

Annual Council – 23 May 2011

Walsall Community Safety Plan 2011 - 14

Service Area: Community Safety

Wards: All

1. Summary of report

Building a safer Walsall remains one of the top priorities for all who live and work in Walsall. The Community Safety Plan identifies the key strategic community safety priorities for the borough and indicates how agencies will work in partnership to address them.

This report provides background detail on the Walsall Community Safety Plan for 2011-14 which Council is recommended to approve.

2. Recommendations

That Council approve Walsall's Community Safety Plan 2011 – 14 (**attached**).

3. Background information

3.1 The Safer Walsall Partnership (SWP) is required to annually refresh its Community Safety Plan based on the findings of a comprehensive strategic assessment which uses data from across the partnership to provide a detailed analysis of crime and disorder issues in the borough.

3.2 The plan details strategic priorities to be adopted by the partnership and will be the key community safety document for the borough linking to other strategic documents and plans. Following the latest strategic assessment the following priorities have been identified and approved by the SWP Board:

1. tackle violent crime - specific focus on domestic abuse, town centre violence and serious youth violence
2. tackle anti-social behaviour
3. address harm caused by drugs and alcohol misuse
4. community focus – addressing counter terrorism, community cohesion and public perceptions
5. tackle serious acquisitive crime – specific focus on reducing domestic burglary
6. reduce re offending – a cross cutting theme across all other priorities.

3.3 Delivery against these priorities will be achieved through a wide range of strategies and delivery plans of the council and its partners. Rather than detail each within the document and list individual actions, the Community Safety Plan indicates the link between each priority and the respective strategies and plans that will deliver

against them. The plan also recognises the important link between the priorities and the newly developed Area Plans.

- 3.4 It remains unclear at this time what the Government will require in respect of community safety plans in future years. With this in mind, and given the robust evidence which underpins the plan, it is proposed that this refreshed plan runs from 2011 – 2014. The partnership has recently appointed a new analyst and it is likely that a further borough wide strategic assessment will be completed later in the year. At this time it may be necessary to carry out a further refresh of the plan but it is anticipated that there will be little change to the identified strategic priorities and therefore that the key drivers of the plan will remain largely unchanged.

4. Resource considerations

- 4.1 The Government has now clarified the amount of funding to be allocated to Walsall for community safety (over and above mainstream service funding) and this has been allocated via a commissioning process to identified areas of need. However the plans and strategies detailed within the plan cover a wide range of services provided by the Council and partner agencies with the majority of activity being either mainstream funded or funded via other grants or allocations not directly allocated to community safety.

5. Citizen impact

Delivery against the priorities contained within the plan will benefit residents across the borough and make Walsall a safer, greener and cleaner place to live, work and visit.

6. Community safety

The Community Safety Plan is the key community safety document for the borough and links to other strategic documents and plans.

7. Environmental impact

By tackling priorities contained within the plan and in particular Anti-social Behaviour activities identified will have an environmental impact through reductions in signal and environmental crimes including criminal damage, graffiti and littering.

8. Performance and risk management issues

8.1 Risk:

Risks associated with delivery against the strategic priorities identified within the plan will be managed by the SWP Board and the individual agencies that make up the partnership.

8.2 Performance management:

The Government has abolished the Comprehensive Area Assessments, all existing Public Service Agreements and a significant number of the national Indicators from the National Indicator Set. This has notably included all perception targets including the single confidence measure. To date there has been little guidance from the centre as to the future direction of community safety and associated performance measures. In this context the partnership is currently in the process of developing a list of key measures that aim to track community safety outcomes aligned to the recent strategic assessment and the refreshed Community Safety Plan. Performance will be managed by the SWP Board.

9. Equality implications

The benefits of delivery against the plan will apply across the borough of Walsall although by adopting an evidence based approach the greatest benefit should be felt in areas where identified problems are greatest.

10. Consultation

The plan has been subject to widespread consultation with agencies that make up Safer Walsall Partnership. It has been approved by the SWP Board and is due to be endorsed by the Walsall Partnership Board on 9 May 2011. These agencies include Walsall Council, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service, NHS Walsall and Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation.

Clive Wright
Walsall Partnership Director

13 May 2011



**WALSALL
COMMUNITY
SAFETY PLAN
2011 - 2014**

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Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, tackling alcohol and substance misuse, dealing effectively with environmental issues and increasing community reassurance to build a safer Walsall, are all essential if we are to make Walsall a safer place to live, work and visit.

The first Walsall Community Safety Plan 2008–11, was based on the comprehensive findings of a strategic assessment, highlighting strategic priorities across the partnership and the work to be undertaken to deliver against them. Dealing effectively with these issues is too much to expect of any single agency and over the last twelve months we have continued to demonstrate the success that can be achieved through partnership working. Crime has continued to fall every year since 2005 and in 09/10 Total Recorded Crime fell by a further 8.3% with Anti Social Behaviour (ASB), which has also seen yearly reductions, falling by 10.8% over the same period. These issues remain a priority for our communities in their Area Plans and we will strive to do whatever we can to make Walsall safer.

