

# Warwickshire Community Safety Agreement

2025 - 2029



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warwickshire

# Contents

<b>3</b>	<b>Foreword</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Plan on a page</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Setting the scene</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Warwickshire Community Safety priorities</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Delivering the priorities</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Performance management</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Appendices:</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>A – The Community Safety legislative framework</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>B – Community Safety data</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>C – Partnership meeting expectations</b>

# Foreword

I am very pleased to introduce the Warwickshire Community Safety Agreement which sets out the priorities of the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board and is designed to deliver our clear vision: 'Working together to keep Warwickshire safe.'

Building on the detailed strategic assessments used to set new priorities for each of our four Community Safety Partnerships in the county, these countywide priorities reflect the community safety issues and concerns of residents across Warwickshire and set out our shared commitment to tackling these.

They are also closely aligned to the priorities set out by the Police and Crime Commissioner in his new Police and Crime Plan, reflecting our joint ambition for a county that is safer for all.

Since the previous Warwickshire Community Safety Agreement was produced in 2022, significant changes and uncertainties have impacted both community safety and the broader societal landscape in which we operate. The aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, cost of living pressures and wider national societal unrest have resulted in challenges for residents and increased demand on services. This is at a time when partner agencies also have responsibility for the implementation of new community safety duties and national priorities, and managing ongoing funding pressures.

All of the above makes collaborative working ever more important to maximise the impact of available resources. Community safety partners have a good track record of working together to deliver positive outcomes for the residents of Warwickshire and the priorities set out in this agreement provide a clear focus for joint work to deliver lasting impact for our local communities.

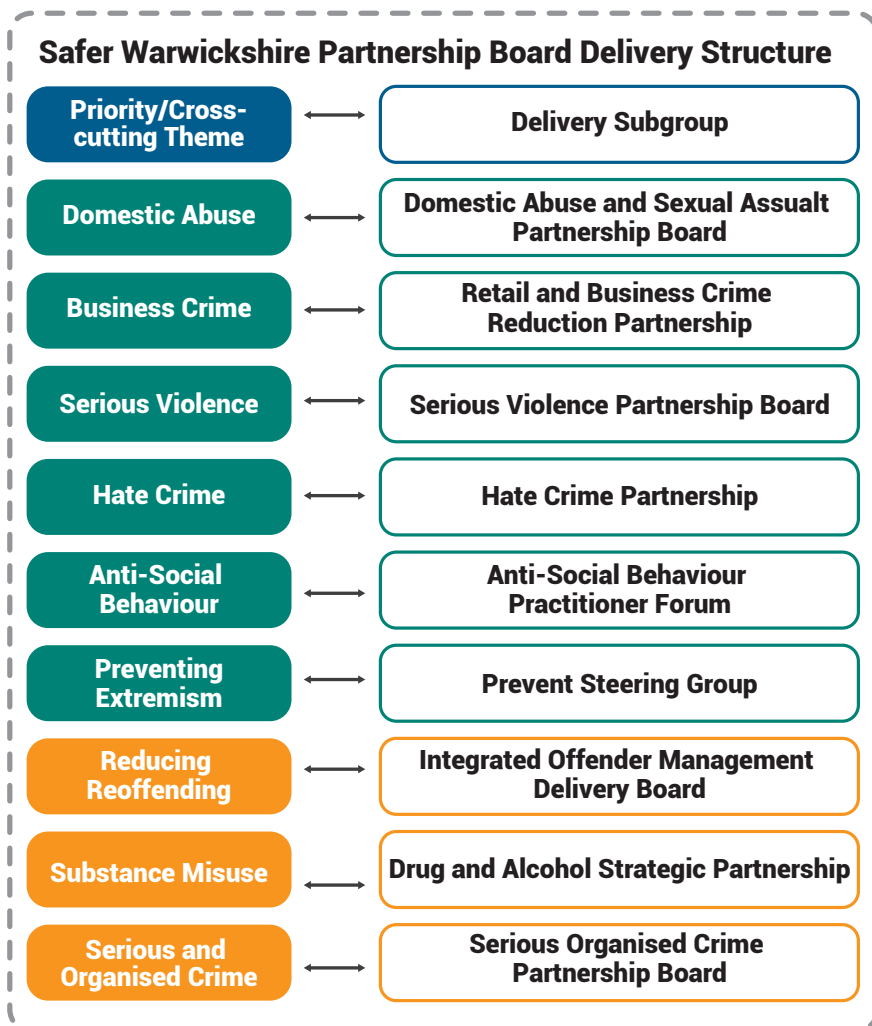
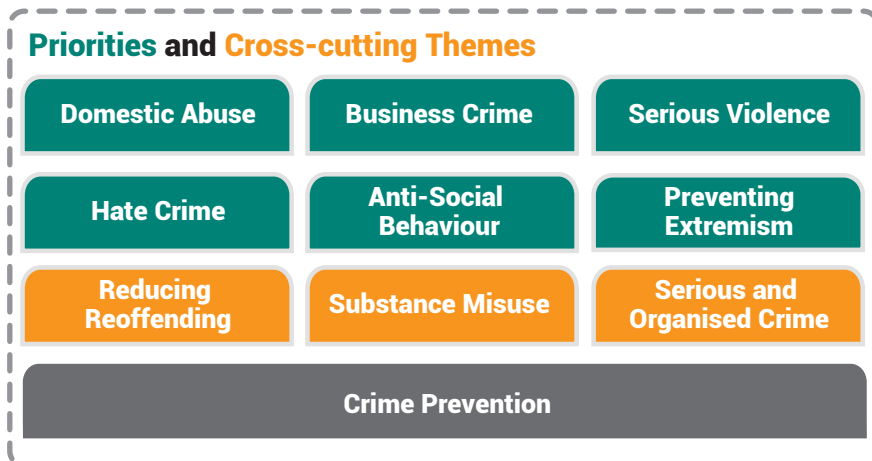
The local government landscape is likely to look very different by the end of this agreement period, with discussions ongoing about reorganisation and devolution. Wherever that leads us, we look forward to working together over the next four years and beyond to create safer communities for all Warwickshire residents, businesses and visitors.

