

2017-2019

Safer Telford and Wrekin Strategy



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1. Introduction from the Chair of the Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership

Over the last 12 months there have been many changes to the community safety landscape, including the election of the new West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), John Campion. Many of our partners have undergone restructuring within this time period and we are determined to minimise the effects of these restructures on the services we deliver to our community.

The [West Mercia Police and Crime Plan 2016-2021](#) has four key components:

- Putting victims and survivors first,
- Building a more secure West Mercia,
- Reforming West Mercia, and
- Reassuring West Mercia's communities.

The Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership is working with the PCC to deliver these components and create a safer West Mercia.

In Telford and Wrekin we have identified three specific priorities:

- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and its impact on victims,
- Addressing Domestic Abuse, and its impact on victims, and
- Reducing the impact of crime, including fear of, on community wellbeing.

We have, and will continue to take an intelligence led approach to each of these priorities which will enable us to address the areas of greatest need in the Borough.

We know from our work with local communities that crime and feeling safe matter to them. The Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership is committed to reducing crime and its impact on our communities, including our most vulnerable residents and victims of crime.

This strategy is an expression of our commitment to making it work together.



Superintendent Tom Harding, West Mercia Police and Chair of the Safer Telford & Wrekin Partnership.

2. Our Vision

To work together to create a safe and confident Telford and Wrekin

3. Context

The Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership brings together key partners that engage with the public on a day to day basis, to work in partnership to make Telford and Wrekin a safer place.

The Crime and Disorder Act of 1998 requires local areas to have a Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Section 17 of this Act places a legal duty on the responsible authorities¹ to work together to tackle and reduce crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, substance misuse, reduce reoffending and reduce the fear of crime.

In Telford and Wrekin the CSP is known as the 'Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership' and has been in existence since 1998. Since then the Partnership's Strategy has been continually refreshed to reflect the changing needs of the community, but retaining the partnership's statutory purpose. Working together to make a difference is integral to partnership working; this includes working with other partnerships and ensuring strategies and plans are aligned (including for example, the West Mercia Police and Crime Plan 2016-2021, the West Mercia Youth Justice Plan 2017-18, and the Telford & Wrekin Health and Wellbeing Strategy).

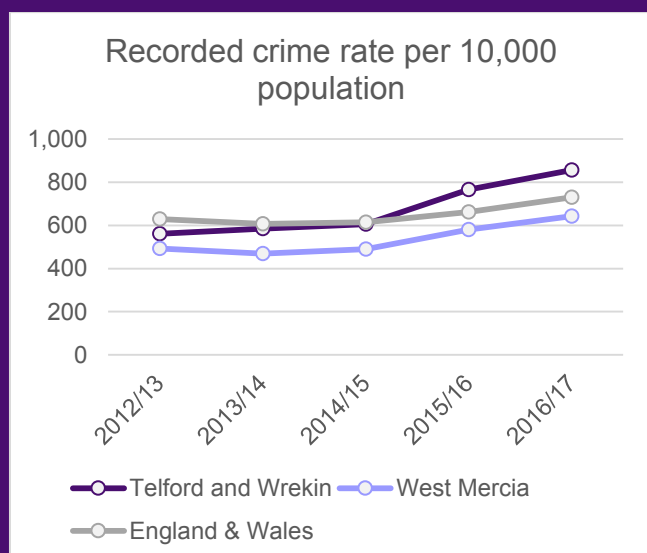
Our ongoing analysis of intelligence enables the Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership to proactively target the local crime trends and respond reactively to crime spikes where possible. This is informed by West Mercia Strategic Assessment. The following sections provides an overview of crime in the Borough and how the rates compare to those nationally.

