



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Health & Wellbeing Board

Thursday 26 June 2025

2.00 pm

Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG

Democratic Services:	Lorna Gordon	01952 384978
Media Enquiries:	Corporate Communications	01952 382406

Committee Members:	A J Burford (Co-Chair), S Whitehouse (Co-Chair), S P Burrell, K Middleton, S J Reynolds, K L Tomlinson, P Watling, J Britton, N Carr, P Davies, S Fogell, S Froud, N Pay, Hancox, F Mercer, H Onions, C Parker and M Vivian
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HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board held on Wednesday 21 May 2025 at 2.00 pm in Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG

Present: S Whitehouse (Co-Chair), F Mercer, Cllr K Middleton, Cllr S J Reynolds, Cllr K L Tomlinson, S Froud, N Pay, E Hancox, H Onions and C Parker

In Attendance: L Gordon (Member Support Officer) and L Mills (Health Improvement & Prevention Service Delivery Manager) and K Griffin (Community Safety Partnership Manager)

Apologies: Councillors A J Burford, P Watling, J Britton, P Davies and S Fogell

HWB01 Declarations of Interest

None.

HWB02 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meetings held on 28 November 2024 and 20 March 2025 be approved.

HWB03 Public Speaking

None.

HWB04 Health & Wellbeing Board Strategy Quarterly Progress Report

Members received a report outlining the commitments of each priority lead for the coming year, with a focus on strengthening delivery and addressing ongoing challenges. It was noted that future reports would highlight key risks and areas requiring further attention and this included the update that would be brought to the next meeting of the Board in June.

The Service Delivery Manager Health Improvement & Prevention provided a summary of the report, drawing attention to strong thematic links across the priority areas. Members were advised that the report reflected a coordinated approach to tackling inequalities, enhancing prevention, and improving system-wide collaboration.

In relation to inequalities, Members heard that more targeted work was being undertaken with underserved communities, including those experiencing homelessness. Efforts were being made to better connect local support services to improve outcomes for vulnerable residents. Members were

updated on progress in cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention, including the rollout of health check pilots and the community blood pressure project. The role of the community and voluntary sector was acknowledged, with examples of successful signposting to appropriate services, which helped to reduce pressure on primary care.

The Board were asked to note the development of the 'Connect to Work' programme, which aimed to prevent economic inactivity through targeted 1:1 interventions. This work was supported by joint funding from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the NHS.

Members were informed that the Telford & Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership (TWIPP) had agreed three main priorities and established an Accelerator Group to drive operational delivery. This group brought together leads from across the Integrated Care System to coordinate place-based action. A key theme emerging from the groups discussion was the resilience of the voluntary sector, which played a vital role in delivering outcomes. Members acknowledged the ongoing challenge of securing long-term funding and welcomed efforts to explore sustainable solutions.

The Service Delivery Manager Health Improvement & Prevention highlighted the importance of health-promoting organisations and the need to strengthen their role in supporting residents. Members were encouraged by the progress being made to scale up prevention initiatives and build strong foundations for future work.

Members of the Board welcomed the report's focus on inequalities and the inclusion of case studies. Members commended the report for highlighting the involvement of residents, particularly volunteers, in service delivery and noted the value of giving service users a voice and the positive impact this had on outcomes.

During the discussion Members raised concerns about the long-term effects of youth vaping. The Service Delivery Manager Health Improvement & Prevention responded, confirming that national grant funding had been received to support cessation services for young people. The Board were advised that the team was exploring regional best practice and working with local providers, the licensing team and schools to develop a coordinated response. Members were also advised that the Borough's Health & Wellbeing Statement on vaping was currently being updated. A further update would be brought to a future meeting.

The Board praised the Borough's Green Flag award and the positive impact volunteer-led initiatives had on mental health and highlighted local strategies to support families.

The Statutory Director of Public Health provided Members with an update on domestic abuse services, noting the local authority's statutory duties and the strong programme offer in place. She emphasised the importance of working with perpetrators as well as providing protection and support for victims.

The Board noted the report.

HWB05 JSNA Update

Members received an update on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), which was a statutory responsibility of the Health & Wellbeing Board. The Statutory Director of Public Health advised that the JSNA has been available as a live and interactive website since 2022, and had recently been updated to include life expectancy data up to 2023.

Members were informed that JSNA intelligence was being used effectively to target resources and inform strategic planning, including within the work of the Telford & Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership (TWIPP). This intelligence was being actively shared with partners to support collaborative decision-making.

The Board noted with concern the persistent stall in improvements to healthy lifestyles and life expectancy, particularly in deprived and underserved communities. Members acknowledged that this remained a significant challenge.

It was highlighted that the JSNA played a crucial role in supporting integrated health and social care planning, and that the intelligence it provided was invaluable in monitoring delivery impact. Members were advised that outcome monitoring would be brought back to the Board at the next meeting.

The Board welcomed the availability of JSNA data at borough and ward level, and queried whether TWIPP used this intelligence to align resources and inform commissioning decisions. The Statutory Director for Public Health confirmed that this was the case, citing recent work in South East Telford where JSNA data was used to support the development of 'Live Well' hubs.

Members were advised that a recorded session from this work was available, and resource packs had been developed for use in other neighbourhoods. Members noted that neighbourhood team engagement was fundamental to this work, and praised the broader use of JSNA data beyond public health, reflecting a more integrated approach.

During the discussion Members raised concerns regarding the lack of data on individuals with alcohol dependency and smoking and enquired if this information could be extracted from the JSNA. The Statutory Director for Public Health confirmed that this data was to be included in the performance outcome report scheduled for the June meeting, noting its importance as a measure of need.

Members also noted the distinction between causes of death and underlying drivers, and the importance of understanding both in shaping effective interventions.

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the JSNA headline messages summarising the latest life expectancy and mortality position in the Borough be noted
- b) the use of JSNA update to influence delivery of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy programmes and TWIPP neighbourhood working, specifically to target inequalities, demonstrating our intelligence-led and equitable targeting approaches be noted
- c) the JSNA will also inform the future updates of the ICP Strategy and ICS Joint Forward Plan.

HWB06 Children & Young People Emotional Wellbeing 12 Month Update

Members received an update from the Statutory Director of Public Health which focused on the final report of the former Director of Public Health, relating to the Annual Public Health Report (APH), and on the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people (CYP).

Members were reminded that the APH, published last year, was based on focus groups with young people and included eight recommendations for improvement. The current report provided an audit of progress against those recommendations and demonstrated how insights from young people had been used to shape the work of partners. The Board were advised that the CYP Strategy remained a central priority for both the Council and its partners, and that TWIPP had formally adopted CYP mental health as one of its key priorities.

The Board heard that the Youth Partnership Board had continued to develop the local youth offer, including the 'Making a Change' project for 11–18-year-olds. This work built on the success of the Young People's Year of Wellbeing, which had seen thousands of sign-ups and significant engagement through social media. Members were also informed that five lived experience apprentices had been employed to support work being undertaken with looked-after children, ensuring their voices inform service development.

Members acknowledged the significant increase in demand for CYP mental health services, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was noted that the BeeU service contract was due to end in September, and that additional investment had been made to support services during the recommissioning process. A summary of this work was included in the presentation slides.

The Board welcomed the improvements being made and highlighted the need for a stronger third sector offer for young people, similar to that available for adults. Members praised the involvement of young people in designing logos and shaping the conversation around health and wellbeing from an early age. The Director of Partnerships, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICB, acknowledged that transition between services had historically been a

challenge and confirmed that the move to all-age services would address this issue and that the delay in recommissioning was due to the commitment to co-produce the service model with young people.

During the discussion Members raised concerns regarding the waiting time for CAMHS, noting the increasing burden on teachers who are providing more pastoral care. The Director of Partnerships confirmed that an update on waiting lists would be sought from ICB colleagues and noted that a waiting list management group was in place and that improvements had already been made in areas such as complex eating disorders through targeted resource allocation. Members were advised that a written update on waiting lists would be provided.

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the implementation progress of the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2024 eight recommendations, which aimed to improve the emotion health and wellbeing of children and young people in the Borough, in line with the HWB strategy priorities be noted
- b) the Board notes that the key recommendation areas which still need to be progressed at pace across the ICS, are that the ICB led re-commissioning of child and adolescent mental health services (CaMHS) should include strong collaboration across the ICS to develop the local thrive model offer of services and support, which adequately and holistically meets the emotional and mental health needs of our local children & young people. This should range from lower level community and school review of recommendations 2 based support, including youth social prescribing, brought together more intensive CaHMS support and interventions.

HWB07 Children and Young People's Strategy

Members received an update on the development of the new Children and Young People (CYP) Plan, which brought together a range of priorities and strategies under a single, coherent framework. The Statutory Director of Public Health advised that the plan had been developed in collaboration with partners, particularly across education and skills, and had been presented to the Health & Wellbeing Board in 2024.

The Board were reminded that 'Starting Well' was a key priority for the Health & Wellbeing Board, with the plan structured around four core aims: start well, enjoy and achieve, keep safe, and stay well. The intention behind bringing these elements together was to reflect the interconnected nature of the work and its wider impact across services.

Members were informed that the plan had been approved by Cabinet in February, and that it aligned with the commitments of several existing strategies, including those of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and

the Integrated Care System (ICS). The plan also reflected a strong commitment to embedding the voice of children and young people throughout its development.

The Statutory Director for Public Health outlined the priorities within each of the plan's four aims, and Members were asked to endorse the plan and recognise the strategic connections it makes across the system.

Members expressed full support for the plan and reiterated the importance of involving young people in shaping services. They emphasised that the health and wellbeing of young people was a shared responsibility, and that building resilience must be a key focus. Members welcomed the Board's role in endorsing and embedding the strategy across all partners.

During the discussion Members of the Board highlighted the challenges faced by young people with developmental needs in school settings and called for additional support for parents, recognising the impact this could have on school environments. The Statutory Director for Public Health acknowledged that some child development markers remained below expectations and advised that speech and language therapists and skills specialists were being invited into schools to support early development. These professionals had also been invited to present at a future Health & Wellbeing Board meeting, alongside parents, as part of a public engagement session.

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the commitment and proposals in the Telford & Wrekin Children & Young People's Strategy 2025-2028 be supported**
- b) the Telford & Wrekin Children and Young People's Strategy 2025 – 2028 be approved**

HWB08 GP Surgery Access Update

Members received a paper in response to the recent Healthwatch report, which included an update on the Modernising General Practice Plan. The paper outlined the system's response to the feedback received and detailed the ongoing work to improve access and service delivery in primary care.

The Chief Executive Officer, Shropshire, Telford & (STW) ICB informed Members that the paper demonstrated how feedback from Healthwatch had been taken seriously and that GPs were responding positively. The update highlighted an increase in appointment availability, with targets being met, while also acknowledging the ongoing challenges faced by general practice.

Members were advised that the report reflects a genuine national issue around demand, and that the work underway locally was part of a broader effort to address this. The Chief Executive Officer STW ICB emphasised the importance of shifting the system's focus from managing demand to prevention, aligning with wider priorities discussed throughout the meeting and offered to bring a further update to a future meeting and suggested the

possibility of inviting a GP representative or the Chief Medical Officer to provide additional insight.

The Statutory Director for Public Health informed the Board that the Health Scrutiny Committee had also reviewed the Healthwatch report. One key issue identified was the need for improved communication about the services available to patients. Scrutiny would continue to monitor this area and explore specific issues affecting GP practices.

The Board agreed that it would be beneficial to bring a future update that included the outcomes of the Health Scrutiny Committee's follow-up work.

The Board noted the report and agreed to receive a further update at a future meeting.

HWB09 Cabinet Update

Members received a verbal update from the Director: Adult Social Care on the outcome of the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment of Adult Social Care (ASC).

The Director Adult Social Care explained that the CQC assurance process had been ongoing for several years and that Telford & Wrekin was among the first wave of local authorities to undergo assessment under the new assurance framework. The process, which followed four pilot assessments, took place over two years and culminated in a formal assurance visit. The Council was pleased to receive a 'Good' rating.

The assessment required the submission of over 150 documents within a three-week window, which posed a significant challenge. The Director for Adult Social Care commended the hard work of the ASC team and the collaborative effort across the Council, including contributions from Public Health, Housing, and other departments, to present a unified approach. Members heard this model had since been shared with other local authorities.

The Director for Adult Social care informed Members that a number of key strengths had been highlighted in the final report, which included how the Council enabled people to live independently at home and within their communities, how they showed strong co-production and engagement, with national recognition in this area, a strong culture of leadership, transparency and continuous learning, and their innovative locality team functions and effective management of waiting lists, which had been steadily improving. The CQC had also praised the Independent Living Centre and the use of technology to support independent living.

Members were advised that any areas identified for improvement were being addressed through a Continuous Improvement Plan, which would be reviewed regularly by the Health & Wellbeing Board and Scrutiny Committees. Some of the areas included on the plan were reducing Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) waiting lists, developing the care market, with a focus on

reducing residential care placements and increasing support for people to live at home and addressing budget pressures through smarter commissioning. The Board heard that the next steps included continued innovation, embedding improvements, refreshing performance targets, and learning from best practice in other local authorities. Members were asked to note that Telford & Wrekin was also contributing to the future development of the CQC inspection programme through ongoing dialogue.

Members praised the comprehensive presentation and noted that the positive outcome reflected the quality of care provided to residents at their most vulnerable moments. The Board also congratulated the teams involved, highlighting their passion and dedication.

The Board noted the update and endorsed the ongoing improvement work.

The meeting ended at 3.28 pm

Chairman:

Date: Thursday 26 June 2025



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Health & Wellbeing Board

Thursday 26 June 2025

Terms of Reference 2025/26

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Zona Hannington – Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services.
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance
Service Area:	Policy & Governance
Report Author:	Lorna Gordon – Mayor & Member Support Officer
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 384978 Email: lorna.gordon@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Health & Wellbeing Board – 26 June 2025

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that the Health & Wellbeing Board Committee:

- 1.1 Review and agree the Terms of Reference set out at Appendix A.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To set out for review and agreement the Terms of Reference for the Health & Wellbeing Board outlined at Appendix A.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Constitution requires that Full Council should agree at its Annual Meeting the Terms of Reference for each of its Committees to enable the Council to efficiently conduct its business.

- 3.2 At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 15 May 2025, Full Council delegated authority to each Committee to review its own Terms of Reference.
- 3.3 The Terms of Reference forms part of the Consitution and approved by Full Council in that context on 3 March 2022.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

- 4.1 Following the Annual Council meeting held on 15 May 2025, the Health & Wellbeing Board has been granted delegated authority to review and amend its Terms of Reference. This delegation ensures the Board can maintain effective governance arrangements that reflect evolving system priorities and statutory responsibilities.
- 4.2 As part of this review, the membership of the Committee has also been updated. These amendments aim to strengthen representation and improve the Board's ability to meet quoracy requirements.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 There are no alternative options arising from this report.

6.0 Key Risks

- 6.1 There are no key risks arising from this report.

7.0 Council Priorities

- 7.1 A community-focused, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from adopting the recommendations of this report.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 9.1 Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) are statutory bodies established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (The Act). They are designed to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities within local authority areas. In accordance with the Act there is a minimum statutory requirement for membership of the Board but it also has the discretion to appoint other additional members such as representatives form the Integrated Care Boards (ICB's).

The Constitution requires that Full Council should agree at its Annual Meeting the Terms of Reference for each of its Committees. At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 15 May 2025, Full Council delegated authority to the Health and Wellbeing Board to review its own Terms of Reference.

Once Terms of Reference are confirmed, the Monitoring Officer will update the Constitution to ensure consistency of the terms of reference. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

9.5 The proposals contained in this report can be delivered using existing resources

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 There are no ward implications arising from this report.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 There are no Health, Social and Economic Implications arising from this report.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

13.0 Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications

13.1 There are no Climate Change, Biodiversity or Environmental implications arising from this report.

14.0 Background Papers

1 [Council Constitution](#)

15.0 Appendices

A Health & Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference 2025/26

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal Services	13/06/2025	17/06/2025	SH
Finance	17/06/2025	17/06/2025	RP

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Telford & Wrekin Health and Wellbeing Board - Terms of Reference and Procedure

The Board has the responsibility for public health and health and wellbeing responsibilities within the Borough.

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is responsible for:-

- the development of a joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy for Telford & Wrekin based upon the needs identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- the ongoing development of the JSNA and the development, review and oversight of the delivery of actions identified in the joint health and wellbeing strategy and other key plans and strategies that may be developed from time to time
- the encouragement of joint and co-commissioning between health and care sectors, including Telford and Wrekin ICS, and the Integrated Care Board (ICB), Telford and Wrekin Council, and NHS England and ensuring that commissioning and delivery activity of the relevant organisations are aligned with the priorities set out in the Health & Wellbeing Strategy
- the general oversight of the Council's Public Health responsibilities and receiving the annual report of the Council's Director of Public Health
- the receiving of reports from, and making recommendations to, Telford and Wrekin's Full Council, NHS England, and the Integrated Care System and Boards and sub-committees that it may establish (and delegate functions to) and from other Boards and organisations involved in the provision of services that influence of health and well-being outcomes for the whole population within the Borough.

1.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board will link to the Community Safety Partnership and local Adults and Childrens' Safeguarding Boards as their remit contributes to the responsibilities of the Board.

2. General

At the first meeting after the Annual Council Meeting and in response to any further guidance consider its terms of reference, structure, membership and activities.

PROCEDURE

3. General

Unless specifically provided for in these Terms of Reference (TOR), the [Council Procedure Rules \(CPR\)](#) govern the way that committees operate and in, the case of any discrepancy, these Terms of Reference shall take precedence. Notwithstanding this rule, the Chair of the Board may vary or suspend rules contained in the CPR or TOR in the interests of efficient and effective management of the Board.

4. Membership

4.1 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board will comprise representatives from the Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care System, Telford & Wrekin Council and HealthWatch. The core members are:-

- An elected Member of Telford & Wrekin Council (Co-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board)
- The Chief Executive **or representative** of the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care Board (Co-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board)
- Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Care and Health
- Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Health and Mental Health
- Chief Executive or representative of the Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Chief Executive or representative of the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
- Chief Executive or representative of the Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust
- Executive Director responsible for Adult Social Care
- Statutory Director of Children's Services
- Statutory Director responsible for Adult Social Care
- Statutory Director of Public Health
- Director **or representative** of the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care Board
- **Chief Strategy Officer of Shropshire or representative of the Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care System**
- Lead Clinician from the Telford & Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership
- Representative of local HealthWatch
- Chair of the Community Safety Partnership
- Each political group of Telford & Wrekin Council with 4 or more elected members shall have one place on the Health and Wellbeing Board with voting rights; this includes the administration.
- Representative of the community and voluntary sector Chief Officers Group.