The Community Safety Partnership refreshes the Community Safety Plan annually to ensure that it accurately reflects and addresses the key priorities for Walsall, and in its third year, the review follows a new borough-wide strategic assessment, collating data and information from a broad spectrum of partners and stakeholders, to highlight those priorities on which the partnership must concentrate its activities over the coming months. This will ensure that these activities are directed by a sound and robust evidence base.

The Safer Walsall Partnership Board is responsible for collectively overseeing the delivery of this plan and coordinating the multi-agency activity required to deliver against it. We have built on the strong foundations of partnership laid out in the previous plan, whilst at the same time updating it so that it is as relevant as possible for Walsall today. This multi-agency plan has the full support of all partner agencies and outlines how we will continue to collectively contribute towards building a safer borough. In a time of increasing financial austerity, partners are also reviewing best use of scarce resources, emphasising new ways of pooling resources and working even more closely as we look forward. Over the period 2011-14 we will continue to shape the plan to maximise the outcomes for our communities.

The change in government has introduced a fresh look at community safety priorities and promises to introduce new crime and disorder tools and powers. In order to meet the new vision of a "Big Society" we must continue to work with our communities to empower them to take more responsibility to achieve fairness and opportunity for all and we need to listen to their views in shaping services. Tackling ASB will be key driver of this overall vision and we must work closely with our residents to achieve this.

Safer Walsall Partnership

Safer Walsall Partnership (SWP) comprises Walsall Council, West Midlands Police, NHS Walsall, Walsall Probation Service, West Midlands Fire Service and representatives from the Walsall Housing Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce and other key partner agencies. SWP is responsible for co-ordinating activity to make Walsall safer and to increase the level of community reassurance. SWP co-ordinates activity across the borough to improve community safety and reassurance, reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, alcohol and substance misuse and environmental crime. The Safer Walsall Partnership Board is responsible for collectively overseeing the delivery of the Community Safety Plan and co-ordinates the multi-agency activity that is required to deliver against it.

Community Safety Plan Priorities 2008 - 2011

Following an extensive borough-wide strategic assessment that utilised data from a range of partner agencies and extensive stakeholder and resident consultation the partnership identified the following strategic priorities for 2008–2011 in its first Community Safety Plan.

- Priority 1:** Tackle Volume Crime (Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour)
- Priority 2:** Tackle Acquisitive Crime (Burglary, Robbery, Vehicle Crime)
- Priority 3:** Address Harm caused by Drugs and Alcohol Misuse
- Priority 4:** Reduce the Fear of Crime
- Priority 5:** Reduce Crime and Disorder in High Crime Areas
- Priority 6:** Improve Community Cohesion and Social Inclusion

Community Safety Plan Priorities 2009/10 (year one refresh)

The Community Safety Plan was refreshed after year one. This followed a further strategic assessment and led to the adoption of the following strategic priorities for 2009/10.

- Priority 1:** Tackle Volume Crime (specific focus on Domestic Abuse and Town Centre Violence)
- Priority 2:** Tackle Anti Social Behaviour
- Priority 3:** Address Harm caused by Drugs and Alcohol Misuse

Priority 4: Improve Community Cohesion and reduce the Fear of Crime by Tackling Crime and Disorder in High Crime Areas

Our Achievements during 2009/10

Over the last twelve months the partnership has worked hard to achieve its community safety targets and has continued to deliver successfully. Crime has continued to fall year on year since 2005 and in 2009/10 total recorded crime fell by a further 8.3% which in real terms equates to 1,738 fewer offences. Our achievements as a partnership and over the last twelve months include the following:-

Crime Type	Achievements
Total Recorded Crime	8.3% ?
Serious Acquisitive Crime	9% ?
Anti-Social Behaviour	10.8% ?
Domestic Burglary	16.3%?
Burglary other building (including sheds, garages, shops, factories and schools)	8.4%?
Criminal Damage	15.4%?
Vehicle Crime	18.7%?
Violence Against the Person	4%?
Robbery	1.6%?
Deliberate Primary Fires	29%?
Deliberate Secondary Fires	7.6% ?
Drug Offences	1%?
Domestic Abuse Incidents	3% ?
	Criminal Damage 15.4% ?
Key: Green : Decreasing Red : Increasing	

(Figures taken from the borough Strategic Assessment 2010/11 for the period April 2009–March 2010 and are compared to the corresponding months of 2008/09)

Profile of Walsall Borough

Population

AREA	POPULATION
Walsall Total	255,900
Brownhills/Pelsall/Rushall/Shelfield	35,940
Aldridge/Streetly/Pheasey/Walsall Wood	49,580
Bloxwich/Blakenall/Birchills/Leamore St	51,510
Matthews/Paddock/Palfrey/Pleck	53,460
Willenhall/Short Heath	25,560
Darlaston/Bentley	38,440

Housing Tenure

64.7% of households in Walsall are living in owner occupied accommodation compared with a national average of 68.9%.