3.1. Crime

Recorded Crime

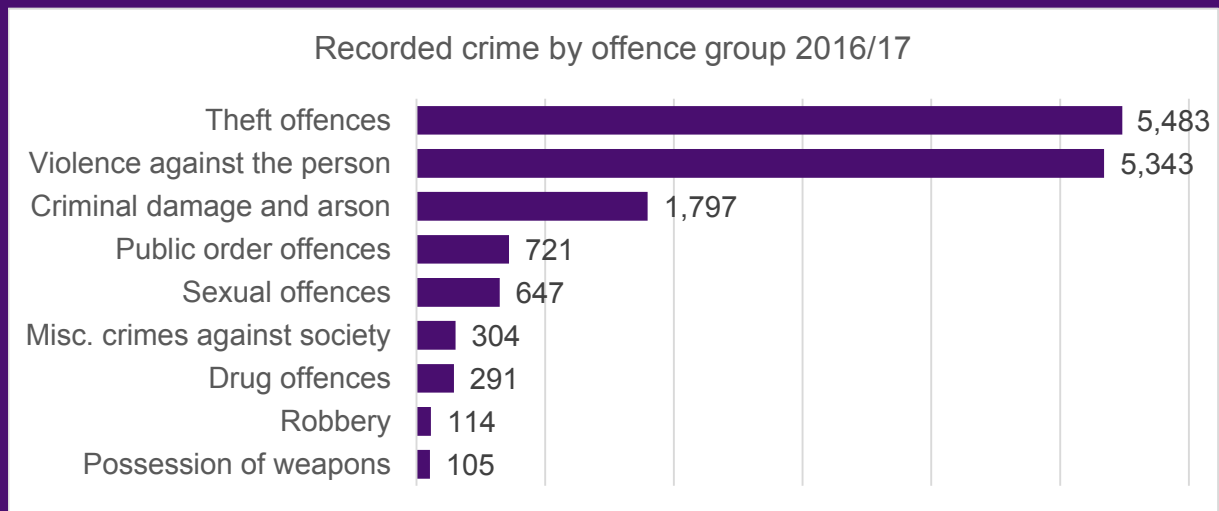
Following changes to recording processes there has been a significant increase in recorded crime over the last two financial years, rising at a rate greater than the average for England and Wales and West Mercia

In 2016/17 the rate of recorded crime in Telford and Wrekin was 855.9 per 10,000 population compared with 730.2 for England and Wales and 643.0 for West Mercia



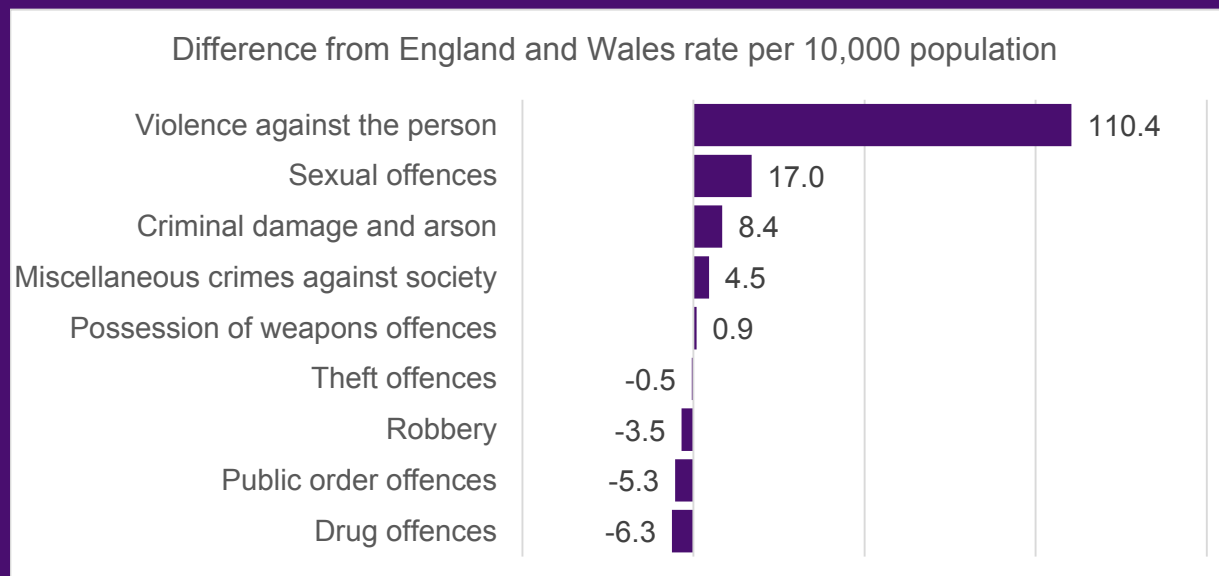
Types of crime

Similar to England and Wales, the most frequently recorded offences in Telford and Wrekin in 2016/17 were theft and violence against the person. Together these two offences accounted for nearly three quarters of the 14,805 crimes recorded in 2016/17.