4.2 The board may invite additional representatives to observe, present to, and address the Board on matters pertaining to its Terms of Reference.

4.3 A Cabinet Member may hold more than one of the responsibilities described above and as such this may result in a reduced number of Cabinet Members participating in Board meetings.

4.4 The Board will be advised and supported by officers from the local authority and the Integrated Care Board.

5. Chair

5.1 The Board will be jointly co-chaired by those members indicated at 5.1 above. The Chair of the meeting will alternate between those two members on a meeting-by-meeting basis.

- 5.2 In the event that the co-Chair whose turn it is to Chair a meeting is not available, the other co-Chair will take the chair for the duration of the meeting.
- 6. Data and Information Sharing**
- 6.1 Members agree to share all relevant information and data, to allow effective monitoring and management of performance and other joint working arrangements.
- 7. Quorum**
- 7.1 Quorum is one quarter of the Board's membership, with physical attendance from at least one Telford & Wrekin Councillor and one **ICS or** ICB Member required.
- 7.2 Where technically possible, officers presenting papers to the Board (who are not formal members), can do so via Microsoft Teams.
- 8. Disqualification for Membership**
- 8.1 The regulations that apply to committees and sub-committees of local authorities in respect of disqualification will apply to the Health and Wellbeing Board save for the exception set out in this section.
- 8.2 Any person who would be disqualified from being able to stand for election as a councillor will be disqualified from being a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board EXCEPT THAT disqualification criteria concerning paid employment or office within the local authority do not apply – this allows Council officers to be members of the Health and Wellbeing Board and to have voting rights thereon.
- 8.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the following disqualification criteria will continue to apply to members of the Health and Wellbeing Board:-
- Being the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order
 - Having been convicted in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man of any offence and has had passed a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months without the option of a fine.
- 9. Voting Rights**
- All Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be able to vote alongside the elected representatives. This applies to any additional board members appointed in addition to the statutory membership set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. For the avoidance of doubt, invitees shall not have the right to vote on any matter at the Board.
- 10. Meetings**
- 10.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board will meet approximately quarterly and in public. Dates and times of meetings will be agreed and published in advance. **Note** - the press and public may be excluded during consideration of any matter which would involve the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.
- 10.2 Agendas and supporting papers will be issued, and published, at least five clear days before each meeting. Action notes will be produced and, at the next meeting,

confirmed as a true record of the meeting to which they refer and signed by the Chair.

- 10.3 Save as set out in section 10.1, members of the public and press will have access to the meetings and there will be provision for public speaking section at each Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.

12. Public Speaking

Members of the public may speak at the Health and Wellbeing Board. The procedure for this is published on the Council's website. This states that:-

- Topics must be in the remit of the Health & Wellbeing Board.
- Members of the public who wish to speak must notify Democratic Services in writing on the Friday before a meeting.
- A maximum of three minutes is allocated to each speaker, which will be strictly adhered to.
- A maximum of three speakers will be permitted at any one meeting.

13. Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interest

The Health and Wellbeing Board will adopt the Council's code of conduct. Any interests in item(s) on the agenda should be declared at the start of the meeting.

14. Reporting Mechanisms/Accountability

The actions of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be subject to independent scrutiny by the relevant Scrutiny Committee(s) of Telford & Wrekin Council. The Board will publish an annual report on the progress that has been made against the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy.



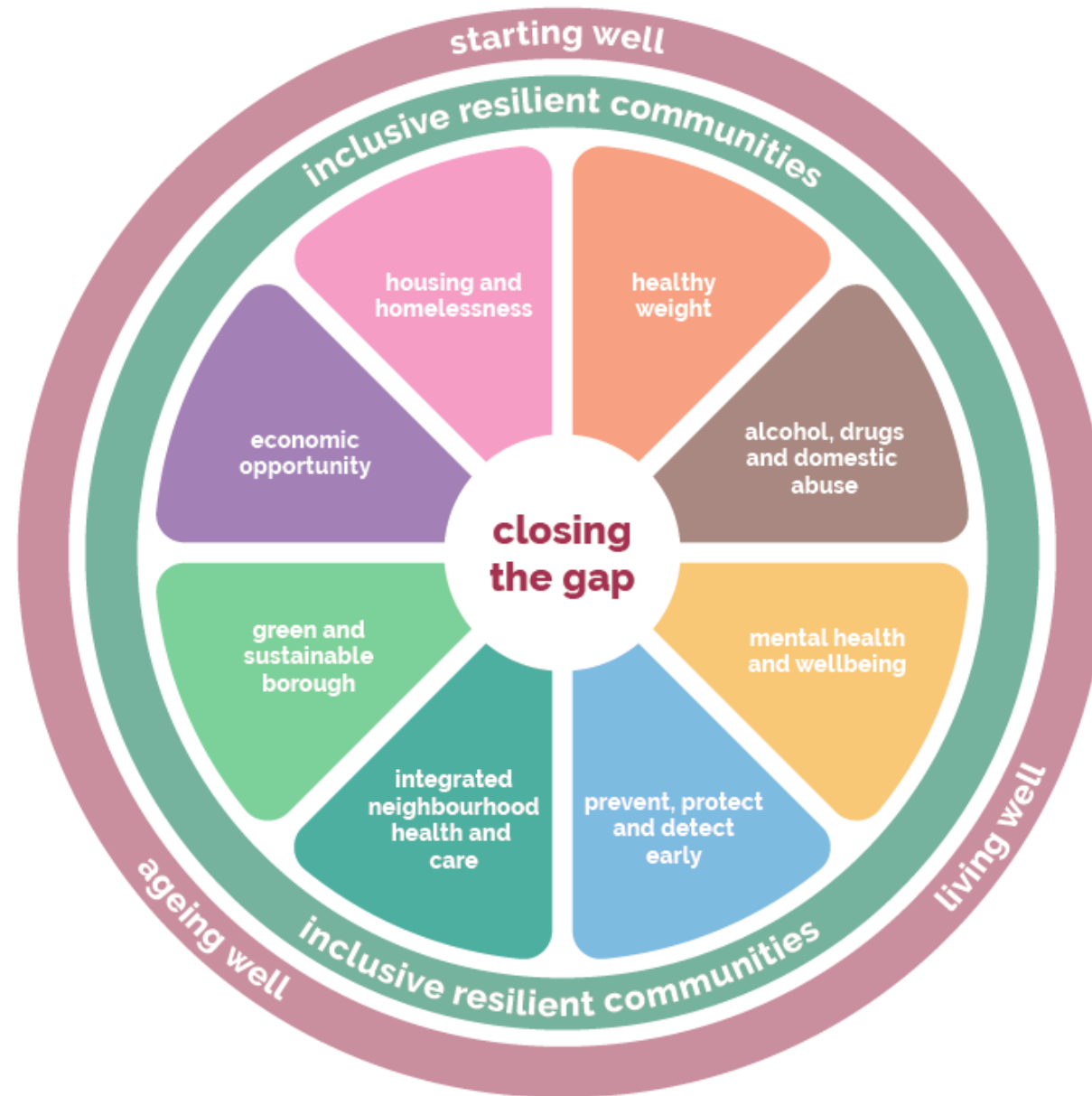
Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2027

Delivery Progress Report June 2025

Strategy Delivery Progress Report June 2025

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Our vision - happier, healthier, fulfilled lives



Closing the gap

- Our HWB Strategy highlights that tackling inequalities and closing the gap requires comprehensive action across our priority programmes, through a strong targeted, intelligence-led approach. Addressing wider determinants of health is crucial and the NHS has a particular focus on reducing health inequalities through its [CORE20PLUS5](#) programme (see page ? for updates on the prevent, detect and protect priority). The gaps in health and wellbeing experience are most repeatedly seen in our most deprived communities, compared to the most affluent communities - the 20% most deprived communities –“the core 20”. Particular and specific inequalities are also faced by different groups of people, often referred to as **inclusion groups** and these are closely related to characteristics which are protected in the Equalities Act.

<div>Healthy Weight</div> <div>Page 22</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy engagement focus groups with at-risk groups including people with learning disabilities, mental health disorders, males, ages 55+, ethnic minority groups, people living within our most deprived communities Key priority for Healthy Weight Strategy is to create opportunities to support groups facing inequalities including: children and adults with a learning disability, physical disability or long-term health condition, as well as those with a common mental health problem or serious mental illness. Schools health & wellbeing programme selects schools to take part with the highest rates of excess weight and those in our most deprived communities 	<div>Integrated health and care</div>	<p>Start for Life Family Hubs: “core20” population, younger parents, black & minority ethnic group families</p> <p>Primary Care: All PCNs have nominated inequalities leads and specific health inequality related projects in place for 24/25. Health inequalities is one the prioritisation criteria the ICB Primary Care Team use to target practices requiring improvement support.</p>
<div>Alcohol, drugs & domestic abuse</div>	<p>Alcohol & drugs : Equality Impact Assessment completed alongside the Needs Assessment. Equality Action Plan to be integrated into annual strategy Action Plan, Ethnicity data now included in quarterly treatment monitoring data</p> <p>Domestic Abuse: focus on families with complex and multiple needs. The DA Forum assessing disproportionate impact of domestic abuse and lower service uptake rates among under-served groups, improving joint working with faith groups and BAME communities</p>	<div>Green & sustainable borough</div>	<p>Initiatives targeted towards under-represented groups - people from lower socio-economic groups, people from ethnically diverse communities and people with disabilities/additional needs.</p>
<div>Mental health & wellbeing</div>	<p>Children & Young People who: have SEND, looked after/care leavers, those who are NEET, and suffer multiple disadvantage and trauma</p> <p>adults who experience poor mental health alongside other vulnerabilities such as alcohol and drug use and housing needs</p>	<div>Economic opportunity</div>	<p>The Cost-of-living strategy is aimed at those residents in the Borough on the lowest incomes, be they working age or pensioners.</p>
<div>Prevent, detect & protect</div>	<p>People living in the most deprived 20% of communities in England – the core 20 are a key focus given the gaps in life expectancy the most deprived and most affluent communities.</p> <p>Cancer screening: narrowing the gap in uptake of screening programmes across GP practices, linked to deprivation</p> <p>Cancer Champions & Health Champions representative of diverse communities</p>	<div>Housing & homelessness</div>	<p>People affected by trauma and poor mental health</p> <p>Ongoing focus on homeless clients who present with complex and multiple needs.</p>

Healthy weight

Key Progress – against strategy / work plans (Q1)

- Reached over 1000 sign ups to the Do it For campaign since the launch in July 2024 – encouraging individuals to find their motivation to create healthier lifestyle habits
- Stakeholder webinar held with key partners involved in the whole systems approach to tackle levels of obesity, which included the launch of “Healthy Telford” partner branding
- A training options appraisal was produced in partnership with Shropshire Council and SaTH colleagues to determine how priority frontline health and social care staff can be best equipped with the knowledge and confidence to support healthy weight
- Action plan developed to ensure new NICE guidance on overweight and obesity management is developed within the Healthy Lifestyles and Healthy Families services
- Delivery of audits and staff workshops within targeted schools to help shape tailored action plans for schools to improve health and wellbeing within the school environment – with a focus on food, activity and ethos
- Scoping activity to look at improving support for residents living with a learning disability, and their carers, to create healthier lifestyles

Issues / challenges for the HWB

- Training of frontline health and care professionals to have the knowledge and confidence to promote healthy weight and reducing weight stigma was determined as a key priority within Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire’s Healthy Weight strategies. Task and Finish Group established with one partner organisation, but challenges faced to implement options appraisal within timeframes due to other organisational priorities and changes
- Whole systems approach to reducing “food for reward” culture – partners are encouraged to reduce amount of unhealthy foods available in public settings including in meetings and events

Performance

Telford and Wrekin have seen an increase in numbers of adults that are overweight or living with obesity for the data year 2023/24.

‘Healthy Weight’ and tackling the above average levels of obesity across Telford and Wrekin is being prioritised through the delivery of the five-year Healthy Weight Strategy. Programmes of work have commenced including Place Expansion Partnership work to support the needs of communities and optimise opportunities for children and adults to get active.

Priority population groups are identified within the strategy and work is underway to look at how healthy lifestyle support can be strengthened for adults living with a learning disability or autism.

Improving outcomes - Case study

Healthy Families Programme

A reception aged child was identified through NCMP and the family took part in the Healthy Families Programme within the child’s school as a setting. The child had an older sibling at the school who also took part in the sessions and a whole family approach was used. A number of positive outcomes were recognised – the two children and the mum reduced their BMI. Amongst the other healthy changes that the family made, they were also comfortably saving £20 per weekly shop just by buying healthier swaps/options, discussed during the sessions.

Domestic abuse

Key Progress – against strategy / work plans (Q1)

Partnerships – the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment has been completed and presented at the DALP on 10/07/2025

Prevention – the VAWG prevention workshop in March 2025 was a great success and an action plan will be incorporated into the wider DALP DA Strategy action plan

Provision – demand for the commissioned DA support service continues to grow

Pursue & Protect – the Telford & MARAC review has been completed, and an action plan will be developed to implement the recommendations

Improving outcomes - Case Study

A new pilot Target Hardening programme to enable low to medium risk DA victims and their families to remain in their own homes commenced in 2024/25 Q4. During the Q, 5 victims/families were able to stay in their own homes following low level building modifications and 17 families were given video doorbells. During April 2025, a further 7 victims/families received building modifications and remained in their own homes. The pilot will continue throughout 2025/26 and will be evaluated towards the end of the year.

Performance

Single point of contact - the number of contacts received by the SPOC in 2024-25 Q4 increased slightly to 421 from 417 in Q4, following a significant increase during Q3

Specialist support for victims and families - the number of new referrals into the service has remained constant, with 110 new referrals in Q4, and the total of current open cases increasing slightly to 95 from 87

Children and young people - referrals increased to 54 in Q4, as compared to 44 in Q3 and average monthly caseloads have remained constant at around 31 in Q4

Safe accommodation - Cranstoun have secured the provision of 4 premises for safe accommodation with a local provider, including one with 3 2-bedroom units for mother and children

Perpetrator behaviour change programme – new referrals fell from 30 in Q3 to 21 in Q4

Issues / Challenges for the HWBB

- Reviewing and implementing the MARAC review recommendations
- Reviewing and implementing the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment recommendations
- Reviewing and implementing the recommendations from the recent DA Commissioners report on the impact of DA on CYP

Alcohol and drugs

Key Progress – against strategy / work plans (Q1)

Prevention - The first alcohol and drug awareness sessions have now been delivered to school staff. A further two will be delivered to both primary and secondary staff across the borough.

Treatment - National continuity of care data for those leaving prison now reflects local monitoring and for the 3 months to March 2025 Telford & Wrekin has achieved a minimum of 85%, 10% above the national ambition.

Treatment - Additional Children and Young Persons worker now in post, this will provide additional caseload capacity, link with Youth Justice Services and deliver additional prevention work capacity.

Recovery Support - Meetings have taken place with stakeholders to discuss the development of the Telford & Wrekin Recovery Charter. A Charter document is currently in development for launch on Friday 5th September 2025.

Improving outcomes - Case Study

Telford & Wrekin Alcohol and Drugs Forum, which brings together all local stakeholders that contribute to addressing alcohol and drugs issues locally, is now entering its second year. Co-production of a strategy action plan has seen significant progress made towards strategy commitments including the broader distribution of Naloxone via connections made within the group, implementation of drug and alcohol related death review recommendations across organisations and expansion of early intervention supported housing bed spaces from 32 to 40. The Forum has ensured that members are aware of each other's work and have opportunities to promote best practice via presentations at each meeting covering a variety of topics such as how to improve the facilitation of mutual aid. Work will continue ensuring that local prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery support services operate as a single system

Performance

Number of adults in treatment during Q1 rose to 860 (rolling 12 months) from 847 for the previous quarter, remaining significantly above the March 2022 baseline of 820.

New presentations to the service remained the same 459, also significantly above the March 2022 baseline of 363.

Hospital admissions for both alcohol and opiate poisonings continue to fall, 5.06 per 100,000 for alcohol (down from 11.39 per 100,000 for the same period in the previous year) and 8.10 per 100,000 for opiates (down from 24.11). Both indicators remain significantly below the national rates of 22.80 per 100,00 for alcohol and 25.11 for opiates.

Individuals continuing treatment on release from prison continues to remain above the national ambition of 75% with 89% of individuals engaging with treatment following release during the period. This remains significantly above the national rate (58%) and the March 2022 baseline (58%).

Issues / Challenges for the HWBB

- Hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions continues to remain above the national rate, this is of particular concern given the uncertainties over ongoing funding for the Alcohol Care Team.
- Estimated unmet need for those using opiates only continues to rise (upward trend since June 2019), currently 62.7% vs 59.9% at the same point in 2024.
- Continuing elevated potential risk of fatal overdoses from increasing availability/use of synthetic opioids nationally.

Mental health and wellbeing: children and young people

Key Progress – against strategy / work plans (Q1)

- ICB are leading on the re-commissioning of the CYP Mental Health Service in collaboration with both Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Authorities (see Health and Wellbeing Board CYP Mental Health update presented on 21.05.25)
- An evidence-based specification has been developed informed by extensive engagement undertaken from January to March 2025 seeking the views of children, young people, families and professionals to inform the strategic development and priorities of the recommissioned service.
- The procurement has been deferred to May 2025 and current Bee U service extended until 31st March 2026.
- An all-age Mental Health Strategy is in development, utilising existing engagement analysis and undertaking further targeted engagement with seldom groups.
- Building on the success of the Young Person's Year of Wellbeing, a Supporting Your Pathway to Emotional Resilience (SUPER) website offering online self-help information and resources has been developed. The website offers age-appropriate resources for children, young people and professionals planned to launch in September.
- Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust refreshed service specification has been agreed, incorporating Health Visiting, School Nursing and Family Nursing services which support mental health and emotional wellbeing throughout childhood and adolescence
- A mental health celebration event is being planned for 2026 similar to that of the Recovery Conference.

