies and meet those priorities.
- d. how the group considers the responsible authorities should allocate and deploy their resources to implement those strategies and meet those priorities
- e. the steps each responsible authority shall take to measure its success in implementing the strategy and meeting those priorities.
- f. the steps the strategy group proposes to take during the year to comply with its other obligations under regulations including to:
  - i. obtain the views of persons and bodies who live or work in the area about levels of crime and priorities; including the holding of one or more public meetings during each year, attended by persons who hold a senior position within each of the responsible authorities.
  - ii. consult with as many different groups or persons likely to be affected by the implementation of the partnership plan, as possible.
  - iii. publish in the area a summary of the partnership plan in such form as it considers appropriate, having regard to the need to bring it to the attention of as many different groups or persons within the area as is reasonable.

The CSP strategy group must send a copy of the partnership plan to the PCC.

## 4. County Strategy Group (i.e. Safer Warwickshire)

The Regulations set out how, in addition to the arrangements for CSP strategy groups each county area must have a 'county strategy group'. In Warwickshire this group is Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board (SWPB).

The original 2007 Regulations set out a range of requirements about membership, attendance, appointing a chair, meeting frequency, etc. However, these were simplified in the 2011 Amendments, which now set out that the county strategy group (i.e. SWPB):

- shall be to prepare a **community safety agreement** for the county area on behalf of the responsible authorities in that county area.
- shall consist of two or more persons appointed by one or more of the responsible authorities in the county area.

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- may be attended by persons who represent co-operating and participating persons and bodies for the areas in the county area and such other persons as the county strategy group invites (such as the PCC/OPCC).

The Regulations set out how, in addition to the arrangements for local CSP strategy groups, each county area must have a 'county strategy group' whose function is to prepare a '**community safety agreement**' for the county area on behalf of the responsible authorities in that county area. In Warwickshire this group is Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board (SWPB).

### 4.1 Community Safety Agreement

The Regulations intend for the county strategy group to coordinate activity across two-tier areas on cross-cutting issues, formalising the role of the county council in supporting CSPs. The Regulations set out how this is to be achieved through the creation of a 'community safety agreement'.

The county strategy group (i.e SWPB) shall:

- before the end of each year, prepare a community safety agreement for that year.
- base the community safety agreement on the CSP strategic assessments for that year.

The community safety agreement shall identify:

- a. the ways in which the responsible authorities in the county area might more effectively implement the priorities set out in the CSP strategic assessments through coordinated or joint working; and
- b. how the responsible authorities in the county area might otherwise reduce reoffending, crime and disorder or combat substance misuse through coordinated or joint working.

A copy of the community safety agreement must be sent to the PCC.

## 5. The Police and Crime Commissioner

### 5.1 Key Legislation

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 gave a clear legal basis to the relationship between PCCs and CSPs, making amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and its Regulations. There are five key relationships enshrined in the legislation:

1. The PCC and CSP must have regard to each other's priorities within their plans and must act in co-operation with each other. This should encourage joint working on mutual priorities.
2. The PCC has a power of accountability over CSPs. They can call in representatives of CSPs in the force area to a meeting to discuss any strategy

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(or strategies) that the PCC may specify. The PCC can chair the meetings and may specify the descriptions and numbers of persons to attend (including, in particular, representatives of the responsible authorities).

3. Subject to certain conditions, the PCC can request a written report from CSPs on such matters connected with the exercise of their functions and may choose to arrange for the report to be published.
4. PCCs can approve mergers between CSPs (many in the country have already merged) but cannot instruct mergers.
5. PCCs can make grants to CSPs for the reduction of crime and disorder but are under no obligation to do so.

## 5.2 Working with CSPs

In practice, the PCC and their office needs to work closely with CSPs in order to deliver the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

In Warwickshire, the PCC or his deputy, and a member of his office, are invited as guests to each CSP Strategic Board and SWPB and seek to attend every meeting. This provides an excellent opportunity to identify shared concerns and priorities, and work collaboratively to seek solutions.

Members of the PCC's office also attend each CSP local delivery group (aka Operational Group) as guests, as well as the county Community Safety Officers Group (a meeting of Community Safety leads across the county). This further improves join up and collaboration on cross-cutting issues.

