

Health and Wellbeing Board

9 September 2019

West Midlands Police Intervention and Prevention activities in support of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

1. Purpose

This report highlights those areas of the West Midlands Police (WMP) Ambition Plan to prevent crime, protect the public and help those in need in support of the wider Health and Wellbeing Strategy

2. Recommendations

That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the activity undertaken by West Midlands Police in support of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

3. Report detail

- The West Midlands Police Ambition plan describes how the police will support the delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioners Police and Crime Plan
- An Improvement plan has been introduced in April 2019 which intensifies the focus on particular areas of the Ambition plan
- West Midlands Police continues to focus activity towards prevention of crime, protecting the public and helping those in need.
- **Building Trust and Confidence in our police**
- WMP are seeking to build trust and confidence through the fairness, transparency and honesty in which we engage the public and partners, with the longer term objective of embedding the principles of procedural justice in all of our interactions, internal and external
- Neighbourhood Teams have been tasked to build trust with their communities, with a particular focus on young people, the vulnerable and diverse communities. Where crime, antisocial behaviour or vulnerability is reported or identified, officers will engage proportionality and where appropriate identify suitable intervention and prevention pathways with or through our partners. This work should be conducted proactively wherever possible to reduce harm at the earliest opportunity and the role of the Operational Locality panels in this process is significant.

- Policing activity locally is regularly scrutinised by the independently chaired Strategic Community Reference Group. This group includes representatives from a number of Walsall's diverse communities but its membership is consistently under review to ensure it is as reflective of the communities we serve as possible.
- **Strengthening communities and growing the economy**
- WMP continue to work with communities to increase the level and frequency of citizen participation in creating safer communities using new and developing technologies. The Active Citizen programme, run in partnership with One Walsall, is this year focused on the prevention of violence involving young people and will be allocated in two bidding cycles concluding September. A number of the current projects within Walsall were recognised at the Force Annual Diamond award ceremony in March.
- Police and partners continue to work actively with Walsall communities to educate, identify and intervene early with those at risk of radicalisation in order to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and to build community cohesion. The volume of referrals from WS though is an area requiring greater focus given our profile. WMP will be engaged with and supporting the Integrated Community Cohesion work.
- A Locality model is embedded across the Borough which enables police to work with partners to address vulnerability, focusing on people and place. A priority focus for WMP will be to support the Walsall Plan priority to regenerate Walsall town centre. Our focus is to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour and increase feelings of safety by managing vulnerable individuals into treatment to improve the economic viability and prosperity of the place. To support this work the area has now been designated as an Impact Zone which will attract additional resource / support.
- WMP work closely with partners to develop consistent approaches to offender diversionary pathways, focussing particularly on sex, domestic abuse and female offenders. WMP is supporting and advocating the introduction of an integrated Community Safety Unit Safer improve service delivery and outcomes in a cost efficient manner
- WMP is committed to supporting people with mental health needs, contributing to a multi-agency triage team (police/mental health nurse/paramedic) whose focus is the wellbeing of individuals in crisis.
- **Protecting People from Harm**
- WMP continue to seek to raise awareness and reporting of hidden crimes (domestic abuse / child sexual exploitation / modern day slavery / honour based abuse / female genital mutilation / exploitation; county lines) by undertaking activities that build confidence within communities. Information sharing through the Locality model will

provide additional opportunities to identify and support vulnerable individuals, referring to the appropriate pathway to prevent / reduce offending and vulnerability.

- WMP continues to support the development of a systematic and coordinated partnership approach to the prevention of violence through the West Midlands Violence Prevention Alliance. In Walsall the police work with partners, statutory and third sector to tackle vulnerabilities and reduce the impact of adverse childhood experiences. WMP has worked with the Local Authority and CCG to design and implement the changes introduced by Working Together for child safeguarding.
- WMP continue to work to prevent violence in public places, focusing on high footfall areas such as the town centre (including the Night Time Economy) and community events / gatherings. Opportunities have been sought to use technology in support of this and a number of Neighbourhood Team officers in Walsall are now trained to carry Taser. WMP work with strategic partners to ensure pathways are utilised as efficiently and effectively as possible to bring offenders to justice and prevent further offending.

4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements:

- West Midlands police remains committed to working collaboratively with strategic partners to ensure resources and activity is aligned to provide efficient delivery of services to the Borough of Walsall against the strategic priorities identified. In addition to this, WMP remain committed to the delivery of an integrated place based service.

5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities:

- The Walsall Plan has identified three priorities:
 1. Preventing Violence
 2. Getting Walsall Active
 3. Regeneration of Walsall town centre
- West Midlands police contribute to all three priorities working in partnership to achieve early identification of issues, intervention and prevention activity.

Background papers

West Midlands Police Force Ambition Plan 2018-2020
West Midlands Police Improvement Plan 2019-2020

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