



## **Safer Solihull**

Involving local people in keeping Solihull safe

# **Solihull Community Safety Partnership**

Community Safety Strategy 2018 - 2021

# Forward from the Chair of Safer Solihull

It is my pleasure to introduce the Solihull Community Safety Partnership Community Safety Strategy for 2018 – 2021. This document gives an overview of the partnerships within the Borough which are in place to keep our residents safe and happy. The Safer Solihull Partnership brings various agencies together to achieve our priorities and objectives which are:

- better protecting people from harm
- bringing offenders to justice and tackling reoffending
- making our neighbourhoods safer places
- supporting stronger communities.

The aim is for us all to work together to make Solihull a place where people want to live, work and spend their social time. As far as crime is concerned, Solihull has one of the lowest crime rates of all the areas in the West Midlands but we still want to drive those figures down even further. Knowing our Borough helps us to do that. We know that a large proportion of our residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live but we can still do better and strive to ensure that all of our residents feel that way.

The Community Safety Strategy not only sets out our themes for the next three years, but explains how we will deliver on those priorities. Reducing crime is a priority both locally and nationally and we hope that by working collaboratively, we can continue to ensure that Solihull is a great place to be now and in the future.

I hope that you find the plan useful. We are always happy to hear your thoughts on how we could improve things. Our communities are important to us and we want to hear from you with any ideas. Please contact us on 0121 704 8000 or email us at [safersolihull@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:safersolihull@solihull.gov.uk)



**Councillor Alison Rolf,  
Chair of Safer Solihull Community Safety Partnership**

# Introduction

## **The vision of the Safer Solihull Partnership is to involve local people in keeping Solihull Safe**

The reduction of crime and disorder is a priority both locally and nationally. In recent times this has become more of a challenge but we know that this remains a constant cause for concern to our communities, not only to those who live in the Borough but to those who visit or work here. The expansion of Solihull is set to continue. The development of HS2 and UK Central, the home of the National Exhibition Centre, Genting UK's new £150m Resorts World, global automotive brand Jaguar Land Rover and the planned High Speed Rail Central Interchange, will increase connectivity across the UK providing easier access to Solihull and increasing its appeal as a place to live, visit and work in.

These opportunities undoubtedly bring a variety of challenges and crime and disorder will feature. By understanding these opportunities and challenges and listening to our communities we as a Community Safety Partnership can work together and empower local people to challenge and change what is affecting their communities.

The Partnership continues to operate in a difficult economic climate. It is all the more important that our work focusses on our priorities informed by strategic analysis coupled to what our communities tell us are important to them. Over the last few years the crime and disorder arena has seen the emergence of a number of "hidden" crimes often inflicting significant harm to the victim but also communities. It is all the more important that the Partnership continues to work with our communities to identify these "hidden" crimes and those that perpetrate them. The focus of tackling traditional acquisitive crimes such as burglary, vehicle crime and robbery remain important to the Partnership. We understand how debilitating anti-social behaviour can be to communities and we will continue to work collectively to reduce this.

# The Community Safety Strategy

The Community Safety Strategy sets out how the Safer Solihull Partnership will work together to address crime and disorder in our local communities. The Safer Solihull Partnership comprises of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Solihull Police, West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service, Probation Service and Health. These are called Responsible Authorities.

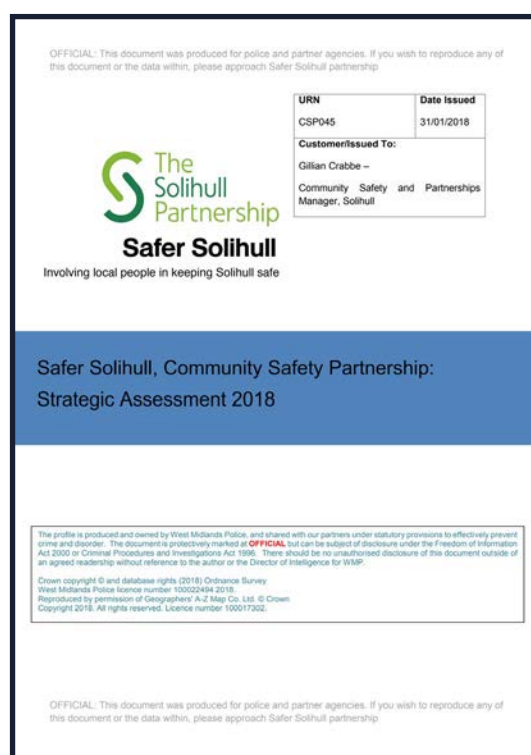
It is a statutory requirement for these organisations to work together and to consider community safety in all of the work they do.