The PCC, his deputy, or a member of the PCC's office, also directly leads on, or provides close support and/or contribution to, the formulation and implementation of strategies that are required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, but which are overseen by other county partnership constructs. Examples include the Drugs & Alcohol Strategy, Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) strategy, Serious Violence Prevention Strategy, Hate Crime Strategy, and Exploitation Strategy.

## 5.3 Provision of Funding

### PCC direct funding

For a number of years, the PCC for Warwickshire has entered into a Partnership Agreement with Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to host a number of posts that provide direct support to CSPs, SWPB, and their constituent responsible authorities.

### Community Safety Coordinators

The PCC funds 2 x posts that are hosted within WCC's Community Safety Team.

These posts undertake a range of activities that directly supports the work of CSPs and the delivery of shared community safety priorities, including:

- Developing and delivering partnership projects, initiatives and events

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- Liaison with the OPCC, other WCC services and partner agencies, including the Police and District and Borough Councils, to ensure that initiatives are appropriately targeted and are consistent with agreed needs /objectives.
- Recording and carrying out activity on agreed delivery plans that support the identified shared priorities, providing regular updates and reports to the OPCC, WCC and key stakeholders as required.
- Working with the Business Community to develop and oversee the implementation of initiatives that will support the shared priorities, engaging with them to maintain links with the Police, Warwickshire Trading Standards, Local Enterprise Partnership, Federation of Small Businesses etc to empower their support.
- In line with the identified shared priorities, delivering presentations and training to a wide variety of audiences on a range of targeted crime issues and how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim.
- Working with partners to develop key messages, advice and campaigns appropriate for a range of vulnerable groups including young people, parents and older people, covering key issues under the identified shared priorities, such as cyber-enabled bullying, sexting, online harassment and abuse.
- Working with relevant Warwickshire Police specialist teams, such as their Cyber Crime Team, to monitor current and emerging trends both locally and nationally in relation to the shared priorities and provide a link on issues and concerns in order to identify and develop tool kits of appropriate preventative advice and information on how to report (for example, to Action Fraud).
- Providing direct assistance to victims, signposting them as necessary to national and local support services, information and guidance, and reporting pathways, thereby supporting them and strengthening communities.
- Working with Neighbourhood Watch and other third sector organisations as appropriate.
- Utilising/maintaining agreed websites that support the identified shared priorities (currently the Cyber Safe Warwickshire website and Business Watch website) and utilising related social media tools to promote relevant initiatives and campaigns.
- In collaboration with the OPCC and other partners, identifying and seeking external funding to support the work of the partnership projects and initiatives.
- Assist the OPCC in the evaluation of applications for grant funding made to the PCC to support related projects and initiatives.

Without the provision of PCC funding, the above activity would have to be incorporated into the normal business of the responsible authorities.



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### Community Safety Analysts

The PCC funds 1.4 Analyst posts (rising to 1.8 posts in April 2024). These posts are hosted within WCC's Business Intelligence unit and undertake a range of activity that directly supports the work of CSP's including:

- Annual strategic assessment process for each CSP, inc. carrying out of the Management of Risk (MORILE) process and review of new/emerging trends.
- Annual strategic assessment report with recommendations for each CSP.
- Monthly CSP Performance reports for each CSP Local Delivery Groups (aka Operational Groups).
- Quarterly CSP Performance reports for each CSP Strategic Board and attendance at board.
- Bespoke analytical reports on thematic issues for CSP Local Delivery Groups (aka Operational Groups) and Problem-Solving meetings, etc.
- Twice-yearly performance reporting for Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board and attendance at board.
- Quarterly performance/analytical reports, and bespoke analytical thematic reports, to the Domestic Abuse Steering Group and attendance at group.
- Quarterly performance/analytical reports, and bespoke analytical thematic reports for the VAWG Board, and attendance at board.
- Development of partnership datasets
- Analytical support to bids for national funding such as Safer Streets and support following successful bids to understand outcomes and impact.
- Development of various crime Power BI Dashboards and Profiler Tools
- Support to developing and reviewing the Community Safety Agreement
- Support to in relation to new licence applications for licensed premises
- Bespoke analytical reports on other thematic issues in support of shared community safety priorities
- Other ad-hoc support to CSP's and WCC Community Safety Team on local matters of priority and emerging issues.

