

## Cabinet – 25 July 2012

### Walsall Community Safety Plan 2011 – 14 Year 1 Refresh

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Councillor Ali - Public Protection
<b>Service:</b>	Community Safety
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Forward plan:</b>	No

#### 1. Summary

- 1.1 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. The plan is a three year document that has to be refreshed annually. This is the first refresh of the 2011 – 14 plan.
- 1.2 This report provides background detail on the year one refresh of the Walsall Community Safety Plan 2011-14 which Cabinet is recommended to approve.

#### 2. Recommendation

That Cabinet approves the Year 1 Refresh of the borough Community Safety Plan 2011 – 14 (attached as **Appendix A**).

#### 3. Report detail

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.

3.3 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. The latest strategic assessment recommended that the strategic priorities identified in the 2011-14 original plan remain unchanged for a further 12 months and are still required for the partnership to achieve its over all aim of working together for a safer borough: These priorities are as listed below.

**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**

3.4 In addition the assessment also identifies six vulnerable areas within the borough on which the partnership should focus its combined efforts/resources and for which specific plans should be drawn up to tackle issues highlighted within those localities. These areas were initially identified within the recently completed State of the Borough Report and are ranked within the plan in vulnerability order.

3.5 Delivery against these priorities and identified vulnerable areas will be achieved through a wide range of strategies and delivery plans developed by 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, Area Plans and the overarching borough Sustainable Community Strategy.

#### **4. Council priorities**

4.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2011/12 -2014/15 sets out the councils overall vision for the borough of Walsall and how it intends to build on its successes and meet existing and emerging challenges. It focuses on three priority areas, neighbourhoods and communities, the economy and health and is supported by core values. Although all of the priorities impact upon the broad spectrum of work covered by community safety the neighbourhoods and communities priority is of particular relevance and includes a key objective for a Walsall where communities feel safe from crime and anti-social behaviour. Delivery against the Community Safety Plan therefore supports this and other council priorities.

4.2 Delivery against Safer Walsall Partnership's Community Safety Plan will contribute to the outcomes of many if not all of the council's functions. For example, fewer incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour will benefit confidence in the area and may contribute to increased economic growth and investment. This would positively impact upon the Regeneration Portfolio. Similarly, the Youth Offending Service in the Children's Services Portfolio will benefit from the priority of tackling serious youth

violence. The Community engagement and voluntary sector Portfolio is also relevant to the Plan, in terms of the delivery of Area Plans.

## **5. Risk management**

- 5.1 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.

## **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1 Walsall received its last Community Safety Grant allocation directly from the Home Office in early 2012/13, this reduced amount of £151,719, which was half its previous allocation has been allocated by the SWP Board to identified areas of need. From 2013/14 all Community Safety Grant funding will be allocated directly to the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) who will be able to use this money to target their identified priorities and support the on going delivery of their Crime Plans. Whilst Walsall is doing all it can to prepare for the arrival of the PCC by evidencing and demonstrating its on going successes in order to attract PCC funding and support it is unknown at this time how successful this will be and the level of funding that will be allocated. 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. As such even in the uncertain world created by the arrival of the PCC, delivery against the plan can still continue albeit this may be more challenging in the future. It is also important to note that this plan will be refreshed again next year and will reflect any changes following the introduction of the PCC.

## **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1 Sections 5 to 7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (the 1998 Act), headed "Crime and disorder strategies", require "responsible authorities" to comply with section 6 of the 1998 Act which states that "responsible authorities" shall formulate and implement:

- (a) a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- (b) a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area[; and
- (c) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area].

By virtue of section 5(1) (a) of the 1998 Act the Council is a "responsible authority".

- 7.2 The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007, as amended, make further provision for the formulation and implementation of such strategies.

- 7.3 The regulations contain a number of steps to be taken by a “strategy group” including the preparation and implementation of a partnership plan based on strategic assessments.
- 7.4 Before the start of each year the strategy group must revise the partnership plan taking into account the strategic assessments prepared by it. Regulation 10 sets out the matters the partnership plan should cover.
- 7.5 By completing and annually refreshing its Community Safety Plan based on the findings of a comprehensive Strategic Assessment Walsall is fulfilling its statutory requirement to do so.

## **8. Property implications**

- 8.1 There are no property implications associated with the Community Safety Plan.

## **9. Staffing implications**

- 9.1 The priorities contained within the plan cross cut the agencies that make up Safer Walsall Partnership. Delivery against the priorities will be via mainstream activity and any grant funding that the borough is able to secure, including this year’s reduced Community Safety Grant Allocation.

## **10. Equality implications**

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

## **11. Consultation**

- 11.1 The plan has been subject to widespread consultation with the agencies that make up Safer Walsall Partnership. It was approved by the SWP Board on 12 June 2012. These agencies include Walsall Council, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service, West Midlands Police Authority, Walsall Housing Group, NHS Walsall and Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation.

## **Background papers**


None

## **Author**

Steven Gittins  
Deputy Community Safety Manager  
☎ 654297  
✉ [gittinss@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:gittinss@walsall.gov.uk)

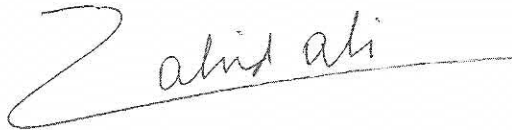


Jamie Morris  
Executive Director



17 July 2012

Councillor Ali  
Portfolio Holder



17 July 2012



**SaferWalsall Partnership**

*working together for a safer borough*

**WALSALL  
COMMUNITY  
SAFETY PLAN  
2011 – 2014  
Year 1 Refresh  
(2012)**

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Welcome to this first annual refresh of Walsall's Community Safety Plan, which outlines the aims of Safer Walsall Partnership over the coming year. Tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse remain within our key strategic priorities, with a focus on supporting victims and encouraging communities to play a part in making our borough safer. Much has been achieved by Safer Walsall Partnership over the past year: area partnerships have been firmly established as an effective method of bringing partners and communities together to tackle local issues at a local level. Street Champions continue to be successful in encouraging local people to 'get involved' in their community and the launch of Walsall's Vulnerability Forum means that those victims of crime who are most at risk or in need will not go unsupported.