In some areas rented property is as high as nearly

Age Profile

- Children and young people (0-15) account for 20.9% of the overall population
- The working age population (16-64) accounts for 58.7% of the overall population
- The older population (65+) account for 20.4% of the overall population.

It is important to consider the age profile of the population in informing all community safety interventions. Evidence suggests that people aged 60+ are most likely to have a high fear of crime but are amongst the least likely to become a victim. Conversely people aged 14-25 are least fearful of crime but are most likely to become a victim. Age profile is most

Skills and Qualification

Walsall Borough has a much higher average population with no qualification (42.7%) compared with the national average (29.1%). The population of Walsall borough achieving four/five qualifications is at 11.1% well below the national average of 19.8%.

The educational qualification of an area affects not only the level of young people on the road to success but also issues

Ethnicity

According to the national census (2001), the black and minority ethnic population (none white ethnic groups) of Walsall Borough is 13.5%, compared to a 9.1% national average. The largest minority ethnic groups are black (1.4%) and Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi (10.5%). The latest ethnic population estimates (2007) suggest that Walsall's BME population has increased slightly since 2001.

It is important to note that these figures vary greatly by Partnership Area. None white group's account for only 4.4% in Aldridge/Streetly/ Pheasey/ Walsall Wood compared with 38.2% in St Matthews/ Paddock/ Palfrey/ Pleck. These figures are particularly important

Labour Market

Worklessness in Walsall has increased sharply as a result of the recent economic downturn. Between October 2007 and October 2009 the number of individuals claiming Jobseekers allowance rose by 3.8% to 7.5%. Since the start of 2010 the number of claimants has fallen to 6.1% which is still higher than the national average of 3.5%. It is of note that some parts of

Links with Other Strategies/Plans

In developing and refreshing Walsall's Community Safety Plan it is important that we consider other key strategic and delivery plans as these will inform delivery against the identified priorities. These include the following:

- Walsall's Sustainable Community Strategy
- Policing Strategy 2008–2011
- Walsall Council Corporate Plan 2010/11
- West Midlands Fire Service Plan 2010-13
- National Drug Strategy
- National Alcohol Strategy
- Youth Justice Plan
- Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Parenting Strategy
- Walsall's National Treatment Agency Plan
- Walsall's Alcohol Strategy
- Community Cohesion Strategy
- Voluntary Sector Strategy

Walsall Council Vision

Walsall councils corporate plan set out the councils overall vision for the borough of Walsall which is shared with all partners who make up Walsall Partnership.

The Councils [Corporate plan 2010/11](#) sets out the council's overall vision for the borough of Walsall which is shared with its partners on the Walsall Partnership. The council's vision looking ahead to the year 2021 is that which is set out in the Walsall Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy, that:

"Walsall will be a great place to live, work and invest, where...

- people get on well with one another
- people can get around easily and safely
- people support and look after one another
- there are more and better jobs for local people
- people can live an independent and healthy life
- there is a wide range of facilities for people to use and enjoy
- people consider the impact of what we do now on future generations
- there exist high quality and distinctive designs of buildings and spaces
- growing up is as good as it can be and young people fulfil their potential
- people are our strength and have the skills and attitude required by employers
- everyone has the chance to live in a home fit for their purpose and for the future

- people feel proud to live

The Corporate Plan also sets out the council's nine priorities that have been developed to ensure that the council focuses its efforts, resources and activities on this vision.

Eight of these priorities directly reflect the Sustainable Community Strategy's priority outcomes, whilst the ninth 'working smarter' reflects the council's commitment to make its own structures, processes, procedures and ways of working effective, and fit for the future. The successful delivery of these nine priorities will build pride in Walsall as a place to live and work. For 2010/11 the nine priorities are:

- Improving health
- Reducing crime and feeling safe
- Developing strong and dynamic communities
- Improving education and skills
- Improving housing choice
- Improving the quality of our environment
- Reducing worklessness and creating opportunity and potential
- Increasing enterprise and making Walsall a vibrant borough
- Working smarter

Area Partnerships

Following a review of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership structure Walsall has recently adopted a new Neighbourhood Management model under which the borough is divided into six Area Partnerships. These areas are largely in line with police boundaries and this model represents a new way in which to engage our communities and give residents a greater say in the way in which services are delivered locally. Each of the six areas has a designated Area Manager who has led on the development of an Area Plan approved by partners and the community.

Walsall Strategic Assessment 2010

The Government requires a strategic assessment of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and environmental crime to be undertaken annually. Safer Walsall Partnership has completed a fourth strategic assessment, which provides detailed analysis of the different crime and disorder issues in the borough.

- A strategic assessment brings together information from a range of agencies including the police, local authority, fire service, health and probation.

The key findings of the 2009/10 Strategic Assessment were Total Recorded Crime fell by 8.3% representing 1,738 fewer offences and continuing a year on year reduction since 2005. Anti-Social Behaviour, a key concern for local residents also fell by 10.8% over the same period. Key reductions have also occurred in Vehicle Crime, Business Crime and Criminal Damage. Serious Acquisitive Crime reduced by 9%

over the last year although this was due largely to the reductions in vehicle crime. The borough has however experienced a 16% increase in domestic burglary.