Comparison with England and Wales

Compared with England and Wales there were fewer instances of drug offences, public order offences and robbery in Telford and Wrekin in 2016/17. The rate of theft offences were similar but the rate of sexual offences and violence against the person was significantly higher.



Youth offending

As noted in the West Mercia Youth Justice plan 2017-18, in 2016/17 there were 139 youth justice sanctions (youth cautions, youth conditional cautions or convictions) made on Telford and Wrekin young people. A total of 86 individual young people accounted for these 139 outcomes, 0.52% of the youth population.

In the year October 2015 to September 2016 there were 515 first time entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system per 100,000 youth population in Telford and Wrekin. This was the highest rate of FTEs across West Mercia.

Violence against the person

Most instances of violence against the person recorded in 2016/17 were either assault with injury (37%), assault without injury (35%) or harassment (21%).

Much of this takes place behind closed doors. In 2016/17, 36% of all offences of violence against the person were marked as Domestic Abuse offences.

Sexual offences

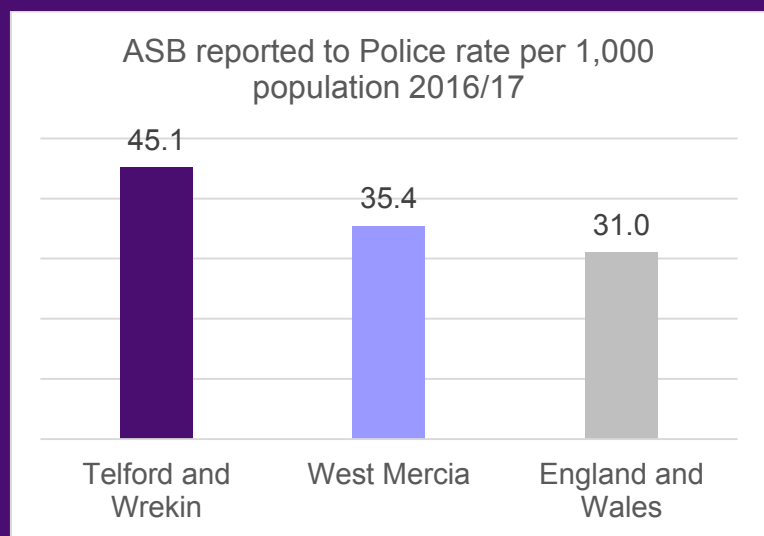
The rate of recorded sexual offences in Telford and Wrekin for 2016/17 was 37.4 per 10,000 population, this was 17.0 per 10,000 population greater than the national average (20.4 per 10,000 population).

Of these, 52.1% were sexual offences against children compared with 39.2% of recorded sexual offences in England and Wales.

3.2. Anti-social behaviour and environmental crimeⁱⁱ

Anti-social Behaviour

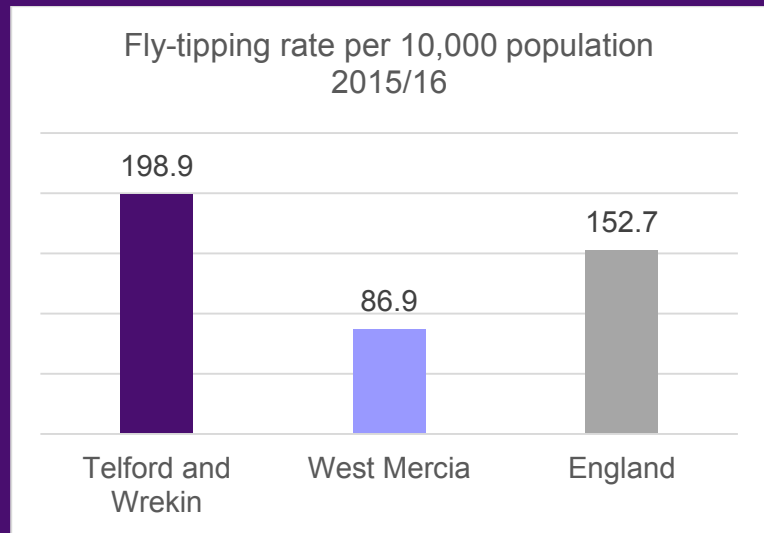
In 2016/17 the rate of reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) made to the police was 45.1 per 1,000 population. This was higher than the rate for West Mercia and for England and Wales.