In terms of performance, our boroughs strategic assessment shows that there had been a very slight increase in Total Recorded Crime (TRC) during the period October 2010 to September 2011. Although significant reductions had been achieved in violent crime offences, burglary, arson and anti-social behaviour incidents, there had been an increase in business crime, in particular thefts from shops and stalls, which may be attributable to the economic downturn. However, recent work to tackle this issue has resulted in a considerable reduction in offences and partners will work together in hot-spot areas to drive crime figures down. Encouragingly over the entire April 11–March 12 period when compared to the previous 12 months TRC fell by 9%.

The year ahead will be a challenging one for all partners. Significant reductions in the resources of all agencies within Safer Walsall Partnership mean that the need for effective collaborative working and sharing of information is greater than ever. The introduction of elected Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012 will bring radical changes to community safety partnerships across the country. The PCC will be responsible for the entire West Midlands police force area. Budgets will no longer be held by individual partnerships and services will be commissioned through the PCC, so it will be up to each partnership to ensure they have established their priorities for consideration.

At the time of writing, the government has launched the white paper 'Putting Victims First' outlining proposed changes to the tools and powers available for partners and communities to use in tackling anti-social behaviour, environmental crime and dangerous dogs. There is a focus therein on accountability of agencies to act quickly to tackle issues and on recognising the impact anti-social behaviour has on individuals and communities. The white paper proposes that the number of measures available to tackle perpetrators will be reduced from 19 to 6 with the aim of delivering a quicker, simpler and tougher response to anti-social behaviour. In addition it is proposed that there will be additional powers to impel offenders to address issues and lifestyles that have contributed to their offending behaviour: drugs, alcohol, troubled family backgrounds etc.

Safer Walsall Partnership will continue to build upon its strong culture of working together in order to meet these challenges and by doing so, deliver our collective aim to make Walsall a safe place to live, work and visit.



**Councillor Zahid Ali**  
**Chair Safer Walsall Partnership Board**

## **Safer Walsall Partnership**

Safer Walsall Partnership (SWP) comprises Walsall Council, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Police Authority, 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 2011 - 2014**

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 2011–2014 which were then reflected in the Community Safety Plan.

- 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**

Walsall is required to refresh its three year Community Safety Plan on an annual basis this being the first refresh of the 2011-14 plan.



## Our Achievements during 2011/12

Over the last twelve months the partnership has worked hard in respect of its community safety targets and has continued to deliver across a range of key crime types. Our achievements as a partnership over the last twelve months include the following:-

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>2010/11 (actual)</b>	<b>2011/12 (actual)</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Total Recorded Crime	20,122	18,342	9% ▼
Serious Acquisitive Crime	4,625	3,744	19% ▼
Anti Social Behaviour (Police Reported)	12,186	9,138	25% ▼
Youth Related ASB (Police Reported)	4,389	2,870	35% ▼
Domestic Burglary	1,634	1,448	11% ▼
Burglary Other Building	1,506	1,525	1% ▲
Criminal Damage	3,655	3,317	9% ▼
Vehicle Crime	2,513	1,919	24% ▼
Violence Against the Person	3,951	3,414	14% ▼
Robbery	478	377	21% ▼
Deliberate Secondary Fires (WMFS Data)	191	164	16% ▼
Deliberate Primary Fires (WMFS Data)	1,114	1,263	13% ▲
Drug Offences	665	637	4% ▼

**N.B. The above figures cover a different time frame to that of the Strategic Assessment on which much of the following narrative is based. These figures are, however, up to date at the time of writing and give an indication of Partnership performance over a full financial year. Unless otherwise stated the data is from IQunta.**

## Profile of Walsall Borough

### Population

AREA	POPULATION
Walsall Total	256,898
Brownhills/Pelsall/Rushall/Shelfield	35,633
Aldridge/Streetly/Pheasey/Walsall Wood	49,964
Bloxwich/Blakenall/Birchills/Leamore	51,652
St Matthews/Paddock/Palfrey/Pleck	54,856
Willenhall/Short Heath	38,712
Darlaston/Bentley	26,081

#### 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 important when looking at issues such as perceptions of anti-social behaviour.

#### Ethnicity

According to the national census (2001), the black and minority ethnic population (non-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. Non-white groups 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 when looking at community engagement and communication. Consideration is also given to the potential increase in the population from Eastern Europe.

#### 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 53%.

#### 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 around poverty and future well being.

#### Labour Market

Worklessness in Walsall has increased sharply as a result of the recent economic downturn. The number of individuals claiming Jobseekers Allowance in April has risen to 6.7% which is higher than both the national (3.5%) and regional (4.8%) average. It is of note that some parts of the borough have been affected more than others

## Links with other Strategies

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
- West Midlands Strategic Policing Plan 2011–2015
- Corporate Plan 2011/12 – 2014/15
- West Midlands Fire Service 'The Plan 2012 – 2015'
- Government Alcohol Strategy
- Drug Strategy 2010 (reviewed May 2012)
- Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Youth Justice Strategy

## Walsall Council Vision

The Councils Corporate Plan 2011/12 -2014/15 sets out the councils overall vision for the borough of Walsall and how it intends to build on its successes and meet existing and emerging challenges. The plan focuses on three priority areas: neighbourhoods and communities, the economy and health and is supported by its core values. It sets out the councils plan for what it should be like to live in Walsall by 2014 and highlights its commitment to delivering to the residents of Walsall in a way that is right, fast and simple. Although all of the priorities impact upon the broad spectrum of work covered by community safety, the neighbourhoods and communities priority is of particular relevance and includes the following key objectives for a Walsall where:

- Communities feel safe from crime and anti-social behaviour
- Residents are happy with local services
- Streets are well maintained and clean
- Young people engage in positive activities
- Communities are cohesive

The council has also worked with its key partners to develop a longer term vision for the borough, looking ahead to the year 2021. This vision is set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy and is reflected in other partnership plans. This shared vision for the borough is that:

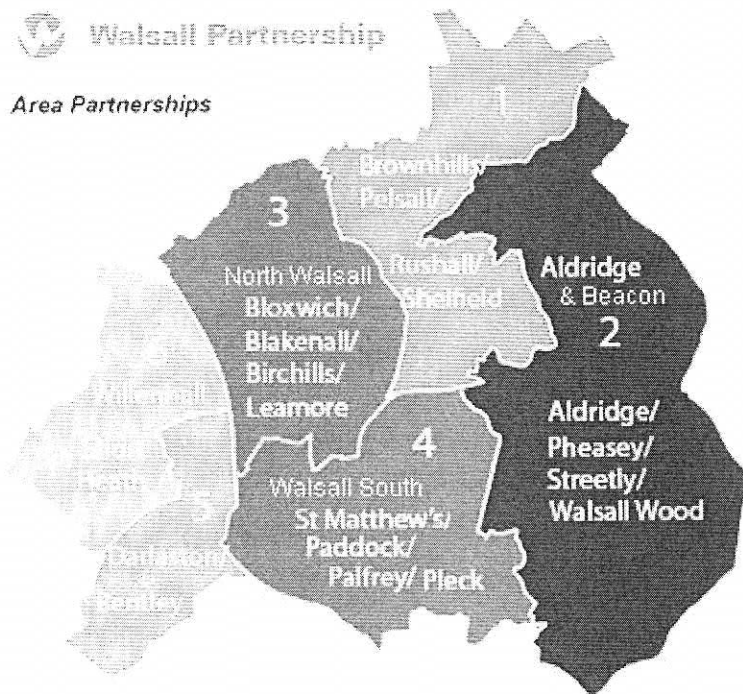
Walsall will be a great place to live, work and invest, where...

- 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

Please note that at the time of writing the Sustainable Community Strategy is under review and any future refresh of the Community Safety Plan will be informed by the outcome of this review.

## Area Partnerships



This shared vision acts as focus for service and resource planning both in the current year and when looking ahead to the future. In order to achieve this vision it is recognised that the communities of Walsall are diverse and that different areas will have different needs. With this recognition acting as a key driver Walsall established six Area Partnerships in May 2010. Area Partnerships are now firmly embedded as one of the key delivery mechanisms for partnership activity and work with our communities to identify and resolve issues that are of greatest concern. Each area partnership has:

- Engaged with local communities to identify issues and agree the key priorities for each area.
- Worked to empower local communities to solve local problems and give them influence over resource allocation in their area.
- Coordinated service providers to work toward better outcomes for our communities and ensure that increasingly scarce resources are effectively utilised.

Each Area Partnership has developed its own Area Plan highlighting the priorities for that area and how these reflect those contained within the borough-wide Sustainable Community Strategy.

## Walsall Strategic Assessment

The Government requires a strategic assessment of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and environmental crime to be undertaken annually. Safer Walsall Partnership completed its fifth strategic assessment in early 2012; this provides detailed analysis of the different crime and disorder issues in the borough and is the basis for much of the detail contained within this Community Safety Plan.

- 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 Walsall's latest Strategic Assessment were encouragingly that the majority of key community safety indicators in the borough were controlled either improving slightly or remaining stable. Over the period analysed in the assessment **(October 2010 – Sept 2011, compared with the same period in 2009/10)** anti-social behaviour continued to fall and reduced by 29%. However the performance of the borough compared to its most similar groups elsewhere in the region remained poor and the misuse of drugs and alcohol continues to have a significant impact on offending behaviour. The borough was also failing to achieve most satisfaction and community perception indicators. These areas of weaker performance are however being addressed by the partnership through the delivery mechanisms outlined later in this plan (please see pages 17-21).

## Feeling the Difference Survey

West Midlands Police undertakes 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 28-31 (up to February 2012) of the Feeling the Difference Survey and draw comparisons between local authority areas in the West Midlands Police Region. The survey programme usually comprises 4 waves of research, with each wave being completed on a quarterly basis over a 12-month period.

### Key Findings (wave 28-31)

- 88% of Walsall residents agree that they have confidence in the police (although this does vary locally by police sector).
- 83% of respondents in Walsall agree the police deal with the things that matter within their local community, this is a little below the police target of 88% but is on par with the force wide figure of 84%.
- 79% of respondents in Walsall agree that the police work with the community to improve the neighbourhood.



- 97% of respondents in Walsall feel safe during the day and 79% feel safe after dark. Feelings of safety during the day have largely been in line with the force wide result although feelings of safety after dark in Walsall are above those seen elsewhere in the West Midlands region.
- 15% of respondents in Walsall perceived there to have been an increase in crime in their neighbourhood in the last 12 months, 76% thought the level of crime had remained the same and 9% thought it had decreased.
- One quarter of residents in Walsall said that there were no crime and anti social behaviour problems in their neighbourhood. Of those that do report problems, the most highly rated issues in Waves 28-31 in Walsall were:
  - Speeding (27%)
  - Teenagers hanging around (27%)
  - Rubbish or litter lying around (21%)
- 52% of respondents in Walsall agreed they can influence decisions affecting their neighbourhood, increasing for the fifth consecutive time. Force wide the level of agreement is very similar (53%). It is encouraging to see that agreement is now back in line with the force average, following a significant drop in agreement between Waves 19-21 and Waves 23-26 to a low of 41%.

### **Performance Landscape**

The Coalition Government quickly acted to abolish all centrally dictated performance indicators after coming to power leaving performance management and targets associated with this down to local agreement/arrangement. This supports the Government's localism agenda and its drive for activity and targets around it to be set according to local need and circumstance. This approach is reinforced by the recent (May 2012) Government White Paper 'Putting Victims First' which although focussed on ASB stresses the need to put the victim at the heart of our efforts to tackle this community priority and to avoid bureaucratic targets and pointless meetings. It stresses the need for responses to be locally driven and that the in coming Police and Crime Commissioners will have a key role in driving this work forward and holding local agencies to account. The SWP Board continues to monitor performance in relation to Community Safety ensuring resources are targeted according to the needs of the borough.

