

18th March 2026

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
(AF)	Abby Farrell	Warwickshire County Council – Community Safety
(HN)	Hema Nolan	Warwickshire County Council – Community Safety
(NS)	Nicola Stocker (Minutes)	Warwickshire County Council – Business Support
(SM)	Stacey Mann	Warwickshire County Council – Public Health
(CC)	Caroline Cooke	Warwickshire County Council – Children’s Safeguarding
(ZW-D)	Zoe Waters-Day	Warwickshire County Council – Business Intelligence
(JB)	Jemma Bull	Warwickshire County Council – Business Intelligence
(PS)	Philip Seccombe	Police and Crime Commissioner
(RL)	Richard Long	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
(AM)	Det Ch Supt Anna Middleton	Warwickshire Police
(PM)	Paul Morley	Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service
(CC)	Colin Cartwright	Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch
(JH)	Junaid Hussain	EQulP - Equality and Inclusion Partnership
(NG)	Cllr Natalie Gist	Stratford District Council
(SS)	Sam Slemensek	Stratford District Council

Online:

(EU)	Elisabeth Uggerloese	Warwickshire Association of Local Councils
(LY)	Liz Young	Warwick District Council
(NA)	Noreen Ahmed	Coventry & Warwickshire ICB
(KP)	Cllr Kath Price	Nuneaton and Bedworth BC
(AM)	Abu Malek	Nuneaton and Bedworth BC
(SA)	San Aslam	Warwickshire County Council – Business Intelligence
(CB)	Cl Chloe Barnes	Warwickshire Police
(BR)	Becca Richardson	Victim Support

Apologies:

(JS)	Cllr Jim Sinnott	Warwick District Council
(CE)	Cllr Claire Edwards	Rugby Borough Council
(AF-S)	CC Alex Franklin-Smith	Warwickshire Police
(BB)	Ben Brook	Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service
(RS)	Ramandeep Sandhu	Warwickshire County Council – Children’s Safeguarding
(VW)	Vicky Woodfield	Warwickshire County Council – Safeguarding Communities
(AW)	Andy Wade	Warwickshire Probation Service
(JC)	Jackie Channell	Coventry & Warwickshire ICB
(PR)	Polly Reed	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

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 2nd December 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.

New Actions – 18th March 2026		
Theme	Responsible officer(s)	Action
Community cohesion	Katie Whitehouse	To share action plan with the Board once finalised.
Public sector reforms – sharing information and developing a Warwickshire response	Leon Livermore / Katie Whitehouse	To circulate invitation for a partner forum to discuss latest developments.

Section 2 – Items for Discussion

3. Highlight report from the Serious Violence Partnership Board

- NC updated that the report set out how the SV Duty Grant has been utilised for 2025/26.
- NC confirmed that the same grant value has been offered by the Home Office for the coming year 2026/27, and the report set out proposed interventions to be funded from this.

Questions/comments

- A discussion took place about the focus of the funding in 2026/27. Interventions will be in line with the longer-term Home Office direction of travel towards more tertiary provision, whilst maintaining a targeted focus on prevention.

The Board approved the recommendations within the report.

4. Effective community safety information sharing– Leon Livermore

- LL introduced the report and re-iterated that a culture of information sharing is needed, supported by the Community Safety Information Sharing Protocol and new approach to the development of specific Data Sharing Agreements (DSAs). Board members can support their organisations and teams to have the confidence to share information appropriately.

Questions/Comments

- It was agreed that Data Protection Officers for partner agencies should be involved in the development of information sharing processes. Specific examples of

challenges around information sharing can be discussed with Data Protection leads, and they will be linked into the work to develop specific DSAs.

- The effectiveness of information sharing will be included in the new SWPB risk register, to be brought back to the Board every six months.
- The annual review of the Information Sharing Protocol will be presented to the June SWPB meeting.

The Board approved the recommendations within the report.

5. Risk management: agreement of key principles and framework - Leon Livermore

- LL stated that a workshop had been held to develop a proposed approach to managing partnership risks, with the principles and framework presented for the approval of the Board. If supported, six-monthly updates on the management of the risks within the framework would be brought back to the Board.

Question/Comments

- The importance of ensuring the risk framework is kept up to date and able to respond to emerging risks to the partnership was supported.

The Board approved the recommendations within the report.

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

6. Community cohesion subgroup: agreement of Terms of Reference and areas of focus

- LL introduced the report, stating that the subgroup has been established to run throughout 2026 and then be stood down.
- Thanks were offered to the Police and EQuIP for their work in developing the action plan for the group.
- JH updated the Board on the seven priority areas within the action plan.
- Effective communication is a priority for the group, and links have been made to the Communications subgroup.
- LL reminded the Board that the group was established on some key principles. One of these was about being brave, which will involve the taking of some managed risks.

Questions//comments

- NG requested the addition of the words reasonable and proportionate to the second recommendation. It was agreed to amend this to:
“That Board members endorse the areas of focus for the group and commit the reasonable and proportionate support and resources of their agency to their implementation.”
- A discussion took place around balancing the speed of disseminating information with the need to ensure this is correct and appropriate. The communications subgroup has agreed an approach whereby the lead agency for messaging shares this in line with their agreed processes and partner agencies amplify it.

- There are likely to be further protests this year, and partners will need to be more proactive in supporting community events taking place alongside these.
- The need to be proactive around countering misinformation and creating positive narratives was discussed. NC updated that training around countering mis/dis information will be taking place on 11th May with further information to follow.
- The group's action plan will be shared with the Board once finalised.
- CC raised a question around mapping community events. This was deferred to Any Other Business.

