

Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

23 March 2023

Subject:	Implementation of Sandwell Community Safety Strategy 2022-26
Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board Chair:	Chief Superintendent - Maria Fox West Midlands Police
Director:	Alice Davey Director of Borough Economy
Contact Officer:	Tessa Mitchell Business Manager Community Safety & Resilience tessa_mitchell@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendation

- 1.1 That the Scrutiny Board considers and comments upon the work undertaken to deliver on the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board's Community Safety Strategy 2022-26 which outlines the partnerships key priorities and direction of travel over the next 5 years.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Sandwell's Community Safety Strategy is overseen by the multi-agency Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board (SSPPCB) who oversee the Boroughs approach to community safety. The Board



adopted a new partnership strategy in 2022, which built upon the work of the previous strategy, reinforced by feedback from residents obtained over the previous three years and Sandwell's annual strategic assessments.

2.2 The key priorities within the strategy are:

- The prevention of violence and exploitation
- Reducing offending, reoffending and serious organised crime
- Preventing crime & antisocial behaviour in our Neighbourhoods





2.3 The strategy also encompasses two other significant cross cutting themes: **tackling substance misuse to save lives and reduce crime**, aligned with the Government's new Drugs Strategy and **delivering on the new Serious Violence Duty**. The Duty is a key part of the Government's programme of work to prevent and reduce serious violence; taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focused on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence which requires a joined up holistic approach.

2.4 The golden thread running through all these priorities is our commitment to protecting and supporting vulnerable victims. We will deliver these priorities through adopting a public health approach, understanding that violence is preventable and identifying the reasons why people get drawn into crime. We will also support organisations to become trauma aware and embed such approaches into their practice and tackle these issues through the adoption of a 4 P Plan which aims to : prevent violence, abuse and exploitation; protect those affected; reduce harm and pursue those who perpetrate.

2.5 The strategy is driven through the work of the Boards 3 subgroups who oversee annual work plans which are regularly reviewed throughout the year and updated annually. This ensures the flexibility to predict and respond to any emerging trends in the fast paced and ever-changing arena that is community safety.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on prevention of violence and exploitation • Reducing opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour • Multi-Agency support for children and families • Delivery of awareness and resilience building work in our schools.
	<p>People live well and age well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on tackling substance misuse • Community Engagement
	<p>Strong resilient communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place based tasking processes using evidence to focus on specific issues across each town • Community awareness work through our ASB, Community Safety and Prevent Teams • Tackling perpetrators
	<p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of our CCTV stock to support community safety across our estates and towns

4 Context and Activities to address Sandwell’s key priorities

- 4.1 To ensure that the communities of Sandwell, feel safe, protected, and confident in their homes and neighbourhoods, it is important to take a comprehensive approach to community safety. This means working with a range of stakeholders, including residents, community groups, law enforcement agencies to develop and implement effective strategies that address the root causes of crime and social disorder.
- 4.2 One important element of a comprehensive community safety strategy is community engagement. This involves listening to the concerns and priorities of residents and working together to develop solutions that address their needs. In developing the strategy, a range of engagement opportunities were undertaken which are referenced on p14 of the strategy including a resident survey.



4.3 Respondents Top 5 Priorities were:

- Drug dealing (10.7%)
- Youth disorder (9.3%)
- Burglary (7.4%)
- Violent crime (7.2%)
- Littering/fly tipping (5.8%)

4.4 Respondents thoughts on improving safety:

- 91.5% respondents asked for an increased police presence
- More CCTV (69.5%) was the second most common solution
- Well maintained estates & streets (59.9%) were third

4.5 Partnership working is at the heart of Sandwell's community safety strategy, collaborating with residents and other organisations and agencies, such as schools, businesses, and community groups, to address safety issues in a coordinated and effective way.

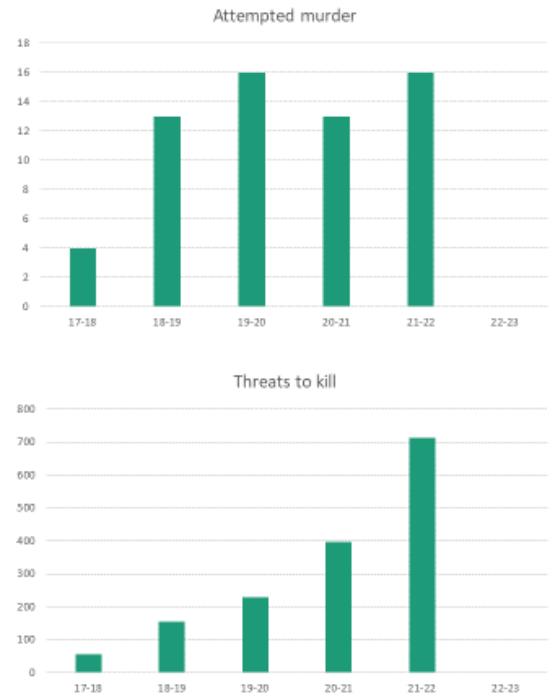
4.6 The community safety strategy highlights areas where we are investing in crime prevention measures, including targeted interventions such as increased police patrols in high-crime areas and preventative measures that address underlying factors such as poverty, mental health, or substance abuse. The strategy supports working together create safe and thriving communities where everyone can feel secure and confident. The key priorities and work to address these are outlined below.