Performance

- Over 950 subscribers to the Young Persons Year of Wellbeing 12-week email programme as of mid February 2025 with a social media reach of 122.7k
- Current performance around 78% of plan and expecting to miss the current targets set for March 2025 – please see Health and Wellbeing Board update from 21.05.25). On track to improve and meet targets during 2025/26.
- Continued increase in demand for services – assessment and treatment

Issues / Challenges for the HWBB

- The Bee U service is facing performance challenges in delivering the agreed access targets and waiting times as there continues to be an increase in demand for elements of the services. Improvement recovery plans have been developed with the Provider and ICB.
- Mental Health is one of the main cited reasons for children and young people opting for home elected education

Improving outcomes - Case Study

- Support received from Social Prescribing Service – Child X suffered from social anxiety, sleep difficulties and diagnosed with ADHD. Sessions between Child X and her Social Prescriber provided support to help Child X understand more about ADHD and sleep patterns too. Feedback from Child X “ *My Social Prescriber has been giving me good support, speaking about my emotional state and health looking after me*...” “*I was completely antisocial and suffered with social anxiety however now I am able to talk to anyone and everyone without a care in the world*”.

Mental health and wellbeing: adults

Key Progress – against strategy / work plans (Q1)

Scrutiny review commenced in April with a session to “set the scene” in terms of the breadth of the local offer and existing workstreams. Included social care, public health, ICB and the provider. Scrutiny intends to consider the presentation and select areas for a deep dive.

Mental Health Partnership Board:

Strategy development – work is ongoing. Comms pack is drafted for the engagement period. Videos and photos are being prepared for inclusion.

Experts by experience have been recruited to support the board – establishing a sub group in addition to the opportunity for people to attend the Board.

Mental Health Celebration Event being planned for May 2026 – similar to that of the Recovery Conference

Developing a “Knowing where to go” guide for mental health.

Reviewing the current framework which specialist MH support is commissioned from. New framework will include opportunities for VCSE providers to apply and will include unmet needs such as Acquired Brain Injury.

Reviews of the crisis pathway and the quality of inpatient care have commenced, but with an ICB lead and LA contribution.

Funding secured for physical activity projects: Wellbeing, Belonging and Moving for Mental Health project, providing tailored physical activity for people living with Serious Mental Illness and the Move to Thrive sessions for people with dementia and their carers. Also, this quarter saw Telford Big Walk Week which provides all residents with the opportunity to be a little more active, get outdoors and connect.

Performance

Independent Mental Health Advocates have seen an increasing number of eligible patients accessing their service in this quarter.

Branches supported 415 individuals in Q4 of 2024/2025. Q1 report is pending.

Circa 25 people attend each calm café – in addition to this support is provided on an outreach basis. Café's take place 6 days a week.

Issues / challenges for the HWBB

MH Bill could have considerable impact on local services. Discussions ongoing with Director of ASC & ADASS. Local workshop being planned to consider changes to s135/136.

Improving Outcomes: - Case Study

Mr A has complex needs including poor physical health. He has spent many years as an inpatient (including secure services) and in out of area placements. These placements restricted his ability to follow his interests and really use his skills to look after himself. In the last year he was supported to move to local supported accommodation where he has his own front door and private space. He has resumed many of his old interests: he is a keen cook with a love of music. He has made connections with others as a result of shared interests in music. More recently he has been supported to adopt a dog. He is taking this additional responsibility seriously – he budgets accordingly to ensure there is money for the dogs needs and walks the dog daily which is helping his own physical health. The presence of the dog at the scheme is helping many of his neighbours as well!

Prevent, protect and detect early

Key Progress – against strategy / work plans (Q1)

The HPV & MMR Vaccine Inequalities Project has continued at pace with targeted education in lowest uptake schools linked to multiple deprivation; Joint working with Lingen Davies to reach those not in mainstream school through Youth Clubs; Attendance at Telford Gurdwara celebration event, links with Afghan ladies, Polish school and provision at Telford College for young people missed during COVID.

Q1 funding secured for Community BP delivery - targeting of priority groups/areas. 8 of the 14 community groups funded still undertaking checks. This will cease at the end of June. Successful Yr 2 Project Celebration held. Contribution to South East Telford Neighbourhood Health working.

16 CVD Workplace Health Check sessions delivered. Pilot ended in May 2025. Businesses still coming forward with requests for offer.

Continue to build capacity and health conversations through Lingen Davies Cancer Champions and Council Health Champions. Recruitment ongoing.

Cancer Screening Awareness through videos, newsletters and steering group.

Issues / challenges for the HWBB

- ICB funding for the Vaccine Educator post ends June 25 consideration to be given for opportunities to deliver future interventions to maintain momentum. Full evaluation not due till Autumn 25 when data for the Yr 8 cohort is available.
- No additional funding for community groups to undertake BP checks (proven successful). Whilst training will be provided new groups may require funding and support with volunteer recruitment/supervision to add this to their offer.
- Still awaiting decision from the ICB to fund the BP project for an additional 9 months.

Performance

Continued to focus on CORE20PLUS populations - emphasis on community engagement, reducing barriers/increasing awareness, improving uptake.

- HPV & MMR Vaccine Inequalities Project has reached 1030 pupils and 20 staff; 55 vaccinations delivered -15 HPV at 3 school clinics and 12 DTP, 12 MenACWY, 12 HPV and 4 MMR at the community clinic. 4417 social media post views
- Just under 500 BP checks completed. 10.3% had NOT been treated for high BP. Approx 50% from areas of high deprivation. 13% were BAME. 45 checks were for people who are homeless or sleeping rough.
- CVD Workplace Health Checks – completed 214 full & 128 lifestyle checks in May. 10% QRISK greater than 10.
- 27 Cancer and 4 Health Champions recruited

Improving outcomes - Case study

Telford Langley school: *"Thank you for engaging and expertly presented assemblies. We really valued your enthusiasm and expertise in this area. There were 240 Year 8 students in attendance. One of our Assistant Heads was talking about the assembly and students were able to recall exactly what it was about!"*

Avara Foods really supported and ensured all staff could get a health check by reprinting our promotional materials and providing 'Champions' that acted as interpreters for the majority of staff as English is a second or third language. This was important as many were fearful of receiving bad results which would affect their ability to continue to work.

Telford Gurdwara were keen to support the Blood Pressure project because it aligns with the Sikh principle of seva—selfless service to the community. Health and wellbeing are essential to living a good life, and we saw this as a meaningful way to give back and support our sangat (community). Many of our members are at risk for high blood pressure due to age or diets, so this project was perfect.

Integrated neighbourhood health and care: **Start for Life Family Hubs focus**

Key Progress – against strategy / work plans (Q1)

New Family Hubs model to widen offer to 0-19 (25 SEND) launched 1st April.

New community offer of 6 drop-ins a week now available for any parent or carer to seek support in Wellington, Donnington, Newport, Dawley, Sutton Hill alongside our existing Southwater drop in (see case study for impact).

New Early Help coordination support now in place for health and education professionals.

New Domestic Abuse Practitioner sitting in Family Hubs localities to mirror the Family Safeguarding model

Start for Life offer booklets are handed out at Midwifery booking and Birth Registration (280 per month are handed out)

Donnington Family Hub for Donnington opening July 2025

New Early Help Assessment (Family Help) leaflet designed in partnership with Dandelions has been launched.

16 Fatherhood Champions trained, and Father Inclusive network established

Multi-agency group reviewing translation of materials for the 0-2 age range to include work with BME communities to sense check literature for culture and suitability of language

Community Grant launching for small groups to bid for £500-£2,000 to develop local Start for Life offers, launches July 2025.

Triple P training for Teens, SEND and separated families commences for 12 Family Hubs practitioners in September 2025.

Issues / challenges for the HWBB

Sustainability of Start for Life offer beyond the current Year 4 for the 75 identified LAs.

Performance

Over 12,000 attendees at a commissioned Family Hubs session or intervention 2024-2025

October 2024-Jan 2025 Family Hubs website has received almost 10,000 page views and has an average engagement rate of 83%

2024-2025 Citizen Advice Baby steps project for families in the maternity and first year have had 5000 recorded users on their website and provided 64 in person complex casework consultations.

Eatwell have successfully supported 805 parents with weaning, healthy cooking for babies and toddlers, sugar awareness and fruit and veg tasting across 24 venues in 2024.

Breastfeeding Network has supported in 2024-2025:

105 parents through antenatal courses

728 parents on the postnatal ward

544 parents in a community setting

Improving outcomes - Case study

Parent attended new drop-in at Arleston after being signposted from Family Connect. Her child, who had an ADHD diagnoses, did not sleep which was affecting family life and mum felt she had hit a brick wall.

Listening support and signposting was offered, alongside immediate access to the new Parenting Together course. She has now seen the GP and got extra/complimentary medication to go with her child's melatonin and has had 2 nights full sleep.

Mum said that within 1 week she had been shown a door in the brick wall that she hit on Monday.

She felt so positive about the drop-in, she asked about other drop-in sessions so her friend can have advice and support.

Integrated neighbourhood health and care:

Key Progress – against strategy / work plans (Q1)

- Increased focus on prevention and the shift from acute to community within the TWIPP priorities. Place Prevention funding for 2025/26 identified and grants awarded for start in July 2025.
- The Telford and Wrekin neighbourhoods are currently aligned to the Primary Care Networks – there are 4 in the area:
 - Newport & Central
 - South East Telford
 - TELDOC
 - Wrekin
- Newport & Central Neighbourhood Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings relaunched in May 2025. South-East Telford Neighbourhood MDT is looking to launch in July 2025. Both areas focusing on people with complex health challenges - circulatory and respiratory diseases, and depression and anxiety.
- TELDOC Neighbourhood focusing on young people transitioning to adulthood, mental health and women's health, in particular in Malinslee.
- South East Telford Neighbourhood Networking approach concluded with a successful face to face webinar with 71 people from a wide range of organisations (public sector, VCFSE and NHS). The outputs of this workshop will help to shape the integration work in the neighbourhood to improve outcomes for residents, along with sharing the learning and considering the system wide challenges.
- Newport & Central Neighbourhood Family Hub (Damson) launches in July, with a view to it being expanded swiftly into a Live Well Hub as well based on the needs of the area.
- Proposal for Sport England Place Expansion work in Telford and Wrekin submitted by Energize Telford and Wrekin with full support of the Telford & Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership (TWIPP).
- Focus on Making Every Contact Count and a themed approach – Communications and Engagement Plan for the first theme, vaccinations, approved by TWIPP. Launching in Quarter 2.
- Launch of new Community Optometry First Service (system wide programme) providing support for residents closer to home scheduled for 1st July.
- Pharmacy First continues to reduce demand on GP practices.

Improving outcomes - Case study

"I was working in the Live Well Community Hub in Madeley and Alex came to see me to get his blood pressure checked. It was high but he disclosed to me that he was really struggling with paying bills and about his benefits reducing.

Alex was really anxious so I helped him as getting him to phone or write to the services would have increased his anxiety. I ensured that Alex got a home visit from the benefits team and also linked him in with Adult Social Care.

Alex continued to come and see me, have a chat and share his worries.

Alex's blood pressure has now reduced, he has got support from the benefits team that is right for him, and he has got the right support from Adult Social Care so he can remain independent in his own home."

Issues / challenges for the HWBB

- NHS England devolution and ICB re-modelling could potentially impact on TWIPP being able to deliver its priority programmes. Whilst a risk, the focus from government is on neighbourhood health, care closer to home and prevention, all of which are integral parts of integrating neighbourhood health and care.

Green sustainable borough

Key Progress – against strategy / work plans (Q1)

- Increasing Green Flag sites from 7 to 8 – Victoria Park was judged by Green Flag judges in May. We will know if Green Flag has been awarded in July 2025.
- Victoria Park improvements – Improvement works to Victoria Park included safety works around the canal basin with the installation of a knee rail, Willow tree pollarding, pathway improvements, infrastructure maintenance, new fishing peg installations, new accessible swing seats and communication panels including BSL in the play area.
- Wildflowers – more areas have been identified within the Borough where mowing regimes can be changed to meadow cut grass. This is providing important habitats for pollinating species and for small mammals and helps increase connectivity between sites.
- Water quality – Apley Pool – in May fenced areas around Apley pool were planted with reeds to act as a natural filter of the water and help to reduce algal blooms. Reed planting in the form of floating rafts have also been provided at Horsehay Pool LNR this spring with additional reeds to be planted by the Friends of Horsehay this summer.
- Inclusive play - communication panels, Hartshill Park, Victoria Park and Bowring Park. Sensory play totem poles have been installed in Hartshill Park.
- Volunteers - Lyreco, Fujitsu and Cap Gemini have used their Corporate Social Responsibility days to assist in projects at Apley Woods, Langley Fields and Dale End Park. Projects included plug planting, pathway improvements, and bee bank restoration.
- Local Nature Reserve improvements -Beeches and Lodge Fields – Bench and new pathway installed to the bench. Step improvements are underway. Granville – Path improvements completed, and natural play area is being planned. Horsehay Improvements - improvement project includes floating island and new fishing pegs planned this summer. Dawley Hamlets - Improvements include, signage, pathways, fencing, steps.

Performance

Access to Green Spaces within the borough remains higher than the national average.

Issues / challenges for the HWBB

Funding and resources.

Improving outcomes - Case study

Apley Woods Local Nature Reserve

Telford and Wrekin Council Officers, idverde and the Friends of Apley Woods Volunteers worked together to plant phragmites (reeds) in fenced areas around the pool. This was recommended by the Environment Agency as a natural way of improving water quality. The pool has suffered from algal blooms and the the reeds will act as a natural filtration system for the pool by removing excess nutrients from the water. The reedbeds also will increase oxygenation and help to stabilise the banks, creating additional habitats for wildlife.

Economic opportunity

Key Progress – against strategy / work plans

- Connect to Work (support for disabled people, those with health conditions and people with complex barriers to employment) is in the planning phase and is expected to commence September 2025.
- The delivery plan and grant costings for the Marches area have been approved by the constituent local authorities (Telford and Wrekin, Shropshire, Herefordshire) and submitted to DWP by Shropshire as the lead accountable body. DWP will review and feedback and may require further clarifications and modifications
- DWP have revised and reduced the funding profile for Year 1 and 2 of the Connect to Work programme – this has been a national change. This change has delayed the start of the programme.
- A broader skills and employment support offer is available and includes council services; Learn Telford Outreach and Future Focus; 16-18 and adult provision provided by Telford College and a range of support from Department for Work and Pensions.
- Transport – council commissioned bus routes (subsidised) that connect residential areas in South of the Borough with employment sites. Evolving to meet service needs and connectivity. Work express completes an average of 4000 passenger trips a week. Recently launched demand responsive transport in areas South of the Borough improving connectivity to Town Centre and hospital with further growth planned. Feedback is affordable travel to work breaking down barriers to employment

Issues / challenges for the HWBB

- Connect to Work funding reduction in Year 1 & 2 now means the target starts in year 1 will be only 47 people, and year 2 only 150. This is much lower (over 50%) than initially indicated or planned.
- Due to the reduction in available funding we will need manage demand and referral levels for the Connect to Work programme as we expect interest to far exceed initial capacity
- Capacity and funding for Years 3 & 4 of the programme remains as originally expected and will be able to support 300 starts per year.

Housing and homelessness

Key Progress – against strategy / work plans (Q1)

- Providing safe accommodation for victims fleeing domestic abuse
- Carrying out and providing target hardening measures for those fleeing domestic abuse
- Utilising and increasing units of temporary accommodation to prevent/reduce use of B&B for those presenting as homeless.
- Providing emergency accommodation during severe weather period to ensure all those rough sleeping could access accommodation.
- Continued daily Rough Sleeper Task Force
- Continued to deliver a service for those presenting as homelessness
- Dedicated officer supporting those with ex offending history.

Issues / challenges for the HWBB

- Larger families presenting as homeless that require larger properties which are not available in the Borough.
- Increase in complex clients
- Increase in clients rough sleeping who use substances and not willing to work with providers
- Clients wanting one bed self contained properties with a high demand for properties and many clients would not financially manage in the property
- Expectations of want rather than need from some clients.

Performance - Homelessness data:

Action	April	24/25
Advice provided	296	3151
Owed a Homelessness Duty	96	1248
Prevented from being homeless	38	377
Relieved from homelessness	62	581

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Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Health & Wellbeing Board

Thursday 26 June 2025

Draft Housing Strategy 2025 - 2030

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Richard Overton – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member: Housing, Highways & Enforcement
Lead Director:	Katherine Kynaston – Director: Housing, Commercial & Customer Services
Service Area:	Housing, Commercial & Customer Services
Report Author:	Ravi Phull – Housing Strategy & Regeneration Service Delivery Manager
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Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Health & Wellbeing Board – 26 June 2025

1. Recommendations:

The Health & Wellbeing Board is requested to:

- 1.1 Support and provide feedback on the Council's draft Housing Strategy 2025 – 2030, included as Appendix 1.

2. Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To report on progress of the housing and homelessness priority in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023 – 2027.
- 2.2 To present the draft housing strategy 2025-2030, and request feedback prior to cabinet approval for public consultation in July 2025.

3. Background

- 3.1 Housing runs at the heart of everything we do. A decent place to live, sets the foundation from which health, education and work can flourish. Housing is the building block of thriving communities and neighbourhoods.
- 3.2 Working with a range of partners much has been achieved since 2020:

Delivering 312 long term empty properties back into use	Delivering 800 new homes for private rent and affordable rent through Nuplace to over 1,500 residents with a 95% tenant satisfaction rate	Refurbishing 56 properties through Telford & Wrekin Homes providing accommodation for some of our most vulnerable	Preventing or relieving the homelessness of over 4,000 people including 239 who were rough sleeping	Providing advice and support to over 7,000 fuel poor residents and grant funding 400 households to improve energy efficiency of their homes. Estimated CO2 savings 596 tonnes	Supporting 2000 residents living in private rented properties to improve their housing conditions
Improving the quality of 766 private rented properties through our building safer stronger communities programme	Delivering over 1,200 new and affordable homes each year	Supporting the delivery of over 600 homes for older people	Providing over 2,000 grants per annum to make adaptations to enable residents to live, independently at home	Attracting annual housing investment of over £5m from Homes England	Conducting 30+ prosecutions and civil penalties for breaches of housing legislation

4. Summary of Main Proposals

- 4.1 Our new Housing Strategy 2025-2030 continues to be concerned with all types of housing, tenure and housing needs. It sets out the Council's long-term vision for housing and the actions that it will take to address the housing needs of the borough, seeking to ensure that every resident has access to safe, affordable, and quality housing. The strategy outlines the Council's commitment to improving the availability and standard of housing, while also focusing on sustainability, community empowerment and regeneration.

