

Wrexham Community Safety Partnership Plan 2020-23



What is the Wrexham Community Safety Partnership (CSP)?

The Wrexham CSP has a statutory responsibility to undertake an annual review of Crime and Disorder, and to be aware of the nature of Crime and Disorder, anti-social behaviour, and the misuse of drugs within the county borough. The CSP will direct resources to address identified problems, and work together to identify and implement effective solutions. This plan will detail what this will look like.

The membership of the CSP includes:

- North Wales Police
- Wrexham County Borough Council
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- National Probation Service
- North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- AVOW
- North Wales Area Planning Board (APB)
- HMP Berwyn

Our Ways of Working

Our ways of working are led by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, that asks public bodies to ensure that when making decisions, they take into account the impact they will have on our future generation (the Sustainable Development principle). As a CSP we follow the five ways of working outlined in the act to ensure we work in a sustainable way:

- **Long Term** – We will balance short-term needs with the need to safeguard our ability to also meet longer term needs.
- **Prevention** – We will act, whenever possible, to prevent problems occurring or getting worse.
- **Integration** – We will consider how our differing individual and collective plans and actions impact upon different outcomes and issues.
- **Collaboration** – We will collaborate with people and organisations that can help us meet our collective objectives.
- **Involvement** – We will work to involve people with an interest in achieving our objectives, and ensure that those people reflect the diversity of our county borough.

In addition to these ways of working, we will ensure that the work we undertake is:

- Evidence-based and intelligence-led;
- Supported by appropriate skills & knowledge;
- Sustainably resourced and locally appropriate;
- Engaging and involving citizens;
- Preventative and intervening as early as possible;
- Focused on long-term improvements and benefits.

This plan has been developed in conjunction with:

[North Wales Police and Crime Commissioners Priorities \(2017 – 2021\)](#)

The North Wales PCC has identified 5 priorities for North Wales Police:

- Domestic Abuse
- Modern Slavery
- Organised Crime
- Sexual Abuse (including Child Sexual Exploitation)
- Delivering Safer Neighbourhoods

[Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2020 – 2023](#)

Organisations and partners will continue to work on improving the lives and experiences of people living in, working in and visiting Wrexham in a large number of ways; however as partners we are specifically committed to working together on the following priorities over the next three years:

1. Creating safer neighbourhoods
2. Reducing the harmful impacts of alcohol and other substances
3. Supporting vulnerable people
4. Ensuring people feeling safe

We will work to address community safety issues emerging during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, and consider its long-term impact on our communities.

Creating safer neighbourhoods

What the evidence tells us:

A Community Profile 2019 has been produced for Flintshire and Wrexham by North Wales Police. This profile is designed to inform local multi – agency partnerships, in particular Police and Crime Commissioners, Local Authorities and other relevant partners such as Education, Health and Housing of the threat from serious organised crime (SOC) and the impact it is having on local communities.

Areas where organised crime is prevalent often have common characteristics of high levels of deprivation, child poverty, crime rates, unemployment, benefit dependency and low levels of household income.

A Vulnerable Localities Index of 6 sociodemographic factors (Counts of burglary dwelling; Counts of criminal damage to a dwelling; Income deprivation score; Employment deprivation score; Count of target population; Educational attainment) has identified localities that are likely to require prioritised attention from public agencies. These vulnerable localities generate a disproportionately high amount of demand for law enforcement and partner agencies and there are significant overlaps of seemingly unrelated incidents, from low level delinquency to serious organised crime, that occur within concentrated areas of our communities.

Why this is a priority for CSP:

Building a cohesive community is vital in order to provide an environment which will give all sections of the community an equal stake in its success and its future and provide it with the resilience to protect and safeguard the most vulnerable.

What we will do:

We will continue to facilitate the **Vulnerable and Risk Management Panel (VARM)**, which coordinates a multi agency problem solving response to address anti social behaviour and protect individuals including those who are at high risk.

We will convene a working group to consider the issue of **Knife Crime**; looking to educate and raise awareness of the dangers of carrying knives, particularly amongst younger people.

Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs) are set up for all major public events (e.g. concerts, sporting events). The SAG functions in an advisory capacity, providing independent public safety advice to event organisers. Wrexham is seeing an increase in larger scale events being held at venues such as concerts at Wrexham Football Ground, a wide range of sporting events including marathons and triathlons and fund raising events. Wrexham welcomes such events which contribute to a vibrant community, but wants to ensure that these are done as safely as possible and that organisers take all reasonable steps to minimise any risks to the public.

