

2nd December 2025

Meeting Minutes

Present: Board members and Support officers:

In person:

(DB)	Cllr Dale Bridgewater (Chair)	Warwickshire County Council
(KW)	Katie Whitehouse	Warwickshire County Council – Community Safety
(NC)	Nick Coleman	Warwickshire County Council – Community Safety
(LL)	Leon Livermore	Warwickshire County Council – Community Safety
(MS)	Martyn Stephens	Warwickshire County Council – Community Safety
(NS)	Nicola Stocker (Minutes)	Warwickshire County Council – Business Support
(SM)	Stacey Mann	Warwickshire County Council – Public Health
(JC)	Jane Coates	Warwickshire County Council – Public Health
(CC)	Caroline Cooke	Warwickshire County Council – Children's Safeguarding
(FC)	Fay Cannon	Warwickshire County Council – Road Safety
(PS)	Philip Seccombe	Police and Crime Commissioner
(PR)	Polly Reed	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
(BS)	ACC Ben Smith	Warwickshire Police
(PM)	Paul Morley	Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service
(AW)	Andy Wade	Warwickshire Probation Service
(SS)	Sam Slemensek	Stratford District Council
(JS)	Cllr Jim Sinnott	Warwick District Council
(LY)	Liz Young	Warwick District Council
(JT)	Julie Taylor	North Warwickshire Borough Council
(CC)	Colin Cartwright	Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch
(JH)	Junaid Hussain	EQuIP - Equality and Inclusion Partnership

Online:

(BR)	Becca Richardson	Victim Support
(AS)	Amrita Sharma	Warwickshire County Council – Adult Safeguarding
(VW)	Vicky Woodfield	Warwickshire County Council – Safeguarding Communities
(DA-H)	David Ayton-Hill	Warwickshire County Council – Economy and Place
(GT)	Geoff Thomas	Warwickshire County Council – Community Safety
(RL)	Richard Long	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
(MR)	Marcia Eccleston	Stratford District Council

Apologies:

(BB)	Ben Brook	Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service
(EU)	Elisabeth Uggerloese	Warwickshire Association of Local Councils
(ZW-D)	Zoe Waters-Day	Warwickshire County Council – Business Intelligence
(JB)	Jemma Bull	Warwickshire County Council – Business Intelligence
(SP)	Sarah Parker	Warwickshire County Council – Business Intelligence
(RS)	Ramandeep Sandhu	Warwickshire County Council - Children's Safeguarding
(PP)	Paul Pritchett	Rugby Borough Council
(NG)	Cllr Natalie Gist	Stratford District Council
(AM)	Abu Malek	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
(JC)	Jackie Channell	Coventry & Warwickshire ICB

Section 1 – Meeting administration

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Cllr Bridgewater welcomed all to the meeting, apologies were noted, and introductions were made.

2. Minutes, actions and matters arising from the meeting held on 24th June 2025

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed for accuracy and approved. Completed actions are noted at the end of the minutes. New actions are noted below.

Actions – 2nd December 2025		
Theme	Responsible officer(s)	Action
Community cohesion operational group	Leon Livermore / Katie Whitehouse	To develop a Terms of Reference and arrange the first group meeting for February.
Police and Crime Commissioner update	PCC Philip Seccombe	To keep the Board updated around future arrangements following the decision to abolish PCCs.

3. Updated Terms of Reference for approval

KW updated that a thorough refresh of the Terms of Reference (TOR) has been undertaken in line with the new Community Safety Agreement (CSA) and priorities within it.

Points to note:

- The Board needs a new Deputy Chair, and the Health and Wellbeing Board has nominated Cllr Sinnott. The TOR has been amended to cover the fact that Cllr Sinnott is already a member of the SWPB in a different capacity.
- The CSA was approved by the Board in June. It should be noted that this is subject to formal endorsement and is awaiting approval by WCC full Council in December, with a view to publishing in the New Year.
- The new vision, priorities and cross cutting themes from the CSA have been added to the TOR.
- The section on engaging with communities has been strengthened.
- Section 2 – SWPB members are required to undertake work to support the partnership between as well as in Board meetings.
- Victim Support have been added as a member agency.
- Frequency of meetings will now be quarterly.
- Section 4.5 proposes that the minutes of the Board are published for transparency on the Safe in Warwickshire website.
- Updated governance and delivery structures are included as appendices.
- KW asked the Board for their approval of the updated TOR. These were approved.