5.0 The Prevention of Violence and Exploitation

5.1 Violence Against the Person

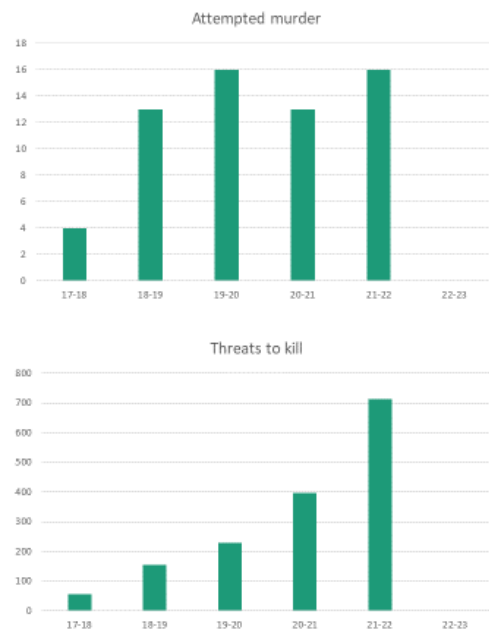
Evidence shows that after declining for approximately a decade, homicide, knife crime, and gun crime have been on the rise again in most police force areas in England and Wales since 2014. Some of this increase can be attributed to improved police recording but it is believed that some of the increases are genuine, including a rise in offences involving knives and firearms. Sandwell is generally in line with these national trends as shown below:





(Diagram 1)

These increases have been accompanied by a slight shift towards younger victims and perpetrators and an increase in threats to kill with over 700 incidents recorded last year.



(Diagram 2)

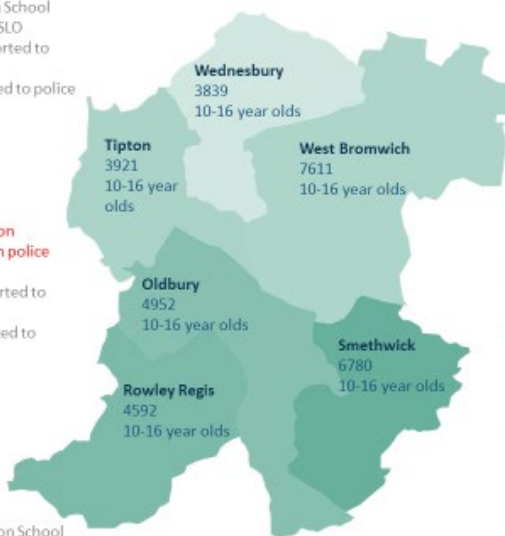


(Diagram 3 & 4)

Weapons Sandwell 2021-2022

Tipton

- ✓ 3 weapons identified on School children through police SLO
- ✓ 10 fire arms crimes reported to police
- ✓ 522 knife crimes reported to police



Wednesbury

- ✓ 3 weapons identified on School children through police SLO
- ✓ 6 fire arms crimes reported to police
- ✓ 603 knife crimes reported to police

90 Firearms incidents in Sandwell in 2021-2022

4415 knife crime incidents in Sandwell in 2021-2022

Oldbury

- ✓ 25 weapons identified on School children through police SLO
- ✓ 8 fire arms crimes reported to police
- ✓ 668 knife crimes reported to police

West Bromwich

- ✓ 20 weapons identified on School children through police SLO
- ✓ 19 fire arms crimes reported to police
- ✓ 1341 knife crimes reported to police

Proactive working through the Police Schools link officers they have identified and supported 71 children involved with weapons

Rowley Regis

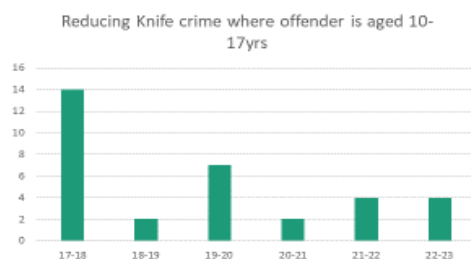
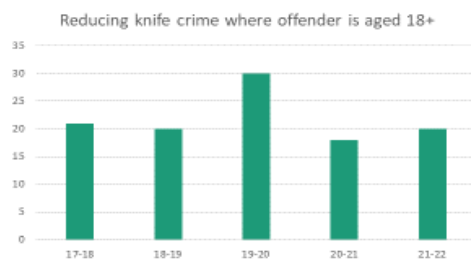
- ✓ 16 weapons identified on School children through police SLO
- ✓ 18 fire arms crimes reported to police
- ✓ 513 knife crimes reported to police

Smethwick

- ✓ 4 weapons identified on School children through police SLO
- ✓ 13 fire arms crimes reported to police
- ✓ 768 knife crimes reported to police