**Councillor Dale Bridgewater**  
Chair of the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board  
Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety  
– Warwickshire County Council



# Warwickshire Community Safety Agreement 2025-2029: Plan on a page

This agreement sets out how partner agencies in Warwickshire will work together to implement our shared community safety priorities.



- Links to other boards and strategies**
- Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board and Strategy
  - Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board and Strategic Plan
  - Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and Business Plan
  - Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership and Strategy
  - Police and Crime Plan for Warwickshire
  - Warwickshire Housing Partnership Board
  - Warwickshire Criminal Justice Board
  - Warwickshire Resilience Forum
  - Warwickshire County Council Creating Opportunities Board
  - Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Strategic Management Board.

# Setting the scene

## Why do we need a Community Safety Agreement?

The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 state:

- Before the end of each year the county strategy group shall prepare a community safety agreement for that year.

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- 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

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## What does the Community Safety Agreement need to include?

The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 with subsequent amendments further state:

The community safety agreement shall identify –

- a) 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

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- b) 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.

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## Who are the responsible authorities?

The responsible authorities in Warwickshire as a two-tier local authority area are currently:

- Warwickshire County Council

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- North Warwickshire Borough Council

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- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

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- Rugby Borough Council

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- Stratford-on-Avon District Council

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- Warwick District Council

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- Probation Service Warwickshire

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- Warwickshire Police

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- Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service

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- NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board.

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Whilst the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire is not a named responsible authority, there is a mutual duty to co-operate and have regard to each other's priorities. There is also a duty on the county strategy group to send a copy of the Community Safety Agreement to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

## What is the Warwickshire County Strategy Group?

The Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board fulfills the requirements of the county strategy group. Members of the Board include councillors and/or senior officers from all the responsible authorities, the Police and Crime Commissioner and representatives from the voluntary and community sector.

The Board aims to create safer communities through the reduction of crime and the promotion of safety, with an agreed vision:

*'Working together to keep Warwickshire safe'*



## What are Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)?

In two-tier local authority areas such as Warwickshire, Community Safety Partnerships sit at a District/Borough level and fulfil the requirements of strategy groups for the areas in the county area. They are responsible for preparing a strategic assessment and implementing a partnership plan on behalf of the responsible authorities for the area.

There are currently four CSPs in Warwickshire:

- North Warwickshire CSP

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- Nuneaton and Bedworth CSP

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- Rugby CSP

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- South Warwickshire CSP (incorporating Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Districts)

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## What other legislative requirements do community safety partners need to meet?