Feeling the Difference Survey

West Midlands Police is undertaking a large-scale survey programme exploring quality of life, reassurance and fear of crime issues. The aims of the survey include, measuring the effectiveness of policing strategies, to enhance the police understanding of the role of policing in quality of life and reassurance issues and to measure public perception of the police service and the way it currently polices communities.

The most recent findings come from Waves 21-24 (up to March 2010) of the Feeling the Difference Survey and draws comparisons between local authority areas in the West Midlands Police Region. The survey programme comprises 4 waves of research, with each wave being completed on a quarterly basis over a 12-month period.

Key Findings (wave 21-24)

- 78% of Walsall residents feel that the police and council are dealing with crime and anti social behaviour matters that matter in the area. This is lower than the score across the West Midlands which is at 81% and Walsall currently has the second lowest score for this measure.
- Issues around teenagers hanging around consistently over time ranks as the biggest issue by residents with 41% reporting this as an issue.
- 24% of residents identified rubbish and litter as an issue.
- Concern about drunk/rowdy behaviour, nuisance neighbours and graffiti is on the increase whilst residents are now less concerned about vandalism.

Place Survey

From 29 September to 19 December 2008, Walsall Partnership carried out a postal survey to find out what residents think about Walsall as a place to live and about the service provided by local public services including Walsall Council, the police and fire service, NHS Walsall, housing providers, businesses and the community and voluntary sector.

The questionnaire was sent out to a random sample of 5,000 households in the borough and the survey was undertaken on behalf of Walsall Partnership by leading market researchers Ipsos MORI. Locally the results will be used to identify what residents think is being done doing well, where improvements are needed, as well as a clear indication as to what public service priorities should be.

Although the recently formed coalition government has announced that further waves of the Place Survey will no longer take place the findings from the last survey are still useful and have been used to inform the 2010 Strategic Assessment.

CWAP	Place Survey	Feeling the Difference
ASB – youth related	Teenagers hanging around	Teenagers hanging around
Parking/Traffic Issues	Rubber or litter lying around	Traffic Offences
ASB - drug related	People using or dealing drugs	Rubber/litter lying around
ASB - general	Vandalism graffiti & other damage	People being drunk/rowdy in public places
Litter/Rubbish/Fly tipping	People being drunk/rowdy in public places	People using or dealing drugs

Conversation with a Purpose (CWAP)

In 2009 Safer Walsall Partnership conducted a pilot consultation exercise called "Conversation with a Purpose". The aim of the survey carried out by front line officers from a range of partner agencies was to identify public perceptions regarding issues that matter in their local area. It was designed to complement the Feeling the Difference and now abandoned Place Survey by identifying issues that matter at a local community level.

A total of 2,595 residents took part in CWAP and although there was some disparity with those consulted across the recently formed Area Partnerships there was a general consensus as to issues that caused residents most concern. Perhaps unsurprisingly resident's main concerns related to Anti Social Behaviour and particularly that which is youth related.

The above table indicates the top 5 concerns identified in CWAP, Feeling the Difference and the last Place Survey.

The findings of the Feeling the Difference, Conversation with a Purpose and Place Surveys were considered during the development of the 2009/10 Borough Strategic Assessment.

Changing Performance Landscape

The recently formed Coalition Government has abolished the Comprehensive Area Assessments, all existing Public Service Agreements and a significant number of the National Indicators from the National Indicator Set. This has included notably all perception targets including the single confidence measure. To date there has been little guidance from the centre as to the future direction of community safety and associated performance measures. In this context the partnership is currently in the process of establishing meaningful local performance measures for 10/11.

Community Safety National Indicators 2009/10 – Achievements

Despite the abolition of many of the National Indicators and the expected deletion of further indicators in the near future we are able to report the following achievements against Community Safety Indicators highlighted in the previous Community Safety Plan.

- NI20 Assault with injury – 9% reduction in 2009/10 when compared with the same period in 2008/09
- NI15 Serious Violent Crime – 30% reduction in 2009/10
- NI16 Serious Acquisitive Crime - 9% reduction in 2009/10. This picture is however mixed as the reduction is largely as a result of significant reductions in vehicle crime whilst Domestic Burglary has increased.
- There has been a significant reduction in the re offending rate of Prolific and Priority Offenders which has fallen in 2009/10 by

West Midlands Police Strategic Priorities 2011 – 2015

The priorities identified within the Community Safety Plan will be delivered within the context of the new West Midlands Police Strategic Priorities 2011 -15

- To improve trust and confidence in policing.
- To improve the quality of our services.
- To consult and inform the public how we will change our priorities and services with reducing resources.
- To protect our communities from crime and anti-social behaviour.
- To protect our communities from the threat of terrorism and serious organised crime.
- To protect vulnerable people and neighbourhoods from harm in partnership with other statutory bodies.
- To support economic and social prosperity in the region.