Highlights

- Oldbury has the highest levels of assaults
- Oldbury has the highest levels of weapons
- Wednesbury has the highest levels of drug incidents
- West Bromwich has the highest levels of sexting and sexual offences
- West Bromwich has the highest levels of thefts



5.2 Tackling Serious Violence in Sandwell

Considerable focus on early intervention and preventative work across the partnership including:



- Increased number of Police Officers working in schools and the Community Schools.
- Collaboration with the Violence Reduction Partnership through dedicated co-located Community Navigator and funding (£74,500) for a range of activities including 3 Step Together Routes in Sandwell; Mentors in Violence Prevention; trauma informed practice training; half term / summer holiday activity programmes; increased knowledge base in relation to what works in reducing violence
- Review of regional safeguarding policies and procedures undertaken and promoted
- Partnership Safeguarding Days in Local schools
- Safeguarding Champions programme in 14 Sandwell schools
- Around Midnight virtual training package being delivered in schools
- Partnership Days of Action in Impact Areas
- Support from Operation Guardian
- OPCC Community Safety funding utilised to support a number of projects working with young people at risk of offending
- Strengthened and targeted youth services provision
- Early Help Strategy and introduction of Children and Families Commissioning Group
- Introduction of St Giles Violence Intervention Project in local A&E department to engage with victims of violence (reachable moments)
- New Knife bin sited in Smethwick
- Launch of Multi-agency Decision Making Panel for out of court disposals
- Development of multi systemic therapies within youth justice
- Launch of the Serious Violence Duty and preparation of Sandwell's Serious Violence Needs Assessment

5.3 Domestic Abuse

Around one-third of violence against the person offences and one-fifth of all homicides are related to domestic abuse. Such crimes are on the rise in many areas including Sandwell. This may be due, in part, to better reporting and recording of these crimes but there is also believed that there has been a genuine increase in domestic abuse-related crimes. This has resulted in a significant increase in MARAC referrals, locally which is a positive trend as it means that more victims are being



identified and receiving the support, they need but does have an impact on local partnership resources.

As with all violence there is a clear move towards earlier intervention, with an increase in standard risk and medium-risk victims reaching out for help. This is an important trend as it means that victims are receiving support earlier, which can help to prevent abuse from escalating. The COVID-19 pandemic has also had a significant impact on domestic abuse, with some areas reporting an increase in incidents during lockdowns. The pandemic has also made it more difficult for victims to access support and for services to provide face-to-face support. The current situation in Sandwell is detailed below:



(Diagram 5)

5.4 Tackling Domestic Abuse in Sandwell

Work to address domestic abuse across the Borough over the past year has included:

- Implementation of the new Domestic Abuse Strategy including development of new Implementation Group to drive forward Partnership Work Plan



- Revisions to Sandwell’s Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership following visits to other well regarded areas
- £841,142 New Burdens Funding (22-23) allocated to Sandwell to provide safe accommodation services with further funding confirmed for the next 2 years
- New refuge contract successfully awarded for next 5 years to BCWA



(Diagram 6)

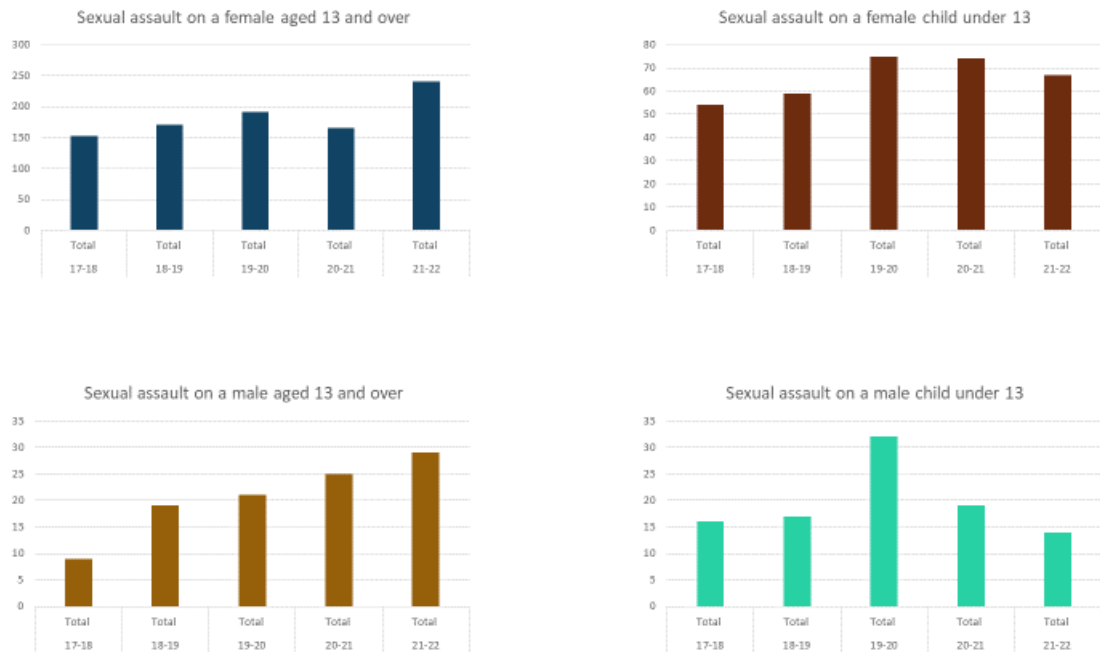
- Whole Systems Task and Finish group established to coordinate joined up and integrated interventions including IDVAs and family projects
- OPCC Community Safety Funding supports provision of A&E IDVA
- Regional Review of MARAC being undertaken by OPCC
- Funding secured to continue interventions over 3 years including pilot perpetrator intervention with The Children’s Trust
- Sandwell chosen by OPCC to submit a bid for the Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Intervention Programme
- Domestic Abuse Pledge signed during Annual Safer 6 Community Safety Campaign – committing all partners to a zero tolerance approach to all forms of abuse
- Continued roll out of IRIS scheme across Borough helping GPs identify domestic abuse
- Check with Me First Campaign rolled out across all Health professionals