5. Local Context

- 5.1 Since the adoption of the Council's last strategy, and in line with national trends, the Council has seen changes in the borough's population:

13.5% population increase between 2013 and 2023 to 192,000

Between 2013 and 2023 the borough's population aged 65 and above grew by 28.5%

21.2% (16,197) privately rented (Census 2021), increase of 6.2% from 2011 & greater than England (20.5%)

18.0% (13,784) in social rented accommodation in 2021, smaller proportion than 2011 (19.7%) greater than England (17.1%).

12,900 or 16.3% households living in fuel poverty (2022) - higher than England rate of 13.1%

15.6% residents (29,400) live in areas ranked 10% most deprived in England. 24.3% in 20% most deprived.

2021 Census, 1 in 5 of the borough's population (age standardised) reported a disability, greater than the proportion for England (17.7%)

5.2 We have also seen some new challenges affecting the Borough's residents, including the cost-of-living crisis and energy price hikes. These are disproportionately affecting the Borough's lowest earning households.

6. Housing Strategy 2025 – 2030

6.1 The proposed objectives are:

- To make the BEST use of our existing homes
- To support safe, clean, green, healthy, connected communities
- To provide homes to support and empower the Borough's most vulnerable people

7. Health and Wellbeing – Housing and Homelessness

7.1 Housing and homelessness are important to residents' health and wellbeing on a range of levels, where we live and our housing conditions are a key "wider determinant of health" and accommodation for the most vulnerable residents, those with disabilities or who are care leavers and homelessness are closely related to health inequalities.

7.2 The proposed strategy will deliver the priorities of the health and wellbeing strategy in the following ways:

- Ensure all private rented properties we inspect are safe and free from hazards, with a particular emphasis on damp and mould, excess cold and overcrowding. Ensuring compliance with national energy efficiency standards.
- Working closely with partners providing welfare and homelessness services Citizens Advice Bureau and Marches Energy Agency to help residents struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, putting them at risk of homelessness.
- Continue to implement our Affordable Warmth Strategy launching a new Warm Homes: Local Grant alongside existing Warm and Well Telford, On and Off gas

property support and loan funding for low income households residing in the most energy inefficient properties in the borough.

- Working with Registered Social landlords to maximise the number of vulnerable and homeless individuals and families successfully rehoused through nominations - maximising access for the most vulnerable.
- Work with partners and the police to focus on safe, clean, well-maintained neighbourhoods continuing to drive the Council's safer, stronger
- Continue to prevent and relieve homelessness and support the most vulnerable clients to become tenant ready
- Ensure the Council's Supported Accommodation offers good quality support and accommodation and work with partners to continually monitor and review effectiveness.
- Ensure that there is a place of safety available through emergency accommodation for all people experiencing domestic abuse, in accordance with its status as a White Ribbon Town.
- Co-ordinate access into the Council's Specialist & Supported accommodation to ensure access for those most in need.
- Work with partners to influence the future supply of adapted affordable and social housing that can meet the needs of the Borough's ageing population and those with physical disabilities including those adults and children living with families and requiring larger properties.

8. Alternative Options

- 8.1 Whilst it is not a statutory requirement in itself for the Council to have a Housing Strategy, Cabinet could decide not to proceed. To do so would however mean that the Council would adversely affect all the excellent work being done in the Borough to help meet the needs of its residents.

9. Key Risks

- 9.1 In carrying out the consultation, there is a risk that consultation will not reach enough people and, therefore, feedback is not representative of all residents living in the borough. To mitigate this risk, across Telford and Wrekin, Voluntary Organisations such as Age UK, Marches Energy Agency and housing charities such as Maninplace will be supporting the delivery of the consultation to ensure widespread awareness of the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy and engage with the consultation exercise.

10. Key Council Priorities

- 10.1 This strategy will build on existing initiatives and links closely to the themes of Telford & Wrekin Council's plan to protect, care and invest to create a better borough with the priorities:

- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live
- A community-focussed, innovative Council providing efficient, effective and quality services
- Everyone benefits from a thriving economy
- Our natural environment is protected, and the Council has a leading role in addressing the climate emergency
- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community

10.2 The strategy also links closely with the priorities identified in the Health and Wellbeing Board vision – happier, healthier fulfilled lives.

11. Financial Implications

11.1 The approved Capital Programme includes funding which will support the objectives identified in the report.

12. Legal and HR Implications

12.1 There is no legal requirement for the Council to have a Housing Strategy, the previous duty being removed by the Deregulation Act 2015.

However, preparation of such a strategy is deemed good practice serving as a useful policy document setting out the Council's aims, objectives and intended outcomes in respect of all housing matters.

There are no other legal implications arising from this report.

The proposals contained in this report can be delivered using existing resources

13. Ward Implications

13.1 All wards will be impacted upon by these proposals.

14. Health, Social and Economic Implications

14.1 It is intended that this programme of work will contribute to improve health and wellbeing outcomes within the borough.

15. Equality and Diversity Implications

15.1 This strategy is about how the Council can work to deliver housing for all. In setting out its proposals the Council has paid due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, ensuring that equality considerations have been embedded throughout the process. The Council has actively considered how its decisions and actions will affect people with different protected characteristics, and has sought to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations within the communities it serves, particularly in relation to access to safe, affordable, and suitable housing in line with our statutory responsibilities under s149 Equality Act 2010.

16. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 16.1 This strategy delivers on a number of actions under the Telford and Wrekin Council Corporate Climate Change Action Plan, such as Affordable Warmth, including work with the Telford Energy Advice line and direct delivery of retrofit programmes to the most carbon inefficient properties in the borough. Biodiversity & Carbon Sequestration, such as work with the review of the local plan to consider opportunities to enhance tree and woodland protection and Planning Policy by using the review of the Local Plan to develop robust policy that supports and promotes a move to carbon neutrality. This includes consideration of how development will need to adapt to the impacts of climate change and promotes opportunities to maximise carbon sequestration in the future.

17. Background Papers

- 1 Housing Strategy 2020 – 2025

18. Appendices

- A Draft Housing Strategy 2025 - 2030

19. Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Finance	03/06/2025	03/06/2025	DR
Legal	03/06/2025	13/06/2025	SH



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Telford and Wrekin's housing strategy 2025-2030

Page 41

JUNE 2025
Draft for consultation



FOREWORD

A decent home is the foundation on which people build their lives and communities thrive. That's the driving principle of our new housing strategy, which we're sharing with you today.

A decent place to live is the foundation on which people build their lives. If you've got a good quality home, then health, employment, educational achievement and a happy family life are often much easier to obtain.

It's been five years since we launched our last housing strategy. It was at a time when the world was in the depths of the covid pandemic and navigating unprecedented challenges from the demands on health and social care systems, the uncertainty of global economies and a level of disruption to education not seen before.

The pandemic also brought great uncertainty to the housing market, causing delays in the supply of building materials and the progress of developments, disrupting demand and affordability and putting pressures on both the rental and private markets.

Against the backdrop of the significant challenges of the last five years, we're immensely proud of what has

been achieved through our housing strategy for the benefit of residents in Telford and Wrekin.

In 2020 we set out three very clear objectives, to create sustainable, accessible, affordable and integrated communities, to make the best use of our existing homes and to provide homes to support and empower our most vulnerable people.

You can read in detail about how the many projects we've delivered against those objectives in detail on [page 9](#).

Some of the biggest achievements include bringing hundreds of empty homes back into use, preventing more than 2,000 people from becoming homeless and offering bespoke and specialist support to some of our most vulnerable residents. We've also built on our carbon credentials with the delivery of a number of sustainable projects.

We recognise there's always more to do and we are a Council that is continually striving to improve and is



always open to best practice and opportunities to learn.

As we set out our plan for the next five years, we need to think of more recent challenges too. We've seen rising energy bills, a cost-of-living crisis, the continued demand for housing and new Government targets for building homes.

In this housing strategy, which is currently at draft stage, we outline our objectives for the next five years. In fact, we've kept our objectives the same, with some minor adjustments to reflect feedback we've had on the 2020-2025 strategy.

If you turn to **page 32**, you'll be able to read about our plans for the next five years. Addressing homelessness and delivering housing to support our residents will remain a key priority as well as delivering sustainable housing projects, which support plans to reduce the Borough's carbon footprint and tackle climate change.

We recognise that we cannot deliver our objectives without the support of our partners at a local, regional and national level.

The next steps...

Before we finalise our new housing strategy, it's really important we get the views of local people and partners. We want to know what we've done well and

what we can improve on in the future. We're currently running an online consultation and would welcome your feedback.

This will allow us to create a real and meaningful document, that reflects the needs of our communities and support the Council's vision to protect, care and invest to create a better borough for all.



Councillor Richard Overton

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing and Enforcement



Councillor Carolyn Healy

Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Sustainability



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INTRODUCTION

Telford and Wrekin's housing strategy 2025-2030 is concerned with all types of housing, tenure and housing needs. It sets out our long-term vision for housing and the actions that we will take to address the housing needs of our Borough, seeking to ensure that every resident has access to safe, affordable, and quality housing. This strategy outlines our commitment to improving the availability and standard of housing, while also focusing on sustainability, community empowerment and economic regeneration.

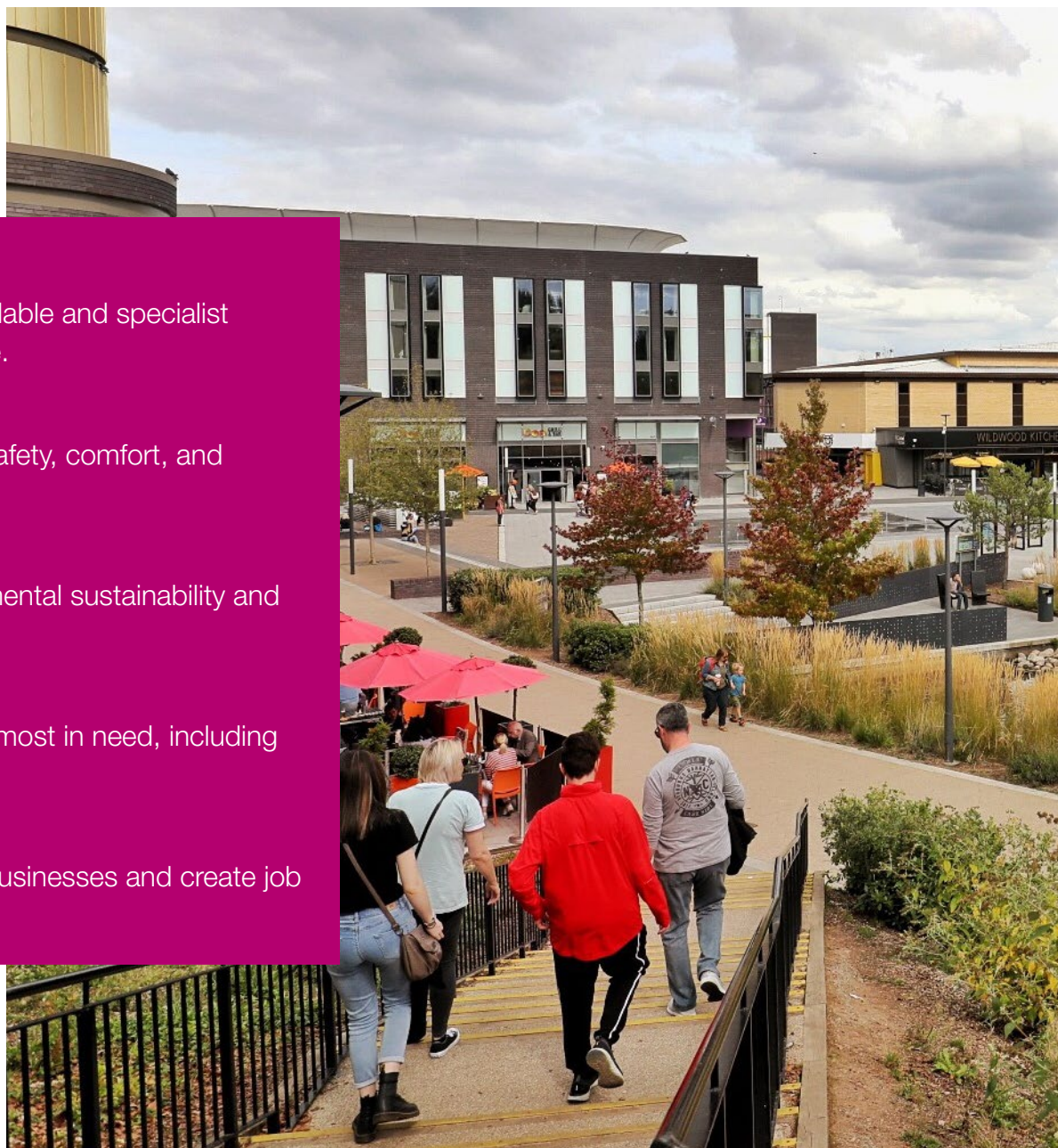
Our vision is to create **vibrant, inclusive, healthy neighbourhoods where people can thrive**. To achieve this, we will work collaboratively with stakeholders, including residents, partners, local businesses, and government agencies. The strategy will maximise the potential of existing properties through refurbishment and regeneration as well as the development of new housing. It will also drive innovative solutions to create more sustainable homes able to adapt to changes in climate and to meet the diverse and changing needs of our population enabling people to live longer, independently, in their communities.

This document will appeal to a broad audience, including existing residents, those seeking to establish their home in the Borough, investors, developers, registered providers, town and parish councils, non-statutory and voluntary bodies.

Achieving the right balance of high-quality homes that are affordable, sustainable, and offer variety, choice, and accessibility is crucial for the economic prosperity, health, and well-being of the people in our Borough, while helping to address health inequalities.

Our housing strategy sets out three objectives:





We will achieve these objectives by:

Increasing housing supply

- 🏠 Boosting the number of new homes including affordable and specialist properties to meet the growing need of local people.

Enhancing quality and standards

- 🏠 Ensuring that all housing meets high standards of safety, comfort, and energy efficiency.

Promoting sustainable communities

- 🏠 Developing housing solutions that support environmental sustainability and foster strong, connected communities.

Supporting vulnerable populations

- 🏠 Providing targeted support and resources to those most in need, including the elderly, disabled, and low-income families.

Encouraging economic regeneration

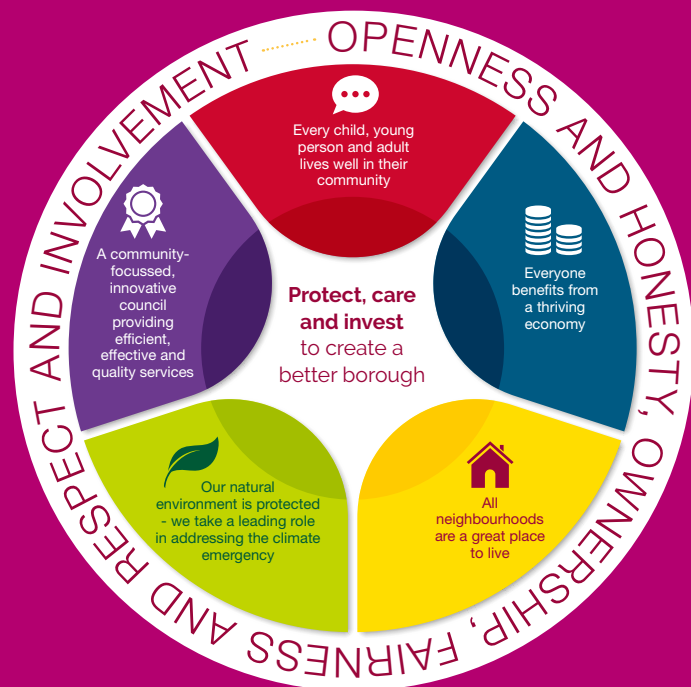
- 🏠 Leveraging housing development to support local businesses and create job opportunities.

Through this strategy, we are dedicated to making a positive lasting impact on the lives of our residents, fostering a sense of pride and belonging in our communities.

By addressing the current challenges and anticipating future needs, we aim to build a foundation for **a brighter, more equitable future for all.**



Our corporate vision, priorities and values



Vision 2032 – our 10 year vision for Telford and Wrekin



Housing runs at the heart of everything we do. A decent place to live, sets the foundation from which health, education and work can flourish. **Housing is the building block of thriving communities and neighbourhoods.**

Health and Wellbeing Board vision – happier, healthier fulfilled lives



Housing and homelessness are a key theme of our **Health and wellbeing strategy**. As a wider determinant of health, housing is critical to the way we live and our health and wellbeing outcomes and often referred to as ‘the causes of the causes’.



**Better homes
FOR ALL**

Everyone deserves to live
in a better home

Our housing achievements – since the adoption of our last strategy

Delivering 312 long term empty properties back into use	Delivering 800 new homes for private rent and affordable rent through Nuplace to over 1,500 residents with a 95% tenant satisfaction rate	Refurbishing 56 properties through Telford & Wrekin Homes providing accommodation for some of our most vulnerable	Preventing or relieving the homelessness of over 4,000 people including 239 who were rough sleeping	Providing advice and support to over 7,000 fuel poor residents and grant funding 400 households to improve energy efficiency of their homes. Estimated CO2 savings 596 tonnes	Supporting 2000 residents living in private rented properties to improve their housing conditions
Improving the quality of 766 private rented properties through our building safer stronger communities programme	Delivering over 1,200 new and affordable homes each year	Supporting the delivery of over 600 homes for older people	Providing over 2,000 grants per annum to make adaptations to enable residents to live, independently at home	Attracting annual housing investment of over £5m from Homes England	Conducting 30+ prosecutions and civil penalties for breaches of housing legislation

TELFORD AND WREKIN LOCAL CONTEXT

Telford and Wrekin is a successful and growing Borough with a diverse housing market and population and continuing housing needs.

A unitary Local Authority, located in the West Midlands, the Borough is a distinctive blend of urban and rural areas, with **green open spaces alongside contemporary housing developments and traditional market towns**. The Borough includes the central urban Telford area, the market town of Newport and large surrounding rural area that accounts for more than two thirds of the Borough's area. Along the banks of the River Severn in the south of the Borough is **Ironbridge, the birthplace of the industrial revolution** and now a **World Heritage site**.