The community safety landscape is increasingly complex. A summary of the key pieces of relevant legislation can be found at Appendix A.

## What is the Warwickshire approach to priority setting and the development of the Community Safety Agreement?

Prior to 2021, annual strategic assessments were undertaken for each CSP and used to inform local and countywide priorities. In October 2021 all partners agreed to move to a four-year cycle of Strategic Assessments to enable 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.

The Community Safety Agreement and countywide priorities form part of this four-year cycle but will be reviewed annually by the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board to ensure compliance with the Crime and Disorder Regulations.



# Warwickshire Community Safety priorities

## Community Safety Partnership priorities

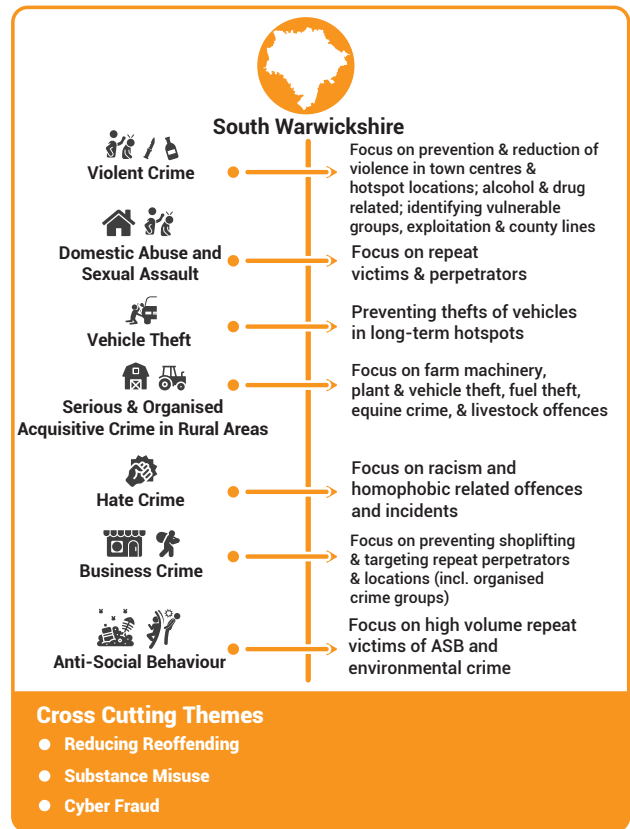
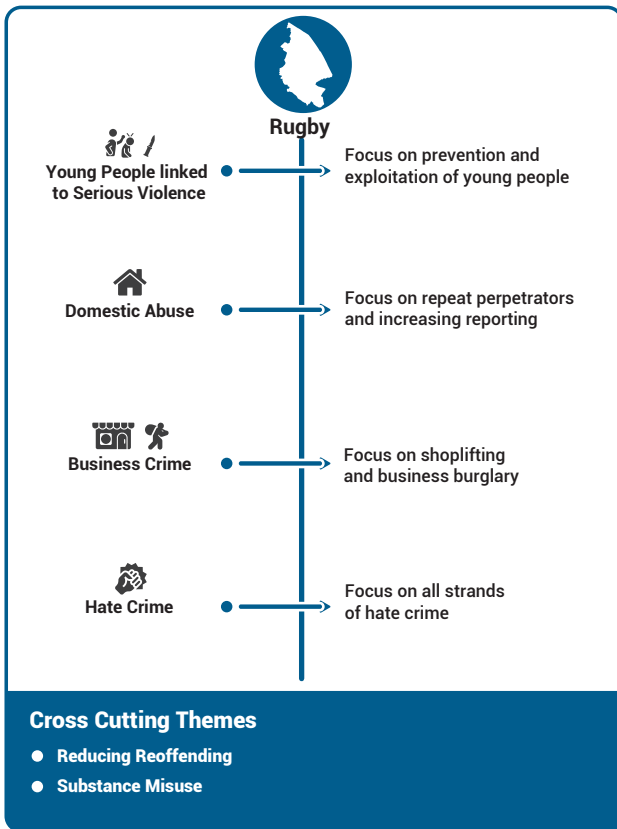
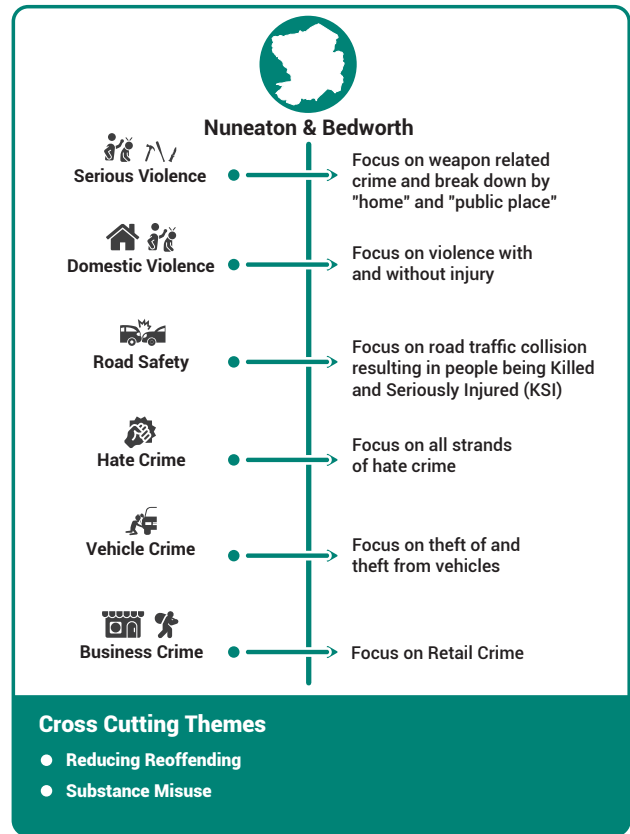
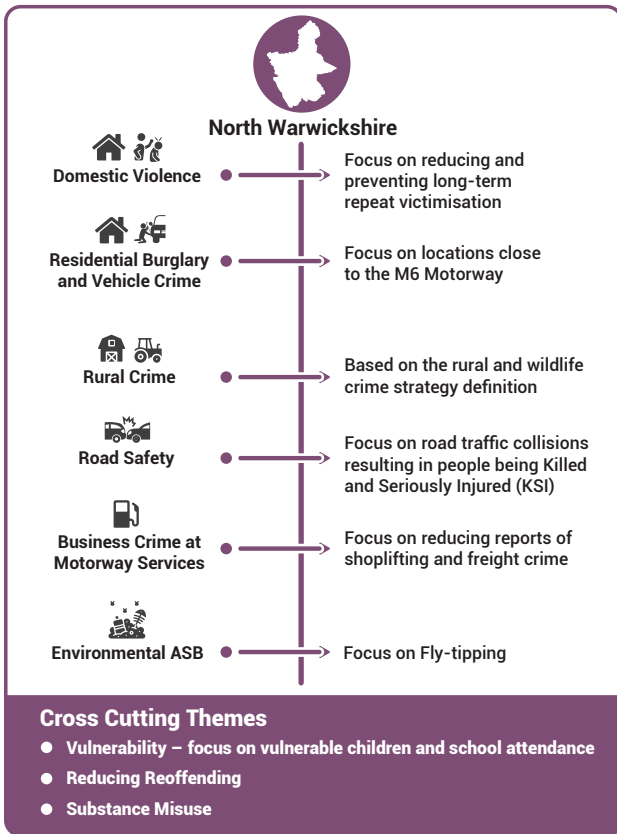
During 2024-25, comprehensive strategic assessments were prepared for each CSP by the partnership Community Safety Analysts. Information analysed included:

- Data from a wide range of sources, including local partnership agencies
- Results of the MoRiLE risk assessment undertaken with partner agencies
- The views of residents captured through the 2024 Your Say on Community Safety survey and local engagement
- Input from consultation meetings with partners and an online survey with wider stakeholders.

The strategic assessments were used to prepare draft priorities for each CSP. These were presented to each CSP Board in February/March 2025, with final sets of priorities agreed as shown in figure 1 on the following page.



Figure 1: Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership Priorities – 2025-29



Information on how to access further information about the strategic assessments and community safety data can be found at Appendix B.

## Countywide priorities

In April 2025, representatives from the responsible authorities convened a workshop to identify countywide priorities for the period 2025-2029. In accordance with the requirements for a Community Safety Agreement, they considered both the new CSP priorities and other areas where a coordinated countywide approach would be beneficial. Priorities from the new Police and Crime Plan and latest MoRiLE risk gradings were taken into account as part of the decision-making process.

Seven priorities/themes that are priorities for at least two CSPs, with clear benefits to a coordinated countywide approach supporting local delivery, were chosen:

Domestic Abuse<sup>1</sup>

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Business Crime

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Serious Violence

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Hate Crime

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Anti-Social Behaviour

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Reducing Reoffending

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Substance Misuse.

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Two additional priorities/themes that are not CSP priorities were also chosen:

Preventing Extremism

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Serious and Organised Crime.

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Although these are not CSP priorities, they form key elements of a countywide approach to reducing crime and disorder that would benefit from coordinated or joint working.

<sup>1</sup> Some CSPs have adopted this priority as Domestic Violence based on the data presented in the strategic assessments. There was unanimous agreement in the April 2025 workshop that the countywide priority should be worded as Domestic Abuse.

The work of the county Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Partnership Board also includes all Sexual Assault, Harmful Practices and Stalking.

Following discussion at the SWPB meeting in June 2025, it was agreed to add crime prevention as a further theme underpinning work across all the priorities. In this sense, crime prevention is not a discrete area of work so much as an underpinning principle describing an important way in which partners will work to address the priorities

Figure 2 below shows the countywide priorities and cross-cutting themes along with their key areas of focus.

**Figure 2: Agreed Priorities and Cross-cutting Themes of the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board**



# Delivering the priorities

Responsible authorities and wider partner agencies will work together to deliver the priorities through a series of subgroups reporting into the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board (SWPB). The partnership governance structure and subgroups responsible for the delivery of each priority are shown in figures 3 and 4 below.

**Figure 3: Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board Governance Structure**





**Figure 4: Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board Delivery Structure**



An overview of the responsibilities for partner agencies involved in subgroups can be found at Appendix C.



## Aligning delivery

There are clear overlaps between many of the priorities and subgroups. In addition, the cross-cutting themes require partnership focus as they have the potential for significant impact across the priorities. These overlaps will be managed through representatives of the priorities sitting on other relevant subgroups to ensure work is coordinated and duplication reduced. In addition, strategic frameworks have been developed for Reducing Reoffending and Exploitation as a mechanism to provide clarity and avoid duplication for themes that sit across multiple work areas.

Leads from each subgroup will meet quarterly at the Community Safety Assurance Group to discuss key activity, areas of good practice and issues of concern, with a report from this group then submitted to the SWPB. This mechanism will also be used to identify any cross-cutting initiatives that can be developed to most effectively implement the overall vision of the Board.

A two-way communications mechanism between CSPs and countywide subgroups will be formalised to ensure all partners are aware of and can contribute to work ongoing to deliver the countywide priorities.

## Links to other strategic boards and plans

Work coordinated by and through several other strategic boards and plans has a significant role to play in the delivery of the Community Safety priorities, particularly around the themes of prevention and safeguarding.

These boards and plans include:

- The Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board and Strategy

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- The Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board and Strategic Plan

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- The Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and Business Plan

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- The Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership and Strategy

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- The Police and Crime Plan for Warwickshire

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- The Warwickshire Housing Partnership Board

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- The Warwickshire Criminal Justice Board

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- The Warwickshire Resilience Forum

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- The Warwickshire County Council Creating Opportunities Board

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- The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Strategic Management Board.

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Coordinators of most of these Boards meet regularly through the Partnership Board Coordinators Group, enabling issues of shared priority and concern to be discussed and progressed. In addition, the deputy chair of the SWPB is a representative from the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), demonstrating the strategic links between the two partnerships and alignment to the HWB approach of Health in All Policies.

Community Safety forms a core element of the countywide approach to Creating Opportunities, providing additional opportunities to enhance join up with partner agencies within priority locations.

## Communications and engagement

Effective joint communication is essential for delivering both CSP and countywide priorities. It enables residents to access community updates, support services and engagement opportunities, while providing valuable feedback to partner agencies.

The SWPB has adopted a Communications Strategy for the period 2025-28. This sets out partners' shared commitment to coordinated messaging and provides a framework for effective community safety communications in Warwickshire.

# Performance management

## Data and analysis

A monthly Community Safety performance report is prepared by the Community Safety Analysts and provides data showing crime reported to the Police and, where appropriate and available, information from other partners. This reporting will be aligned to the countywide priorities set out in this agreement, enabling a regular assessment of performance against these to be made.