### **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 four year period and will be subject to yearly measurement.

### Our Vision

***‘Working together for a Safer Borough’***

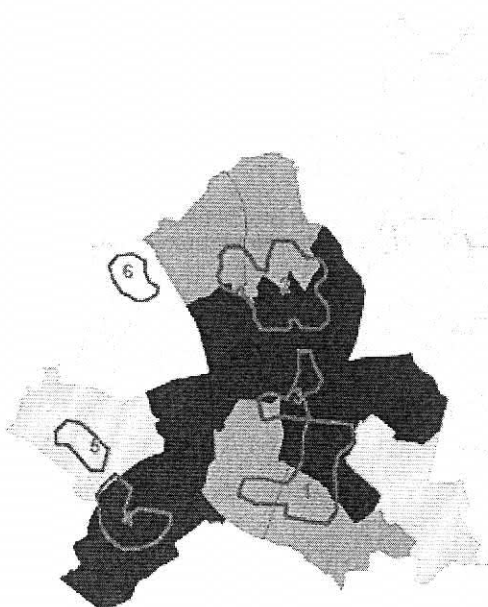
### Our Strategic Priorities

The recent strategic assessment has confirmed that the strategic priorities as identified in the original 2011-14 plan are still relevant and should be the focus of community safety activity. These are listed below.

- 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**

In addition the assessment also identifies six vulnerable areas within the borough on which the partnership should focus its combined efforts/resources and for which specific plans should be drawn up to tackle issues highlighted within those localities. These areas were initially identified within the recently completed State of the Borough report and are ranked in order of vulnerability, with 1 being the most vulnerable. These areas are pictured below:

#### Challenging and vulnerable localities



#### Challenging Localities

1. Walsall Town Centre
2. Bloxwich
3. Birchills
4. Darlaston
5. Willenhall
6. New Invention

#### Ward experiencing multiple partnership issues

- Most Vulnerable
- Medium Vulnerable
- Least Vulnerable

For each of these priorities and vulnerable areas a brief explanation (based on information contained within the Strategic Assessment) 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 line with overall reducing trends in violent crime offences across the borough, domestic abuse violent offences have reduced by 4.7% and police recorded domestic incidents have reduced by 16.9% during the 12 month period covered by the strategic assessment, but there is still much to do.

Work with partners is almost complete on the development of an integrated pathway for service access and a commissioning model for future service delivery. 83% of offences of domestic abuse involved violence, with 10% being criminal damage. The vast majority of victims were female, 25% being in the 30 – 39 age range, with a further 22% being 18 – 24 and 19% between 25 and 29. A key area for development is the need for services for young people both as victims and perpetrators, which has been highlighted in on-going work by Children's Services and other partners within the Domestic Abuse Steering Group.

There has been a 6.6% increase in town centre violence, compared to the previous assessment, which translates to a further 35 offences.

Operation Be Safe and the introduction of Street Pastors continue to contribute to tackling violent crime, particularly that which is related to the night-time economy.

Serious youth violence, previously a focus of local and national initiatives has reduced by 28.6%, a reduction of 16 offences.

### **Priority 2: Tackle Anti-social Behaviour**

Anti-social behaviour remains a key strategic priority and features within the top three issues of all area plans.

Police reported ASB has reduced significantly. Although this is positive, it must be recognised that 48% of all ASB incidents across the borough are recorded by agencies other than the police.

The police recorded 10,006 incidents during the period of the latest strategic assessment. It is not possible to give an overview of the nature of these offences due to recording practices. However, recent changes in classification to NUISANCE, PERSONAL and ENVIRONMENTAL have enabled analysis of the incidents recorded from the beginning of the financial year. This analysis shows that 75% of incidents were classified as nuisance, 14% personal and 11% environmental. On-going analysis exercises have highlighted that 44% of recorded incidents across the borough have been related to youths causing nuisance, 13% neighbour disputes, 9% violence related behaviour and 4% each of threatening behaviour and alcohol related behaviour.

The main sub types within the category of youth related nuisance include use of off-road bikes, throwing stones, alcohol related incidents and rowdy behaviour.

Walsall's main registered social providers recorded a total of 2,143 incidents, with whg accounting for 2143 of those. The primary cause for complaint was general nuisance behaviour, followed by verbal abuse and noise related issues.

Walsall Councils ASB Unit recorded 708 new cases and recorded over 1510 incidents at initial point of contact during the period of the strategic assessment. For the year 2011/2012, the ASB unit opened 666 new cases, with over 1400 individual incidents recorded. Further incidents are recorded on each individual case as investigation progresses and evidence / patterns of behaviour are established.

In addition, West Midlands Fire Service also record ASB incidents that have an impact on the environments. For example, WMFS recorded 1,347 incidents of arson during the assessment period 41% of which involved rubbish being set on fire, 36% grassland being set alight.

Street Pride recorded 2,709 incidents, mainly consisting of fly-tipping (84 %,) graffiti (11%) and drug paraphernalia (5 %.)

2,552 noise complaints were made to Environmental Health; around 75% were regarding domestic noise and the remainder animal noise.

Green Spaces have recorded 823 incidents of ASB over the assessment period, generally related to parks and damage to park property.

There remains a lack of consistency in the boroughs approach to ASB: agencies use different definitions and different recording mechanisms. Work is now underway to address this by drawing partners together at a senior level in order to explore a more strategic, cohesive response to this priority issue.

On-going work currently includes:

- Introduction of a new case management system within the councils ASB unit, with access for partners, which supports better storage of information, identification of repeat callers and includes a new initial assessment tool to assist in identifying vulnerable victims.
- The multi-agency Vulnerability Forum which provides a platform for professionals to meet together on a monthly basis to discuss cases of concern which need to be highlighted amongst agencies to ensure a coordinated response is in place.

### **Priority 3: Address Harm caused by Drugs and Alcohol Misuse**

The misuse of drugs and alcohol continue to impact on crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly in town centre locations.

