



Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2024-2027

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Foreword

The Reducing Re-Offending Strategic Group will have strategic oversight, establishing best practice and ensuring effective partnership working is taking place to reduce re-offending.

This strategy restates our commitment to partnership working and is supported by Telford & Wrekin Council, West Mercia Police, NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, the Probation Service, Youth Justice and voluntary organisations.

The five priorities adopted in 2023/24 will remain the priorities for 2024/27. These are:

- increasing levels of engagement with drug treatment and continuity of support upon release from prison
- be proactive to ensure ex-offenders don't have to resort to living on the streets and rough sleeping
- identify and provide suitable accommodation upon release from prison, and ensuring that there are not pockets of offenders living together
- identifying rogue landlords who claim benefits and funding to support ex-offenders, but do not support them, and the accommodation that is provided is not suitable and/or fit for purpose
- focusing on violence reduction and Integrated Offender Management (IOM) to target prolific offenders, to ensure that they access the treatment and/or services that they need to stop them offending, and integrate them back into the community as law-abiding citizens
- increasing the mental health support offer, and for particularly those with a dual diagnosis and those with neurodivergence symptoms.

We have set out how we will drive these priorities forward, how we will work together and the governance arrangements to ensure robust oversight of progress.

Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group Chair

Background

Reducing crime and making communities safer is critical to Telford's community safety partnership.

The mandate for reducing reoffending was passed to local areas with the introduction in April 2010 of a statutory duty for Community Safety Partnerships to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce reoffending. This duty requires local areas to fully understand their offender profiles, the ways in which mainstream services can be more inclusive and supportive of the needs of offenders, identify gaps in provision and where resources should be targeted to reduce reoffending.

We want to ensure that the needs of local stakeholders, communities and people in our care are at the heart of how we operate. We will focus on those priorities that we know have the biggest impact on reducing reoffending and are of greatest concern to our communities and partners. We aim to enhance our service delivery and commissioning decision-making, both regionally and sub-regionally, by improving our data and analytical capability, involving people with lived experience, and co-commissioning with our partners.

Action and Progress Since 2022

Since 2022 the Reducing Re-Offending Strategic Group has been established and held quarterly meetings to address the key priorities. The group have:

- developed a robust data and intelligence framework inform priorities, deploy relevant interventions and monitor the impact that this intervention has made;
- the group identified a rise in shoplifting and created a working group to address re-offending linked to acquisitive crime, alcohol and drugs. This looked at the top 20 nominals in the borough;
- created a task and finish group to look at nominals due to leave custody within 70 days with a focus on the most vulnerable nominals with no accommodation;
- created a task and finish group to identify the top 20 nominals who are at risk of either being a victim of homicide or serious violence, or a suspect involved in homicide or serious violence.

Telford and Wrekin the place



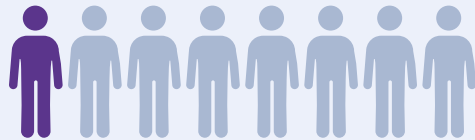
Place of contrasts
Ironbridge World Heritage Site,
Telford 'new town', two thirds of the area 'rural'



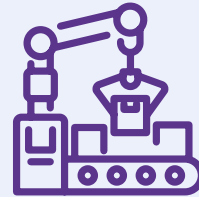
Population of 188,900
Fastest growing population in the West Midlands (+3,000 in 2022) drawn by:
Good value housing offer / Connectivity to the region and beyond / Attractive environment/open space



Between 2011 and 2021, 35% increase in 65+ population, the second highest local authority in England



In 2021, **11.8% of the population** from an ethnic minority group – up from 7.3% in 2011.



15.7% of borough jobs in manufacturing (5.6% nationally)



3.2m visitors with £220m economic benefit



18 neighbourhoods in the 10% most deprived nationally



Significant health inequalities with gap in life expectancy between least and most deprived neighbourhoods of 8 years



Skills gap to national position and between our communities e.g. 38% at L4 in least deprived neighbourhood compared to 17% in most deprived neighbourhood

Governance

The Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group is a thematic group that reports to the Safer Telford & Wrekin Partnership Board which is part of a wider partnership landscape as illustrated in the diagram overleaf. The Safer Telford & Wrekin Partnership is accountable to the Telford & Wrekin Council Health & Wellbeing Board, which the Chair of the Safer Telford & Wrekin Partnership is a member of. The Health & Wellbeing Board is a statutory board and forms part of Telford & Wrekin Council's formally constituted governance arrangements.

The work of the group is closely linked and aligned to the work of the Safeguarding Adult Board and the Safeguarding Children Board. These two statutory boards work to ensure that local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are in place.



Our Vision and Priorities

The Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group has a vision to “Work together across the borough to protect the public and help people to live law-abiding and positive lives”.

