

Health and Wellbeing Board

23 July 2018

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
- 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 Locality panels in this process is significant.
- Policing activity locally is regularly scrutinised by the independently chaired Strategic Community Reference Group. This group currently includes representatives from a number of Walsall's diverse communities and work is currently underway to understand opportunities to work collaboratively with partners in order to increase the representation of this group.

- **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, supports and promotes the mobilisation of communities in line with the Locality model to identify and problem solve local issues linked to community safety. A number of the current projects within Walsall are considered “Best Practice” by the Force and have received local and national media interest.
- 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. WMP will be engaged with and supporting the Integrated Community Cohesion work.
- A Locality model is now in place 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 play a key role in the Town Centre task and finish group 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.
- WMP work closely with partners to develop consistent approaches to offender diversionary pathways, focussing particularly on sex, domestic abuse and female offenders. WMP is advocating and supportive of changes to the Safer Walsall Partnership, identifying opportunities to identify common goals and integrate service delivery with partners in order to improve 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. A recent example of this is the work WMP and the Local Authority have been

championing to encourage schools to have the “Big Conversation” with pupils to discuss the dangers of carrying knives.

- 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 creatively with partner, licensing industry and public support, the partnership funding the purchase of a new knife arch for deployment at key locations / times. 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, opportunities are being sought to integrate services.

5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities:

- The Walsall Plan - Our Health and Wellbeing strategy 2017-2020 has identified three overarching priorities:
 1. Increasing economic prosperity through increased growth
 2. Maximising peoples health, wellbeing and safety
 3. Creating healthy and sustainable places and communities
- 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

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