

**Coventry City Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee held at**  
**10.00 am on Wednesday, 12 July 2023**

Present:

Members: Councillor N Akhtar (Chair)  
Councillor R Thay (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor A Hopkins (Substitute for Councillor M Ali)  
Councillor S Keough (Substitute for Councillor P Male)  
Councillor R Lakha (Substitute for Councillor C Miks)  
Councillor G Ridley  
Councillor E Ruane  
Councillor R Singh

Other Members (Invited) Councillor P Akhtar (Deputy Cabinet Member for Policy and Equalities)  
Councillor G Hayre (Deputy Cabinet Member for Public Health, Sport, and Wellbeing)

Employees  
(by Service Area):

Law and Governance V Castree, M Salmon, T Robinson

Public health and Wellbeing A Duggal (Director of Public Health and Wellbeing), J Ross

Streetscene and Regulatory Services J Adams, D Blackburn, L Nagle

Others (Invited): D Lyon, Detective Inspector, West Midlands Police  
A Patel, Analyst, West Midlands Police

Apologies: Councillor M Ali  
Councillor P Male  
Councillor C Miks  
Councillor C E Thomas  
Councillor AS Khan (Cabinet Member for Policy and Equalities) – Invited

## **Public Business**

### **1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

Further to minute 54 headed 'West Midlands Police - Update on Local Policing' and minute 55 headed 'Coventry Community Safety Plan' Members outlined their concerns regarding the submission deadlines for reports, data formatting, and appropriate data ownership, and requested that consideration be given to these matters for future reports to ensure that data could be properly shared.

### 3. **Coventry Community Safety Plan**

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee received a Briefing Note of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services and Daryl Lyons, Chief Inspector of West Midlands Police, that responded to a request from Members for details of the Coventry Community Strategic Priorities and an explanation of how the Coventry Community Safety Partnership would address the priorities highlighted in the annual strategic assessment.

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were the statutory body that brought together local partners to solve shared issues around: Crime and Disorder, Anti-Social Behaviour, Drug and Alcohol misuse, and Reoffending. The CSP in Coventry met as the Police and Crime Board (PCB).

Each year the Partnerships were required to undertake strategic assessments to help to inform their priorities. The root causes of crime and disorder were complex and multi-faceted, but local partners were well placed to respond and continue to work hard to understand how to make real and lasting impacts.

The strategic assessment, attached as an Appendix to the Briefing Note and which had been approved by the Coventry Police and Crime Board, was created, on behalf of the CSP by West Midland Police Partnership Intelligence Liaison Team (PILT). The Assessment was a regionally agreed service that provided each CSP with an annual report looking at the last 12 months. The document consisted of and was informed by, both local data, contributions from the local CSP members, and from a public survey, where members of the public were asked for their views on community safety in the city.

The strategic assessment looked back at data and events in the previous year and was also a predictive tool used to anticipate future issues in the city. The information was used by the PCB to set priorities and actions for the Partnership to improve community safety in the city.

The responsibility for delivering the strategic priorities, which were set out in the Appendix to the Briefing Note, ultimately lay with the PCB, although they were allocated and managed by the sub-groups, which supported the Board. The chairperson for each sub-group was a PCB member and answerable to the Board for the priorities that fell in their specific areas. Some of the priorities were 'cross-cutting' and collective ownership was taken for those issues.

The sub-groups that supported the PCB and were responsible for managing, delivering, and monitoring:

- City Tasking: This group covered public place-based issues, safety, and reassurance

- Harm and Abuse Reduction Partnership: This group responded to and sought to reduce a range of vulnerabilities/issues which ranged from domestic abuse, sexual violence, hate crime, modern day slavery etc
- Reducing Re-Offending Group: Reducing reoffending and the resulting harm, integrated offender management and tackling serious and organised crime
- Prevent: responded to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat faced from those who promote it; preventing people from being drawn into terrorism and ensuring that they were given appropriate advice and support; and worked with sectors and institutions where there were risks of radicalisation that needed to be addressed.