Environmental Crime

Fly-tipping is the biggest single environmental crime reported to the Council in 2016/17 with almost 6,000 reports received and 3,700 fly tips removed.

In 2015/16 the rate of fly-tipping per 10,000 population was higher than the England average and more than twice the rate for West Mercia.



3.3. Substance Misuse

Substance misuse can often be a factor in crime and as such it will be a key feature throughout the specific priorities of the partnership. There is also a wider context as the harm caused by the misuse of drugs and alcohol impacts significantly on health and wellbeing in the borough more broadly.

Within Telford and Wrekin the Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT) works strategically to reduce the prevalence and impact of drug and alcohol misuse in partnership across the Borough. The Telford & Wrekin Drug and Alcohol Strategy includes a detailed evidence-based action plan aligned to partnership objectives across the following three themes: prevention and reducing demand, restricting supply and building recovery and reducing harm. The DAAT updates the CSP through the strategy's performance and outcomes framework, which includes figures such as treatment numbers and offences where substance misuse was a factor. A recent local case study demonstrates the benefit of CSP partnership work on substance misuse.

Case Study: "John"

A 51 year old user of heroin and crack cocaine self-referred into local treatment services in April 2015.

John began methadone treatment, became abstinent, was no longer offending and obtained full time employment. However, in March 2016 John lost his job, disengaged with drug treatment services and began injecting heroin and smoking crack again. In August 2016 John was arrested for an aggravated burglary offence. The drug and alcohol treatment worker, who attends Malinsgate Police Station on a daily basis, supported John through the Drug Test On Arrest (DTOA) process. After testing positive for heroin and cocaine use he had a mandatory appointment with the specialist doctor as an "*Initial Required Assessment*". The DTOA process captured John just at the right time and the mandatory appointment increased the likelihood of him attending.

In August 2017 John is still engaged with the treatment service and is stable on methadone, he is not offending and is hopeful of securing employment imminently.

4. Priorities

The overarching priority of Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership is to work together to reduce **crime, and the fear of crime, in the Borough**.

Our ongoing intelligence analysis highlights the areas of crime and antisocial behaviour which are higher than the national comparators. The priorities for 2017-2018 have been decided through further analysis of recorded crime and through consultation with agencies. Whilst the CSP recognises that other types of crime occur in the Borough it has agreed to concentrate on three in particular for the period of this strategy.

The three priorities are:

- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and its impact on victims;
- Addressing Domestic Abuse and its impact on victims; and
- Reducing the impact of crime, including fear of, on community wellbeing.

Progress against the priorities will be monitored and challenged through the Partnership's performance framework. This framework will be broader than the priorities which will enable the Partnership to identify any emerging themes outside of the priorities that it needs to address.

4.1. Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and its impact on victims

*"Child Sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child Sexual Exploitation does not always involve physical contact: it can also occur through the use of technology."*ⁱⁱⁱ

Why is this a priority?

In recent years there have been a number of high profile articles from across the country hitting the national news regarding cases of grooming and exploitation.

Locally in 2012 a significant investigation by the Police and partners into the exploitation and trafficking of young girls in Telford and Wrekin culminated in Operation Chalice, which led to the successful prosecution of nine men. During this operation a project to work with young people where there were concerns about CSE was developed, the Council's CATE Project (Children Abused Through Exploitation); alongside a specific multi-agency CSE pathway to support children and young people.