Part of the Borough was designated as **Telford New Town** in 1968, growing rapidly in the 1960s to the 1970s, mainly through social rented housing provided by the Telford Development Corporation. Following the closure of the Development Corporation in the 1980s, growth has continued through new housing development by private developers and registered providers.

With a population of around 192,000¹, between 2013 and 2023 the Borough had the **greatest growth rate in population of all upper tier local authorities in the West Midlands**, increasing by 13.5% (22,900 people). This was twice the rate of growth in neighbouring Shropshire (6.8%). As the population grows it is also ageing, between 2013 and 2023 the Borough's population aged 65 and above grew by 28.5% compared to 10.6% for those aged between 16 and 64 and 11.3% for those aged 15 and under.

Internal migration from elsewhere in the UK now accounts for the greatest proportion of population increase in the Borough. Between 2022 and 2023 net internal migration to Telford and Wrekin was 1,650 people, with the majority arriving from the Black

**c192,000 population
in the Borough**

**The proportion of
the Borough's
population
aged 65 or above
grew by
28.5%**

**17%
of the Borough's
population were
from a
minority ethnic
background
compared with 10.5%
in 2011**

**24.5%
of residents
live in areas
ranked in the
20% most
deprived
nationally**

**In the 2021 Census
36,500
people
reported that
they had a
long-term
health problem
or disability**

¹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationestimatesforenglandandwales/mid2023>

Country and Birmingham. By contrast, natural change (births minus deaths) accounted for a population increase of 100 people.

The population of Telford and Wrekin is also becoming more ethnically diverse. In 2021, 17.0% of the Borough's population were from a minority ethnic background compared with 10.5% in 2011. The Borough also has a sizeable armed forces veteran community with 5.4% of the population aged 16 and above having previously served in the armed forces compared with 3.5% regionally and 3.8% nationally.

While some parts of Telford and Wrekin appear prosperous, there are clear differences across the Borough. 10.5% of the Borough's population live in areas ranked in the **20% least deprived in England**, however **4.5% of residents live in areas ranked in the 20% most deprived nationally**. With 14.6% (11,320 households) living in fuel poverty, this is compared to an average of 16.7% across the West Midlands and 11.4% in England. The majority of these neighbourhoods are

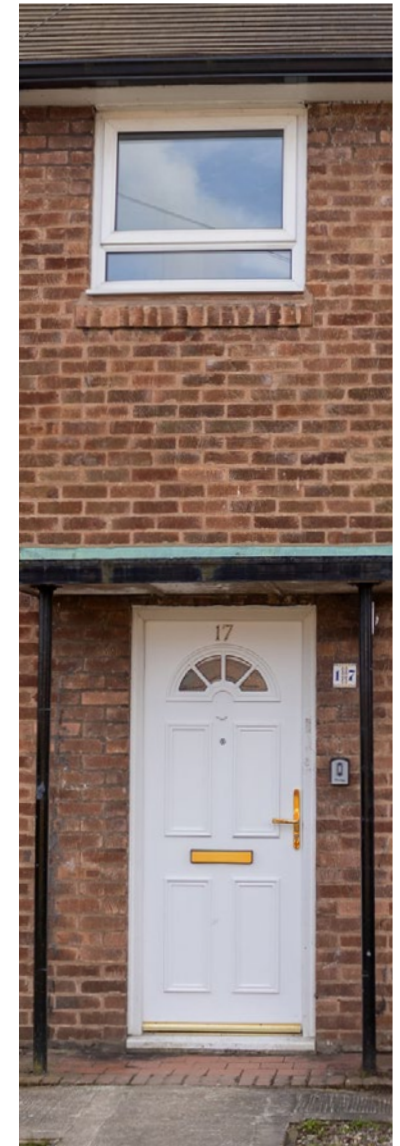
areas with new town estates built by the Development Corporation in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Borough's population faces some **significant health challenges**. Overall life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at birth is currently worse than that for England. In the 2021 Census 36,500 people reported that they had a long-term health problem or disability².

The Borough is home to **around 7,000 businesses**³ with key sectors including advanced manufacturing and agri-tech, defence, engineering, plastics, IT outsourcing and data centres, construction, retail, food and drink and tourism. Unemployment rates in the Borough are consistently **below the regional and national averages** and GVA per head in Telford and Wrekin is the third highest in the West Midlands region behind Solihull and Warwickshire.

More information and sources of our population data can be found at www.telford.gov.uk/insight

The Borough has a key role as an urban powerhouse within the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership and as a competitive inward investment destination



Mafeking Road, Hadley

²<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census>

³<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157172/report.aspx?town=telford>

Our housing market

The number of new homes being built in the Borough has been **growing at a faster rate than the regional and national average** growing by 19% between 2013 and 2023 compared to 8% for the West Midlands region and 9% for England⁴. Over the last three years the net number of additional dwellings in the Borough has grown by an average of 1,400 dwellings per year⁵.

Around 60% of homes in the Borough are owner occupied and remain **more affordable to buy than West Midlands and national average**⁶. House prices are consistently lower with a median house price of £217,000 compared to £240,000 for the West Midlands and £290,000 for England (September 2024)⁷. The ratio of house prices to earnings in Telford and Wrekin is 6.1, compared to 6.9 for the West Midlands region and 7.7 for England⁸.

The rental sector – both private and social – makes up around **40% of housing stock** in Telford and Wrekin. In the 2021 Census, the proportion of rented homes in the Borough (39.2%) was greater than both England (37.6%) and the West Midlands region (36.2%).



Nuplace residents, the Maher family

⁴<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants>

⁵<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/housing-supply-net-additional-dwellings-england-2023-to-2024>

⁶<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census>

⁷<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/medianhousepricesforadministrativegeographies>

⁸<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/ratioofhousepricetoworkplacebasedearningslowerquartileandmedian>

14,000 homes (18%) in the Borough are rented from social housing landlords or registered providers. Housing Plus Group (formerly Wrekin Housing Group) are the largest provider but the market is diverse with a growing number of housing providers active in the Borough.

The **private rented sector accounts for around 1 in 5 homes** within Telford and Wrekin and is a key component of the Borough's housing market. There is considerable variation across the Borough with significant concentrations in the centre and south. These areas include the new town estates built in the 1960s and 1970s where many homes previously in the social rented sector were sold to their tenants. Census 2021 data showed that Woodside had the greatest proportion with 40% of homes privately rented. The lowest proportions were in Muxton and Lilleshall and Lawley, Horsehay and Lightmoor where 12% of households were privately rented. The sector is diverse catering for different housing needs including single property owners through to portfolio landlords. **The Council is now the Borough's single largest private rent landlord** providing rented homes for c.2,000 residents through its wholly owned company **Nuplace**.

The average monthly rent in Telford and Wrekin is **consistently lower than the regional and national averages**. In March 2025 the average monthly rent in the Borough was £785 compared to £920 for the West Midlands region and £1,386 for England⁹.

Private rented homes in the Borough are **more affordable than in other parts of the West Midlands and England**. In the year March 2023, private renters in Telford and Wrekin could expect to spend 21.9% of their income on an average-priced rented home compared to 25.4% for the West Midlands and 34.2% for England. For this period, Telford and Wrekin was the **fifth most affordable of thirty local authorities in the West Midlands** region¹⁰.

Affordable Homes

Despite the relative affordability of buying or renting a home in Telford & Wrekin compared to other parts of the country, many people still cannot afford to. There is an ongoing need for affordable housing to meet local demands. Recent data indicates the necessity for around **700 new affordable homes annually** with the majority (75%) required for affordable or social rent.

Between 2020 and 2024 over **1,250 new affordable homes have been built** but homes – particularly social housing – continue to be lost to the sector through sales and redevelopment.

While it is difficult to quantify the extent of shared accommodation in the Borough, we have seen an increase in licensed houses in multiple occupation (HMO). We now have **280 licensed HMOs** in the



New College, Wellington

⁹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/privaterentandhousepricesuk/april2025>

¹⁰<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/privaterentalaffordabilityengland/latest>

Borough. This is a 16% increase since the adoption of our last strategy. HMOs provide a vital housing solution for those seeking to establish their first home, starting employment or study and for those who only qualify for the shared room rate housing benefit.

Homelessness

Since the last Housing strategy, we have seen a **significant increase in people presenting as homeless**. In 2024/25 over 3151 households sought our advice of which 1248 we owed a duty too under the Homelessness Reduction Act. However, since the last strategy we have also seen an **increase in the number of people we have been able to relieve from homelessness** with 958 pa where we've prevented/relieved homelessness. As a result, over the past 12 months on average only 70 family each month people have had to be placed into emergency accommodation (B&B) per month. We have **increased the units of temporary accommodation** stock we own, which has reduced the numbers and amount of time people must spend in bed and breakfast. This includes a **dedicated eight unit women's refuge** to support those fleeing domestic abuse.



The main reasons given for the loss of previous accommodation include loss of private rented tenancy, breakdown of relationships, and domestic abuse

Our housing conditions

Telford and Wrekin’s housing stock presents **a range of challenges**. A significant part of the Borough was developed as a new town but around long-established communities. 17% of the Borough’s housing stock was constructed in the mid-1960s to mid-1970s but 1 in 3 of our homes have been built since 1990 – 15% since 2012.

Alongside this are older homes, 6% pre-dating 1900, including across the rural area and Newport.

Latest estimates put the proportion of non-decent homes in the Borough to be around 10% which is **significantly lower than the regional and all England average** of 15%¹¹. The challenges are greatest in the private rented sector with the lowest rates related to the local social housing sector. The **condition and quality of Telford’s new town estates is a significant concern**; there has been investment into some areas to improve public infrastructure including rebuilt schools and local centres and a limited amount of new/replacement housing. There is a **pressing need to secure significant and sustained investment in the estates** to fully address the poor housing conditions.

Percentage of non-decent homes

Area	Owner Occupied	Private Rented	Social
Telford and Wrekin	10.5	12.0	9.5
West Midlands	15.1	17.5	14.2
England	13.8	22.9	11.2

There is a correlation between energy efficiency and housing quality as well as health indicators. With a high proportion of newer homes, the energy efficiency of properties in the Borough is better than regionally and nationally¹². The social rented sector has the highest proportion of homes with an EPC rating of C or above with almost 3 in 4 homes meeting this standard.

Currently 1.5% of dwellings have the lowest energy efficiency rating with many located in the rural area.

Percentage of dwellings with EPC Band ‘C’ or above

Area	All Dwellings	Owner Occupied	Private Rented	Social
Telford and Wrekin	60.7	43.5	54.4	72.7
West Midlands	46.1	33.6	39.4	58.2
England	49.8	36.6	43.5	62.7

¹¹<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-housing-survey-local-authority-housing-stock-condition-modelling-2020>

¹²<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/articles/energyefficiencyofhousinginenglandandwales/2024>

OUR HOUSING ACHIEVEMENTS

In our previous Strategy we set out three objectives:

Objective one 2020-2025

To create sustainable, accessible, affordable and integrated communities

Objective two 2020-2025

To make the BEST use of our existing homes

Objective three 2020-2025

To provide homes to support and empower our most vulnerable people

Working proactively with partners and communities we have made significant progress in implementing these objectives while recognising that there is more still to be done



Jenny Athersmith Gardens,
Dawley

OBJECTIVE ONE

2020-2025:

To create sustainable, accessible, affordable and integrated communities

PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION

Since 2020 we have been undertaking a range of actions to support this objective linked to policy, delivery and partnership working:

Policy and regulatory

-  Securing 25%+ of affordable homes on all major development sites and supporting 100% affordable schemes.
-  Delivery of a new **Local plan** (submission draft) following two rounds of consultation, with a target of **over 20,200 new homes by 2040** (over 50% of the homes new homes are on sites that already have planning permission or are under construction) introducing new policies to shape the delivery of **new affordable and specialist homes**, whilst ensuring the right infrastructure is developed alongside new homes to create communities.
-  Implementing **Developer climate change supplementary planning Document** (SPD) - this has seen the Council lead the way with its focus on **sustainable developments** including Nuplace developments such as Donnington Wood Way which features on plot renewable energy generation and electric vehicle charging.
-  Implementing our **Specialist and supported supplementary planning document** requiring the delivery of **more adapted and accessible accommodation**.
-  Using our housing and planning powers to raise standards in our existing housing stock and that new housing developments meet need and **contribute positively towards our carbon reduction commitments** and ensure homes cost less to run for residents.

- 🏠 Ensuring that there are **suitable homes for all**, especially for our most vulnerable residents including those fleeing domestic abuse, young people and those who have served in our armed forces.

Delivery

- 🏠 Enabled the **delivery of 1,200+ new homes every year** (the third best nationally), partly by the use of Council land and assets.
- 🏠 Accelerated the delivery of over 750 new homes, through our unique **Land Deal** with Homes England.
- 🏠 Direct delivery by March 2025 of **608 new rented** homes through the Council's wholly owned company, Nuplace, **with a further 222 in delivery**.
- 🏠 Providing **high quality rented accommodation** for over 1,500 residents, leading the private rental market with a consistently high satisfaction rate of 95%.



Nuplace and Telford & Wrekin Homes lead the private rental market with consistently high satisfaction rates

🏠 Delivering **multi-generational, mixed use, sustainable development** including energy efficient and affordable homes – 329 at Wildwalk, Donnington, in partnership with Lovell and Wrekin Housing Group.

🏠 **Regenerating 48 acres of brownfield land** and bringing back into use, 4,656sqm of redundant floorspace.

Partnership Working:

🏠 **Working in partnership** with Homes England, registered providers, private sector landlords, letting agents, developers, and voluntary and community groups to achieve successful communities.

🏠 Delivering a comprehensive, forward-thinking planning service dedicated to the **creation of sustainable communities** — powered by strategic tools like Planning Performance Agreements to streamline and elevate the planning process.

🏠 Working as **master developer on major regeneration schemes** such as Station Quarter, leveraging in public and private sector investment to support the creation of a new **city living** housing market.

🏠 **Securing £5.633m** from WMCA to support the delivery of 263 new homes within the Borough on brownfield sites.

🏠 Increased the number of new affordable homes for rent and shared ownership provided every year from 100 to 300, through **joint working with local housing associations and Homes England grant**.

🏠 Attracted **annual housing investment of over £5m** from Homes England.



CASE STUDY

WILD WALK, DONNINGTON

This mixed tenure development of 329 homes, off Donnington Wood Way, has seen the regeneration of a constrained 14.85ha brownfield site, peppered with 23 mineshafts.

The scheme was brought forward by a partnership including the Council, Nuplace Ltd, Lovell Partnerships Ltd and Wrekin Housing Group, supported by funding from the Local Enterprise Partnership and Homes England.

The housing mix and masterplan was developed by the Council to serve the needs of the local community. In line with the Council's Housing Strategy, the scheme focused on bridging gaps in housing provision, striving to create an intergenerational scheme that provides housing choice as needs change over time.

The site comprises of 186 affordable homes including Extra care, dementia care and supported living dwellings, 66 private rent homes alongside 77 for open market sale, providing housing choice for people of all ages and stages.

The supported living accommodation is located at the heart of the scheme and accommodates a **Community Hub** providing café and bistro facilities, space to work with free Wi-Fi as well as learning suites which can be used by local schools and community groups, alongside a fabulous new play facility to



Majestic Way, Aqueduct

foster inter-generational relationships that benefit all age groups.

The scheme also sets a benchmark in terms of its sustainable credentials, with all homes featuring **low carbon design, PV panels and EV charging points**. Nuplace also piloted the delivery of their first 18 **Future Homes properties***, reducing energy bills and running costs for residents.



***Future Homes:** The Future Homes Standard, is an amendment to Part L of the Building Regulations which has yet to come into force but which mandates that new homes be 'zero carbon-ready' and significantly more energy-efficient than those built under previous regulations. This means a focus on low-carbon heating, high-performance insulation, and potentially rooftop solar to reduce carbon emissions and energy bills.



Blossom Walk, Hadley

OBJECTIVE TWO

2020-2025:









To make the **BEST** use of our existing homes

PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION

Taking a multi-agency approach we have together made great strides in improving the quality of the existing housing stock in the Borough.

Better Homes for All Programme

Under our programme we have:

-  Through our **'Engage, Educate, Enforce' approach** supported 1,933 residents in private rented properties, by engaging with landlords to improve their housing conditions, by eliminating 1,219 hazards, such as excess cold, damp and mould and electrical hazards.
-  Ensured all properties we inspect have the correct **minimum energy performance rating**.
-  Introduced the **Landlord, Tenant Co-Ordinator role** to support landlords and tenants to sustain tenancies.
-  Licensed 280 **houses in multiple occupation** (HMO) with regular targeted area-based campaigns.
-  Using a multi-agency data led approach undertaking targeted action to address the activities of our poorer performing landlords leading to **more than 30 prosecutions and penalty offences**.
-  Implemented **monthly multi agency exercises** with partners such as police and fire service, targeting known offenders associated with illegal practises.
-  Introduced a **Hoarding Panel** working across services to identify support and actions to address those whose lives are at risk due to hoarding.
-  Implemented a **Supported Accommodation Panel**, which reviews all providers seeking to establish or grow their supported accommodation ensuring conditions and support are compliant protecting the lives of our most vulnerable.

- 🏠 **Continually updating information on our website** with housing advice and support for landlords, tenants and homeowners.
- 🏠 In collaboration with our local credit union providing low-cost **Better homes for all loans** to support homeowners and landlords to carry out essential repairs to their properties.

Safer Stronger Communities

- 🏠 **Invested £2.5m into a Safer and Stronger Communities Programme** working with partners and residents to support the continued regeneration of our existing estates, reducing levels of crime by 10%, Police recorded ASB by 3%, fly tipping by 3% and noise complaints by 25% in 2024/25 compared with 2023/24.
- 🏠 **Proactively inspected 766 private rented properties**, improving housing standards and through work with communities reaching vulnerable tenants who may not have come to us.