These priorities have been identified for the next four years and will be subject to yearly measurement.

Our Vision

'Working together for a Safer Borough'

Our Strategic Priorities

To achieve our vision and following the recent strategic assessment the following strategic priorities for 2011 - 14 have been agreed.

- Priority 1: Tackle Violent Crime - specific focus on Domestic Abuse, Town Centre Violence and Serious Youth Violence**
- Priority 2: Tackle Anti-social Behaviour**
- Priority 3: Address Harm caused by Drugs and Alcohol Misuse**
- Priority 4: Community – specific focus on Counter Terrorism, Community Cohesion and Public Perceptions**
- Priority 5: Tackle Serious Acquisitive Crime – specific focus on reducing Domestic Burglary**
- Priority 6: Reduce re offending – a cross cutting theme across all other priorities**

For each of these priorities, a brief explanation of why it is a priority will now follow.

Priority 1: Tackle Violent Crime - specific focus on Domestic Abuse, Town Centre Violence and Serious Youth Violence

In 2009/10 Walsall's Violence against the Person offences reduced by 4% representing a fourth consecutive year of reductions. Most violent offences fortunately involve less serious injuries with those of a more serious nature being rare. Violent crime however remains a both high volume and high harm offence accounting for one in four offences reported to the police with the ambulance service reporting a 2% increase in call outs for violence offences. In addition the assault data base highlights that 39% of victims who required medical treatment for an assault did not report the offence to the police.

The Tackling Knives Action Plan was set up to reduce incidents of death and violence amongst young people. Although in Walsall offences of violence against young people tend not to involve serious violence a significant proportion (42%) of victims of violent crime fall within the 13-24 age range.

Of all violent crime offences reported to the police over one in four are domestic related and domestic abuse offences reported to the police although appearing to reach a plateau accounted for a larger proportion of Total Recorded Crime in the last year. This is also recognised as a vastly under reported offence and despite

increased marketing of domestic abuse services it is anticipated that there is a limit to those who are prepared to report this offence to the police.

Priority 2: Tackle Anti-social Behaviour

Although incidents of ASB reported to the police did fall by 10.8% during 2009/10 they still account for a very large proportion, approximately 21% and one in five of all police reports. Over the period 15,615 incidents of ASB were reported to the police with 70% of these falling within the Rowdy and/or Nuisance Behaviour category. Issues that are forms of ASB including arson, fly tipping and graffiti have all increased during 2009/10 although criminal damage has fallen by 15%. Not surprisingly the main hot spot for police recorded ASB is Walsall Town Centre.

Over the period 39% of ASB was flagged up as being youth related although current recording practices mean that in reality this figure will be significantly higher. This is supported by both the last Feeling the Difference and Place Surveys in which 41% and 51% respectively of Walsall residents felt that teenagers hanging around was a or a very big problem. During 2009/10 Walsall Councils Anti Social Behaviour Unit dealt with 1,252 calls a 9% increase on the previous year. This will be in part to the increased marketing of the services the unit can offer and is likely to further increase as the team has recently been expanded to include six Anti Social Behaviour Officers. The ASB Team also currently includes a Parenting Practitioner and received 148 referrals to its parenting programme in 2009/10.

Although over the period Walsall led the way with Wolverhampton in terms of ASB reductions across the West Midlands region there is clearly still much more to be done and we know that this is a priority issue for the communities of Walsall.

Priority 3: Address Harm caused by Drugs and Alcohol Misuse

Walsall has an estimated 2218 problematic drug users, a figure 15% higher than the 2008 figure and significantly higher than the national rate. It is estimated up to half of those users could be in effective treatment but are not. Clearly drug misuse is a major contributory factor to overall crime figures with a significant impact upon acquisitive crime rates. Data suggests that the average spend by drug users per week is £139 which increases to £204 for Heroin users. Walsall experienced a 1% increase in police recorded drug offences between April 2009 and March 2010. The Feeling the Difference Survey indicates that 14% of residents feel that people using or dealing drugs in their area is an issue and further more that the numbers feeling this way is increasing, although notably not at the same rate as those who are concerned about alcohol.

In Walsall 23% of the population are either harmful or hazardous drinkers a figure higher than the national average and it is estimated that there are approximately 34,000 binge drinkers. Walsall has the second highest rate of alcohol related harm admissions (NI39) across the West Midlands and evidence suggests this has doubled in the last 8 years. In addition 35% of assaults that require A&E attention are alcohol

related, a figure that increases to 70% when considering assaults that take place in or outside of a venue. Not surprisingly therefore there is a clear link between alcohol consumption and incidences of violence, particularly in and around the town centre where a large proportion of incidents are related to excessive alcohol consumption. Although there continue to be issues around the accurate recording of alcohol related offences by police systems national estimates suggests 55% of violent crimes are committed whilst the offender is under the influence of alcohol.