4. Agreement of new Board Deputy Chair

- Cllr Bridgewater formally proposed that Cllr Jim Sinnott is named as the new SWPB Deputy Chair.
- This was approved by the Board, and Cllr Sinnott acknowledged that he is pleased to act as SWPB Deputy Chair.

Section 2 – Items for Discussion

5. Community cohesion and the longer-term partnership response to community tensions

JH presented the report as summarised below:

- There were issues and tensions in Nuneaton, Rugby and Warwick over the summer.
- It is important to recognise national and international events which are having an impact on our communities.
- There has been a significant increase in reporting to EQuIP through the hate crime platform. This is a learning curve for the partnership and individual hate crime incidents within overall reports are now being recorded.
- There are potential trigger points which may lead to future protests, including local elections in 2026 and court hearings relating to ongoing cases linked to the 2025 protests.
- Warwickshire Police did a great job in co-ordinating the partnership Community Impact Operational Groups in the summer and these ran very effectively and smoothly.
- The view that the protests passed off without significant incident may not be shared by certain communities and businesses.
- These issues have been discussed at the Hate Crime Partnership and Community Safety Assurance Group ahead of presenting the report to the SWPB.
- A small group has been formed to discuss these issues and put forward suggested principles for partnership work to tackle community tensions in 2026.
- It is proposed to establish a time limited operational group which will meet monthly throughout 2026 with a view to embedding enhanced work on community cohesion.
- It is proposed that the subgroup is chaired by Leon Livermore, with Junaid Hussain as the vice chair, and District/Borough Council, Police and other relevant partner representation.
- The recommendations are to agree the principles set out in the report and the establishment of the time limited operational group.
- Cllr Bridgewater thanked JH for all the hard work to date and thanked him for bringing this to the Board's attention.

Questions/comments

- BS thanked JH, welcomed the longer-term partnership approach and offered Police support to this. BS added that we need to be better at countering mis/dis information in the online space and suggested the subgroup look at this.
- BR stated this is a great report and very insightful and a positive approach to these issues. BR asked how the work can incorporate a proactive approach to actively building community cohesion, capturing the voices of those with a lived experience and understanding and sharing what else would make people feel safer.
- JH stated that EQuIP have recently held three community events, working with partners to understand how people are feeling and what further work is required with communities. An initial report will be prepared and the findings fed back to community groups.
- LL conveyed his thanks to the Police for their work over the summer and stated that it felt like a genuine partnership response. LL added a lot of work is already going on regarding community engagement and messaging, with a new SWPB communications strategy and delivery group in place. There is a need to bridge the gap between the lived experiences of communities and the intelligence shared with the Police. LL emphasised if we are going to be agile, we have to be brave. Work is underway to try and source some training for our

communications colleagues around tackling mis/dis information. Success measures for this work will include assessing whether we have the full intelligence picture, community cohesion is embedded in all policies and communities feel safer.

- Cllr Bridgewater shared how fast misinformation can travel on the internet and the fear of crime can stop people from living their lives as they would choose to.
- SS asked around next steps and governance for the operational group, and ensuring there is appropriate buy-in and delegation for members to make decisions. LL stated that the focus at this stage is on the principles, but a Terms of Reference for the group will be developed and presented to the first meeting. This will be planned for February.
- CC offered praise for the Food and Faith event in Leamington which brought lots of different faiths together and suggested that this approach should be encouraged across the county.
- Cllr Bridgewater stated he attends multi-faith partnerships and can share suggestions regarding the provision of safe spaces and activities at events to encourage engagement.
- LL added that there is lots of positive activity already taking place in communities. This needs to be supported and facilitated to create an echo chamber of positive voices.
- Cllr Bridgewater asked for the Board's approval for the recommendations of the report. The Board confirmed their approval.

6. Community Safety Assurance Group highlight report, including new priority actions for each delivery subgroup

- AW presented the report on behalf of the Community Safety Assurance Group (CSAG).
- As previously agreed by the Board, each subgroup will now report progress against a small number of key actions that are central to the delivery of their priority.
- CSAG last met on 11th November and each subgroup identified their priority actions, as set out in the report.
- Activity undertaken against the key actions was also set out in the report, along with current challenges and risks which AW drew to the Board's attention.
- Board members are asked to provide the support of their agencies for the work of the subgroups and delivery of priority actions.
- A risk register is currently in the process of being developed.
- AW highlighted the areas of success set out in the report, of particular note is the Naloxone pilot which has saved lives.