Long Term Empty Properties



We understand that now more than ever, every empty property is a wasted resource whilst attracting anti-social behaviour and blight to neighbourhoods. Since our last housing strategy we adopted a **Long-term empty property strategy**, giving us a challenging target to bring 375 long term and problematic empty properties back into use by 2026. Since the adoption of the strategy, we have:

- 🏠 Brought **321 long term empty properties back into use** targeting those empty longest and most problematic and providing new homes for families



Queen Street, Wellington

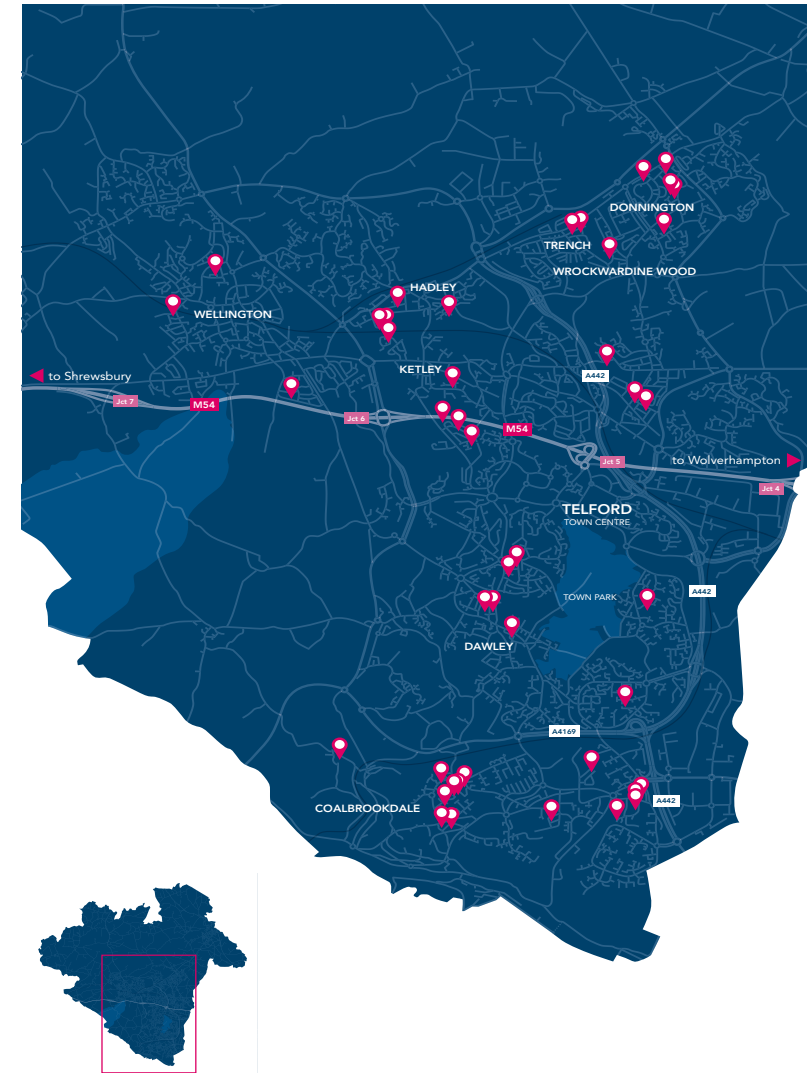
and people at risk of homelessness.

-  Acquired **a number of former social rented properties** to meet the specific needs of our residents.
-  Extended our **Better homes for all loan** for people wanting to bring empty properties back into use.

Telford & Wrekin Homes

Established in 2021 as a sub brand of **Nuplace**, it has **acquired and brought back into use 56 properties across the Borough**. We are:

-  **Investing in and protecting existing housing stock** through high quality renovations, which help to address issues of poor housing in communities.
-  **Raising standards in the private rented sector** including in some of our most deprived neighbourhoods, demonstrating high quality property and tenancy management on a broader geographic scale.
-  Providing a **home for life** for tenants with a focus on providing housing options for a range of priority client groups, including those leaving temporary accommodation, and to support those providing foster placements.



Making the BEST use of our existing homes:

Properties acquired to end March 2025 as part of Nuplace's Telford & Wrekin Homes programme

CASE STUDY

NUPLACE PROPERTY

Making the BEST use of our existing homes:
Internal and external transformation of an empty home acquired as part of Nuplace's Telford & Wrekin Homes programme. Now being resided in by a local family.











Regent Street, Madeley



Nuplace competition winner, Leo

Affordable warmth and climate change

In 2021 we adopted our **Affordable warmth strategy**. The subsequent energy price rises, and ongoing cost of living challenges have impacted across communities but disproportionately lower-income households. We have provided support by:

-  Funding a dedicated **Telford energy advice phone line** provided by a local energy charity (Marches Energy Agency) which has supported over 7000 fuel poor households, including advice, home visits, provision of energy saving devices and referrals to other agencies including Telford Crisis Support.
-  Directly **providing thousands of energy saving light bulbs**.
-  **Channelled external grant** to support 367 households to improve energy efficiency of their homes by retrofitting measures such as insulation, double glazing, solar panels, air source heat pumps etc, with an estimated CO2 savings 596 tonnes.
-  Ensuring all properties receiving measures have the **correct ventilation measures** to eliminate damp and mould and excess heat in line with our climate change action plan.
-  **Retrofitted many of our temporary accommodation properties** bringing them to up to an EPC rating of C.
-  The Council has **invested £470,000 into the Warm and Well Telford scheme**, directly supporting 'in the gap' fuel poor households, who do not qualify for central government funding but are still classed as being in fuel poverty. We have retrofitted a number of properties with windows, doors and smart radiator controls.
-  Using our **emergency welfare assistance to distribute gas and electric vouchers** to over 437 people on low incomes in an emergency situation.
-  Through our **Financial Welfare Partnership Group**, working with partners to ensure residents are receiving consistent, up to date advice and making referrals to maximise income and benefits including hardship funds.



Octavia Court, Dawley






OBJECTIVE THREE

2020-2025:

To provide homes to support and empower our most vulnerable people

PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION

Homeless prevention and relief

-  Preventing or relieving the homelessness of **over 4,000 people and families** including 239 who were rough sleeping.
-  Directly investing to acquire **over 80 units of accommodation to prevent homelessness**, including Housing First (housing with support aimed at housing complex cases) and temporary accommodation minimising the use of B&B emergency accommodation and length of stay.
-  Through the **Rough Sleeper Task** working collaboratively to provide wrap around, bespoke support and accommodation offer.
-  Providing **flexible solutions to prevent or relieve homelessness** through incentives such as rent guarantee schemes, rent deposit payments and supporting clients with rent in advance.
-  Providing **Tenancy sustainment team** to work with the most vulnerable tenants to ensure they develop skills to help them manage and maintain their tenancies going forward, preventing further homelessness.

Support for key groups

-  Providing **safe accommodation and specialist support** to victims fleeing domestic violence with specialist domestic abuse support to help clients to feel safe and supported to find their future suitable accommodation.
-  Through new nomination agreements delivering **300%+ increase in successful nominations to social housing** prioritising for those most in need.
-  Used our allocations policy to give **priority to those fleeing domestic abuse, care leavers, and armed forces veterans**.

Specialist and supported accommodation provision

- 🏠 Implementing a **Specialist and supported accommodation strategy** to effectively stimulate and guide the supply of accommodation to meet the needs of our vulnerable residents.
- 🏠 Supporting the delivery of **over 600 homes for older people** including housing for sale, shared ownership, affordable and social rents and c.300 units of social and affordable **Extra care housing**.
- 🏠 Delivery of **80 units of supported accommodation to meet the needs of those with mental health needs or learning disabilities**.
- 🏠 Delivery of **supported accommodation for children in, and leaving, care**.
- 🏠 **Developed bespoke solutions** across key partners to address accommodation barriers for foster carers, children and young people and families with disabilities and large families.

Our Independent living offer


- 🏠 Under our Independent Living offer provided **2,313 grants to adapt people's home** to help residents live as independently as possible.
- 🏠 Continued the work of our Independent living centre providing advice and support on how residents can use **equipment and technology** to make their home safe and accessible.
- 🏠 ASC strive to **encourage individuals to remain living in their own homes** safely, reducing and minimising risks for as long as possible. For those who require additional support options such as extra care living are explored as part of aspirational outcomes for those we support
- 🏠 Continued to commit ongoing local authority funding for non-statutory, preventative housing related support to **help the most vulnerable to live independently**.



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough


Housing solutions for foster carers





Helping to create more homes for the
vulnerable children and young people of
Telford and Wrekin.





Who can apply?

Anyone can apply, regardless of your occupier status. You can apply if you are:

- a homeowner
- with a registered social landlord
- with a private landlord
- in a Wrekin Housing Group property.

How we can meet your needs and increase our capacity to care.

- with adaptations to your home
- supporting you with a house move
- supporting you in conversations with your landlord.

CASE STUDY

ENABLING A PERSON TO BUILD THEIR LIFE

In 2019 Mr A was a successful businessman with his own company, living with his family in a 3-bedroom home.

At the end of 2019 Mr A started to go through some challenges with his business losing a major client and falling into debt. At the start of 2020 Mr A went through a series of stressful events that led to an emotional breakdown. He lost his business, house, and family leaving just with his dog and no belongings.

He felt very isolated and alone resulting in him living rough and addicted to alcohol and drugs. Rock bottom came in Aug 2022 when he was found on the wrong side of a bridge wanting to end his life his life. After receiving support to withdraw from addiction and rebuilding his relationship with his Mum he was offered a property specifically for rough sleepers under the RSAP Programme (known as **Telford Housing First**) - a two year project to support people to become tenant ready. Mr A moved into a one bed flat with his dog.

Through personalised support from a Council Tenancy sustainment officer, he is rebuilding his life and having been previously in the armed forces, also now supported by the charity **Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association**.

Mr A is ready to move on at the end of the project and will be fully supported into his permanent home.



Giving people who have experienced homelessness, chronic health and social care needs a stable home to rebuild their lives.

THE NATIONAL PICTURE

The national policy context for housing is complex and changing with key themes summarised below:

- 🏠 There remains a significant focus on the development of new housing nationwide, with central government setting an ambitious target of 1.5 million homes to be built nationwide in the next five years, with a particular focus on social and affordable housing options with a new **Affordable Homes Programme**.
- 🏠 Through planning and housing policy targeting all providers to **increase and expedite new housing delivery**.
- 🏠 New policies, such as the future homes standard, to shape housing design, quality, physical accessibility, environmental performance, and safety.
- 🏠 Welfare reform changes are continuing, however planned changes to the funding of specialist housing have **not** been introduced.
- 🏠 New National Planning Policy Framework focussed on increasing the quality and quantity of supported, specialist and affordable housing provision through up-to-date **Local Development Plans**.
- 🏠 Through the introduction of the **Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023**, implementing a new framework for regulating supported exempt

accommodation in England and Wales.

- 🏠 Additional regulation of the rented sector is proposed through the **Renters' Rights Bill**, with the **abolition of Section 21 'no fault' evictions** and tenancies moving from fixed term to periodic.
- 🏠 Central government are also consulting on making all private rented properties a **minimum EPC rating of C**.
- 🏠 The government also plans to introduce new rules for housing conditions and disrepair by extending the **Decent Homes Standard** and **Awaab's law** to the private rented sector.
- 🏠 There continues to be limited national funding for housing renewal and improvement, with the exception of **Disabled Facilities Grants** and related measures.

Cost of Living

It is estimated that the **cost of living nationally will continue to rise** over the next few years driven by energy prices and influenced by international political instability, increasing demand and rising production costs.



Freestone Avenue, St Georges

Affordability

As the population continues to increase and people live longer, **house prices are expected to continue increasing**, while financial uncertainty will continue to make borrowing difficult. This means home ownership will continue to be **unattainable** for many.

Social housing providers also report financial challenges with increasing and maintaining their housing supply.



Housing being built as part of
our Telford Land Deal

HOUSING STRATEGY 2025 - 2030

A huge amount has been achieved since we adopted our first strategy, and we have built a strong foundation of partnership working and co-production and from this a deep knowledge base of the housing picture and challenges in our Borough.

In developing this draft strategy, we have talked to a range of partners and those with lived experience to understand their priorities and concerns at this point. Some of the challenges we have heard relate to the increasing complexity of lives and how this is impacting housing choices, the need for homes that can adapt through life and that will support people live independently longer whether in old age or with health concerns, in their communities, and the impact on some of our most vulnerable including children and young people and armed forces veterans. Affordability, housing quality particularly in key areas of the Borough and also how we minimise and adapt to climate change, continue to be key themes.

Following review and the ongoing commitment of partners we are proposing to retain the existing objectives but with some updates to further emphasise health, safety, community and how we work to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

The following sections outline how we propose to address these objectives over the next five years.





OBJECTIVE ONE:

To make the **BEST** use of our existing homes



To maintain progress towards this objective, we will continue to improve property conditions by:

Improving standards – Better homes for all

- 🏠 **Educate and engage** with landlords and tenants to provide the best outcomes and sustain tenancies.
- 🏠 **Working closely with partners** in Homeless Services, Citizens Advice Bureau, Marches Energy Agency to help private tenants struggling with the cost of living crisis, putting them at risk of homelessness.
- 🏠 Ensuring all properties we inspect are **safe and free from hazards**, with a particular emphasis on damp and mould, excess cold and overcrowding.
- 🏠 Ensure all properties are **compliant with gas, electrical, smoke, carbon monoxide** and **minimum energy efficiency standards**.
- 🏠 Programme of **surveying all blocks of flats** in the Borough to ensure fire safety.
- 🏠 Respond to the changing regulatory landscape by implementing the **Renters' Rights Bill, Decent homes standard** and **Awaab's Law**.
- 🏠 Work with our social landlords to ensure they are **compliant with the social housing regulator**.
- 🏠 Continue to work with partners to **support owners of hoarded properties**.
- 🏠 Under the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 **improve the quality and standards of supported housing** by implementing licensing schemes, national standards, and continue to focus the work of our expert advisory panel.
- 🏠 **Continue to communicate our services** through public events, social media channels and our website.

- 🏠 Work with partners to **reach people who may not have access to our services** due to issues such as digital exclusion and language barriers.

Building safer, stronger communities

- 🏠 Working with partners in our **'safer stronger' areas** with high levels of private renting to ensure safety in properties and support community cohesion.
- 🏠 Building a programme of **education and support** for residents where English is not their first language.

Houses in multiple occupation (HMO)

- 🏠 Continue **mandatory HMO licensing** in the Borough and ensure compliance with licence conditions.
- 🏠 To continue to **monitor and manage the number of HMOs** in the Borough building on an evidence base for the introduction for further licensing schemes and article 4 directions.
- 🏠 Work with partners, through our safer stronger programme on programmes of education in key estates, to **limit any negative impacts of HMOs**, such as overcrowding and anti-social behaviour.
- 🏠 Focusing **Multi Agency Operations on HMOs**

associated with overcrowding and anti-social behaviour.

New town legacy

- 🏠 Continuing programme of work to promote completed action plan for Sutton Hill with partner agencies and bodies, including Homes England, West Midlands Combined Authority and RP partners to **lobby government for investment**.
- 🏠 Concentrating proactive programme of **tenant and landlord education** to ensure safety in private rented properties, using enforcement as a last resort, where compliance is not forthcoming.
- 🏠 Focussing energy efficiency government grants in new town estates to **improve energy efficiency of properties**.

Financial support

- 🏠 Continue to offer our **Better homes for all loan for households** struggling to carry out essential repairs to their property.
- 🏠 Continue to provide financial support through our **financial welfare support group** for struggling homeowners and tenants.



Hills Lane Drive, Madeley

Enforcement

- 🏠 Ensuring we take **robust enforcement action** against landlords where compliance is not forthcoming.
- 🏠 Through partnership multi agency work, we will continue with our **proactive, intelligence based, targeted enforcement**.

Partnership working

- 🏠 Build on our partnership working with private sector landlords to provide **advice and support** for our most vulnerable tenants.
- 🏠 We will work with partners to **identify and protect vulnerable tenants** such as older renters, victims of human trafficking, modern day slavery and individuals working through international recruitment agencies who are at greater risk of exploitation by criminal landlords.

Affordable warmth strategy

- 🏠 **Support the Telford Energy Advice line** for our residents who are in fuel poverty or at risk of becoming fuel poor.
- 🏠 Direct **delivery of retrofit measures through targeting investment** from the government's Warm Homes programme to eligible properties.
- 🏠 Delivery of measures to **support fuel poor households** through the Council funded **Warm and well Telford** scheme.

- 🏠 Expand the Council's **emergency boiler programme** for vulnerable residents with no heating provision.
- 🏠 Maximise grants through the **Energy company obligation grants**
- 🏠 In collaboration with Marches Energy Agency, **help the 'able to pay' market navigate the complex market of retrofit**, through surveys, advice and the provision of the 'retrofit home' operating as a show home for people to go and experience different measures.
- 🏠 Promoting **green measures to landlords** in the private rented sector.

Long term empty property strategy

- 🏠 Meet our target of **bringing 375 long term empty properties back into use** by June 2026.
- 🏠 Publishing a new **Empty property strategy in 2026** setting ourselves another ambitious target focusing on the properties which have been empty the longest.
- 🏠 To continue working with national bodies to **lobby government** to make bringing empty properties back into use and raise awareness of the importance of this work, by **making it a statutory requirement**.

Better homes for later life

Working in partnership with Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin implement a scheme for our older residents providing:

- 🏠 **trusted support and advice** for those who may find themselves inappropriately housed.
- 🏠 support to navigate the complex market of repairs, working with our **procured contractors**.
- 🏠 Through Telford & Wrekin Homes exploring options to **support people downsize through acquisition or lease** and to find more suitable accommodation releasing larger properties to meet family's needs.

Direct delivery

- 🏠 Continuing to **grow our Telford & Wrekin Homes portfolio of refurbished properties** working with local Registered Providers to acquire and seek to retain affordable housing stock particularly in key parts of the Borough. Delivering a minimum of 100 acquisitions by 2027/28.
- 🏠 Exploring the implementation of a **retrofit programme on Nuplace's existing estates**, including the installation of PVs and batteries to reduce their carbon footprint and reduce energy bills for tenants.



Southwater Way, Telford

Case Study

Warm & Well Telford

Warm & Well Telford is an energy efficiency scheme for Telford and Wrekin households funded by Telford & Wrekin Council.

Householder A applied for the Warm & Well scheme as their front door was wooden and rotting away letting in draughts, in addition to old and ineffective TRVs.

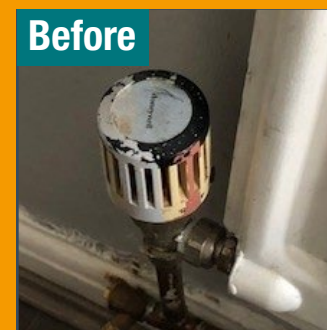
Through the scheme both the front door and TVRs were replaced, with householder A commenting, "Excellent service, work was carried out very neat and very happy with the service".