The Board approved the recommendations within the report, subject to the above amendment to the second recommendation.

7. Introduction of Prevention Partnerships – Chloe Barnes

- CB introduced the report and provided an update on work to implement a pilot Prevention Partnership in South Warwickshire, with the ambition to hold the first panel meeting in April.
- KW added that the intention is for this work to be rolled out across the county based on learning from the pilot. The work is based on national guidance, with Prevention Partnerships likely to become mandatory in the future. There is no confirmed longer-term resource for coordination or administration of the panels, and a request for support around this may need to be brought back to a future Board meeting as the work develops.
- AF stated that the name of the panels may change based on national guidance.

The Board approved the recommendations within the report.

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

8. Community Safety Assurance Group highlight report – Katie Whitehouse

- KW introduced the report on behalf of Andy Wade, and reminded Board members that reports from the Assurance Group now provide an overview of key activity undertaken by each subgroup in the last quarter, together with challenges and risks.
- Capacity challenges are a common theme across the subgroups, and the need for all agencies to support the work of the subgroups tasked with delivering the priorities of the Board was reiterated.

Questions/comments

- LL emphasised that subgroups only need to report activity against their priority actions to the Board.

The Board approved the recommendations within the report.

9. **Police and Crime Commissioner update (national and local) - Philip Seccombe**

- PS introduced the report, setting out the funding coming into Warwickshire from various sources.
- Funding for hotspot policing is not being continued by the government, which is disappointing. Visible patrols will continue as core business in priority areas.
- PS provided a further update on Policing Reform. There is currently a high level of flux and uncertainty, with Local Government Reorganisation on the horizon and the proposed abolition of PCCs and potential Police force mergers set out in the Policing Reform White Paper. It is expected that the Policing Reform Bill will be introduced in July 2026, with a proposed go live date of March 2028.

Questions/Comments

- A discussion took place about the continuation of hotspot policing in the absence of specific government funding. This does present challenges, but visible patrols will continue to reassure residents and look to prevent crime and ASB from happening in the first place. Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee funding is available, and the established model of allocating resources to hotspots will continue to be utilised.
- A further discussion took place around provision for young people and enabling partners to understand what is available. Detail was shared about information sources including Searchout Warwickshire: <https://searchout.warwickshire.gov.uk/> and Warwickshire Connected: <https://www.warwickshireconnected.com/>. Further work on this will be done through the new Police ASB action plan.
- LL stated that public sector reform is a fast-changing picture, and there will be a need to share information or consider responses on behalf of the partnership. It was agreed to hold a partner forum approximately every six weeks to consider the latest information and responses required.
- In response to a question, PS confirmed that the current Chief Constable will be departing and the current Deputy Chief Constable acting up in the interim. There will be a recruitment process to appoint a new Chief Constable.
- A discussion took place around crime reporting, the use of 101 and how responses are determined, linking into local SNTs. Examples of responses considered unsatisfactory can be shared with Police representatives for follow up.

10. **SWPB Communications Strategy: implementation update – Katie Whitehouse**

- KW introduced the report on behalf of the new Communications subgroup. The group is in the process of developing a delivery plan, focusing on the priorities of the Board where support from shared communications activity could be most beneficial.

The Board approved the recommendations within the report.

11. **Any Other Business**

Child Exploitation Awareness Week

Cllr Bridgewater updated the Board on Child Exploitation Awareness Week, as follows:

- Today (Wednesday 18th March) is national Child Exploitation Awareness Day.
- Throughout this week, Warwickshire agencies are working together to run a series of events and activities to highlight the issue in Warwickshire.
- This has included free training sessions for professionals working with children, for young people, and for parents or carers.
- Child exploitation is happening in Warwickshire and hundreds of children are victims each year.
- It is a crime that can happen to any child, anytime.
- This year in Warwickshire, we are highlighting forms of Child Exploitation including financial exploitation, criminal exploitation, online child exploitation, child sexual exploitation, and how vaping has become a tool for child exploitation.
- How can you help?
 - You can make a pledge to know the signs of Child Exploitation and how to report it.
 - You can visit the Warwickshire 'Something's Not Right' website to learn about the signs, different types of exploitation and how to report it.
 - There are some flyers with information in the Ante Chamber and a QR code you can scan to take you to the website.
 - You can share the social media posts that Warwickshire County Council and partners are sending out this week to raise awareness.
 - There are also some banners in the Ante Chamber that you can hold to have your photo taken with and share.

Community engagement/cohesion

- A discussion was held around coordinated attendance at partnership engagement events. There is a need to prioritise involvement and resources, with opportunities to improve the sharing of information around upcoming events and coordinate engagement. This will be considered through the developing community cohesion action plan.

Date of next meeting

23rd June 2026, 14:00 – Committee Room 2, Shire Hall, Warwick

To include focus on local response to the national cross-government strategy to build a safer society for women and girls.

Cllr Bridgewater thanked all and concluded the meeting.

COMPLETED ACTIONS

Actions – 2 nd 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. UPDATE: 18/03/26 - Completed. Group has met twice and ToR presented to this SWPB meeting. DISCHARGED
Police and Crime Commissioner update	PCC Philip Seccombe	To keep the Board updated around future arrangements following the decision to abolish PCCs. UPDATE: 18/03/26 - covered as an agenda item. DISCHARGED