The proposed launch of Community Alcohol Partnerships will bring agencies and trade organisations together in key hot-spot locations to tackle issues, particularly those which affect young people. Addaction and Lantern House continue to provide multiple services to individuals and families affected by drug and alcohol problems and those who are seeking support to recover from their dependency. In addition, a project has been commissioned to address the needs of young people through treatment, outreach work and specialist prescribing provision.

Between October 2010 and September 2011, 2662 tests were completed in relation to individual offenders who entered the Walsall custody block. Although 68% of these were negative, there remain a significant number of offenders committing crimes in Walsall who have a drug habit, which their crimes may be funding. The majority of positive tests were for Cocaine, followed by Cocaine and Opiates, then Opiates. The most common trigger offence was theft (50%) followed by burglary (15%. ) 85% of positive tests were from males, the peak ages being within the range of 22 and 32.



The strategic assessment states that further evidence from a health profile completed for Walsall in 2011 estimated that there are 2218 problematic drug users in Walsall, with a rate of 13.7 problematic drug users per 1,000 population, which is significantly worse than the national average of 9.4. 'Walsall Substance Misuse Needs Assessment 2011', referring to data from the Glasgow University prevalence study comparing health and criminal justice data, estimates that Walsall has 2017 Opiate and/or Crack Cocaine users. 1190 are engaged in structured treatment, with many other problematic users engaged with open access services. Those that are not engaged include individuals with issues such as mental health problems and homelessness. Walsall's recent figures for positive testing have since reflected a national and regional trend whereby fewer offenders are testing positive for drugs.

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

##### **Counter Terrorism and Community Cohesion**

Walsall was not one of the 25 areas in the UK which was considered to be especially vulnerable to violent extremism in the latest Government round of Prevent funding allocations. However Walsall does border with Birmingham which is deemed to be vulnerable to extremist activity. Considering that fact, a strong partnership has been established with the Local Terrorist Unit which works through Safer Walsall Partnership to build resilience against all forms of extremism. Training has been delivered to community members, voluntary and statutory sector staff to recognise and respond to any concerns with both Right Wing Extremism and Islamic Extremism. Any intervention activity is intelligence led and Walsall responds appropriately to the Counter Terrorist Local Profile and has had a number of Channel referrals which have come from concerns raised by partners.

Low level racism does occur on a regular basis and racism remains the biggest threat to cohesion in the borough. In response to that threat Safer Walsall Partnership has developed a number of hate crime reporting centres and commissioned Stop Hate UK to allow any incidents of hate to be reported and appropriate support given. This is complemented by a newly established Vulnerability Forum which allows any incidents of hate which have not formally been reported to be recognised and appropriately responded to. The Institute of Community Cohesion were commissioned by the Safer Walsall Partnership to consult and map out Walsall diverse communities and gave 21 recommendations which have been considered and are now actively being delivered.

##### **Public Perceptions**

The Police 'Feeling the Difference Survey' provides valuable data on quality of life, reassurance and fear of crime issues with the most recent findings coming from Waves 28-31 (up to February 2012.) These latest waves reveal that 88% of Walsall residents agree that they have confidence in the police (although this does vary locally by police sector) whilst 83% of respondents in Walsall agree the police deal with the things that matter within their local community, this latter figure being on a par with the rest of the region but below the target of 88%. Despite encouraging figures in relation to crime and ASB over recent years 15% of residents surveyed believed that crime has increased whilst the figure for ASB is 16%, both of these figures varying for different areas of the borough. In line with previous waves, 13% of respondents worried about becoming a victim of crime whilst of these 15% felt that this fear had a notable or significant impact and 59% felt that the impact of this fear was moderate. Encouragingly 52% of respondents agreed they can influence decisions affecting their neighbourhood, this figure increasing for the fifth consecutive time. Whilst these figures are largely positive there is collectively more work to be done to further improve public perceptions and confidence in public services.



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

Serious Acquisitive Crime includes vehicle crime, domestic burglary and robbery. The out turn against this priority has remained fairly stable with a reduction of 1.4% during the 12 months covered by the assessment. In particular, domestic burglary and vehicle crime offences have reduced, whereas there has been an increase in robbery. Multi-agency initiatives, such as increased publicity of safety advice through the media and engagement with community groups, distribution of alarms and property marking kits and significantly, Operation Doorstop, which raises awareness of distraction burglary have contributed to recent outturns.

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

Between October 2010 and September 2011 a total of 1,977 offenders living in Walsall started an order with West Midlands Probation. The vast majority of these were male, 74% being White British, 12% Asian British. The peak age range of offenders was 26 – 34.

Assessments are completed in order to predict the risk of re-offending. These are allocated to 4 score bands, from low to very high. Overall, 39% of offenders were classified as low risk, 31% medium, 11% high and 2% as demonstrating a high risk of reoffending.

Walsall's IOM (Integrated Offender Management) project continues to be supported by partners in delivering positive outcomes for offenders and their families. Increased resources from the police will further support the preventative and rehabilitative interventions currently being delivered. There are currently 50 Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPOs) managed within the borough. The majority of these are white European males, aged between 22 and 34. Offences cover a range of crimes, but the majority are burglary and theft. Additionally, 46 of the 50 PPOs have tested positive during drugs tests when entering custody.

## **Vulnerable Areas**

### **1. Walsall Town Centre/Palfrey/Pleck**

This area falls within the Palfrey, Pleck and St Mathews wards and is home to the boroughs major shopping and entertainment areas. The area suffers from significant deprivation levels and has a high representation of Asian ethnicities (50%). It has also been identified as a police priority for Total Recorded Crime (TRC) and is the main hotspot for ASB and TRC across the borough. The area accounts for in the region of 16% of all offences on the borough with the highest offence categories being Theft Shops and Stalls (23%), Assault ABH (9%) and Theft Other (7%). The majority of offenders are White European (65%), followed by African Caribbean (16%) and Asian (15%), 75% of offenders are male and 64% fall within the 15-30 years age bracket. In terms of victims, White Europeans and Asians each account for 44% of victims who live in the area and just over a third of all victims have been businesses.