Each year the Partnership is required to produce a Strategic Assessment report which highlights crime and disorder issues in Solihull. The results of the Strategic Assessment are used by the Partnership to identify priority themes which assists in the development of a three year Community Safety Strategy.

The strategy highlights the findings of the **Strategic Assessment 2017/18**. In addition it describes the process of identifying the priorities and key themes for the period 2018 – 2021 and explains how the Partnership will deliver those priorities over the next three years.

This strategy can be revised on an annual basis, by reviewing information provided from a wide range of organisations to ensure that current issues are taken into account. The themes and activities throughout this strategy are informed through consultation with the community as well as frontline practitioners. The strategy also takes into account local emerging issues and new legislative requirements and considers the wider impact of national priorities on Solihull.

The Community Safety Strategic Assessment utilises a risk modelling methodology - Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE). This tool guides the Partnership in identifying those community safety issues which pose the most harm and risk to Solihull. This analysis identifies some key themes and Solihull's are illustrated within this document.



# Profile of the Borough Solihull

Solihull has both a mixed urban and rural community. Lying at the heart of the West Midlands motorway network, with excellent public transport connections with the Birmingham city conurbation and linked to European and global markets by Birmingham International Airport, Solihull has significant geographic and infrastructure advantages. Economically, this supports a strong service sector economy with Solihull town centre and key regional assets (the NEC complex, Land Rover and Birmingham and Blythe Valley Business Parks) primarily responsible for drawing in around 85,000 workers to the Borough on a daily basis.

Solihull has 17 wards situated in three locality areas North, West and East.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates that Solihull's resident population was 211,763 in 2016. This is an increase of 9,400 (4.7%) since 2006 and 1,300 (0.6%) since 2015.

Solihull is in the midst of dynamic and rapid socio-demographic change. The black and Asian minority ethnic (BAME) population has more than doubled since the 2001 Census and now represents nearly 11% of total population. On this basis the Borough is less diverse than England as a whole (and significantly less so than neighbouring Birmingham), but with BAME groups representing a relatively higher proportion of young people in Solihull (over 17% of those aged 15 and under) this representation is set to increase.

The second significant demographic change is Solihull's ageing population. Between 1996 and 2016 the population aged 65 and over increased by 40%, from 16% to 21% of the total population. As a result, there are now over 9,100 more residents aged 65 to 84 years and nearly 3,600 more people aged 85 years and over than 20 years ago. Population projections based on the 2016 population indicate the relative ageing of the Solihull population will continue and by 2036 those aged 65 and over will account for one in four of the Borough population, with those aged 85+ numbering over 11,600 (5% of total). The growth in the numbers of those aged 85 and over represents a significant and growing challenge in terms of health and social care.

Compared with both England and the West Midlands region, Solihull has a relatively high proportion of older people aged 65+ (21%). The proportion of children is in line with the average for England but the working age population is relatively low.

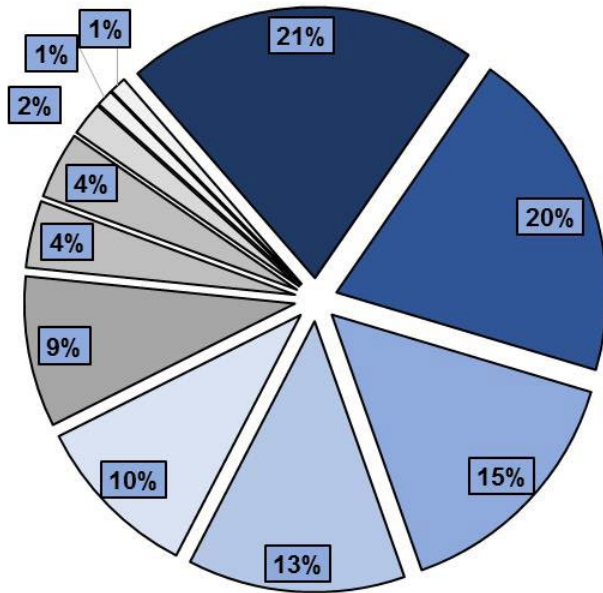
Solihull is a broadly affluent Borough characterised by above average levels of income and home ownership.

The Borough is a mix of urban and rural communities, key strategic sites and transport infrastructure. Large amounts of Green Space are one of Solihull's key strengths, as evidenced by high levels of resident satisfaction with the area (Solihull People and Place 2018).