In addition, the Community Safety Analysts manage a series of dashboards providing partner agencies with access to data across a range of community safety themes updated on a regular basis. Information from the dashboards and further specific analysis reports and recommendations prepared for each CSP and some countywide priority areas is discussed quarterly in the relevant meetings, enabling activity to be planned in relation to areas of concern or off target performance.

## Management of activity

Crime data alone cannot be used to effectively measure performance against community safety priorities. This can be affected by a range of factors outside the control of partner agencies such as changes to crime recording guidelines, and there is a longstanding challenge around whether increases in reporting of certain crime types such as domestic abuse and hate crime is a negative reflecting increased crime levels or a positive reflecting increased awareness and confidence in reporting.

The SWPB subgroups have detailed strategies, frameworks and/or action plans in place setting out the work to be undertaken to deliver against each priority. To ensure this work is as effective and coordinated as possible, a new process will be established with each subgroup agreeing a small number of key indicators for their priority. Progress against these will be reported quarterly to the Community Safety Assurance Group for discussion and potential resolution of challenges affecting performance, and then onwards to the SWPB.



## Annual reporting

An annual review of this agreement and performance against each of the priority areas will be presented to the SWPB. This will incorporate a review of the priorities themselves based on updated information available and aligned to reviews of the CSP priorities.





# Appendix A

## The Community Safety legislative framework

The legal duty on partner agencies to work together to improve community safety was first set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This has subsequently been developed and amended within a number of other pieces of legislation. Shown below is a summary of the key elements of legislation of relevance to community safety partnership working.

In Warwickshire, many of the strategies and protocols required within the legislation are coordinated at a county level and can be found on the partnership Safe In Warwickshire website:

<https://safeinwarwickshire.com/>

### **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Introduced responsible authorities with a duty to produce strategies for the reduction of crime and disorder.

Placed a duty on agencies including the Police and local authorities to have due regard to, and do all they reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder (Section 17).

### **Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007**

Made further provisions relating to the implementation of the Crime and Disorder Act.

Placed a duty on (what are now) Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to prepare a strategic assessment and prepare and implement a partnership plan.

Introduced a requirement to have a county strategy group<sup>2</sup> with responsibility for preparing a community safety agreement.

Placed a duty on CSPs to have in place arrangements and a protocol for the sharing of information between responsible authorities<sup>3</sup>.

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

<sup>2</sup>In Warwickshire this is the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board (SWPB)

<sup>3</sup>Coordinated at a county level in Warwickshire.

- the reduction of crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment)

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- combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances

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- the reduction of re-offending

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- preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence

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- reducing instances of serious violence.

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### **Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004**

Placed a duty on CSPs to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews (it is proposed that these will be known as Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews once the legislation is amended)<sup>4</sup>.

### **Police and Justice Act 2006**

Introduced a requirement for crime and disorder scrutiny committees.

Added requirements for CSP strategies to include anti-social behaviour (and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances. Same requirements added to the Section 17 duty.

### **Policing and Crime Act 2009**

Added a requirement for CSP strategies to include the reduction of re-offending. Same requirement added to the Section 17 duty.

### **Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011**

Abolished Police Authorities and introduced Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) for areas outside London<sup>5</sup>.

Placed a duty on PCCs to issue a Police and Crime Plan. Mutual duty on PCCs and responsible authorities to co-operate and have regard to each other's priorities.

### **Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2012**

Amended the 2007 regulations to require county strategy groups to send a copy of the Community Safety Agreement to the PCC, and CSPs to do the same with their partnership plan.

Made provision for PCCs to require representatives of responsible authorities to attend a meeting to assist in the formulation and implementation of strategies.

<sup>4</sup>Coordinated at a county level in Warwickshire.

<sup>5</sup>Police Authorities were a responsible authority under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, but PCCs are not.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**

Introduced a range of new powers to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

Introduced two measures to give victims a greater say in tackling ASB: the Community Trigger (now ASB Case Review) and Community Remedy.

### **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**

Introduced a requirement for specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism (the Prevent Duty).

### **Modern Slavery Act 2015**

Placed a duty on specified First Responder agencies to notify the Home Office when they come across potential victims of modern slavery.