### **2. Bloxwich**

This area includes Bloxwich East, Bloxwich West, Birchills, Leamore, Blakenall and Pleck Wards. The vast majority of residents are White European (96%). The area suffers from high levels of

deprivation with over half of the population classed as being in the top 5% most deprived in England and Wales. The area is a borough priority for Vehicle Crime and Burglary Other Building and accounts for 8% of all offences in the borough. Criminal damage is the highest offence type accounting for 19% of all offences followed by Theft Shops and Stalls (11%), Vehicle Crime (10%), Assault ABH (9%) and Burglary Other Building (8%). The majority of offenders are White European (90%), 34% of all offenders fall within the 15-30 years age range and 75% are male. In total 185 offenders living in the area started an order with West Midlands Probation. The majority of victims in the area are White Europeans (92%) whilst 28% of crime victims are businesses.

### **3. Birchills**

This area is within the Birchills, Leamore, Blakenall and Pleck wards and is an area in which 75% of residents are classified as being in the top 5% deprived in England and Wales. 58% of the population are White European with a further 35% of Asian origin. With the exception of city centres this locality along with Walsall Town Centre/Palfrey/Pleck has the highest rates of call for service to West Midlands Police and has been identified as a force hot spot for Total Recorded Crime. Locally the area has been identified as a priority neighbourhood and a Next Steps area for Burglary Dwelling. It is also a hotspot for drug possession offences and accounts for 4% of all offences in the borough. Criminal Damage (18%), Theft Shops/Stalls (17%) and ABH assault (7%) account for the largest proportion of offences in the area. 72% of offenders are male, the majority (65%) being White European, followed by Asian (18%) and African Caribbean (16%) whilst 60% of offenders fall within the 16-30 age range. The majority of victims are White Europeans (55%), followed by Asian (35%) and African Caribbean (7%), a third of all victims in this area were businesses.

### **4. Darlaston**

The Darlaston area is within the Bentley and Darlaston North and Darlaston South wards. The majority of residents are White European (77%) followed by Asian (12%) A quarter of the population is under 15 years of age and 75% of the population are classed as being in the 20% most deprived in England and Wales making this area a little more affluent than others identified. This area accounts for 3.5% of all offences in the borough whilst over the period of the assessment offending increased by a further 13%. The highest offence types are Criminal Damage (18%), Theft Other (13%), ABH Assault (10%) and Theft Shops and Stalls (9%). Significantly Theft Other offences increased by 150% over the period covered by the assessment. The majority of offenders in this area are White European (80%), 29% of offenders fall with the 15-30 years age bracket and 75% were male. 76% of victims in the area are White European while a quarter of offences were against businesses.

### **5. Willenhall Town Centre**

This area sits within the Willenhall South ward and has a majority White European population (89%) with 30% of these being below 15 years of age. Most of the population is classed as being in the top 10% most deprived in England and Wales. This area accounts for 2% of all crime on the borough and was identified as a strategic hot spot for Burglary Other Building seeing a 37% increase over the period in question. The most prevalent crime types are Criminal Damage (17%), Theft Shops Stalls (11%), Burglary Other Building (10%) and ABH Assault (7%). The majority of offenders in this area are White European (76%), 33% fall into the 15-30 years age bracket and the

majority (80%) are male. 86% of victims are White European whilst 29% of all crime victims in the area were businesses.

## **6. New Invention**

The New Invention area is within the Willenhall North Ward. 96% of the population are White European and a quarter of these are aged between 45 and 64 years. One third of the population is classed as being within the top 10% most deprived in England and Wales and this area is more prosperous than others that have been identified. The area accounts for 2% of all offences across the borough with the most prevalent offence types being Criminal Damage (22%), Theft Other (15%) and ABH Assault (9%), Theft Other offences increasing by 58% over the period in question. The majority of offenders are White European (81%) whilst 30% fall within the 15- 30 years bracket, 74% of offenders were male. A large proportion of victims (90%) are White European and business victims accounted for 15% of overall crime.

Each of these areas also exhibit a range of socio demographic factors that will impact both directly and indirectly on the level of crime and disorder in those areas and are part of the complex range of factors that will need to be addressed collectively by partners if vulnerability levels are to be reduced.

### **Delivery against the Priorities**

Delivery against these strategic priorities and within the identified vulnerable areas will be achieved within the partnership working model adopted by Walsall and through the wide range of strategies and delivery plans that cut across partnership activity. The diagram on page 19 illustrates the partnership working model adopted by Walsall and how the Safer Walsall Partnership Board, the body responsible for this Community Safety Plan, fits within it.

Rather than detail each of the many strategies that will contribute to the delivery of this plan, the diagram on page 20 depicts the main strategies/plans that will allow the partnership to deliver against the identified priorities. These strategies/plans will also cut across and impact upon each of the identified vulnerable areas. The diagram shows the important link between the Community Safety Plan, the identified Strategic Priorities, the strategies/plans that will inform delivery and the Area Partnership Plans. It also shows the clear link to Walsall's overarching Sustainable Community Strategy.

