

Public Pre-Scrutiny Questions and Answers - O&S 3 June 2025

Report Title: South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership Annual Performance Report (2024/25)

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Councillor Milton: Is it possible to share attendance records for the meetings that have taken place, including the attendance by the P&CC (or their representative)?

Response: The Board meets 3 times a year – I've attached the minutes from May 24 and Nov 24. The February 25 meeting was solely to receive the new Strategic Assessment and Recommendations for the Priorities for 25 – 29 – the minutes will be available for the next Board meeting in June. The OPCC was present at the November and February meetings.

Councillor Milton: Can you share the performance stats across the last strategic plan period? It would be interesting to see across a longer period how effective the plan has been in achieving its objectives.

Response: The full Strategic Assessment 2025 -29 provides a full analysis of performance against the Priorities 2022 – 2024. As explained in my report, during the 4-year cycle, annual performance reports are only produced for years 2 and 3. The report attached provides year to date comparisons and trend analysis across a 2-year period together with assessments of reasons for increases and reductions in the different crime types.

It is always a challenge in addressing certain crime types to evidence that reductions in crime are as a direct result of community safety interventions as many factors can influence crime rates e.g. changes in policing practices, levels of crime reporting i.e. under reporting particularly in cases of domestic abuse and sexual assault, economic conditions – cost of living crisis has seen a spike in shop theft, community cohesion – aftermath of Southport leading to increases in hate crime.

The Strategic Assessment aims to provide a comprehensive picture of crime for us to develop effective plans – so whilst crime stats are important, the under lying factors and local intelligence are also key considerations.

We are adopting a smarter approach to our action planning and performance monitoring – shorter more succinct plans, 1 year, 2 year and 3 year outcomes, clear and measurable targets (if we can't measure it doesn't go in) and will only include partnership project activity directly linked to CSP Priority delivery – no business as usual.

Councillor Milton: One area that has come up before that isn't covered is the performance of the 101 service. I know residents have had concerns about how effective this is so it would be good to have some more info to answer any questions on the night.

Response: The 101 issue was raised at last year's O&S. I will pass this question on to CI Simon Ryan.

Councillor Sinnott: I'd be interested to hear the police response to the 101 system. The PCC responded in January about its performance. It leaves more questions than answers.

When does the clock start and stop on a 101 call, for example from triage or when a caller speaks to a member of staff?

I would like feedback on the breakdown time to triage, the time to abandonment or final answer, to explore and understand what the figures mean.

Response: Confidential

Councillor Dickson: Does the Warwickshire Retail Crime Initiative operate only in Warwick and not in other towns in the district? If so, why is this?

Response: The Warwickshire Retail Crime Initiative operates across all towns in the district. Business Crime has recently been adopted as a South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership Priority and as such there will be a continued push to increase membership to the initiative to ensure local businesses have access to more effective ways of identifying perpetrators and reporting incidents to the police.

Councillor Dickson: What's the strategic logic behind the choice of schools participating in The Student Voice portal?

Response: The Student Voice has been offered to all secondary schools across the district on a fully funded 3 year contract. Despite several attempts to engage, Kenilworth School are the only secondary not to sign up at this stage.

Councillor Dickson: The table of ward data for reported crime and ASB makes interesting reading. Is there any trend data available, for example to know which wards are deteriorating, static and getting better?

Response: I've requested a table depicting trend data over the last 2 years – due to workloads, the analyst won't be able to provide this for tomorrow's meeting, but I can forward it to committee members by the end of the week.

Councillor Dickson: What is being done or has been done by the Partnership to address Cyber Crime? The Key Interventions list records lots of valuable other areas, but Cyber Crime appears to have received no attention despite it being one of the stated themes of the CSP's work.

Response: WCC was responsible for the countywide Cyber Crime Action Plan for the last 3 years and all district and borough CSPs have worked with the WCC Community Safety Team on campaigns, training and education, particularly delivery to young people, parents, and schools. Cyber is also picked up in other crime partnership plans in priority areas such as Hate and preventing extremism.

Please refer to Pages 38-39 of the Strategic Assessment regarding.

The recommendation approved by the CSP Board in February was that the CSP removes this as a specific priority and adopts 'Cyber Fraud' as a cross[1]cutting theme, to recognise the complex nature of this offending behaviour affecting many crime areas. The continued trend of sextortion offences being committed against South Warwickshire residents highlights the need to continue to focus crime prevention resources on young people, advising against sharing sexually explicit photos via social media.

Strategic Recommendations:

- 'Cyber Fraud' to be removed as a priority for SW CSP and adopted as a cross-cutting theme.
- Crime prevention messaging to focus on young people (specifically males) to advise them against requesting and sharing sexually explicit photos via social media.
- SW CSP Board members to use their influence to encourage national activity in relation to the Online Safety Act