Priority 4: Community – specific focus on Counter Terrorism, Community Cohesion and Public Perceptions

The current threat of Terrorism in the United Kingdom is listed as severe and although we should not be alarmist it should also be recognised that Walsall is not immune to this threat. Walsall is made up of diverse communities and the most recent Feeling the Difference Survey indicates that 95% of respondents felt that their local area is one where individuals from different backgrounds can live together harmoniously. This proportion has increased over time and is supported by a similar question in the last Place Survey where 71% felt people from different backgrounds get on well in their area.

An important factor when considering communities is how much people believe they can influence the delivery of services in their area. According to Feeling the Difference the proportion of residents who feel they can influence decisions in their area has significantly reduced in the last year to 54% compared to a figure of 71% 12 months earlier. This is not however a Walsall specific problem and is mirrored across the West Midlands region.

Public perceptions are key if we are to succeed in making residents believe that Walsall is in fact safer. The reality is that despite consistently falling levels of both crime and anti social behaviour public perceptions of these remain high. In the latest Feeling the Difference survey 12% and 15% of residents felt that crime and ASB were increasingly respectively. Although the Single Confidence Measure has been scrapped by the Government West Midlands Police are continuing to monitor through Feeling the Difference the percentage of residents who feel that the police and council are dealing with crime and ASB issues that matter in their area. Across the West Midlands region 81% of residents felt that was the case with Walsall performing below this level at 78% making it the second worst region in the West Midlands. The last Place Survey indicated that 26.5% of residents in Walsall perceived a high level of ASB and the table on page 9 indicates the various forms of ASB that are a priority of our communities.

Priority 5: Tackle Serious Acquisitive Crime – specific focus on reducing Domestic Burglary

Serious Acquisitive Crime in Walsall reduced by 9% in 2009/10 which is slightly below the 11% reduction across the West Midlands region. This reduction is due

predominantly to significant reductions in Vehicle Crime which fell in Walsall by 19% over the same period and the overall picture is a contrasting one. Walsall has seen a 16% increase in Domestic Burglaries which is contrary to both the regional and national trend and indicates that this is a local rather than national issue. The increase was also not distributed evenly across the borough and centred on five police neighbourhoods. Resident perceptions of domestic burglary being a problem in their areas have also risen in line with actual offences.

During the same period robbery offences increased by 2% although in real terms this is a low volume offence and accounts for only seven offences. It is also of note that robbery offences tend to involve victims and offenders of a young age. Burglary Other offences reduced by 8.4% during 2009/10 but Walsall still does not fair well when considered against its peers ranking 13th out of 15 in its Most Similar Group (MSG). This is a volume crime type accounting for 6.4% of Total Recorded Crime and falling in the top ten crime categories for 2009/10.

Priority 6: Reduce re offending – a cross cutting theme across all other priorities.

During 2009/10 Walsall achieved a detection rate of 30.5% which is higher than that reported in 2008/09 and follows an increasing trend exhibited in recent years. This detection rate has been boosted by a high detection rate of violence offences and the increasing use of Community Resolutions that allow certain matters (notably Violent Crime, Criminal Damage and Theft) to be dealt with without arrest, bureaucracy and to the satisfaction of the victim. Community Resolutions account for 22% of detected crime and resolutions used include an apology (written or face to face), an agreement by the offender to stay away and some sort of financial compensation. Detection rates for crimes of an acquisitive nature including Domestic Burglary, Burglary Other and Vehicle Crime however fell over the same period.

In April 2010 Probation joined the list of Responsible Authorities and for the first time it became a statutory requirement for the partnership to tackle re offending by both adult and young offenders. However Probation had as a Co-operating Body already engaged well with the partnership and work in this area was already well under way. There has been a significant reduction in the re offending rate of Prolific and Priority Offenders which has fallen in 2009/10 by 43%. There are however concerns around the number of offenders who are able to find continued employment and those able to enter education or training although it is understood that this will be at least in part to the challenging economic climate.

Walsall Youth Justice Service (YJS) which works with Young People aged 10 to 18 to prevent and reduce re offending has seen a reduction in offences made known to them of 25% during 2009/10 and a 28% reduction in the number of young offenders. There are a number of contributing factors to this reduction, including an increase in prevention work and the introduction of community resolutions which will have acted to reduce referrals to YJS. In 2009/10 37% of the total 1,287 community Resolutions were given to young offenders aged 10-17.

Despite significant progress in this area the reduction of re offending remains a cross cutting theme for the partnership and is integral to further improvements in overall crime statistics.

Delivery against the Priorities

Delivery against these strategic priorities will be achieved through a wide range of strategies and delivery plans that cut across partnership activity. Rather than detail each within this document the diagram on page 17 depicts the main strategies/plans that will allow the partnership to deliver against these priorities. The diagram also shows the important link between the Community Safety Plan, the identified Strategic Priorities, the strategies/plans that will inform delivery and the newly developed Area Partnership Plans. It also shows the clear link to Walsall's over arching Sustainable Community Strategy.

