

Joint Working through the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board - Achievements

SWPB has had a number of key partnership successes over the years including but not limited to:

- The identification of new and emerging threats as they arise, leading to awareness raising and the production of strategies and processes to deliver joined up and collaborative work. These include:
 - Serious and Organised Crime Joint Action Group and tactical groups,
 - Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking,
 - Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC),
 - Preventing Serious Violence
- The implementation, review and governance of a multi-agency information sharing protocol supporting the delivery of all case management partnership groups,
- The review, implementation and securing of partnership funding to deliver ECINS, a multi-agency case management platform to effectively share information with partners,
- The coordinated shared risk funding and delivery approach to Domestic Homicide Reviews,
- The coordinated approach to applying and securing external funding for and delivering critical work including;
 - Serious and Organised Crime (SOC)
 - Prevent work- Home Office funded,
 - Safer Streets funding- Home Office funded,
- The development of a positive working environment at a strategic and operational level, ensuring partners work together to embrace new challenges (e.g. Vulnerability) and develop new working practices (e.g. problem solving approach),
- The opportunity for partners to work collaboratively to understand the evidence base, understand the gaps in provision, develop commissioning service specifications which support the wider partnership agenda and support each other to commission critical services:
 - Domestic Abuse support services,
 - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC),
 - Substance misuse services,
 - Third sector infrastructure.

Case Study 1: Domestic Homicide Reviews

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) are a legal requirement under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. The provision came into force in April 2011.

The legislation places responsibility for the coordination and commissioning of DHRs with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in whose area the victim was normally resident.

In Warwickshire a shared risk approach was agreed between relevant partners as it was recognised that the occurrence and nature of a DHR is unpredictable and the cost of conducting one may far exceed what an individual CSP could afford. The shared risk approach involves the pooling of resources by the partners to fund the costs associated with conducting a DHR, including the administration and other costs. The pooled resource is used to employ a co-ordinator to support CSPs through the DHR processes.

A partnership DHR Subgroup is accountable to the Violence Against Women and Girls Board and its role is to oversee the Warwickshire DHR flowchart, centralise and coordinate the learning and implementation of DHR action plans to avoid duplication, and hold agencies to account on behalf of the 'owning' CSP.

Warwickshire has received 22 DHR referrals since the legislation came into effect in 2011. 16 of these were accepted as meeting the criteria and have progressed to review (up to 6th September 2021).

A paper is presented to SWPB annually, highlighting key learning points and training needs and requesting financial contributions from partners for the following year.

This co-ordinated, countywide approach overseen by the SWPB ensures that, when DHRs do occur in Warwickshire, both the funding and processes are in place to enable these to be undertaken effectively.

Case Study 2: Information Sharing

There is a duty on Community Safety Partnerships to put in place arrangements for the sharing of information between responsible authorities and have a protocol setting out those arrangements. As with Domestic Homicide Reviews, this process is managed and facilitated in Warwickshire at a county level, with the Community Safety Information Sharing Protocol owned by the SWPB and hosted on the Safe In Warwickshire website: <https://safeinwarwickshire.com/isp/>

Information sharing is the cornerstone of delivering shared understanding of community safety issues and arriving at holistic solutions. The right information enables partners to carry out evidence-based, targeted community safety interventions and evaluate their impact. The improved outcomes of an intelligence led, problem solving approach to community safety can only be achieved when partners have access to relevant, robust and up-to-date information from a broad range of sources. The existence of a countywide protocol, reviewed and updated annually, enables partners to undertake this vital information sharing confident that effective processes are in place to enable them to do so legally and appropriately.

Case Study 3: Safe In Warwickshire website

In 2013, the Board agreed that there was a need for a community safety partnership website to provide information on the wide range of work undertaken by agencies around the county in a single, easily accessible location. The website, which is managed by the Warwickshire County Council Community Safety team, has developed and grown over the years and now includes information on a multitude of topics, including:

- The Warwickshire Community Safety Agreement
- Information Sharing
- Support services available
- Crime prevention advice and information
- Violence Against Women and Girls, including Domestic Homicide Reviews and Harmful Practices
- Cyber, Business and Rural Crime (all of which also have their own dedicated websites)
- Exploitation, Prevent and Hate Crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Substance Misuse.

The work of the partnership is reflected and promoted on the homepage of the website: <https://safeinwarwickshire.com/>

Case Study 4: Community Safety Officer Group - Effective Partnerships

During the SWPB Review consultation process, a recurring theme was the excellent working relationships in place between community safety partners in Warwickshire. These relationships, facilitated by the existence of the Board and its subgroups, enables agencies in a relatively small area with limited resources to achieve more through joint working than it would be possible to achieve individually.

As an example, when an opportunity to bid for Safer Streets funding was presented with tight timescales, pre-existing relationships enabled a prioritisation process to be undertaken quickly and with the agreement of all partners and two applications submitted. The primary priority application was submitted by Warwickshire County Council, following several consultation meetings through the Community Safety Officer Group, with the bid taking a multi-location approach to address feelings of safety across Warwickshire (particularly amongst women and girls). It was designed to enable work with communities to identify locations of concern and deliver community safety improvements.

This bid was successful and brought £249,000 into Warwickshire for community safety interventions to address key priorities.