In response to Professor Alexi Jay's report into sexual exploitation in Rotherham, in November 2014 the Telford & Wrekin Council Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee commenced a review of multi-agency working against child sexual exploitation (CSE) to review *"how well organisations in Telford and Wrekin were working together to prevent CSE, protect and support victims and their families and prosecute perpetrators"*. This work concluded in May 2016 and made 38 recommendations.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee commended the work undertaken to date to tackle CSE, specifically the work of the Council's CATE team and Team Safeguarding Voice®.

The Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board (TWSCB) and individual agencies welcomed the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations which provide valuable ideas and advice to further develop the multi-agency response to CSE in the Borough. Since then the TWSCB has coordinated, monitored and challenged progress of the actions to address the recommendations with progress reports being presented back to Scrutiny on a six monthly basis.

In June and July 2016 Telford & Wrekin Council was inspected, and the TWSCB was reviewed, under Ofsted's Single Inspection Framework. During this inspection they reviewed how Telford & Wrekin Council and partners tackled CSE. In the report published in August 2016, Ofsted made no recommendations in relation to CSE and the report stated that the Council's response and the role of partners to tackling CSE was "very strong." They went on to state within the report that:

- *"The local authority has been a champion for tackling this issue. It provides leadership to partner agencies, with who this work is well co-ordinated. Work to protect children who go missing from home or care is thorough and improving."*
- *"There is a strong commitment from the local authority and its partners to tackle child sexual exploitation. A dedicated children abused through exploitation team provides good quality risk assessments, planning and interventions. Although relatively small, the team also reviews progress and updates plans effectively. Consequently, young people receive comprehensive and well-coordinated services that make a positive difference."*

In order to understand the local CSE context, the following data is used:

Known CSE Prevalence in Telford and Wrekin

Contacts with the Local Authority

In 2016-17 the Local Authority received **337 contacts** with concerns about CSE. This accounts for 2.7% (337 of 12,173) of the total number of contacts received in that time period. These 337 contacts relate to 224 young people.

Of those contacts 43.3% were made by other local authority services, 27.0% by the Police, 17.2% by education, with the remaining 12.5% coming from members of the public, victim support, housing providers and health providers (including GPs and schools nurses).

The outcomes of those contacts were:

- 56% progressed along child protection procedures (this includes CSE pathway and the Child Protection pathway)
- 22% were referred to other agencies for support
- 22% were provided with information and advice

Local Authority's Specialist CSE Team (CATE)

In 2016-17 the Local Authority's specialist CATE team received 58 referrals to their service.

As at 31st March 2017, the CATE team were working with 68 young people. Of these:

- 62 were female and 6 were male.
- 54 were of a White British heritage, 6 were of a mixed heritage, with the remaining 8 from an Asian, Black or other white heritage.
- 31 of the young people were between the ages of 16-17, 2 were 18 years and over, 28 were between 14 and 15 years and 7 were 13.

Recorded Crime

In 2015/16 there were 308 sexual offences of all types against children recorded. This included offences committed by children against other children and online crime where the offender and victim never come into contact as well as instances of CSE.

Analysis of the data showed that;

For the year 2015/16 of the 128 sexual activity offences involving a child under 16, there were 53 (41%) that involved contact over social media or other electronic communication with the offender and victim never coming face-to-face.

For CSO offences between April 2014 & Sept 2016 where the offender is known:

- 37% of child sexual offences were committed by offenders under the age of 15 on victims under the age of 15
- 52% of child sexual offences were committed by offenders under the age of 18 on victims under the age of 18
- For child sexual offences where the offender is known:
 - 89% are white males
 - 2% are Asian males
- 67% of offences were committed by white males on white females
- A further 11% were committed by white males on white males

Sexual offences against children includes the following offence types: Rape of female child under 13; Rape of a female child under 16; Rape of a male child under 13; Rape of a male child under 16; Sexual activity involving a child under 13; Sexual activity involving a child under 16; Sexual assault on a female child under 13; Sexual assault on a male child under 13; Sexual grooming; and Abuse of children through sexual exploitation.