- Ongoing programme of DA training including Learning from DHRs
- Domestic Homicide Review 13 published

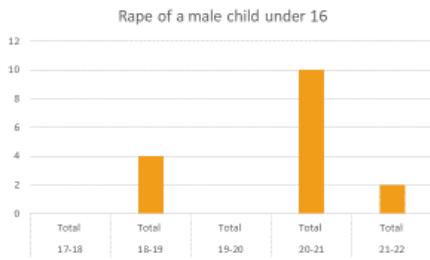
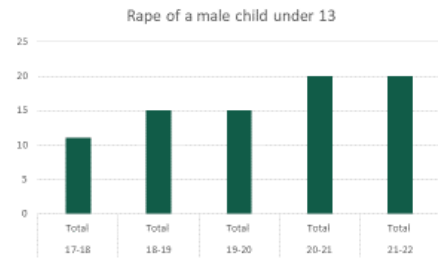
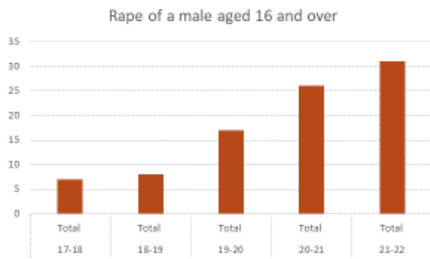
5.6 Sexual Assault and Abuse

The number of sexual offences recorded by the police has been increasing with 2021-22 seeing the highest ever recorded number of sexual offences recorded by the police within a 12-month period. This includes a concerning increase in sexual crimes against children. For example, the rape of female children under 16 has almost doubled over the last 12 months, while there have been year-on-year increases in the rape of males aged 16 and over.



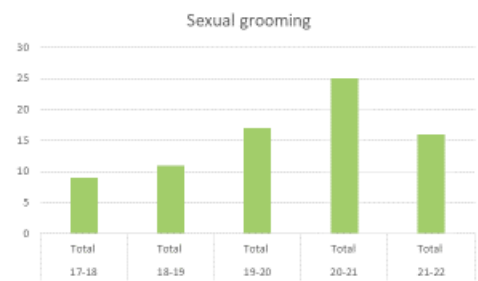
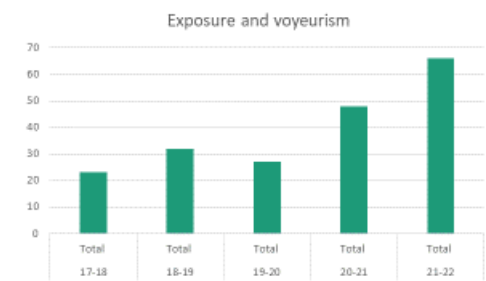
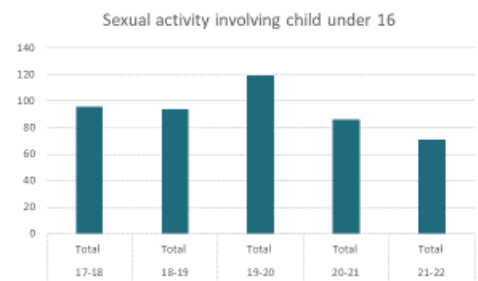
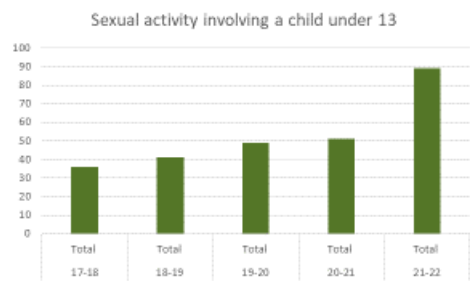
(Diagram 7)





(Diagram 8)

There have also been increased reports of sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour and significant increases in exposure and voyeurism. 1 in 3 respondents to Sandwell's Sexual Assault and Abuse Survey in 2021 said that they had experienced sexual abuse or assault.