85% of respondents say they are satisfied with their local area as a place to live - 49% very satisfied, 35% fairly satisfied - compared to 8% who are dissatisfied - 3% very dissatisfied. By area, levels of satisfaction are highest in the rural wards - 39% fairly satisfied, 56% very satisfied - and lowest in North Solihull - 44% fairly satisfied, 20% very satisfied (Solihull People and Place 2018).

# What the Strategic Assessment tells us - the crime and disorder picture

Solihull Total Recorded Crime by crime types October 2016 to September 2017



- Vehicle Crime 21%
- Violence 20%
- Theft 15%
- Burglary 13%
- Shop Theft 10%
- Criminal Damage (inc Arson) 9%
- Public Order 4%
- Robbery & Theft From Person 4%
- Sex Offence 2%
- Drugs 1%
- Other 1%

**20% increase in total recorded crime**

**98% increase in theft of motor vehicle**

**Total of 1,543 domestic burglaries**

**Total of 353 personal robberies**

**226 drug related offences recorded**

**Total of 295 sex offences reported**

**3 homicides recorded**

**Most victims of crime were aged 26-35**

**1 in 7 victims were victimised more than once**

# Our Priorities 2018 - 2021

## **Better protecting people from harm**

We will prioritise partnership work to protect those most vulnerable from harm, focusing on those crimes that are often hidden to include domestic violence, hate crime and vulnerable victims of ASB. Working to increase confidence in reporting crime, supporting victims and to bring offenders to justice.

## **Bring offenders to justice and tackle reoffending**

We will focus on those offenders who cause harm within their local area and those offenders who travel in to the Borough to commit crime. We will focus on the links between offending and substance misuse, identifying and targeting persistent and high risk offenders.

## **Make our neighbourhoods safer places**

We will work to reduce crime, substance misuse and anti social behaviour ensuring that fewer people become victims. Working together to tackle anti-social behaviour and improve the quality of life of those affected, we will focus our partnership work, seeking to intervene early and prevent criminality in places to change lives and build stronger communities.

## **Support stronger communities**

We will keep our communities informed about our work and listen to what matters most to them. We will test our understanding of the things that our communities tell us are important and ensure that we work together in response.

# Key themes identified by risk modelling

**Hidden harm** – child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, modern slavery / human trafficking, honour based violence, female genital mutilation