Although OFSTED has recognised our multi-agency work, our intelligence shows that this continues to be a challenge and an issue of concern for our community. Tackling CSE remains a local priority across agencies, as well as the TWSCB and the Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership. We understand the importance of ensuring that the community are part of the prevention against this type of abuse and crime. We will focus on reducing the fear of this crime and enabling the community to identify and report it.

What difference will our work make to our communities?

The community of Telford and Wrekin, including those who work here:

- Have an awareness and understanding of CSE and its local context,
- Feel they are able to report it to the Police or the Local Authority,
- Are assured that any identified offending will be dealt with robustly, and
- Have a level of confidence in reporting CSE.

We will do this by:

- Continuing to share, collate and analyse intelligence around CSE to inform partnership working.
- Raise awareness of CSE in the community, including specific sections of the community such as parents, volunteers, faith groups, sport clubs and leisure venues, community groups and after school clubs.

- Engage and educated the ‘professional community’ working in the Borough to raise awareness of CSE and its indicators, including care homes, the night time economy, housing providers, foster carers and local businesses.
- Ensuring all initiatives focussed on internet related crime and abuse address CSE.
- Further developing the local CSE communications campaign centred around the National CSE Raising Awareness Day in March 2018.

4.2. Addressing Domestic Abuse

“Domestic Abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional.”^{iv}

Why is this a priority?

Nationally it is estimated that 1.9 million people in the UK suffer from some form of domestic abuse^v and each year more than 100,000 people in the UK are at high or imminent risk of being murdered or seriously injured as a result of domestic abuse^{vi}.

Domestic Abuse impacts upon adults, children, families and communities and it is not always easy to identify. Different forms of abuse can mean that some victims may suffer for some time before getting help and is often referred to as the ‘hidden’ crime. Nationally, on average high-risk victims live with domestic abuse for 2.3 years before getting help and 85% of victims sought help five times on average from professionals before they got effective help to stop the abuse^{vii}. We understand that support to victims and their families is integral to enable them to achieve positives outcomes.

Strong evidence indicates^{viii} that work with the perpetrator, to address the underlying cause of the violence, is key to reducing re-offending.

In order to understand the local domestic abuse context, the following data is used:

Known Domestic Abuse prevalence in Telford and Wrekin

Recorded Crimes

In 2016/17, there were 2,320 crimes recorded that were marked as domestic abuse incidents. This correlates to a rate of 134.1 per 10,000 population.

The rate of crimes recorded as domestic abuse in Telford and Wrekin is the highest in West Mercia and compares with an average across the force area of 83.5 per 10,000 population.

Orders and Offences

There were 2,439 recorded offences of domestic abuse in Telford and Wrekin in 2016/17. 29% of these offences resulted in an arrest.

Our intelligence tells us that Domestic Abuse continues to be a challenge within the Borough and the impact this type of abuse and crime has on the victim and the community is well known. Addressing Domestic Abuse continues to be a priority for partners, as well as other strategic partnerships including the Telford & Wrekin Health and Wellbeing Board and the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards.

What difference will our work make to our communities?

- The community are able to identify domestic abuse, know where to turn to for help, victims and their families are supported and perpetrators are dealt with effectively (from prosecution to reducing future harm and offending).

We will do this by:

- Working in partnership with the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards, and the Health and Wellbeing Board to:
 - Review the domestic abuse support processes in the Borough, and
 - Develop appropriate raising awareness and training packages;
- Continuing to share, collate and monitor intelligence around domestic abuse to inform partnership working;
- Maintaining our 'zero tolerance' approach to domestic abuse;
- Developing an appropriate perpetrator programme to reduce re-offending;
- Supporting, developing and implementing best practice around the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to ensure that those most at risk are supported and risks reduced;
- Maintaining Telford's White Ribbon Town status and further develop associated raising awareness projects.

4.3.Reducing the impact of crime, including fear of, on community wellbeing

Any behaviour that has a negative impact on feeling safe, or has a detrimental effect on the environment, impacts on communities and their wellbeing. Reducing their impact will enable people to enjoy private and public spaces more, and protect the environment they live in. These types of crime impact on the health, safety and quality of life of our community.

Why is this a priority?