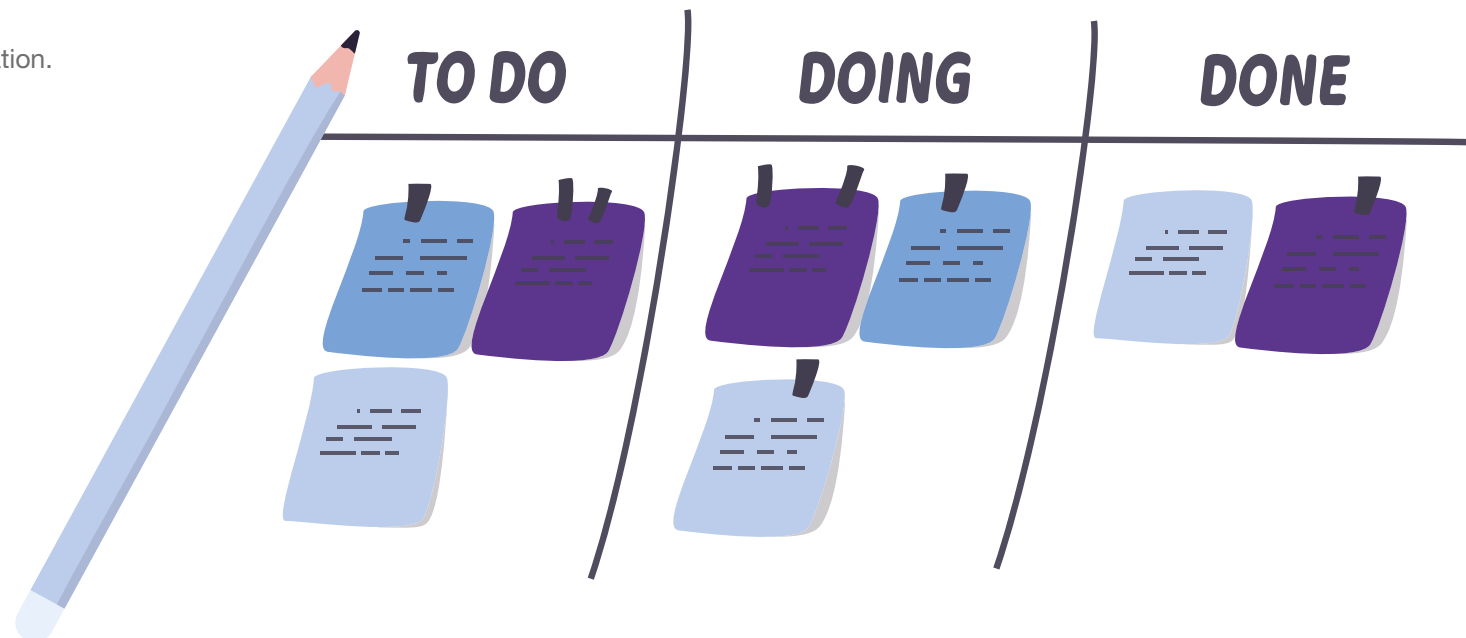
To drive delivery of this vision five priorities have been adopted informed by analysis of data and intelligence and a review of progress against existing priorities.

These priorities are:

- increasing levels of engagement with drug treatment and continuity of support upon release from prison;
- providing suitable accommodation upon release from prison, and ensuring that there are not pockets of offenders living together;
- identifying rogue landlords who claim benefits and funding to support ex-offenders, but do not support them, and the accommodation that is provided is not suitable and/or fit for purpose;
- focussing on violence reduction and Integrated Offender Management (IOM) to target prolific offenders, to ensure that they access the treatment and/or services that they need to stop them offending, and integrate them back into the community as law-abiding citizens; and
- increasing the mental health support offer, and for particularly those with a dual diagnosis.

In addition to the Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group there are three task and finish groups that support the delivery of the priorities. These are:

- reducing re-offending linked to acquisitive crime linked to alcohol and drugs;
- Operation Freya; and
- pre-release and accommodation.