**Stronger communities** – racial, religious intolerance and other cultural intolerance

**Terrorism** – terrorist attacks

**Harm** – road safety – killed or seriously injured, road traffic collisions

**Violent crime** – gang violence, gun crime, knife crime, youth violence, rape and sexual assault

**Cyber / hidden crimes** – sextortion, revenge pornography, identity theft/fraud/phishing, malicious communications

**Serious acquisitive crime** – vehicle crime, burglary, robbery (personal)

**Environmental** – unauthorised encampments

**Anti-social Behaviour** – youth related ASB, dangerous motorbikes, neighbour disputes and aggressive begging



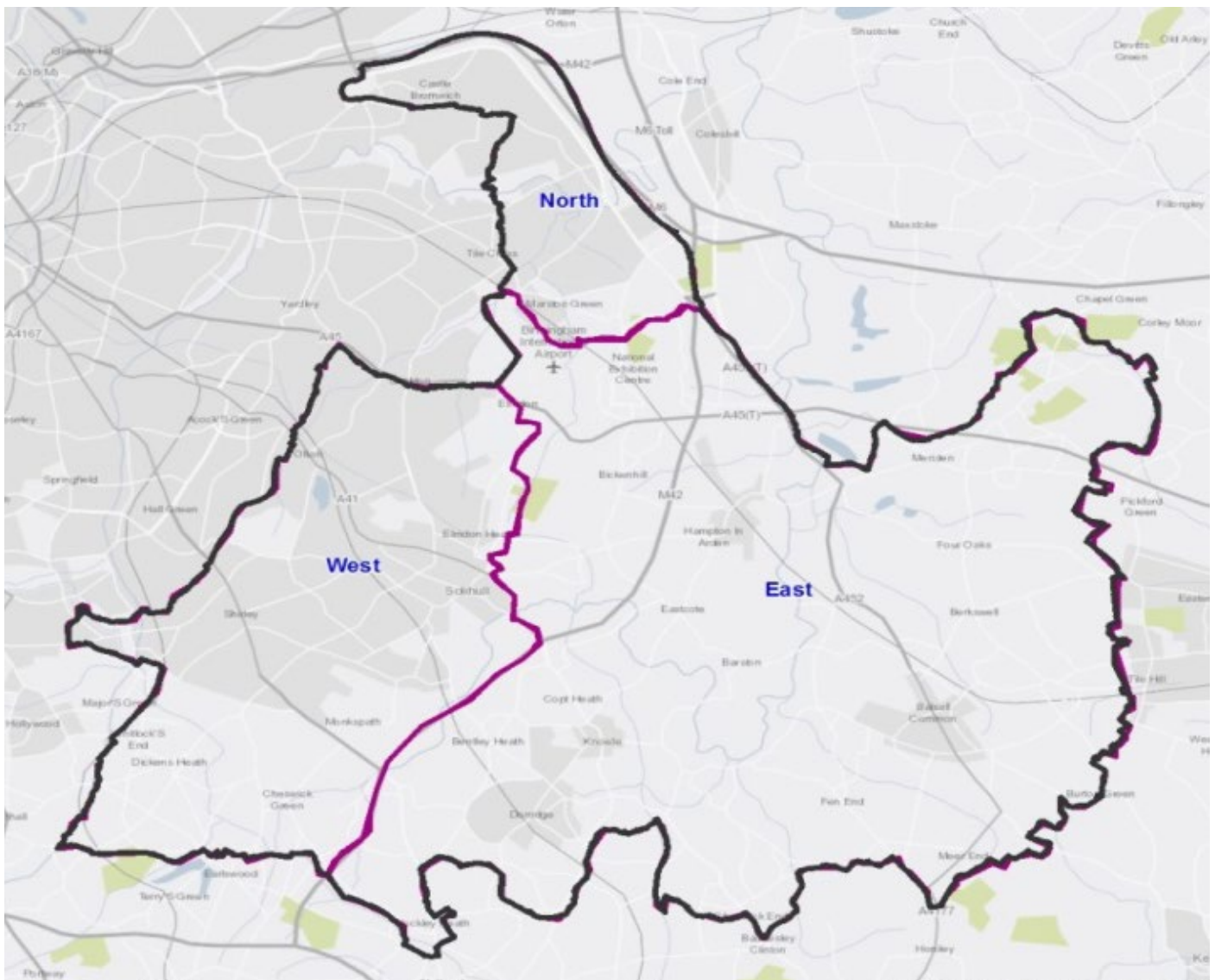
# Localities and Locality Tasking

In July 2018 the existing local borough-wide problem solving panels ceased to operate and we created Locality Tasking Groups in three new locality areas - North, West and East. The new tasking groups have access to locality plans profiling the wards and neighbourhoods, containing key statistics and information. Up to date locality intelligence plans are produced for each locality meeting, providing analysis and enabling informed action planning.

Tasking group members allocate resources to address problems and deliver interventions.

The locality tasking groups are one mechanism that has helped the Partnership to deliver successfully against its priorities.

Over many years there has been demonstrable success in reducing crime and disorder across the Borough. With this in mind there remains an expectation that front line staff continue to work in a less formal way, sharing intelligence and solving local problems within their communities. Locality tasking groups will support this on-going work and will provide a robust problem solving mechanism for longer-term interventions, developing innovative solutions with the community to solve issues and challenges.



# Relating Strategies and Plans

- Safer Solihull Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2018 -  
<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Partnership/Safer-Solihull-Strategic-Assessment-2018.pdf>
- Your Police Your Priorities – The West Midlands Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020 -  
<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/media/435616/2016-2020-Police-and-Crime-Plan-digital.pdf>
- Solihull People and Place 2018 -  
<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/portals/0/keystats/solihullpeopleandplace.pdf>
- Substance Misuse Needs Assessment final report 2018 -  
<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/KeyStats/JSNA/Final-report-Substance-Misuse-Needs-Assessment-2018.pdf>
- ASB Policy 2015 – Solihull Community Housing -  
[https://www.solihullcommunityhousing.org.uk/images/stories/fleximedia/ASB\\_Policy\\_2015.pdf](https://www.solihullcommunityhousing.org.uk/images/stories/fleximedia/ASB_Policy_2015.pdf)
- Solihull Domestic Abuse Strategy 2016–20 -  
[http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Consultations/Solihull\\_Domestic\\_Abuse\\_Strategy\\_2016-2020.pdf](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Consultations/Solihull_Domestic_Abuse_Strategy_2016-2020.pdf)
- Solihull LSCB Strategy to tackle sexual exploitation 2017-19 -  
<http://www.solihullscb.co.uk/media/upload/fck/file/CSE/CSE%20strategy%202017-2019.pdf>
- Solihull Youth Justice Plan 2016–18 -  
<http://eservices.solihull.gov.uk/mginternet/documents/s45210/4a%20Solihull%20Youth%20Justice%20Plan%202016-2017.pdf>
- Police UK (you can check crime incidents in your area on this site) -  
<https://www.police.uk/>