### **Area Plans**

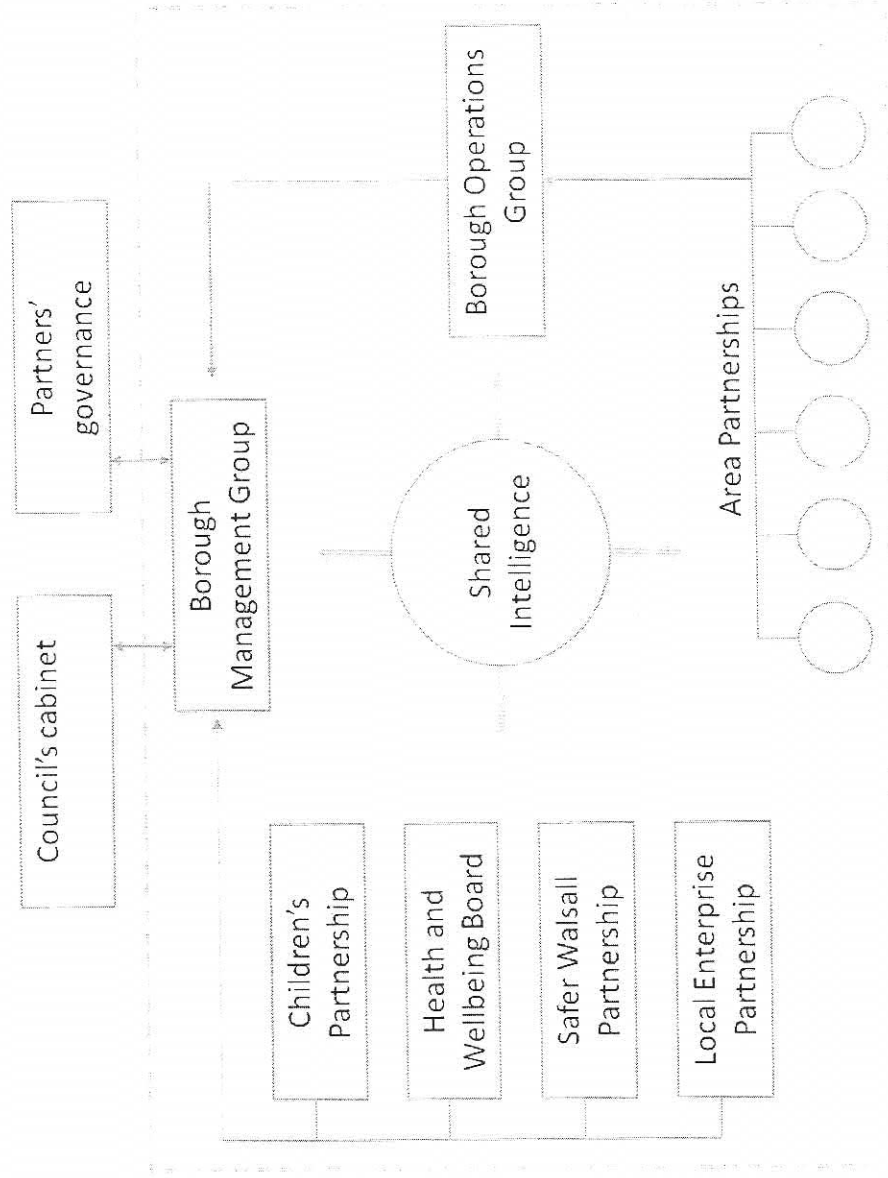
One of the key delivery mechanisms for the identified Strategic Priorities are the Area Plans. These plans have been developed by local delivery partners and communities and shape how local services are delivered in Walsall. They have been developed using much of the data and intelligence sources used 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.

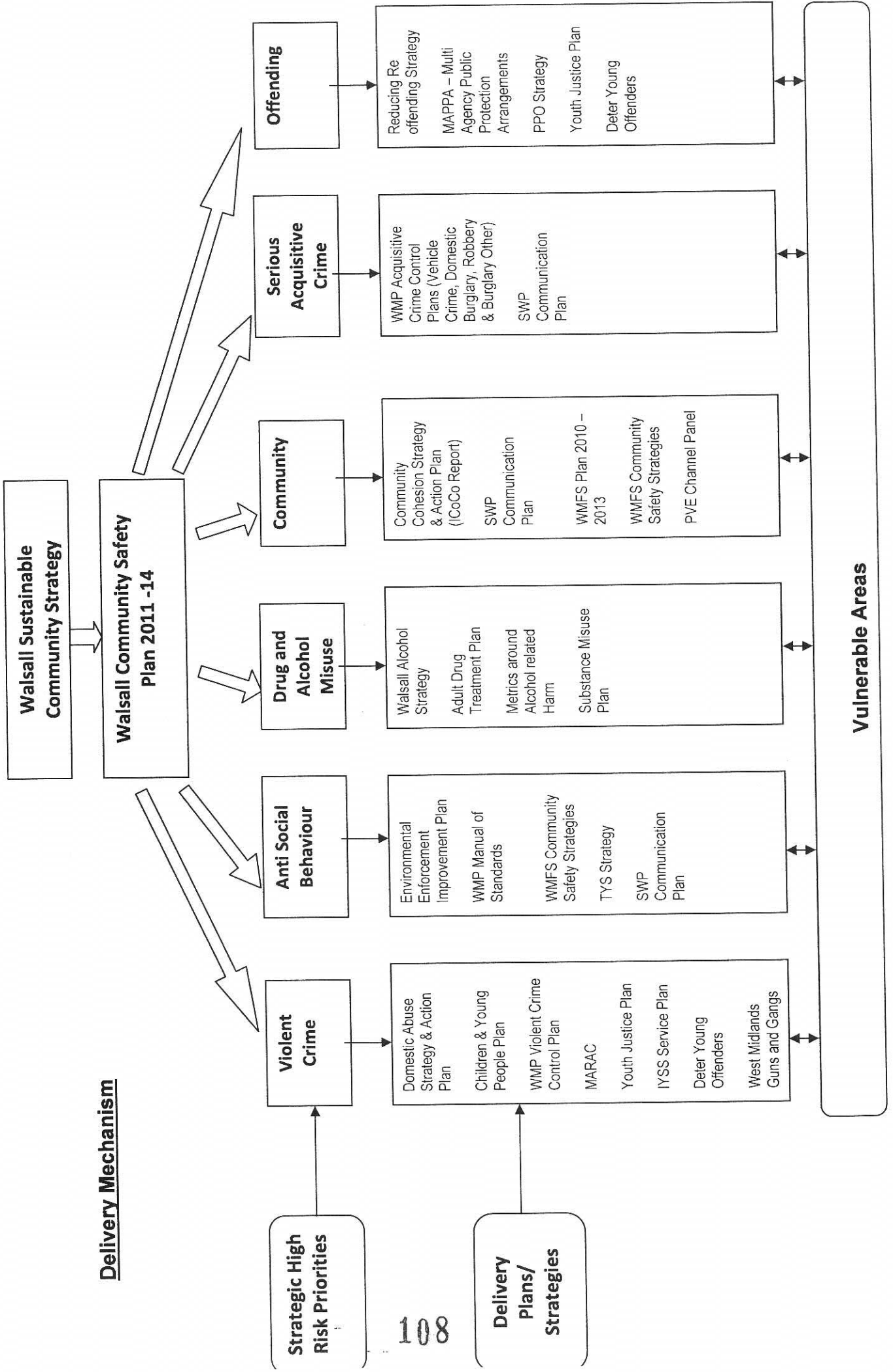
The diagram on page 21 illustrates the link between the Area Plans and priorities identified within the Community Safety Plan. For each Area Partnership a local issue and the actions identified to address that issue have been highlighted. These specific issues were selected as they demonstrate a clear link to each of the Community Safety Plan Priorities.