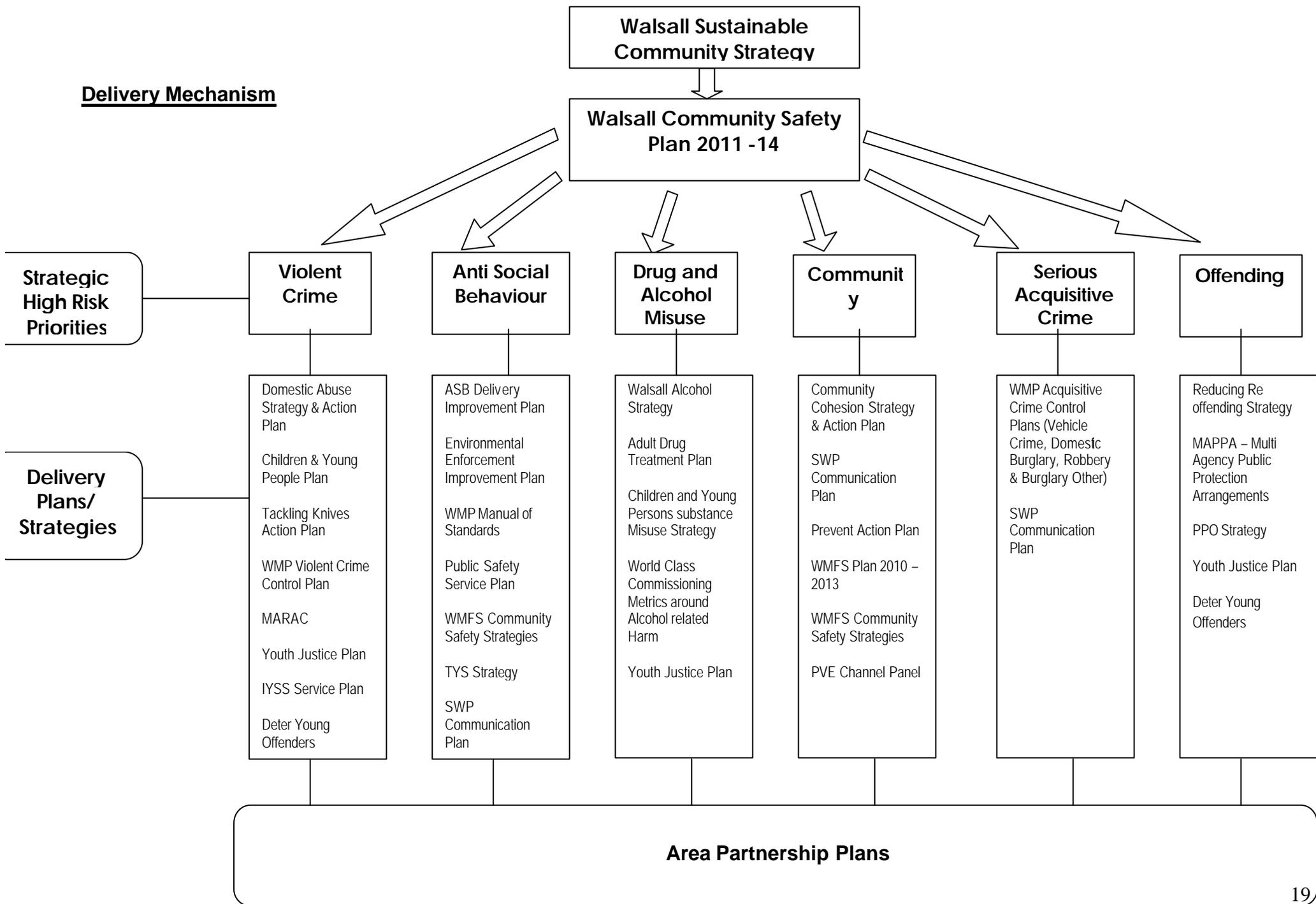
Area Plans

One of the key delivery mechanisms for the identified Strategic Priorities will be the Area Plans. These plans have been developed by local delivery partners and communities and will shape how local services are delivered in Walsall. The plans have been developed using much of the data and intelligence used to inform the Community Safety Plan as well as a number of local consultation events with local residents.