The PCB met quarterly and received the document that detailed performance against the qualitative and quantitative. Specific reporting was limited to 'exceptions' i.e., under, or over performance. Further scrutiny of the plan was undertaken by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, who had a representative on the Coventry PCB.

In considering the Briefing Note, the Committee questioned and received responses from officers and the Chief Inspector of West Midlands Police, in respect of the matters summarised below:

- Use of Images from City Centre CCTV - West Midlands Police use Coventry City Council CCTV images in future communications for incidents, where it did not compromise a conviction
- Data sharing with Members - dialogue between Members and the Community Safety Partnership regarding the data that could be shared, and context included
- Average speed cameras - impact of average speed cameras in the city and where the fines were sent
- Police officer strength in the city compared to actual strength - levels of police establishment in the City including vacancy rates
- Police estates in the city – plans for police estates in the City
- Motorcycle crime – growing crime of theft of motorcycles and use of motorcycles in criminal activities.
- Vehicle crime – Vehicle crime detection rate highest in the Police force and was a focus
- Motorcycle ride-outs – major events, countrywide attendance, drone assisted surveillance of events, plans in place where planned events
- Domestic abuse – Strategy in place for domestic abuse, quantitative measures via monthly stats in assessment reports, Prevent Training undertaken
- Access for data sharing networks – large sharing network, sub- groups bring intelligence together
- Cyber Crime – responsibility of Regional Organised Crime Unit
- City Centre - further action required to make the City Centre safer
- Night-time economy - Night-time Economy Steering Group chaired by Police inspector and Strategic Lead for Regulatory Services, funding for Night-time Czar in Coventry
- Police officer lists for local development posts – keep Members up to date on local policing teams

- Crime re-offenders – Police process for supporting offenders and work undertaken by Youth Offending Service/Board (now Youth Justice Services) to encourage children not to commit offences/re-offend
- Employment of ex-offenders – Council process in place
- Drug and alcohol misuse – Council Policies in place to support
- Ward meetings with Police – encourage monthly Ward meetings with Police to meet with local residents to inspire and motivate the reporting of criminal activity

Members of the Committee requested the following:

- Dialogue between Members and the Community Safety Partnership regarding the data that could be shared, and context included - Legal Services be consulted regarding sharing data between partners for future use
- Request that West Midlands Police use Coventry City Council CCTV images in future communications for incidents, where it did not compromise a conviction
- Average speed cameras - gather data from Traffic Management and circulate information to Members on the impact of average speed cameras in the city and where the fines were sent, and consider for the relevant Scrutiny Board
- Established police officer strength in the city compared to actual strength - circulate information to Members on levels of police establishment in the City including vacancy rates
- Police estates in the city – request information about plans for police estates in the City, from the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Up-to-date Police Officer lists for local development posts - circulate information to Members on local policing teams

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee:**

- 1) Notes the content and actions in the Strategic Priorities designed to address community safety issues in the city.**
- 2) The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, who is the Coventry Police and Crime Board (PCB) chairperson, be requested to take further action to make the City Centre safer.**
- 3) A letter be sent to the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority requesting that funding be provided for the role of a Night-time Czar in Coventry.**

#### **4. Domestic Abuse Early Intervention Project Update and Evaluation**

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee received a Briefing Note of the Director of Public Health that provided Members with an update on the evaluation of the Domestic Abuse Early Intervention Project (EIP) and the impact on survivors, services involved, and the wider partnership involved in addressing domestic abuse within the city.