Questions/comments

- BS stated that with capacity challenges prioritisation becomes key, and Board members should commit to supporting the work to deliver the agreed priorities through the subgroups. BS offered Police support for this.
- Cllr Bridgewater asked the Board for their approval of the report recommendations. These were approved by the Board.

Section 3 – Additional papers for approval: Comments / Questions by exception only

7. DARDR and MARAC funding 2026-27 for approval

- SM stated that this partnership funding arrangement has been in place for a number of years.
- SM asked the Board to approve the recommendation that the agencies shown in table 3 of the report agree to make the requested contributions to the costs of Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDR) and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) in 2026/27, subject to confirmation through formal budget setting processes.

- Cllr Bridgewater asked for any questions from the Board and none were raised.
- Cllr Bridgewater asked the Board for their approval of the report recommendation. This was approved by the Board.

8. Prevent funding 2026-27, confirmation of previous three-year commitment

- NC stated that the report presented a request for reaffirmation of the three-year funding commitment for the Prevent Officer role previously agreed by the Board.
- NC asked the Board to approve the recommendation that SWPB members from the agencies shown in the table in the report reaffirm their support for the provision of requested contributions to the costs of the Prevent Officer role in 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28, subject to confirmation through formal budget setting processes.
- Cllr Bridgewater asked for any questions from the Board and none were raised.
- Cllr Bridgewater asked the Board for their approval of the report recommendation. This was approved by the Board.

Section 4 – Additional papers for information: Comments / Questions by exception only

9. Police and Crime Commissioner funding update (national and local)

- PS updated the Board on the position of PCCs following the national announcement that the role will be abolished in 2028:
 - There are lots of uncertainties at this stage regarding the transfer of PCC powers.
 - There will be no changes to the PCC's role and duties at present, and the Office of the PCC will continue with business as usual including the provision of funding for commissioned and grant funded services.
 - A written report had been shared providing an update on services delivered through national and local funding from or managed by the OPCC. In addition, there has been a recent announcement by the Ministry of Justice providing confirmation of the continuance of additional funding, on top of their core victims funding, for the extra enhancement of local victim services for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault. This has been confirmed for a further two years (2026-28). Separately, confirmation from the Home Office on both core police funding and any additional funding streams such as Safer Streets and Serious Violence Duty, is still awaited.

Questions/comments

- BR asked if there is any timescale as to when a clearer picture regarding the transfer of PCC powers will start to emerge.
- PS stated that this is unclear, but he will be starting discussions with partners around what future arrangements could look like.
- CC conveyed his thanks to Victim Support for the assistance they provided to an individual who has worked with Neighbourhood Watch.
- JH stated that there is a need to provide continuity for services that currently receive OPCC funding. PS stated that his aim is to provide continued support as far as possible.
- PR added that there is no suggestion that the statutory functions currently delivered by the PCC will be removed, the uncertainty is around how they will be delivered. The awaited Police Reform White Paper will provide further context.
- PS agreed to provide further updates to the Board as known.

10. Any Other Business

- AW announced that he will be retiring from the Probation Service on 31st May 2026.

- There will be a recruitment campaign for a replacement Head of Service and hopefully an overlap/handover before AW's departure.
- Cllr Bridgewater congratulated AW and stated he will be sad to see him leave.

11. Date of next meeting

18th March 2026, 10:00 - Committee Room 2, Shire Hall, Warwick

Cllr Bridgewater thanked all and concluded the meeting.

COMPLETED ACTIONS

Actions – 24 th June 2025		
Theme	Responsible officer(s)	Action
Frequency of SWPB meetings to be changed from six-monthly to quarterly	KW / NS	To diarise the new SWPB meeting structure for 2026. UPDATE: 02/12/25 - Completed. Calendar invites have been sent out for March June, Sept and Dec 2026. DISCHARGED
SWPB Terms of Reference	KW	To draft an updated Terms of Reference for agreement at the next meeting. UPDATE: 02/12/25 - Complete and covered as an agenda item. DISCHARGED
Community Safety Information Sharing Protocol	KW	To add an item about the effectiveness of information sharing to the Board forward plan. UPDATE: 02/12/25 - Complete and on the forward plan for March 2026. DISCHARGED