In order to undertake the above analytical activity, it is necessary for the Community Safety Analysts to work closely with Warwickshire Police to obtain their data and crime statistics; as well as working collaboratively with the other responsible authorities to secure access to their relevant data sets.

Without the provision of PCC funding, the above activity would have to be incorporated into the normal business of the responsible authorities.

### 5.4 PCC grant funding

In addition to the above funded support, the PCC has, in every year of his tenure, supported local action by CSP's on shared community safety priorities, through access to an annual grant award. There is no legal obligation to do so, but the PCC recognises the importance of enabling local CSPs to exercise judgement about how best to address very local concerns using their local knowledge.

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From 2017/18 to 2023/24 (inclusive), the PCC has awarded the following total grant award amounts to each CSP:

• North Warwickshire CSP:	£181,769
• Nuneaton and Bedworth CSP:	£499,793
• Rugby CSP:	£160,618
• South Warwickshire CSP (Stratford):	£289,688
• South Warwickshire CSP (Warwick):	£275,840
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1,407,708</b>

In addition, the PCC has provided separate funding contributions for countywide activities that support action on shared community safety priorities, such as:

- funding for Domestic Homicide reviews (a statutory responsibility of CSPs)
- coordination of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Prevent (a statutory counter-terrorism duty that applies to the same CSP responsible authorities as well as other organisations)
- Anti-social behaviour collaboration
- Rural crime

## 5.5 National Funding

Over many years the PCC's office has worked closely with WCC Community Safety, district/borough community safety teams, and CSP's more widely, to identify national funding streams and submit collaborative bids to support activity on local community safety priorities, further enabling local CSPs to address very local concerns using their local knowledge.

This collaborative approach has proved extremely successful, for example, resulting in the securing of **£1,603,010** from rounds 3, 4 and 5 of the Safer Streets Fund and **£605,185** from the Serious Violence Prevention Fund; additional funding that supports the reduction of crime and disorder in our local communities.

## 6. Future Developments

### 6.1 National CSP Review

In 2022, the Government published the findings from Part Two of its review of PCCs. The review found that, whilst the importance of local partnerships such as CSPs was widely acknowledged, they were not being used as effectively as they could be. The PCC Review recommended that the Home Office undertake a full review of CSPs across England and Wales to improve their transparency, accountability and effectiveness. The PCC Review made other recommendations relating to CSPs, including to examine the role of CSPs in relation to ASB and unpaid work.

The first part of the CSP Review was targeted consultation that focused on the accountability of CSPs and the role of CSPs and PCCs in tackling ASB. As locally

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elected bodies, PCCs set police and crime objectives for their area, and in the consultation, the Government was interested in exploring how greater focus can be brought to the delivery of those objectives, particularly by CSPs. In particular, the consultation focused on three elements.

1. Proposals to make changes to the current requirements of strategic assessments and partnership plans, including a requirement to publish them.
2. Whether PCCs should have greater access to assessments and plans published by CSPs to inform their own work.
3. Proposals to strengthen the accountability model of CSPs to align their work more closely to PCCs and deliver more effective outcomes for the public. This part of the consultation considered whether PCCs should review and make recommendations on CSPs' activity.

The PCC Review also included recommendations to consider introducing a new duty for CSPs to report on local ASB strategy and delivery to PCCs and whether the Government should legislate to set out the role of PCCs regarding the ASB Case Review (formerly known as the Community Trigger).

We await the outcome of the Governments review of CSP's and the related role of the PCC.

## 6.2 Improving local efficiency and effectiveness

As outlined above, successful, well-organised and meaningful collaboration, can bring dividends in the form of improved effectiveness, additional support, and better outcomes for local communities. However, if not effectively managed, collaborative working can come at the cost of increased demand, duplication of effort, and unnecessary bureaucracy, as well as complex and sometimes overlapping partnership arrangements.

At its very heart, community safety is a local issue. Every crime, however serious, takes place in a local community, often with local victims at the centre. Naturally then, local resources undertaking local activity is often the best form of intervention to reduce crime, support victims, and make communities feel safer.

The PCC's office is keen to continue working collaboratively to ensure an efficient and effective approach to community safety and compliance with the Act and Regulations.