We know that people of Telford and Wrekin want to live in a safe and clean environment. Two identified factors that are currently impacting on the community's wellbeing are Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and fly tipping.

Known ASB and environmental crime prevalence in Telford

Contacts with the Police

In 2016/17 the rate of reports of anti-social behaviour made to the police was 45.1 per 1,000 population. Nationally, the rate was 31.0 per 1,000 population for the same period.

Reports of ASB are increasing year on year and in 2016/17 the number of incidents reported to the Police was 7.9% greater than in 2015/16. Nationally, there was a 0.07% increase on the previous year for ASB.

Contacts with the Local Authority

For ASB reported to the Council (which includes noise complaints, vehicle related nuisance and rubbish accumulations) the rate was 8.8 reports per 1,000 population and for fly-tipping 34.9 reports per 1,000 population.

The largest number of environmental crime incidents are caused by fly-tipping. In 2016/17 there were over 5,900 reports of fly-tipping which accounted for 7% of all service requests recorded in the council's Customer Relationship Management.

What difference will our work make to our communities?

The community of Telford and Wrekin will be proud of their Borough, feel safer and enjoy the private and public places that it offers.

We will do this by:

- Identifying three specific areas in the Borough where the rate of ASB and Environmental Crime is highest and target the CSP's resources within those areas.
- Continue to utilise the Neighbourhood Delivery Groups (NDGs) to provide a locality based problem solving response;
- Working with Town and Parish Councils and housing providers, and through the Integrated Community Model, to address lower level ASB and environmental crime.
- Utilise the Community Trigger procedure to address ASB.
- Work together to ensure perpetrators are dealt with effectively utilising all available powers.
- Review all ASB and environmental crime trends and look to address any emerging issues in a proactive way.

5. Governance and Accountability

The Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership is accountable locally to the Health and Wellbeing Board and provides an annual update on its progress as well as updates on specific aspects, such as substance misuse throughout the year.

The Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership is linked with other strategic local and regional partnerships as the following diagram illustrates. As well as these strategic links, the partnership works closely with the wider partnership landscape in the Borough to ensure that strategies and work plans are aligned (e.g. the Homelessness Partnership).



The Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership will also be held to account by the Telford & Wrekin Council's Customer, Community and Partnership Scrutiny Committee as the designated body for scrutiny of Community Safety Partnerships as set out in Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

6. Looking forward

The Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership will continue to take an intelligence led approach to tackle the areas of greatest need in the community. At the end of each financial year the partnership will produce an annual report outlining its progress against the strategy and areas for future development.

The partnership acknowledges that in order to see sustained change in its priorities, a two year period is required. Therefore, in spring 2019 the partnership will review its priorities, progress made to date and review any emerging issues to inform the next strategy (2019-2021). During this period the partnership will consult with the communities to ensure that we are tackling those that matter to them.

7. Partners

The Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership would like to acknowledge and thank the contributions made by our partners, all of whom assist in making Telford and Wrekin a safer place to live, work and visit.

8. References

West Mercia Police and Crime Plan 2016-2021: <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/safer-west-mercia/>

Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Adults Board: <http://www.telfordsafeguardingadultsboard.org/>

Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board: <http://www.telfordsafeguardingboard.org.uk/>

End notes

ⁱ The responsible authorities are: Telford & Wrekin Council, West Mercia Police, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group, National Probation Service and West Mercia and Warwickshire Community Rehabilitation Company.

ⁱⁱ Source: Police ASB – data.police.uk, Council ASB & Fly-tipping Telford & Wrekin Council CRM

ⁱⁱⁱ HM Government Child Sexual Exploitation (February 2017)

^{iv} Cross Government definition of Domestic Abuse, 2016: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-violence-and-abuse>

^v ONS (2016), March 2015 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

^{vi} SafeLives (2015), Getting it right first time: policy report. Bristol: SafeLives

^{vii} SafeLives (2015), Getting it right first time: policy report. Bristol: SafeLives

^{viii} Reducing the Harm of Intimate Partner Violence: Randomized Controlled Trial of the Hampshire Constabulary CARA Experiment (Strang et al, July 2017)

This document is available at:

http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20290/community/3334/community_safety_partnership