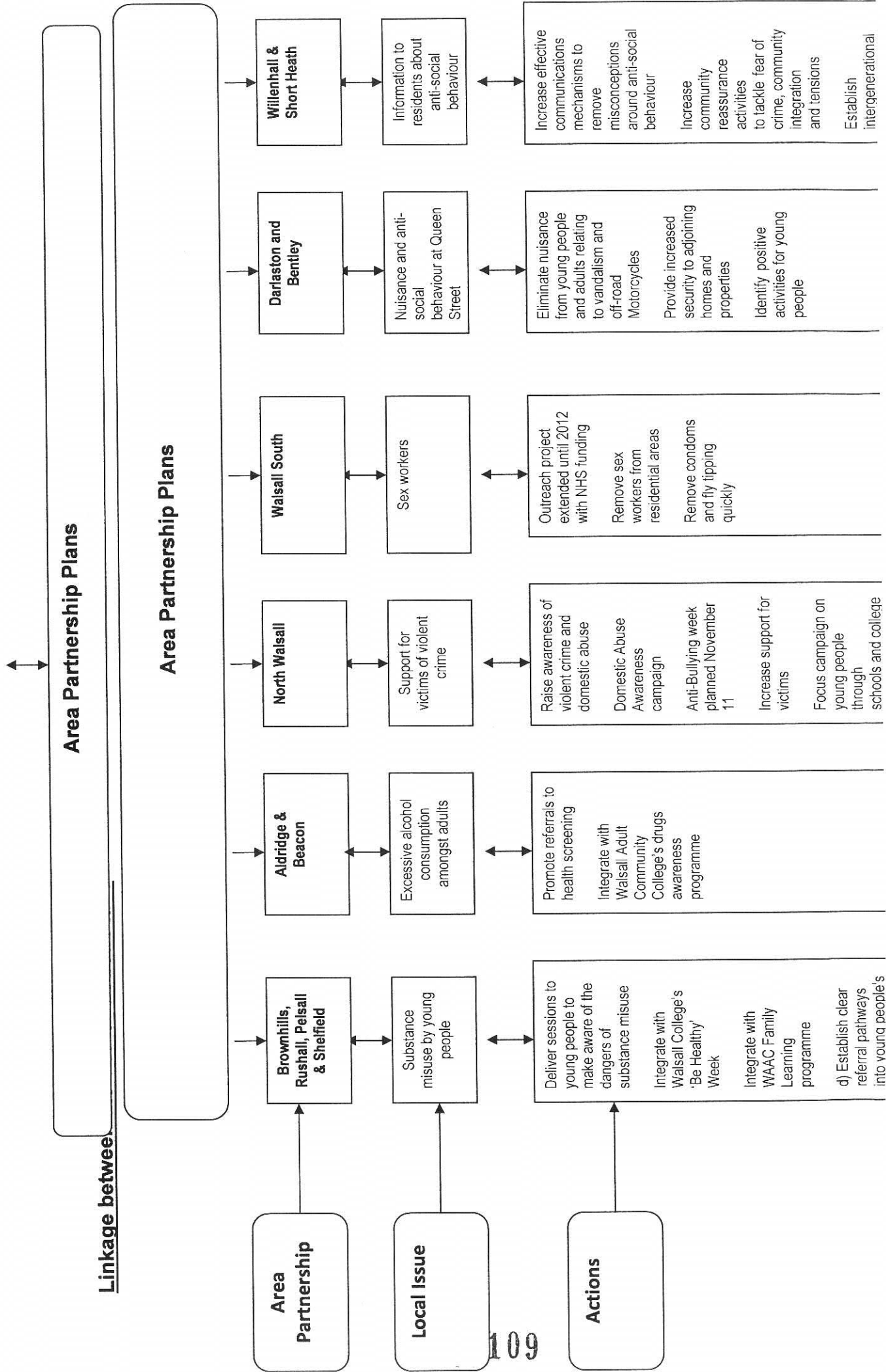
The clear links between the Area Plans and borough Community Safety Plan demonstrate the coordinated approach that is being taken in Walsall to improve the quality of life and opportunities for its residents. Focusing activities on these shared priorities is one of the means by which we can ensure that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

# Walsall: A New Model of Partnership Working









### Performance Management

The Partnership 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. Overall performance will be managed within the model of partnership working adopted in Walsall whilst the SWP Board is responsible for overseeing the delivery of the Community Safety Plan.

The Board is similarly responsible for identifying cross cutting opportunities for partners to work effectively together and for monitoring performance against this plan. This responsibility includes working to ensure resources are targeted to deliver against strategic and local priorities and identifying and planning for anticipated challenges and any areas of performance weakness. The commissioning role up until now undertaken by the Board from 2013/14 will be the responsibility of the in coming Police and Crime Commissioner. The Board and partners are working together at a local and regional level in preparation for the arrival of the Commissioner and to ensure that Walsall is well placed to evidence that it is working collaboratively to tackle crime and disorder and to make informed and evidence based bids within the new commissioning arrangements. This document will be the overarching plan for community safety in Walsall.

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

- Strategic priorities and objectives that matter most to our local communities.
- Secure resources and use budgets to deliver programmes that have maximum 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.