

Title: Endorsement of the Warwickshire Community Safety Agreement 2025-2029

Lead Officer: Liz Young, Safer Communities Manager

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Jim Sinnott

Wards of the District directly affected: All

<b>Approvals required</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	11/09/2025	Cllr Jim Sinnott
<b>Finance</b>	11/09/2025	Andrew Rollins
<b>Legal Services</b>		
<b>Chief Executive</b>	11/09/2025	Chris Elliott
<b>Deputy Chief Executive</b>	11/09/2025	Darren Knight
<b>Strategic Director</b>	11/09/2025	Dave Elkington
<b>Head of Service(s)</b>	11/09/2025	Marianne Rolfe
<b>Section 151 Officer</b>	11/09/2025	Andrew Rollins
<b>Monitoring Officer</b>	11/09/2025	Graham Leach
<b>Leadership Co-ordination Group</b>		

<b>Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Cttee / Council?</b>	Yes
<b>Contrary to Policy / Budget framework?</b>	No
<b>Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?</b>	No
<b>Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?</b>	Yes, Forward Plan item – scheduled for
<b>Accessibility Checked?</b>	Yes

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## Summary

There is a duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and its associated 2007 regulations, for the county community safety strategy group (the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board (SWPB)) to prepare a Community Safety Agreement.

The 2025-29 Community Safety Agreement was prepared over the first half of 2025. As required by legislation, it is based on the four comprehensive Community Safety Partnership (CSP) strategic assessments undertaken during 2024-25 and sets out how partner agencies in Warwickshire will work together to implement shared community safety priorities.

The agreement was presented to the SWPB on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and was approved subject to formal sign off through partner agency governance processes. Subsequently the districts and boroughs across Warwickshire are currently taking this through their respective decision-making processes.

## Recommendation

**(1)** It is recommended that, in fulfilling its' role as a responsible authority, the Cabinet endorses the Countywide Community Safety Agreement 2025-2029.

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### 1 Reasons for the Recommendation

1.1 The Community Safety Agreement is the umbrella strategy for community safety work in Warwickshire, setting out at a high level:

- The countywide priorities and cross-cutting themes
- The groups responsible for implementing each of the priorities and their reporting structures
- Links to other strategic boards and plans
- Information on how performance will be managed and assessed.

1.2 Regulation 9 of the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 sets out that:

- i. Before the end of each year the county strategy group shall prepare a community safety agreement for that year.
- ii. The community safety agreement shall be based on the strategic assessments for that year prepared by the strategy groups for the areas in the county area.
- iii. The community safety agreement shall identify—
  - The ways in which the responsible authorities in the county area might more effectively implement the priorities set out in these strategic assessments through coordinated or joint working; and
  - How the responsible authorities in the county area might otherwise reduce re-offending, crime and disorder, prevent and reduce serious violence or combat substance misuse through coordinated or joint working.

- 1.3 In Warwickshire, partners have agreed a process for a four-year cycle of strategic assessments, enabling a more strategic approach to long-term priorities to be taken. A Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) assessment is undertaken every two years to determine the risk posed across a range of crime types and issues and identify any emerging threats, and an annual overview of the CSP priorities is undertaken in line with the requirements set out in legislation.
- 1.4 The Community Safety Agreement and countywide priorities form part of this four-year cycle but will be reviewed annually by the SWPB to ensure compliance with the legislation.
- 1.5 During 2024-25, comprehensive strategic assessments were prepared for each Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in Warwickshire by the partnership Community Safety Analysts. These were presented to the CSP Boards in February and March 2025 and used to agree priorities for 2025-29. As set out in the legislation, these priorities have been used as the basis for the development of the refreshed CSA.
- 1.6 The priorities and cross-cutting themes shown within the agreement are as follows:



Once endorsed by all districts and boroughs, the Community Safety Agreement will be published on the Safe in Warwickshire website.

## 2 Alternative Options

- 2.1 There are no alternative options as having a Community Safety Agreement is a legal requirement.

## 3 Legal Implications

- 3.1 There is a duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and its associated 2007 regulations, for the county community safety strategy group (the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board (SWPB)) to prepare a Community Safety Agreement.

3.2 The regulations have been updated over subsequent years to implement legislation since 2007. Responsible authorities are now required to work together to formulate and implement strategy/strategies for:

- The reduction of crime and disorder (including antisocial behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment)
- Combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances
- The reduction of re-offending
- Preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence
- Reducing instances of serious violence

3.3 Sign off by all the districts and boroughs of the Community Safety Agreement will ensure compliance with the updated regulations.

#### **4 Financial Implications**

4.1 Work to implement the new Community Safety Agreement and its priorities will be funded from within existing resources of WCC and partner agencies. This includes both core budgets and external grant funding. The WCC Community Safety team and partners will continue to seek opportunities to source external funding to support this work.

#### **5 Corporate Strategy**

5.1 Delivering valued, sustainable services

##### **5.2 Low cost, low carbon energy across the district**

No contribution identified by the recommendation of the report.