(Diagram 9)



Advances in technology have also led to an increase in online sexual harassment, abuse, and exploitation. This is a particularly concerning trend as it can be difficult to detect and prevent such crimes. Despite the increase in recorded sexual offences, it is widely believed that sexual assault and abuse are still vastly underreported. This highlights the need for greater awareness-raising, education and support for victims to encourage reporting.

These trends highlight the urgent need to progress this area of work under the newly formed Sexual Assault and Abuse subgroup that is focusing on a strategy and action plan to implement measures to prevent sexual offences and to support victims. It is essential to provide education and awareness-raising initiatives to prevent these crimes and to provide appropriate support and protection for victims. Additionally, effective prevention and intervention strategies should be implemented to identify and address the root causes of these crimes.

5.7 Tackling Sexual Abuse and Assault in Sandwell

Work to address sexual abuse and assault across the Borough over the past year has included:

- A Sexual Abuse and Assault Needs Assessment and Strategy have been developed and implemented with a Sexual Assault and Abuse subgroup to develop and drive the associated work plan
- Ongoing work to educate young people around healthy relationships and misogyny including funding from the VRP to provide 'Men at Work' training to support school staff in working with boys.
- Sandwell was awarded Safer Streets Round 3 Funding to tackle violence against women and girls in West Bromwich which included sexual harassment and bystander training and the introduction of a Safe Spaces Scheme with local businesses.
- New Sexual Assault and Abuse Training introduced delivered by The Haven
- Partnership Sexual Abuse and Assault / FGM Event 'Together We Move, Together We Change' held at The Hawthorns on 9th February attended by 147 delegates



Respondents to Sandwell’s Sexual Abuse and Assault Survey in 2021 said that they would feel safer through awareness raising & education, safe spaces and more visible security/police presence. The work above has taken this forward and will continue into 2023-24.

5.8 Modern Slavery

Modern slavery cases are among the most challenging and complex to investigate and prosecute, as the hidden nature of modern slavery reduces the available evidence to make a charging decision.

Perpetrators also often exercise a high level of control and coercion over their victims

Sandwell has established strategic Anti-Slavery Partnership and a Slavery and Human Trafficking Operational Partnership (SHOP) to tackle modern slavery cases in a coordinated manner. Yearly referrals have been relatively consistent but there has been a significant decrease in labour exploitation following the first lockdown.



(Diagram 10)

There has been an increase in criminal exploitation, which suggests that many of these cases were dealt with outside of SHOP and modern slavery was not always recognised. Cuckooing cases have also increased, particularly in relation to vulnerable males being exploited by females. It is essential to work collaboratively across agencies to identify and prosecute modern slavery cases and to support and protect victims.



5.9 Tackling Modern Slavery in Sandwell

Work to tackle modern slavery across the Borough over the past year has included:

- Focused partnership activity on nail bars in conjunction with the National Crime Agency
- Regional Training offer updated
- Local Government Association Modern Slavery Maturity Matrix incorporated Sandwell work
- Sandwell Prevention Exploitation and Modern Slavery Lead presented best practice update at Local Government Association Annual Conference
- Sandwell's Modern Slavery Transparency Statement updated
- Sandwell Police appointed modern slavery SPOC
- Resettlement Pathways reviewed and updated
- Working with landlords in relation to reports of modern slavery in their properties. 106 properties reported in last 12 months.
- Modern Slavery Dashboard developed using Power BI

5.10 Child Exploitation

In 2020, there was a significant reduction in child exploitation referred to the police, most likely due to the impact of the pandemic. Sandwell Children's Trust (SCT) has created new data sets for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) which are being incorporated into the Partnership Value and Effectiveness (PoVE) scorecard. The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) [VRP regional missing dashboard](#) enables monitoring of missing cases across the region. In the West Midlands, there were 4,487 missing people in 2021-2022, with 9,322 missing episodes, an average of 2.8 missing episodes per person. Of those missing people, 1,146 had flags for exploitation.

In Sandwell, there were 583 missing people, with 1,255 missing episodes, an average of 2.1 missing episodes per person. Of those missing people, 85 had an exploitation flag. Interestingly, Sandwell had more males missing than the regional averages, with 56% male compared to an average of 51%.





(Diagram 11)

5.11 Tackling Child Exploitation in Sandwell

- Embedding of Sandwell’s Child Exploitation Hub
- The Horizons Team works in partnership to promote awareness and tackle child exploitation across the Borough including changes made to Multi Agency Child Exploitation Meetings to discuss all high risk children every 4 weeks
- Work of the Horizons Team commended in OFSTED Report and the team won the 2022 West Midlands Team of Excellence award
- Engagement with young people to better understand concerns and issues
- Contextual Safeguarding Champions group
- Significant programme of youth activities delivered by Sandwell Youth Services
- Successful pursuit of perpetrators resulting in 11 years and 44 months sentences of imprisonment
- Increased cross border work
- DECCA work to raise awareness of the effects of drugs and alcohol
- Sandwell commended for partnership working during County Lines Intensification Weeks



The above gives a brief overview of some of the work being undertaken in relation to the prevention of violence and exploitation across Sandwell. A full annual update report will be presented to the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board later this year.