Community Profiles Develop recommendations in relation to creating safer neighbourhoods, with partner agencies arising from the evidence in the Community Profile for Flintshire and Wrexham

Safer Streets Fund – which is intended to reduce acquisitive crime in targeted areas, making residents feel safer and reducing demand on the police.

What will success look like:

VARM

- Number of cases referred to VARM
- Number of successful resolutions
- Number of agencies participating in VARM

SAGs

- Number of Safety Advisory Groups held
- Number of debriefs held

Safer Streets Fund

- Measure to be agreed subject to successful bid for funding.

Reducing the harmful impacts of alcohol and other substances

What the evidence tells us:

Evidence from 2018 tells us that for Wrexham there were:

- 364 alcohol related crimes reported to North Wales Police
- In cases of alcohol related violence, almost 42% of victims were the spouse or partner of the offender. Of these offences, almost two-thirds occurred in the home (65%), 18% in a public open-space and 12% in hospitality establishments.
- Of the known offenders of alcohol related violence, 71.6% were male and 28.4% were female. The peak age group for alcohol related violence was 25-34 years.

We also know that alcohol misuse increases the risk of injury, absenteeism, poor performance and unemployment, and costs Wales approximately £25billion per year in healthcare, crime and lost productivity costs.

In 2017/18 there were an estimated 11,682 alcohol-attributable hospital (broad) admissions in North Wales.

In the Wrexham Student's Health and Wellbeing study of 2017/18, 48% of high school aged children reported that they drink alcohol, with over 60% of those students saying that they had been drunk by the age of 15.

The North Wales Substance Misuse Needs Assessment by Public Health Wales (2019) reported 46 fatal drug poisonings annually on average in the region (including from non-controlled drugs, which include prescription and over-the-counter medicines) of which 30 involved drug 'misuse' (of controlled substances). Furthermore, 59 hospital discharges were recorded for mental health and behavioural disorders relating with drugs other than alcohol (Oct 2017 to Sept 2018)

Evidence also tells us that the supply of drugs is intrinsically linked to Organised Crime groups. These groups are also linked to other types of crime including human trafficking, modern day slavery and child sexual exploitation.

Why this is a priority for CSP:

The harm caused by the misuse of alcohol and substances has an enormous impact on our society, and on the services provided by CSP partners. For example, a reduction in substance misuse will have a positive impact on people's physical and mental health; on people's employment and housing. Reducing substance misuse would improve many children's lives and their educational attainment.

What we will do:

CSP Partners will work together to deliver the commitments within the recently developed **Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy** :

[North Wales Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy](#)

We will work with local licensees to promote responsible management and operation of alcohol licensed premises (through the accredited Best Bar None scheme).

We will continue to provide welfare and first aid support for those people on nights out within Wrexham town-centre, via **Hafan-Y-Dre Welfare Centre**.

We will work with partners in North Wales to promote the message of ***Drink Less Enjoy More***.

We will support the implementation of the **Collaborative Outreach Project** across, to support those with complex needs (including substance misuse) to engage with those services which can offer help, solutions and treatment.

We will deliver **drug and alcohol sessions** in all secondary schools (through PSE), covering information on the health, criminal and social consequences of using drugs and alcohol.

In order to understand more about the known levels of Drug use in Wrexham and the scale of Drug sales we will explore the establishment of a mechanism to gather data surrounding this.

What will success look like:

- Less people being admitted to hospital as a result of alcohol and/or drugs
- Less public order offences, where alcohol or drugs are a contributing factor.
- Less alcohol and/or drug related violence.
- Individuals deemed at risk are identified and enabled to access, or stay engaged with key services.
- Increased number of (visible vulnerable) individuals accessing services.
- Decreased levels of anti-social behaviour in Wrexham Town Centre.

Supporting Vulnerable People

What the evidence tells us:

As described in the Safer Communities chapter we have used evidence from the Community Profile 2019 for Flintshire and Wrexham.

Exploitation of individuals and groups (both children and adults) is a feature of serious organised crime. Areas where organised crime is prevalent often have common characteristics of high levels of deprivation, child poverty, crime rates, unemployment, benefit dependency and low levels of household income.

Criminal exploitation of children (CCE) is a growing trend identified in North Wales, predominantly involving County Lines¹ gangs. Victims of CCE typically have pre-existing vulnerabilities including mental health, and substance dependency, come from a chaotic home environment and are often reported missing from home.