##### **5.3 Creating vibrant, safe and healthy communities of the future**

5.3.1 Having a Community Safety Agreement ensures all agencies are working towards common goals for crime reduction and community health and wellbeing, reducing duplication and conflicting approaches by aligning strategies across all agencies and pooling resources and expertise.

#### **6 Environmental/Climate Change Implications**

No contribution identified by the recommendation of the report.

#### **7 Analysis of the effects on Equality**

7.1 A Community Safety Agreement, when properly consulted on, ensures the needs of diverse communities are considered in setting priorities. By coordinating agencies, the CSA can address issues that disproportionately affect certain groups such as:

- Domestic Abuse (often impacting women and children)
- Hate Crime (racial, religious, LCBTQ+ communities)
- County Lines exploitation (affecting young and vulnerable individuals)

7.2 As the Community Safety Agreement is an overarching document and doesn't cover a specific service, policy or set of intervention to assess, an Equality Impact Assessment is deemed unnecessary. However, WCC are considering establishing processes and monitoring work that's implemented under the

priorities in the agreement to ensure the equality implications are fully understood.

## **8 Data Protection**

- 8.1 The Warwickshire Community Safety Information Sharing Protocol (updated June 2025) facilitates information sharing between responsible authorities for community safety in Warwickshire as required by the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 (Regulation 4).
- 8.2 The purpose of this information sharing protocol is to facilitate the secure sharing of information, including sensitive or confidential information, between partner agencies in Warwickshire; govern the secure use and management of information and enable partner agencies to meet their legislative obligations.
- 8.3 Information sharing protocols such as this one have no statutory basis and do not substitute for appropriate controls within individual organisations when requesting, disclosing, and transmitting personal data, or the need for specific information sharing agreements where applicable. They do, however, demonstrate cooperation between partners and the intent to share information securely and effectively.

## **9 Health and Wellbeing**

- 9.1 A Community Safety Agreement supports prevention, rehabilitation and safeguarding and, through the integration of Public Health, tackles the social determinants of crime such as substance misuse and mental health issues.

## **10 Risk Assessment**

- 10.1 The absence of a Community Safety Agreement could pose legal, operational, financial and reputational risks:
- Legal – noncompliance with statutory duties
  - Operational – councils and agencies adopting conflicting priorities resulting in a fragmented approach, duplication of work and gaps in tackling serious crime
  - Financial – inefficient use of resources and loss of external funding in absence of evidence of joined up working
  - Reputation – loss of public confidence if agencies appear disjointed and at odds with one another

## **11 Consultation**

- 11.1 A range of engagement seeking people's views on community safety took place to inform the development of the Strategic Assessments and CSP priorities. This included an online Your Say on Community Safety survey undertaken in July and August 2024 which received over 700 responses, a focus group with young people, a partner survey seeking input from those working in the statutory and voluntary sectors and in-depth discussions with key partners.
- 11.2 Following agreement of the CSP priorities, Community Safety leads from the responsible authorities held a workshop in April 2025 to identify countywide priorities for the period 2025-29 and agree the structure of the CSA. In line with the requirements for a CSA, both the new CSP priorities and other work

areas where a coordinated countywide approach would be beneficial were considered. Priorities from the new Police and Crime Plan were also considered as part of the decision-making process.

- 11.3 There was a high level of consensus at the workshop, with Business Intelligence analysis of the priorities for each CSP and within the Police and Crime Plan used to identify countywide areas of focus. The main topic of discussion during the priority setting part of the workshop was around the wording of the Domestic Violence/Abuse<sup>1</sup> priority and whether this should also include Sexual Assault. During follow up discussions it has been agreed amongst partners that the proposed priority based on the data presented within the strategic assessments and the terminology we wish to use when engaging with the public should be Domestic Abuse. The CSA makes it explicit that the work of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Partnership Board also includes all Sexual Assault, Harmful Practices and Stalking.
- 11.4 During the workshop, partners acknowledged that forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is likely to have a significant impact on community safety working in Warwickshire but agreed to adopt a business-as-usual approach in line with existing legislation until further clarity is available around LGR.
- 11.5 A first draft of the CSA was shared with the officers involved in the workshop on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025. This received positive feedback, with suggestions made around re-wording elements of the text, but no disagreement on the proposed priorities or governance structure.
- 11.6 The suggested amendments were incorporated into an updated draft, which was shared with a wider group of partners for their input prior to the SWPB.
- 11.7 Representatives at the SWPB where the agreement was approved included the WCC Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety (chair), Police Chief Constable, Police and Crime Commissioner, Head of the Warwickshire Probation Service, all five District/Borough Councils and representatives from the voluntary and community sector.

## **12. Next Steps**

- 12.1 Once endorsed through the governance processes of all the responsible authorities on the SWPB, the Community Safety Agreement will be published on the Safe in Warwickshire website: <https://safeinwarwickshire.com/>

### **Background papers:**

None

### **Supporting documents:**

[Warwickshire Community Safety Agreement \(PDF\)](#)

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