The Domestic Abuse Programme Delivery Manager gave a presentation on the Domestic Abuse Early Intervention Project to the Committee that provided the following information:

- The Project commenced in April 2021, it was supported by COVID funding and match funding from WMP, it had 3 full time staff from the Domestic Abuse Consortium, was based at Coventry Central Police Station and dealt with interventions for standard and medium risk victims of Domestic Abuse
- From 1st April 2021 – 30th March 2023 there were 5263 female victims and 529 male victims across an age range of under 15 years of age to 75 years of age and across a broad range of ethnicity
- Survivor support needs – 293 survivors with a disability, 427 survivors with language needs/interpreter, 1597 survivors with children, and 25 survivors supported with immigration. 3435 survivors were signposted or referred to in-house long-term support or other specialist external agencies
- Evaluation of Domestic Abuse Early Intervention Project in Coventry - conducted in collaboration with Coventry University using quantitative and qualitative methods
- Project aims - to support domestic abuse survivors with early interventions, preventing and reducing harms and risks in the immediate aftermath of the Covid-19 Pandemic: to reduce the re-victimisation and prevent escalation of abuse faced by survivors; to support different cohorts of survivors to engage with further support services; to enhance survivors' agency and support them to feel safer and more empowered
- Numbers of referrals extracted from the datasets of CHWA and Panahghar, respectively, before and after the implementation of EIP
- Risk levels assessed by Police and EIP
- The Numbers of survivors that accepted support services in 2020-2021
- The difference in access experience and outcomes for survivors before and after the project began
- The difference in the characteristics of the survivor cohorts before and after the project began
- The perceived impact of the co-located EIP by the EIP team, wider service providers, and survivors
- Recommendations from the Project evaluation:
  - Strengthening a co-located approach
    - a) Introducing the EIP team to the police formally
    - b) Increasing police's recognition of the notes left by the EIP team on the police system
    - c) Increasing capacity of the EIP team and the police
  - Training (Police)
    - a) Receiving training on case management and local support services
    - b) Receiving training on recognising domestic abuse behaviour and how to engage with survivors
  - Increasing funding for local support services
    - a) Expanding the timetables and capacity of local support sessions, such as domestic abuse group work and counselling service

In considering the Briefing Note, the Committee questioned and received responses from officers and the Chief Inspector of West Midlands Police, in respect of the matters summarised below:

- Impact of project - voices were heard and victims felt validated
- Victims could have complex issues that required more than one service
- The Service cost just under £150,000 per year to deliver
- New project – data currently being collected on the value of referrals
- Survivors didn't always want to access all services available to them at the start of the process but were able to come in at a later stage
- Referrals – people could decide not to progress with accessing services
- Valley House - had their own housing stock. Many other providers owned their own stock too
- Accommodate victims within 24 hours of contact received
- Officers supporting the Project had a combination of knowledge and experience of the work, some had additional qualifications, some drew on their own experiences
- 5,000 contacts made – some repeats
- Police Response Officers – didn't specialise in this work. Specific training would be beneficial to service including risk assessments and appropriate ways to engage with survivors and locally commissioned services
- Young People – education on domestic abuse delivered in schools
- Older Group – increased numbers could be due to more now being willing to report
- The report on the Domestic Abuse Early Intervention Project was being finalised for circulation – included data collected by Coventry University over a period of 9 months

Members of the Committee requested that a copy of the report on the Domestic Abuse Early Intervention Project (EIP) be circulated to them as soon as it was available.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee:**

- 1) **Support the following recommendations as a result of the Domestic Abuse Early Intervention Project which were presented to the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board:**
  - a) **To strengthen a co-located approach and work pattern by increasing the awareness of the EIP to local other police resources within the Local Police Area.**
  - b) **That the police would benefit from further training on domestic abuse including risk assessments and appropriate ways to engage with survivors and the locally commissioned services.**
  - c) **Improving the capacity of the Early Intervention Project Team to extend the service support offer that is currently available and for specialist services to review the services provided to enable survivors to attend evening and weekend support sessions.**
  - d) **To continue to seek funding for extend the Project beyond March 2024.**

5. **Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme and Outstanding Issues 2023-24**

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered their Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee:**

- 1) **Notes the Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2023/24.**
- 2) **Agrees that the Work Programme be updated to include an item for the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 meeting of the Committee 'Severn Trent – water pollution and the quality and cleanliness of the rivers in Coventry'.**

6. **Any Other Items of Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 1.00 pm)