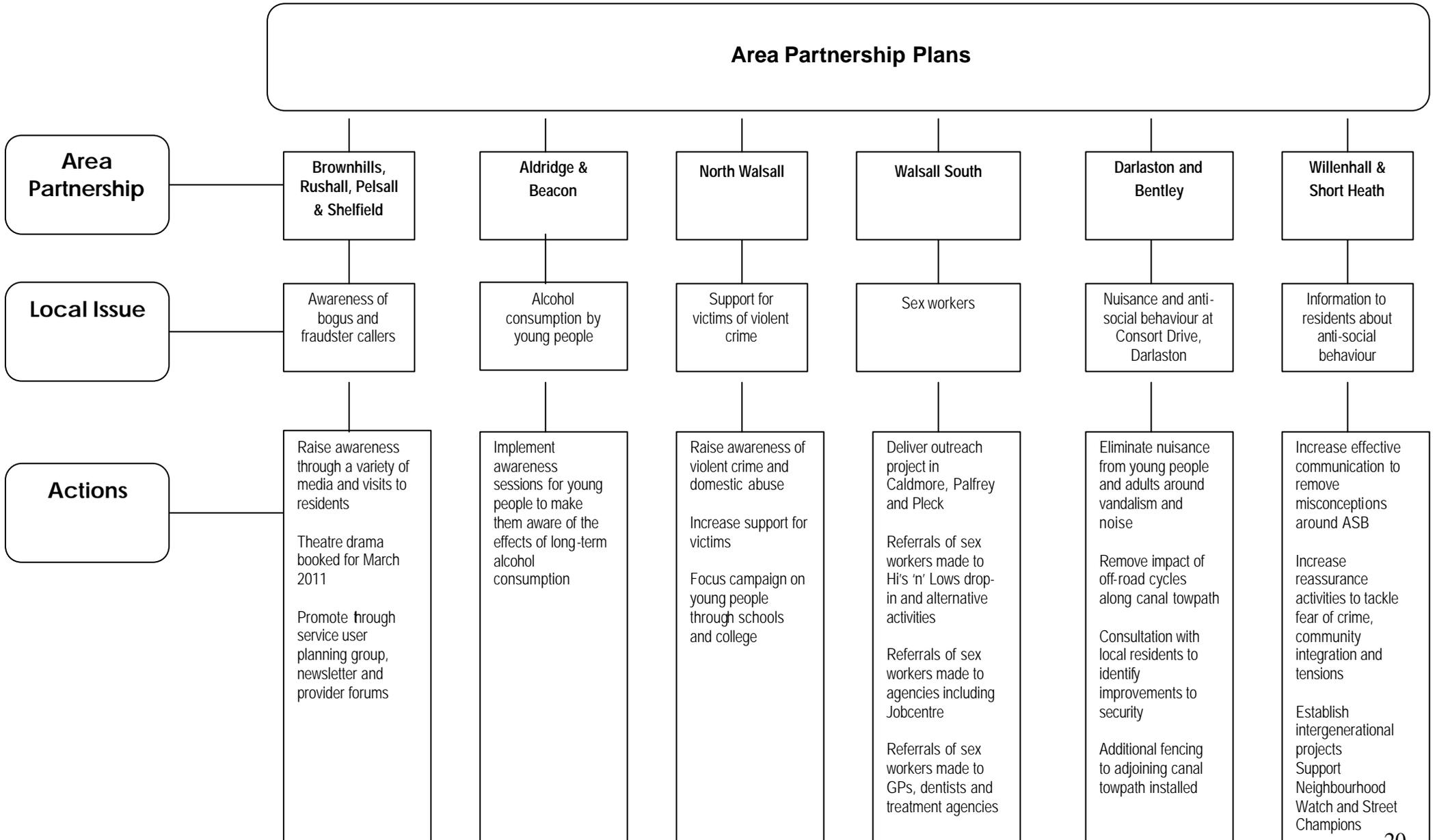
Not surprisingly many of the priorities and workstreams identified in the Area Plans relate directly to the Strategic Priorities identified within the Community Safety Plan. For example tackling Anti Social Behaviour has been identified as a priority within each Area Plan and there is a clear link to alcohol and drug misuse.

The diagram on page 18 illustrates the link between the Area Plans and priorities identified within the Community Safety Plan. For each Area Partnership a local issue and actions identified within the Area Plan to address that issue has been highlighted. These specific issues were selected as they demonstrate a clear link to each of the Community Safety Plan Priorities.

The clear links between the Area Plans and borough Community Safety Plan demonstrate the coordinated approach that is being taken in Walsall to improve the quality of life and opportunities for its residents. Focusing activities on these shared priorities is one of the means by which we can ensure that increasingly scarce collective resources are deployed where they will have the greatest impact for the communities of Walsall.



Linkage between the CSP and Area Plans



Performance Management

The Partnership is experienced at and has in place a robust performance management framework that will allow us to deliver effectively on the priorities and objectives that have been set in this plan. Performance will be managed through the Safer Walsall Partnership Board.

The Board is responsible for identifying cross cutting opportunities for partners to work effectively together, making informed and objective commissioning recommendations and monitoring performance against Walsall's Community Safety Plan. This responsibility includes working to ensure resources are targeted to deliver against the priorities identified in the Community Safety Plan and identifying and planning for anticipated challenges and any areas of performance weakness. This document will be the overarching plan for community safety in Walsall.

In order to ensure our performance is both of a high level and effectively monitored we will ensure that the following is in place:

- Strategic priorities and objectives that matter most to the local community.
- Secure resources and use budgets to deliver programmes that have maximise impact.
- Periodic reviews of service and performance.
- Performance targets which are challenging but deliverable and effectively monitored.
- Investment in and training provided for partnership staff, Councillors and volunteers to better respond to local crime issues.