Householder B, an elderly person living with a terminal health condition, applied to the scheme as their bay window was very old and the living room always felt cold.

Their window was replaced through the scheme with

householder b commenting, "Brilliant job, So pleased, thanks very much. Fitters came on time and have done a lovely job, left site very clean and tidy. Thanks so much".

The scheme is seen by many as excellent and a help to those who are struggling financially.





OBJECTIVE TWO:

**To support safe,
clean, green, healthy,
connected communities**



We are committed to ensuring that in all roles the Council plays in relation to housing deliver, that we focus on the creation of safe, vibrant, interconnected places where people feel a sense of belonging and support.

Our approach goes beyond simply constructing buildings and focuses on fostering social connections, local amenities, and shared spaces that promote community engagement and preserve and enhance the environment. In order to continue to secure delivery against this objective we will:

Local plan

The Council are finalising the review of the **Telford and Wrekin local plan** which is anticipated to reach formal Examination in Public in 2026. The plan sets out the Council's **overall vision and growth strategy for the Borough up to 2040**. It proposes sites for future housing and employment, policies to shape the tenure, type and standard of housing to be delivered and maintains a focus on developing It is anticipated that 20,200 net new homes (including affordable homes) will be delivered by 2040 with over 50% of these already under construction or with planning permission.

Through the policies in the local plan, we will:



Take a **data led approach** to assessing and quantifying the local evidence base around the housing needs of our community including young, elderly and of limited physically ability, including the Economic and Housing Development Needs Assessment (EHDNA) and the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).

- 🏠 Use this evidence base to support the development and adoption of new and updated policies that secure the delivery of a range of housing types and sizes to nationally space standards that **meet the diverse housing needs of residents including elderly, less mobile and care leavers**.
- 🏠 Maintain delivery of **affordable homes for social and affordable rent and share ownership**, whilst maximising other routes to delivery such as through Homes England grant via Registered Provider partners.
- 🏠 Implement new policy to **use Section 106 funding to help fund affordable homes to meet unmet need**, including housing for people with dementia, care leavers and larger families.
- 🏠 Implement new policy to support the delivery of proposals for **new town estate regeneration schemes** to provide a strong policy framework which will help support the principle of regeneration and future funding bids.
- 🏠 Develop and adopt new policies that will address stalled development sites that blight local communities to regenerate brownfield land and provide new homes in accessible locations. This will strengthen the Councils approach in the use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers where necessary to **bring 'problem' buildings and sites back into productive use**.
- 🏠 Work to increase the supply of housing that provides **flexibility in the long term** by being delivered, wherever possible, to:
 - 🏠 The Nationally Described Space Standard (NDSS).
 - 🏠 Part M (4) Category 2 of the Building Regulations (roughly equivalent to the 'Lifetime Homes Standard').
 - 🏠 Part M (4) Category 3 (wheelchair standard).
- 🏠 Secure more sustainable development through the implementation of the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document, linked to the Borough's **Climate change action plan**, including a focus on building fabric and



Principal Point, Wellington

design, including clean energy generation building on our track record of solar PV on Nuplace properties, as well as improved footpaths, cycleways, public transport links and biodiverse spaces to support the creation of green, well-connected communities.

-  Examine opportunities to **increase housing supply through new approaches**, for example, community-based housing.
-  Continue to implement the adopted Homes for All Supplementary Planning Document to secure delivery of **adapted accessible accommodation and all age friendly estate design**.
-  Engage constructively with other adjacent regional local authorities and other stakeholder agencies to **maximise learning and partnering opportunities in the field of housing delivery**.
-  Work with the construction industry (including SME companies) and training providers to **address skills gaps in the Borough's workforce**, including housing design, construction and new building technologies, such as modular construction.
-  Work with house builders to embed **modern methods of construction** into their development plans where this can speed up delivery, address viability and affordability issues and **contribute towards the Council's carbon reduction commitments**.

Delivery

-  **Maintaining housing supply at c1,000/pa** - aligning with Governments planning reforms and ensuring this meets local

housing need. Continuing to deliver high quality and sustainable private and affordable rent homes through Nuplace, bringing the portfolio to over 1,000, including delivering properties to higher accessibility standards setting a market standard.

-  Creating a new model of town centre living delivering new affordable and rented homes at **Station Quarter** in the Telford town centre and reviewing opportunities to deliver further homes in the town centre directly and in partnership.
-  Supporting the **regeneration of our Borough towns** creating new opportunities for housing to create vibrant mixed-use centres with a focus on Oakengates Theatre Quarter and Wellington creating vibrant mixed-use centres bringing new housing and vitality into our key centres.
-  Enabling the delivery of **affordable homes in rural areas** through planning exception policies and puts arrangements in place to give priority to existing residents of these areas, or those with a strong local connection.
-  Working with the WMCA to **secure investment to unlock stalled brownfield sites** that blight communities and undermine viability and housing delivery. Working with development partners to ensure new housing site allocations deliver sustainable, connected communities supported by necessary infrastructure.
-  Working with affordable providers through initiatives such as Telford and Wrekin Homes to **retain good quality stock and slow losses**.

Partnership working

- 🏠 Focus on **safe, clean, well-maintained neighbourhoods** continuing to drive safer, stronger communities programme with a key focus on housing standards.
- 🏠 Continue to support skills development in the Construction Sector through the **Built by you initiative**, a partnership between the Council, Lovell Partnership and Telford College providing training and support to help people gain valuable qualifications and skills for careers in the construction industry.
- 🏠 Provide a **supportive and 'business friendly'** development management approach including providing pre-application advice, support and viability assessment.
- 🏠 Assist developers to **deliver schemes that are stalled and/or with unimplemented planning consents** through access to a range of support and funding.
- 🏠 Early engagement with housing associations to support their development programmes and help ensure that their proposals will **most effectively meet local needs**.
- 🏠 **Co-ordinate and secures external investment** from Homes England and the West Midlands Combined Authority.

The Council will continue to use all its powers and to review opportunities to intervene in the housing market including directly delivering new homes where there is a specific housing need or market failure, and it makes service or financial sense. This will include through both Nuplace and under the Council's Registered Provider status. The latter is anticipated to focus on delivery of more specialist accommodation.





OBJECTIVE THREE:

To provide homes to support and empower our most vulnerable people



Everyone should have the opportunity to access good quality and affordable housing to meet their needs, but for some of our most vulnerable residents this is particularly challenging.

This may be due to health or age, their family situation or because of resulting circumstances including addiction, rent arrears and homelessness. The Council will continue to work with local housing associations, developers and other organisations to provide **quality homes for all, including the most vulnerable**, and to work with individuals and families to support them into accommodation.

In addition to supporting the delivery of suitable homes for all, the Council will continue to strive to ensure that our available housing across the Borough is **prioritised for those most in need**.

Our focus will always remain on **working to prevent homelessness** and in cases where prevention isn't possible, or people are not ready to engage our aim will be to work across agencies to **support and move people into independence as swiftly as possible**.

Whilst the delivery of housing to support and empower our most vulnerable people has accelerated, it is acknowledged that there remain several gaps that future housing delivery should look to meet. The Council will be working closely with partners to ensure that ongoing housing delivery is **targeted** to fill these gaps and ensure the Borough has a **variety of accommodation**.

To support this objective the Council will be making data about the need for specialist and supported accommodation **available online**, in the next 12 months, **for developers and registered providers to use to shape supply**. This will also be shared with Planning Officers to consider in negotiating affordable housing contributions

and with Homes England and funding partners to prioritise their investment. We will support this through an annual review of delivery against forecast demand and will also include, where possible, a geographical representation of existing supply and remaining gaps. Regularly updated and easily accessible data will help to ensure it remains as accurate and up to date as possible and can continue to effectively stimulate the required future housing delivery for our vulnerable people.

To meet this objective the Council will:

1. Continue to prevent and relieve homelessness and support the most vulnerable clients to become tenant ready

-  Work closely with clients, landlords and registered providers to **understand any tenancies at risk** and work in partnership to negotiate, mediate and prevent homelessness where possible.
-  Work with those who **have lived experience** to coproduce future services.
-  Continually **reviewing our temporary accommodation usage** and consider purchasing additional units to meet our severe weather emergency protocol requirements to ensure there is sufficient supply to minimise the use of emergency accommodation and B&B.
-  Support clients to **access funds towards housing costs** to prevent and relieve homelessness.
-  Support local homeless charities and third sector organisations by **providing funding to deliver services** for homeless clients and those sleeping rough.
-  Provide a homelessness and housing advice service, with a strong **emphasis on preventing and relieving homelessness**.
-  Continue to **fund and provide housing related support to clients** to enable them to learn life skills to manage a tenancy, understand what it means to be a good tenant and prevent homelessness.
-  Utilise the **local authority funded short term supported accommodation services** to accommodate individuals who are not tenant ready and through the delivery of support progress them to be tenant ready within a maximum of two years.
-  Ensure our Supported Accommodation offers good quality support and accommodation and work with partners to **continually monitor and review effectiveness**.
-  Work closely with supported accommodation providers to support individuals who have progressed to be able to live independently,



Mafeking Road, Hadley

to **access move on accommodation** via our nominations into social housing.

-  Provide **target hardening schemes** to enhance the security of a residence to increase safety, to enable victims of domestic abuse to remain living at home safely.
-  Ensure that **there is a place of safety available** through emergency accommodation for all people experiencing domestic abuse, in accordance with the Council's **Domestic abuse policy** and our status as a **White Ribbon Town**.
-  Work with veterans and care leavers to explore models such as **Housing First, Shared Lives** as additional accommodation options.
-  Continue to operate the multi-agency Rough Sleeper Task Force to support those **most vulnerable** living on the streets to **access accommodation and support**.
-  Provide emergency accommodation and support to those faced with **sleeping rough during severe weather**.

2. Help people identify and secure suitable accommodation

-  Work with our local Registered Social Landlords using the joint nominations agreements to ensure continued **local authority priority to refer into affordable and social rented accommodation** for those most in need.
-  Will proactively work with ex-Service personnel and their families to provide the support to find suitable housing, in accordance with the Council's **Armed Forces Community Covenant**, ensuring access to funded housing related support services and giving additional

priority for Veterans via our nominations into social housing.

-  Continue to develop a wider range of initiatives to support care leavers in finding move-on accommodation with approved Landlords, in accordance with the Council's **Care Leaver's Covenant** ensuring access to funded housing related support services and giving additional priority for Veterans via our nominations into social housing.
-  Provide wrap around support to unsure victims of domestic abuse are **supported to find safe and secure move on accommodation**.
-  Co-ordinate access into our **Specialist and supported accommodation** to ensure access for those most in need.
-  Work closely with Adult and Children's Social Care services to **identify those unsuitable housed** and work in partnership on a case by case to identify accommodation solutions.
-  Provide **support to foster carers to overcome accommodation barriers** that may prevent them from continuing to foster or from accepting additional placements.
-  Work with Children's Services to closely monitor those children who will become care leavers and ensure **identification of suitable accommodation** in a timely manner.
-  Ensure support services **help people to access employment and education, increasing affordability and future housing options**.
-  Ensure information on our website is up to date allowing individuals to **understand the variety of accommodation options available**.

3. Continue to work with key partners to deliver good quality accommodation that meets the needs of older and vulnerable people

- 🏠 Work with partners to **influence the future supply of affordable and social housing that targets areas of unmet need** including increasing one bed and four+ bed.
- 🏠 Work with partners to influence the future supply of adapted affordable and social housing that can **meet the needs of our ageing population and those with physical disabilities** including those adults and children living with families and requiring larger properties.
- 🏠 Focus further delivery to ensure a good geographical spread across the Borough **supporting people to remain in the local communities**.
- 🏠 **Identifying more affordable models of one bed self-contained accommodation** that can be used to support vulnerable groups such as care leavers and veterans to live independently.
- 🏠 Explore delivery of high-quality HMO models of service that can be used **specifically for our care leavers**.
- 🏠 **Expand our Housing First approach** to care leavers and other groups that may find it more difficult to secure a tenancy.
- 🏠 Support Housing providers and developers to continue delivery of **older people specific accommodation** across the Borough with a focus on delivery of retirement and extra care for owner occupiers and bespoke models of extra care that can support those older people with dementia to remain living in their own accommodation, including with loved ones where desired.
- 🏠 **Stimulate the market to continue to deliver a range of accommodation offers for older people** including for sale, shared ownership, market and affordable/social rent models.



-  Continue to promote the delivery of supported accommodation to **meet the identified needs of our vulnerable groups** such as those with mental health needs and learning disability and Autism.
-  Explore the expansion of extra care and sheltered housing models that currently focus on over 55's to an **all-age model to offer a long term supported accommodation model for other vulnerable groups**.
-  Use the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 to manage the local market and increase the oversight of **quality and quantity of supported accommodation provision**.
-  **Review and streamline our supporting independent living offer** including Disabled Facilities Grants and will work to make this as efficient and accessible as possible.
-  Ensure we have **one point of contact for housing information and advice including good quality information on our website and links to our Independent Living Centre**. Supporting people to understand and access available accommodation options and to adapt and make homes more accessible to promote independent living.
-  **Support housing partners to access available funding** for ongoing housing delivery that meets local need.
-  **Provide emergency accommodation** to those faced with rough sleeping, during severe weather conditions and to provide support to access long term accommodation offers.



CASE STUDY

MS C

Ms C moved into Telford & Wrekin Council's women's refuge due to having a baby and being unable to stay with the baby's father due to domestic abuse. There was historical domestic abuse between the baby's father and his ex partners. Social services raised concerns due to the history of the father and the vulnerability of Ms C and her new baby.

Ms C came into refuge after leaving the hospital with baby. She was very nervous about being a first time Mum and having no home. She said her experience was 'very interesting from the other side' as she previously worked at a different refuge on security. She said 'it was very relaxed and it was nice to be in a house where she could ask for help if needed'.

Whilst in the refuge Ms C received support around domestic abuse. She was supported in accessing Claire's law and is still receiving support around the outcome of the findings. She was supported in finding a new home for herself and her new born baby, and received help with tenancy start up. Ms C was supported in applying for and receiving further support from welfare crisis who provided her with essential items for her to be able to start up her new home. Ms C was helped with setting up her bills and informing the local council that she had moved.

Ms C said 'My experience was positive. My family has now settled down and life is easier'. She said she knows how to access support in the future if it is needed.



Queen Street, Wellington

Ensuring fairness

This strategy is about how we can work to deliver housing for all. In setting out our proposals we have paid due regard to the **Public Sector Equality Duty**, ensuring that equality considerations have been embedded throughout the process. We have actively considered how our decisions and actions will affect people with different protected characteristics, and have sought to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations within the communities we serve, particularly in relation to access to safe, affordable, and suitable housing in line with our statutory responsibilities under **s149 Equality Act 2010**.

Consultation

This is a draft strategy developed with the involvement of a range of stakeholders.



We recognise its wide-ranging impact and are keen to gain further views on the proposals and to ensure that the actions we set out reflect the challenges our residents face and collective action.

The **public consultation** will commence on the **21 July 2025 for six weeks**.

We welcome input from everyone in the Borough. In order to provide your feedback please visit our website to complete our survey:

www.telford.gov.uk/housingstrategy

Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership Board Annual Report

April 2024 - March 2025

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Introduction from the Chair

Hello

Over the past twelve months the Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership has continued to deliver strong partnership working to further reduce crime and disorder in the borough.

I am proud of the achievements we have made, including an overall reduction in total recorded crime by 8%, including robbery offences reducing by 39%, residential burglary by 19% and vehicle crime by 19%.

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We still have work to do. We have established a task group to implement the requirements of the serious violence duty, building on the success of our Safer and Stronger communities' programme, including evidence-based initiatives such as outreach work with St Giles trust and the implementation of the Licensing Security and Vulnerability Initiative (LSAVI) with licensed premises.

Serious violence remains a priority for the partnership. We have worked closely with the domestic abuse local partnership (DALP) to create a new pathway to deal with domestic homicide reviews, learning the lessons to prevent future offences. Over 11,000 hotspot patrols have been carried out by police in areas most likely to see serious violence and anti-social behaviour, supplemented by problem solving by a range of partners.

Recognising the concerns of the community in keeping everyone who using the road as safe as possible, we have established a task group to deliver on a new road safety priority of reducing deaths and serious injury on our roads.

We have welcomed the final report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation to Telford (IITCSE) by Tom Crowther KC and work to ensure recommendations and both implemented and sustained by all agencies and partners.

For the year 2025/26, Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership has four core priorities:

- a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);
- a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area;
- a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area; and
- a strategy for preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence, and reducing instances of serious violence in the area.

Edward Hancox

**Superintendent Edward Hancox, West Mercia Police
Chair of Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership**

Who is the Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership Board and what does it do?

In Telford and Wrekin the CSP is called the Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership and the member organisations are:

- West Mercia Police*
- National Probation Service*
- Telford & Wrekin Council*
- West Mercia Youth Justice Service
- Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care Service*
- West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner
- Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service*

*Indicates organisations that are Responsible Authorities

Strategy

A new Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership strategy was implemented in September 2024. Following a needs assessment and consultation with the community the strategy includes the three existing priorities alongside a further two priorities.

The priorities are:

Priority 1: tackling Child Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation

Priority 2: reducing the harm and impact of Domestic Abuse

Priority 3: addressing crime and antisocial behaviour in high harm areas

Priority 4: addressing serious youth violence

Priority 5: reducing deaths and serious injury on our roads

Telford CSP was the first CSP within the force area to have reducing deaths and serious injury on our roads as a priority.

In line with the new strategy a priority action plan has been created to monitor the progress of each priority on a quarterly basis.

Progress has been made with CSP data with implementation of a new CSP dashboard to reflect the priorities and will highlight the progress of the priorities and the reduction in the number of recorded crimes. Since September 2024 the CSP has received raw all crime data with additional markers (serious violence, youth serious violence, domestic abuse, CSE, CCE, hate crime and modern slavery) attached in order for the data to be added into the new CSP dashboard. The dashboard is linked to the Safer Stronger Communities dashboard which will enable the data to be accurate across the boards. The dashboard has also been used in the Serious Violence subgroup looking at the serious violence data broken down by crime types to allow a focus on the priorities for the subgroup.