Reducing re-offending linked to acquisitive crime linked to alcohol and drugs

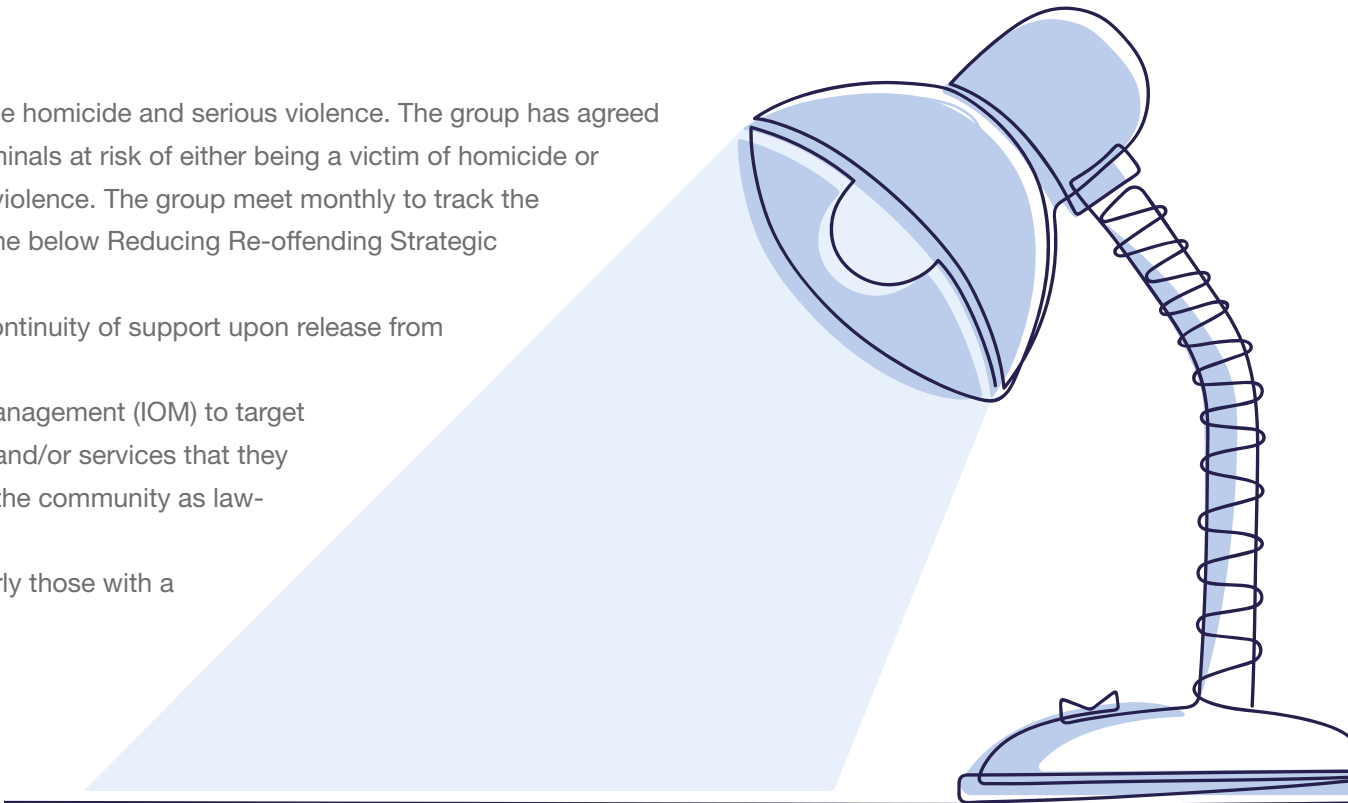
The task and finish group focuses on the top 20 nominals who are known to be prolific shoplifters who offend to feed the use of illicit substances. A database has been created to map the prolific shoplifters across the different services. Further work will be undertaken including the data on the number of positive tests when arrested and the locations of the offences to be shared and discussed at the bi-monthly meetings. This group will support the delivery of the below Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group priorities:

- increasing levels of engagement with drug treatment and continuity of support upon release from prison;
- focussing on violence reduction and Integrated Offender Management (IOM) to target prolific offenders, to ensure that they access the treatment and/or services that they need to stop them offending, and integrate them back into the community as law-abiding citizens; and
- increasing the mental health support offer, and for particularly those with a dual diagnosis.

Operation Freya

The task and finish group has been specifically set-up to reduce homicide and serious violence. The group has agreed its terms of reference and has gathered data on the top 20 nominals at risk of either being a victim of homicide or serious violence, or a suspect involved in homicide or serious violence. The group meet monthly to track the identified 20 nominals. This group will support the delivery of the below Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group priorities:

- increasing levels of engagement with drug treatment and continuity of support upon release from prison;
- focussing on violence reduction and Integrated Offender Management (IOM) to target prolific offenders, to ensure that they access the treatment and/or services that they need to stop them offending, and integrate them back into the community as law-abiding citizens; and
- increasing the mental health support offer, and for particularly those with a dual diagnosis.



Pre-release and accommodation

A pre-release and accommodation task and finish group has been established and has been well attended by partners including representatives from Hewell and Stoke Heath prison. The group have agreed the aim of the group. The group will look at the list of pre-release nominals due to be released within 70 days and map them across the partners to look at accommodation before their release.

This group will support the delivery of the below Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group priorities:

- providing suitable accommodation upon release from prison, and ensuring that there are not pockets of offenders living together;
- identifying rogue landlords who claim benefits and funding to support ex-offenders, but do not support them, and the accommodation that is provided is not suitable and/or fit for purpose; and
- increasing the mental health support offer, and for particularly those with a dual diagnosis.

Building on opportunities

We will review this plan on an annual basis by providing an update on progress. We will build on our successes and utilise every opportunity by:

- using the HMPPS health and Justice teams to increase engagement in all health – related provision;
- increase Community Sentence Treatment Requirements to provide offenders with the treatment they need to address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour;
- continue the use of Mental Health Nurses in The Integrated Offender Management team;
- improve prison leavers access to accommodation through the Community Accommodation Services and other housing providers; and
- link in with the serious violence duty subgroup in partnership with our PCC and other statutory partners, to drive down numbers of serious violence, safeguard children and vulnerable adults and target our resources at the locations and individuals who need it most.