6.0 Reducing Offending, Reoffending and Serious Organised Crime

Across the nation there has been a 12.3% increase in total crime, for Sandwell this has been below the National Average with a 8.4% increase.

6.1 Reducing Adult Reoffending

Reducing reoffending sits at the heart of HM Prison and Probation Services work. Around 80% of people who receive cautions or convictions have offended before, so to cut crime, make communities safer and prevent people from becoming victims of crime, the focus needs to be on reducing reoffending. The HMPPS West Midlands Probation Region Delivery Plan, 2022-23 outlines the priorities to achieve this as: to ensure prisoners have the training and skills they need to secure employment on release; support to address substance misuse issues and opportunities to maintain family ties, and accommodation as they reintegrate into society. The outcomes being reducing the impact of crime on society, and helping to create safer, healthier and more inclusive communities.

6.2 Tackling Adult Offending / Reoffending in Sandwell

- Following the Probation Service restructure in June 2021 and subsequent objective of implementing a national Target Operating Model by 2024 the Sandwell team have now finalised their new team structures in relation to Integrated Offender Management (IOM) and young adults transitions (for 18-25 year olds).
- Significant national investment is being made into the Probation Service with 22 Trainee Probation Officers recruited to Sandwell, the largest intake ever. This will help address the significant resource pressures being experienced both locally and nationally.
- Cases are being prioritized according to risk in line with the Probation Delivery Unit being designated Amber in the Probation Prioritisation Framework, a nationally approved allowance of certain exemptions from National Standards.



- Seven commissioned rehabilitative service contracts are now available to support offenders accessing tailored interventions to address factors contributing to their offending. These are Accommodation; Education, Training and Employment; Women's Services; Well-Being; Neurodiversity; Dependency & Recovery; Finance, Benefit & Debt.
- A new Suite of nationally approved Structured Interventions and Toolkits have been implemented to address offending behaviour with offenders, to supplement Accredited Programmes
- Systems implemented to ensure speedy and effective information in relation to Domestic Abuse and Child Safeguarding checks between key partners.
- New CAS3 accommodation scheme, which will provide 84 days of funded accommodation to reduce homelessness on release from prison, is due to commence in the near future.
- Sandwell is part of new electronic monitoring scheme for licence variations being rolled out regionally.
- Integrated Offender Management has benefitted from dedicated partnership activity to address offending for those known offenders who have the most impact within communities i.e. acquisitive crime, across three core cohorts – Fixed, Flex and Free. This is being expanded to include Domestic Abuse perpetrators in the Free cohort.
- Community Payback scheme developing with teams co-located in Sandwell
- The supervised caseload in Sandwell is 1045, with 787 individuals in the community
 - Of those, 338 are eligible for the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
 - 103 are jointly managed through the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) program.
 - There are also 391 individuals identified as domestic abuse perpetrators
- Employment at 6 months 41% exceeding the national 38% target with a rate
- Accommodation at 3 months is also over target at 86% compared to the 80% target



6.3 Reducing Youth Offending & Reoffending

The Sandwell Youth Justice Plan overseen by the Youth Justice Partnership Board focuses on early intervention and prevention for children and young people who are at risk of or who have already engaged in offending behaviour. This plan includes working with partners to identify and support vulnerable children, providing diversionary activities and restorative justice approaches, as well as providing targeted interventions for those who have already offended. The plan also focuses on ensuring that the needs of children and young people are met, such as their educational and mental health needs, in order to reduce the likelihood of reoffending. Overall, the aim is to support children and young people to turn their lives around and to prevent them from becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

Overall there has been a decline in youth offending in England and Wales over the past decade. The YJB data shows that the number of young people in the youth justice system has continued to fall over the pandemic.

An analysis of first-time entrants into youth justice in Sandwell reflects this trend, providing a positive indication that interventions being put in place to prevent young people from entering the justice system in the first place are having an impact. 2021-22 saw the lowest number of young people referred into the youth justice service during the past 10 years, with a 40% reduction in offending between 11-15 year olds and 61% reduction for 17-18 year olds.

6.4 Tackling Youth Offending / Reoffending in Sandwell

- Launch of multi-agency decision making panel to oversee out of court disposals
- Work with Safeguard to create a bespoke intervention for girls in the YJS in the form of a journal.
- Introduction of Turnaround Funding to support young people on cusp of entering youth justice system
- Clear pathways to Strengthening Families Service developed when a child is in OOC and needs ongoing support once YJS intervention ends
- Arts Youth Justice work embedded and ongoing
- Plain Speaking project supported by Community Safety Funding



- Work with Recre8 to have a bespoke intervention created for Sandwell around Peer on Peer violence
- Work with SafeLives to create a bespoke package to upskill workers in direct interventions with young people where DA behaviours are a concern
- Focus on disproportionality including cultural competence and intersectionality training for all pre-sentence report writers.
- All NEET young people have mentoring support
- Employment & Training - Monthly meetings and record keeping of career plans for all NEET Post 16
- Close working relationship developed with VRP
- Support development of Transitions Team in Probation Service to manage 18-25 year olds providing continuity and managed transitions
- Increased engagement with Magistrates – Bench Youth Chair invited to become member of YJPB
- New KPI Framework being introduced from April 2023