The use of **cuckooing** addresses by drug supply gangs is common in the area, with 31 addresses identified in 2019-20². We also know that almost 70% of cuckooed addresses are known to have residents with mental health concerns, and almost 30% of the addresses are known to have children living within them.

Modern Day Slavery (MDS) can take many forms, however evidence shows that in North Wales we are seeing an increase in 'labour exploitation' (i.e. people being forced to perform particular jobs for little or no financial reward). Some known examples include: working as car washing operatives, in nail bars, in restaurants or delivering charity bags.

There are often difficulties in gaining a conviction for Modern Slavery offences, largely due to a lack of evidence or uncooperative victims. Many victims are reluctant to admit or do not understand that they are being exploited and, if they do, are unwilling to support prosecution once they are free of their exploiters.

Prevent is part of the UK's counterterrorism strategy (CONTEST). Partnership agencies such as the police, council and health services are working with the people

of north Wales to stop individuals becoming or supporting terrorists by building stronger, safer communities who feel empowered to reject extremism and terrorism in all its forms. Cohesive communities are more resilient to extremism and radicalisation.

¹ **'County Lines'** is a term used when drug gangs from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs. At the time of writing (March 2020) there was only one known County Line active in Wrexham.

² **Cuckooing** is a form of crime in which drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for drug dealing.

Why this is a priority for CSP:

All partners have a duty to safeguard those who are less able to protect themselves, not least because vulnerable people are potentially more at risk of becoming victims of crime. As a partnership we are committed to working together to identify and protect some of the most vulnerable groups in our society.

What we will do:

- Develop recommendations in relation to supporting vulnerable people with partner agencies arising from the evidence in the Community Profile for Flintshire and Wrexham.
- Develop a process by which partners can identify individuals who may be most at risk of being exploited through **cuckooing**, in order to direct support and interventions to prevent this from happening.
- Develop training and/or signpost to existing training, and work to raise awareness of **Modern Day Slavery** amongst our own organisations, local businesses and the public.
- Work with partners to implement the recommendations identified using the Home Office's **Prevent** Duty toolkit which is designed to support local authorities and their partners in their work to protect vulnerable people from radicalisation.
- Ongoing monitoring of the development and embedding of **the Early Action Together** and the **Families Affected By Imprisonment** Programmes.

What will success look like?

- Recommendations agreed with partner agencies arising from the Community Profile.
- Identification of those at risk of exploitation through cuckooing.
- Reduction in the number of addresses in Wrexham being linked to cuckooing
- Increased awareness of Modern Day Slavery
- Increased reporting of concerns about MDS
- Implementation of recommendations identified via the Prevent Duty Toolkit.

People feeling safe

What the evidence tells us:

There were a total of 608 responses to the 2019/20 Perceptions of Safety consultation. Analysis of the results showed that whilst the majority of Wrexham residents who participated felt safe/very safe in their home (88%) or walking in their local ward during the day (71%), the majority felt unsafe when walking alone in the dark (53%).

When questioned about their perceptions of safety in the town centre, a high percentage of individuals stated that they felt unsafe / very unsafe when visiting during the day (49%) and after dark (69%). Furthermore, 60% of survey participants stated that they have not visited Wrexham Town Centre during the day in the past 12 months because they are fearful of crime.

Why this is a priority for CSP:

Whilst the survey results described above are concerning, figures provided by North Wales Police demonstrates that Anti-Social Behaviour in Wrexham, particularly the town centre has reduced significantly over the past 3 years. However, the disparity between reality and public perception continues and Wrexham continues to be portrayed negatively in the local and national media.

Fear of crime has far reaching consequences. It can have an impact on an areas desirability as a place to live, work in or visit. It can be harmful to community cohesion and can cause individuals to communicate their negative perceptions, therefore in turn having an impact on the perceptions of others.

We want to ensure that Wrexham feels like a safe place to live, work in and visit, and have identified a need to improve our proactivity in terms of communications to and engagement with the public, to ensure they feel listened to and are kept up to date with the positive multi-agency work we continue to develop.

What we will do:

- Develop a multi-agency communications plan
- Develop a public engagement plan

What will success look like:

- Increased footfall in the Town Centre
- An increase in the number of, and visibility of Community Safety Partnership communication campaigns; as well as ongoing monitoring and responding to the media coverage in Wrexham surrounding community safety related issues
- Increase in survey participants stating they feel safe in Wrexham County Borough