Introduced a requirement for organisations over a certain size to disclose each year what action they have taken to ensure there is no modern slavery in their business or supply chains.

### **Domestic Abuse Act 2021**

Placed a duty on local authorities in England to provide accommodation-based support to victims of Domestic Abuse and their children.

Introduced a requirement to have a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board for the purpose of providing advice to local authorities about their statutory duty to provide accommodation-based support. Introduced a duty on local authorities (and other public authorities) to co-operate with Domestic Abuse Commissioner.

### **Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and associated Prevention and Reduction of Serious Violence (Strategies etc.) Regulations 2022**

Introduced a duty on specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence (the Serious Violence Duty).

Added requirements for CSP strategies to include both preventing and reducing serious violence. Same requirements added to the Section 17 duty.

Placed a duty (not yet fully implemented) on named authorities to undertake offensive weapon homicide reviews.

### **Victims and Prisoners Act 2024**

Places a duty (due to be fully implemented in 2026) on relevant bodies to collaborate when commissioning support services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and serious violence. Will require partners to develop a joint needs assessment and strategy and establish a collaboration forum.

### **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025**

When implemented (over 2025-2027) will require those responsible for certain premises and events to consider how they would respond to a terrorist attack. Requirement for certain larger premises and events to also consider appropriate steps to reduce vulnerability to terrorist attacks.

### **Forthcoming**

#### **English Devolution Bill and Local Government Reorganisation**

Not specifically a piece of community safety legislation, but will have significant impact on joint working and structures. Invites councils in two-tier areas to develop proposals for unitary local government. Warwickshire proposals submitted to central government in March 2025.

#### **Crime and Policing Bill**

Proposes a range of measures to deliver the government's Safer Streets mission, including new powers to tackle ASB, violence against women and girls and exploitation of vulnerable children and adults, increased action on knife crime and greater protection for retail workers.

#### **Victims and Courts Bill**

Proposes measures to increase support available to victims of crime and ASB, strengthen powers of the Victims' Commissioner, order offenders to attend sentencing hearings, restrict parental responsibility for certain child sex offenders and reform elements of the justice system.

#### **Prevention Partnerships**

Will become a requirement under the Serious Violence Duty and require the creation of multi-agency partnerships to improve the identification of and support to young people at risk of being drawn into crime.

# Appendix B

## Community Safety data

Further information about the CSP strategic assessments undertaken by the Community Safety Analysts and data used to set the CSP priorities can be requested from the Warwickshire County Council Business Intelligence team: [businessintelligence@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:businessintelligence@warwickshire.gov.uk).

The Community Safety Analysts manage a series of dashboards providing partner agencies with access to data across a range of community safety themes updated on a regular basis. For further information or to request access, please contact the team using the email address above.





# Appendix C

## Partnership meeting expectations

### Chairs

- Ensure agendas
  - a) reflect the purpose of the group and its onward reporting requirements and
  - b) cover all items that need to be discussed and progressed as a partnership in a timely fashion.

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- Create a welcoming environment that encourages participation from all attendees.

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- Steer discussions in a structured fashion, ensuring actions and next steps are clear for each agenda item.

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- Ensure actions and activities set out within plans coordinated by the group are completed.

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- Build links with chairs and lead officers from other relevant groups to coordinate work and reduce duplication.

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### Administration

- Ensure papers are circulated in a timely fashion ahead of each meeting, giving attendees time to read them and prepare in advance.

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- Ensure minutes are circulated promptly following each meeting, giving attendees time to complete actions ahead of the next meeting.

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- Ensure group mailing lists and calendar invitations are kept up to date.

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## Group members

- Attend meetings or arrange for a suitable substitute to attend in their place.

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- Read papers in advance and ensure any substitutes are appropriately briefed.

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- Have sufficient delegated powers to deal with matters discussed in the meeting or, if not, ensure necessary approvals are sought in advance.

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- Represent the views of their organisation.

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- Keep their organisation and, where relevant, other partnerships of which they are a member informed about progress and the outcomes of meetings.

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- Complete agreed actions in a timely fashion.

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- Contribute to the development of strategies and action plans linked to the work of the group.

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- Work constructively with other group members to achieve consensus on actions required to address countywide priorities.

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- Contribute to the timely undertaking and delivery of action plan actions and activities.

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