6.5 Serious Organised Crime

Serious organised crime is a complex and constantly evolving issue, making it difficult to provide a comprehensive overview of trends. Serious organised crime groups are involved in a range of criminal activities, including drug trafficking, firearms offences, fraud, money laundering, and human trafficking. As of the 30/01/23 Sandwell had 9 mapped organised crime groups, this is the 3rd highest in the West Midlands, next to the major cities of Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

6.6 Tackling Serious Organised Crime in Sandwell

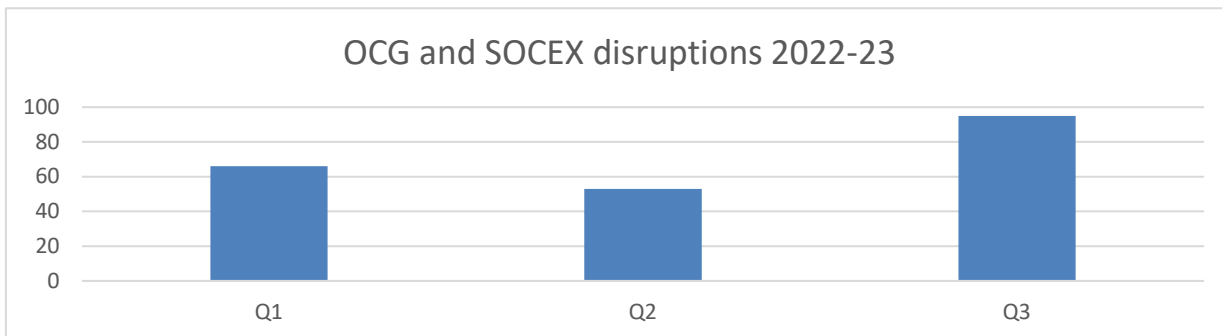
A range of work has been undertaken by the partnership to tackle organised crime effectively over the past year including:

- Development of a Sandwell Partnership Organised Crime Group



- Regular partnership disruptions to organised crime groups in Sandwell

(Diagram 12)



In January 2024 there were 24 such disruptions.

- Focus on increase in organised immigration crime
- Sandwell Partnership work around County Lines Intensification Weeks held up as exemplar of good practice across wider West Midlands Force. In October 2022 this included:
 - 22 Children and Adults Safeguarded
 - 6 Cuckooing Visits
 - 390 children engaged with through Schools
 - Targeted outreach session in Northampton
 - 34 visits to High/Medium risk young people
 - 10+ case reviews along with social workers
 - outreach on trains by youth workers and Horizons
 - 5 drop in sessions around Contextual safeguarding
- During 2022 in Sandwell:
 - 26 Warrants executed on OCG Nominals.
 - £181,000 of drugs recovered from OCG Nominals.
 - £63,000 cash seized from OCG nominals.
 - 4 live and viable firearms seized, 1 imitation firearm along with several rounds of live ammunition and shotgun cartridges.
 - 119 separate cannabis factories have been discovered through, warrants and calls for service etc with officers seized cannabis with a conservative estimated street value of £24 million
 - SMBC Cuckooing Video shared with staff and partners emphasising the roles of individual teams and the benefits of partnership working to protect vulnerable individuals.

RRSOC will continue to drive and develop this work over the forthcoming year.



6.8 Preventing Crime & Anti-social Behaviour in our Neighbourhoods

Preventing and reducing crime and ASB cannot be tackled by one single agency, but needs a multi-disciplined approach to provide a holistic response. By bringing partners together both strategically and operationally, there is a focus on problem solving and bringing together resources to prevent and tackle the issues at a local and boroughwide level.

This is achieved in Sandwell by partners coming together monthly through Borough Tasking and Town Tasking meetings where there is the opportunity for partnership data and intelligence to be shared so that an appropriate and proportionate response can be coordinated.

The meetings are used to discuss community and place based concerns as well as a closed element to the meetings to discuss individual cases that may involve vulnerable victims or perpetrators. At the Borough Tasking meetings, the membership focuses on the impact areas and look at issues such as Hate crime, community tensions, domestic abuse and the causes of crime in more detail. The OPCC also funds a number of Community Safety Analysts to provide data to inform the 7 partnerships across the West Midlands

6.9 Tackling Crime and ASB in Sandwell

Some of the key achievements over the past year have included:

- 72 Town Tasking Meetings held and 11 Borough Taskings
- Delivery of Borough Hate Crime Plan including;
 - Development and ongoing support to 42 Third Party Reporting Centres across Sandwell
 - Young People's Hate Crime Awareness Workshops & school sessions
 - Regular Hate Crime Awareness training for community members and professionals
 - No Place For Hate workshops across all 6 Sandwell towns culminating in Hate Crime Jam to develop Hate Crim

"The West Midlands has always been a breeding ground for social innovation, we do like to try new things and it really pricked my interest to hear that the project is looking to create training tools that organisations across The Black Country can access but co-designed by actual residents with help from a host of not-for-profits in each of Sandwell's six towns, and then supported by Sandwell Council and New Union to put them into action". (Andy Street – Mayor of the West Midlands)

- Implementation of new Boroughwide Nuisance Bikes Plan including:



- All out days in hotspot areas including seizure of bikes and tenancy warnings to those living in Council Properties
- Engagement with associated businesses including petrol stations and garages
- Introduction of new Force wide Bikes Team
- Use of CCTV in strategic locations to try and identify offenders
- Increased community awareness in relation to what to report and how
- Successful delivery of Commonwealth Games
- Successful delivery of annual partnership Safer 6 Community Safety campaign including:
 - Litter picks and ASB walkabouts in hotspots
 - Community Understanding Extremism training
 - Launch of Child Online Safety (Extremism Awareness) Guidance Booklet
 - Fire Safety checks
 - Illegal Trading operations
 - SHAPE Anti Bullying Roadshow
 - Drug and Alcohols Service Awareness and engagement
 - Launch of DA Pledge
 - Vehicle Nuisance Awareness Raising
 - Crime Prevention Awareness
- Successful bid and commencement for Safer Streets Round 4 Project in Bearwood incorporating:
 - CCTV installation on Bearwood High Street
 - Community and Business Engagement Officer to work with local residents and businesses on resilience and target hardening
 - Transitions work in 2 primary schools
 - Targeted youth work in Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods
- Evidence based deployment of Sandwell's deployable camera stock
- Focus on Sandwell's 3 impact areas and partnership interventions
- Focus on vehicle crime and input from Design Out Crime Officer
- 24 /7 CCTV Control Room and Concierge Service
- Revised Council wide ASB Policy
- Q1-3 - 387 new ASB Cases with outcomes including:
 - 76 verbal / informal discussions; 16 voluntary agreements; 96 Warning letters; 17 CPN Warnings & 9 CPNs



As can be seen there is a considerable focus on locality based community safety and ensuring resources are deployed to maximise effectiveness using the available evidence.

7 Conclusion & Moving Forward

7.1 Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board has a statutory requirement under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, and subsequent legislative amendments, to develop and deliver a Partnership Plan which contains community safety priorities based on the current evidence base across the Borough of Sandwell. This strategy brings together this evidence base and sets the strategic direction for community safety across the Borough for the next 5 years subject to annual review

7.2 Community safety is an always evolving, complex huge multifaceted area. As can be seen significant partnership work has been undertaken across the partnership to deliver on the Sandwell's identified priorities as outlined in the Community Safety Strategy. An Annual Report will be provided to the Safer Sandwell Partnership and Police Board and updated 2023-24 PoVE / RRSOC and Tasking Plans have been developed with partners to build on the work outlined above and continue to progress work in relation to enhancing and strengthening community safety across Sandwell.

7.3 This will include:

- Publication of the Serious Violence Needs Assessment
- Implementation and embedding of the Serious Violence Duty
- Supporting the planned national review of Community Safety Partnerships
- Ongoing improvements to data provision and analysis to support the work of the partnership

7.4 As can be seen community safety requires effective partnerships with all partners accountable in supporting delivery to achieve Sandwell's community safety vision of: ***ensuring that the communities of Sandwell feel safe, protected and confident in their homes and neighbourhoods.***



8 Implications

Resources:	The Community Safety Strategy is a partnership plan utilising existing resources deployed in accordance with the priorities identified. When available partners will tap into additional funding streams to enhance capacity and provision.
Legal and Governance:	Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board has a statutory requirement under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, and subsequent legislative amendments, to develop and deliver a Partnership Plan which contains community safety priorities based on the current evidence base across the Borough of Sandwell.
Risk:	<p>Risk implications, including any mitigating measures planned/taken, health and safety, insurance implications</p> <p>Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour through partnership working is central to the delivery of the Community Safety Strategy 2022-26 and Strategic Assessment 2020. This is business as usual and adheres to all individual partner required risk assessments and mitigations.</p>
Equality:	<p>An EIA was completed as part of the strategy process with no negative implications recorded for protected groups.</p> <p>Tackling crime and disorder and enhancing community safety helps address disadvantage and disproportionality ensuring that the vulnerable are safeguarded and community resilience increased.</p>
Health and Wellbeing:	Reducing and managing crime and anti-social behaviour, and protecting its victims has a positive impact on health and wellbeing.



	Engaging with and supporting people in relation to community safety and building resilience to prevent the most vulnerable becoming victims of crime and exploitation will also have a positive longer-term impact on their health and wellbeing.
Social Value	Engagement with local residents and strengthening civic pride. Provision of opportunities for involvement through volunteering, engagement and positive activities.

9 Appendices

- Appendix 1 Sandwell Community Safety Strategy 2022-26
- Appendix 2 Powerpoint slides