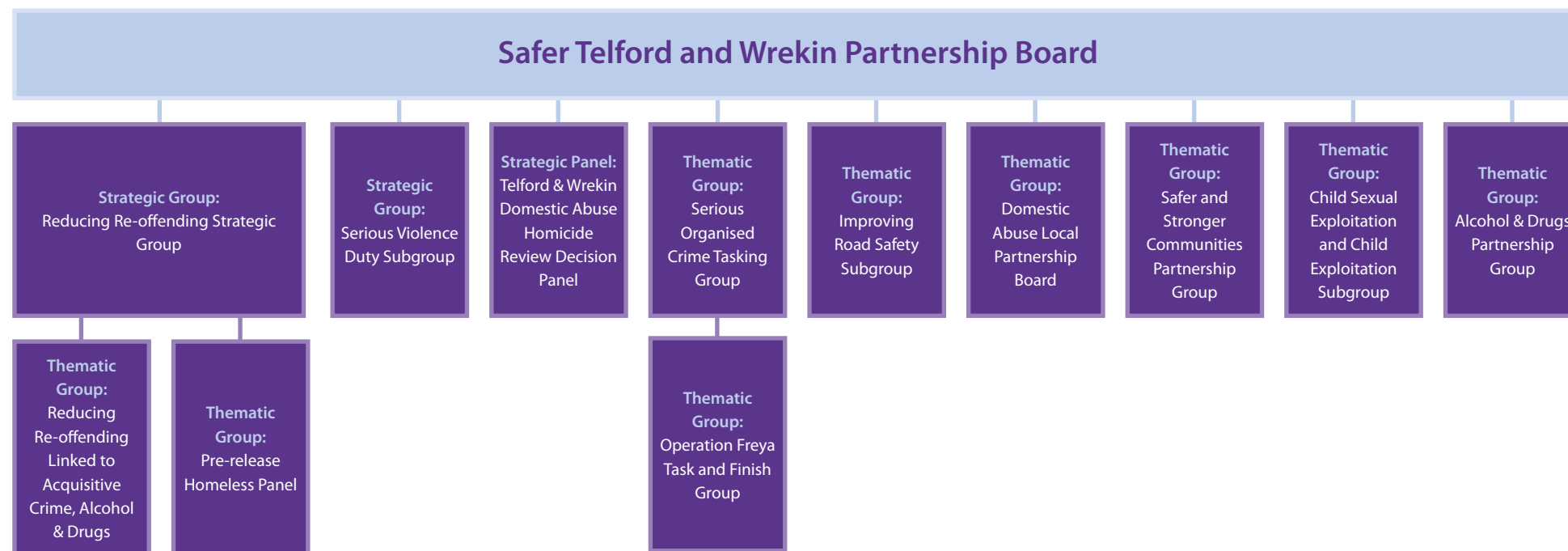
In addition to this the Partnership continued to monitor crime patterns and trends to identify issues that require a partnership response.

Through this approach, the Safer Telford Partnership continued to apply the underlying principles of a **public health approach** to include:

- a focus on a defined population e.g. vulnerable children, young people and adults who are known to be most at risk;
- a collaborative partnership approach – that is not limited by organisational or professional boundaries;
- putting in place long term, as well as short term solutions – e.g. prevention activities, and also more support for those affected now;
- an intelligence-led approach – which is based on local data and insight; and
- using the evidence of what works and best practice – e.g. Violence Reduction Units around the UK.

The Board is chaired by the West Mercia Police Superintendent appointed by the five statutory partners with the objective of providing challenge and scrutiny. As part of our arrangements for external challenge, the Chair presents the Board's annual report to the Health & Wellbeing Board.

To drive delivery of its objectives, the Board has a series of sub-groups and Boards as set out below:



Telford and Wrekin the place

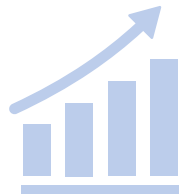
The borough which the board serves is a place of contrasts. Central to the borough is the New Town of Telford which was commissioned in 1968 and grew rapidly around existing communities including Wellington, Oakengates, Dawley and Madeley. Along the banks of the River Severn is Ironbridge, the birthplace of the industrial revolution and now a World Heritage site. Surrounding Telford is a rural hinterland – accounting for more than two thirds of the borough’s area.

In 2023 the population of the borough was estimated to be 191,915 people. A quarter (47,609 people) are aged 0 to 19. Between 2013 and 2023, the borough’s overall population increased by 23,000 people – an increase of 13.5% – making it the fastest growing upper tier local authority in the West Midlands. As the population grows it is becoming more diverse and ageing, between 2013 and 2023, the number of people aged 65+ grew by 28.5 % which is twice the regional rate of 14.3%.

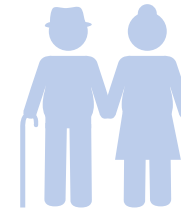
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191,915
POPULATION



13.5%
POPULATION INCREASE
FROM 2013 TO 2023



28.5%
AGED 65+ POPULATION
INCREASE

Many people who have come to live in the borough have been attracted by the value for money housing offer, our schools, outstanding natural environment, growing economy and our connectivity via road and rail into the West Midlands conurbation and beyond.

Whilst at face value the borough is prosperous and thriving, the Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that there are 18 neighbourhoods in the borough which are ranked amongst the 10% most deprived in England. This impacts on the life experience of these residents in terms of poorer outcomes with regards to health, education employment and housing, such challenges have undoubtedly increased because of the current cost of living crisis.

Crime and anti-social behaviour

In 2024/25 there were 13,598 crimes recorded in the borough. This represented a reduction of 11.3% compared with 2023/24, with 1,733 fewer crimes recorded than in 2023/24. Over the same period, there were 2,529 incidents of anti-social behaviour reported to the Police. This was a reduction of 3.0% from 2023/24, with 79 fewer incidents reported. Reports of anti-social behaviour reported to the Council reduced by 25.5% between 2023/24 and 2024/25. In 2024/25 there were 841 reports of anti-social behaviour received by the Council, 288 reports fewer than in 2023/24.

Safer Telford and Wrekin Priority 1 – tackling Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Exploitation (CSE/CE) CSE/CE Subgroup

The purpose of CSE/CE subgroup board is respond to all existing and new forms of child exploitation and to address any strategic barriers to achieving this purpose whilst recognising that children and young people are vulnerable to exploitation in a range of social contexts by applying the principle of contextual safeguarding to help respond to and prevent child exploitation.

The CSE/CE subgroup meets quarterly and between April 2024 and March 2025 the subgroup has undertaken the following activities:

- MACFA looking specifically at young people at risk of exploitation with SEND/EHCP
- Renewed focus on Prevent and Channel Panel
- Refreshed Child Exploitation awareness session programme within school and wider community.

What have we achieved in the last 12 months?

- Published and scrutinised the CSE Annual report.
- Welcomed the CSE inquiries chair to Telford to Review Multi agency response to recommendations.
- Telford's lived experience consultants' inquiry has been presented as a model of best practice nationally (House of Commons).
- Appointed an NRM co-ordinator and implemented a NRM panel.

Data

CSE/CE data 1 September 2024-31 March 2025 – in 2024/25 there were 139 crimes recorded with a CSE marker. This was an increase of 52.7% (48 more) compared with 2023/24. Numbers of crimes recorded with a CE marker are minimal.

Events

CSE awareness 2 weeks – over the CSE awareness 2 weeks, the CATE team visited 17 local schools and other child-centred organisations across the borough in the lead up to the National Child Exploitation Awareness Day, delivering awareness-raising sessions to young people and the staff and volunteers who work with them.

The sessions were interactive and included quizzes, visual aids and materials for young people to take away, as the team provided information on how and where to get support.

**Seen something?
Say something**

Safer Telford and Wrekin Priority 2 – Reducing the harm and impact of Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALP)

The purpose of DALP board is to oversee the development and delivery of the Telford and Wrekin Domestic Abuse Strategy, which is intelligence-led and based on local needs gathered through a needs assessment. In doing this, the Board will have due regard to the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act which requires the strategy to make arrangements for the assessment of, and the need for accommodation-based support.

What have we achieved in the last 12 months?

The DALP board meets quarterly and between April 2024 and March 2025 the partnership board has undertaken the following activities:

- There have been two domestic abuse animations commissioned which focus on domestic abuse in older people, honour-based violence and disability. Since their launch they have been viewed over 550 times on YouTube. The animations have been shared with partners, on the TWSP website and newsletters.
- Domestic abuse leaflets have been created and distributed in GP Practices, adult care homes and Telford town centre banks and opticians.
- Domestic abuse data set has been created with additional information being sought from probation to further enhance data.
- A draft comms plan was presented to the DALP in the March meeting and partners are currently feeding in additional events into the plan, which will continue to evolve.
- Registry office is now ensuring all couples are spoken to separately prior to marriage to address the risk of predatory marriage and identify DA.
- All partner agencies have provided evidence that they have robust policies and procedures in place to support workers experiencing DA.
- Work on the draft Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment has taken place with emerging headlines being presented to the March DALP. There had been a 79% increase in approaches to the Council's housing services for rehousing related to domestic abuse between 2021 and 2024 and a 58.5% increase in the number of domestic abuse-related temporary accommodation placements during the same period. A significant increase in the number of dependent children in households seeking rehousing due to domestic abuse, from 165 to 467 was noted. This information will be taken to the DA sub group under the Children's Board to explore packaging up the data to present at the strategic partnership and provide schools a wider overview rather than a case by case focus.
- Clare's Law (DVDS) has been an ongoing focus within the last two DALP meetings. All partners are promoting the scheme and police are exploring new ways to facilitate the disclosure of information safely, in cases where it is difficult for the applicant to attend the police station. Disclosure rates have now risen to 58.5% vs the West Mercia rate of 49.1% with ongoing work planned to further increase this figure.

Data

DA data 1 April 2024-31 March 2025 – there were 3,098 crimes recorded with a DA marker in 2024/25. This was a reduction of 5.7% (187 fewer) compared with 2023/24.

Events

We are currently refreshing our local Domestic Abuse Strategy and VAWG will sit under the prevention strand of the strategy – this will ensure that the work programme has sufficient oversight and governance. To commence this work we held a stakeholder event which was opened by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Domestic Abuse and was attended by around 60 people, including local women with lived experience of VAWG. The morning presentations were about definitions and scale of VAWG in Telford, followed by presentations about different local services and programmes that are already being delivered, and the afternoon was spent in tabletop discussions about the gaps under 10 different themes. The next steps are to pull all this together into an action plan for a workshop at the next DALP Board meeting in July for approval and it will be incorporated into the overall action plan for the refreshed strategy.

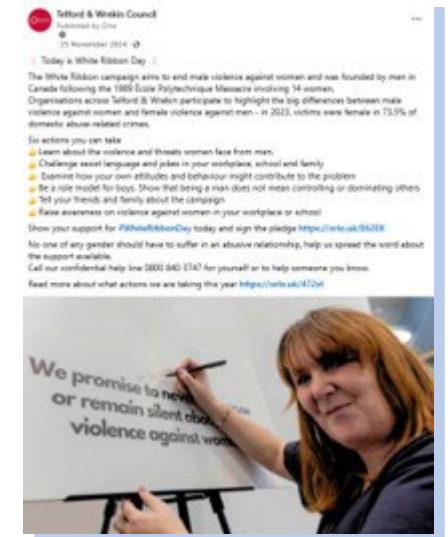


Funding

Sanctuary (£4,000) – Sanctuary received 119 service referrals. 111 of the referrals engaged with the service and left the service with a positive outcome. Security equipment was installed into 81 private dwellings and 30 housing association dwellings over the 12 month period.

White Ribbon event (£1,500) – our annual White Ribbon event was held on the White Ribbon day 25 November 2024. The event itself was well attended by over 100 people. The main session was delivered by The Right Path and covered a broad range of topics from social media and television influences, misogynistic and sexist behaviours.

Target Hardening (£20,000 Serious Violence Duty Funding) – the programme was implemented in Q4. Staff have been trained and referral pathways established with partner organisations. 5 low to medium risk domestic abuse victims have had modifications carried out to their homes so that they can remain there safely and another 17 victims have received video doorbells who didn't need further modifications. The pilot project will continue in 2025/26 and will be evaluated after operating for 12 months.



Safer Telford and Wrekin Priority 3 Addressing crime and antisocial behaviour in high harm areas

What have we achieved in the last 12 months?

Over the last 12 months the CSP have:

- implemented new task and finish groups to reduce re-offending and prisoners being released with no fixed abode;
- created a new dashboard to look at crime and antisocial behaviour in the borough; and
- worked collaboratively with partners to reduce the number of antisocial behaviour crimes recorded.

Data

- Between 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025 there were 549 ASB crimes reported this was a decrease of 0.5% (3 fewer) compared to the last year. There were 1,124 fly tipping crimes recorded which is a reduction of 12.9% (166 fewer). There were 2,906 crimes recorded which is a reduction of 5.8% (178 fewer). There were 642 Shoplifting offences recorded which was an increase of 3.5% (22 more). This is being addressed through the new task and finish group and has decreased since the group. Between 01 January 2024 and 31 December 2024, 1,736 shoplifting offences were committed.
- There has been a 10% (n=97) decrease in shoplifting offences in the last six months compared to the same period in the previous year.
- Offences in the most recent six months have decreased by 1.5% (n=13) when compared to the previous six months (01 November 2023 to 30 April 2024).

Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group and Reducing Re-offending Linked to Acquisitive Crime, Alcohol and Drugs Task and Finish Group

The purpose of the Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group is to have strategic oversight, establishing best practice and ensuring effective partnership working is taking place to reduce re-offending. George Branch the head of the Probation Service chairs the meeting. The Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 requires: provisions to be made about the release and supervision after release of offenders; make provision about the extension period for extended sentence prisoners; to make provision about community orders and suspended sentence orders; and for connected purposes.

The RRO strategic group meets quarterly and between April 2024 and March 2025 the strategic group has undertaken the following activities:

- Developed a robust data and intelligence framework inform priorities, deploy relevant interventions and monitor the impact that this intervention has made.
- Developed a strategy and priority action plan.
- 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 and has demonstrated partnership working to reduce the shoplifting figures across the borough.
- The group have successfully implemented STaRS to attend Malinsgate custody suite on a weekly basis as an early intervention to stop re-offending and offer the drug and alcohol how service whilst the offender is in custody.

- The reducing re-offending linked to acquisitive crime, alcohol and drug model is being rolled out across West Mercia.
- The group have developed a pre-release and accommodation subgroup which looks at prisoners due to be released within 70 days who when discussed are shown as leaving with no fixed abode. Partners around the table discuss the prisoners and make sure that any duty to refer (DTR) is completed and identify if they are known to STaRS or if STaRS will need to make contact.

Building Safer, Stronger Communities Partnership Board and Local Neighbourhood Groups

The Building Safer, Stronger programme was launched in April 2021. The focus was to target small pockets of the borough working in partnership with the Police & Crime Commissioner, West Mercia Police and teams from across the council & wider partners, using data, intelligence and community collaboration to tackle crime, fly tipping, anti-social behaviour to protect those most at risk of being exploited to co-develop solutions to local concerns.

Six priority themes were established.

- Education & Skills
- Environmental
- Crime & ASB Housing standards
- Community resilience
- Crime Reduction
- Health inequalities

The purpose of building safer and stronger communities board is to address anti-social behaviour within the borough. The building safer and stronger

communities board meets bi-monthly and between April 2024 and March 2025 the partnership board has undertaken the following activities:

Evidence suggests that well-designed youth activities, including after-school programs, mentoring, and sports programs, can reduce crime and reoffending, particularly when they focus on building skills, promoting positive behaviours, and providing structured supervision. Youth activities developed to support the councils Youth Offer have included.

- Urban Games programme supporting activities during school holidays 9,000 Children and Young People have attended to date.
- Telford Kicks, Friday night free football offer across the borough that regularly has over 130 children and young people attend each week.
- Opened eight new youth clubs in partnership with Town and Parish councils.
- Making A Change Competition, where young people come up with a project to improve their neighbourhood.
- St Giles Trust lived experience mentoring, to engage with hard-to-reach young people.

A decent place to live is the foundation on which residents across the borough build their lives. The Council has been working hard to tackle housing concerns in Sutton Hill, Brookside, College, Hadley and Hollinswood to ensure rented property meets the correct standards. This work has enabled the council to proactively inspect over 900 properties and in doing so support both tenants and landlords.

Working with West Mercia Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, crime data and intelligence we are tackling Crime and Anti-social behaviour. In support of the Council's commitment to tackling violence against women and girls:

- CCTV in taxi's 20%, The council has worked in partnership with taxi operators to bring forward a voluntary scheme which, once all are installed, will see 20% of Telford and Wrekin licenced taxis fitted with CCTV units. This pilot has attracted interest from the Department for Transport that now sees Telford and Wrekin among the highest licensing authorities in the country with the number of CCTV units installed on a voluntary basis.
- Supported the instalment of 2 ID scanners in licenced premises.
- 34 venues signed up to Licensing Security and Vulnerability Initiative (LSAVI) This accreditation scheme commits nighttime economy venues to enhancing safety of all visitors, particularly women, through providing training and awareness to staff alongside developing best practice for venue safety and supporting vulnerable individuals.
- Target hardening to reduce shop lifting 5% reduction at Town Centre and Newport.
- ASB reduced in summer 2024 by 28%.
- Town centre crime reduced by 65% and ASB 43%.
- Multi agency partnership meetings to address ASB at Dawley Bandstand and Wellington, these multi-agency forums have provided focus to tackle community and business concerns in partnership and continue to make a difference locally.
- CCTV is deployed to tackle ASB/fly tipping.
- 170 New streetlights installed.

Fly tipping

- Number of reports has decreased in last 12 months some parts of the borough up to 48%.
- Investigated over 1,200 fly tips.
- Issued 186 warning letters.
- 40 Fixed Penalty Notices'.
- Telford and Wrekin Watch, community engagement and awareness tool allows members of the public to support the council with the identification of offenders.

- 14 Community Action Teams (CAT) working with in partnership with Town and Parish Councils which enables a local focus on priorities via a local area enforcement action plan.

Tackling Health Inequalities, the programme has supported:

- Low impact community activity Chair such as Yoga Walking football/hockey
- Tackle solation and loneliness through Knit & Natter clubs, tea, toast & talk, and coffee mornings.
- Models for Heroes, supporting our Veterans.
- Worked with the community to create Community Gardens.
- Volunteering opportunities such as Street Champions and CCTV monitoring.

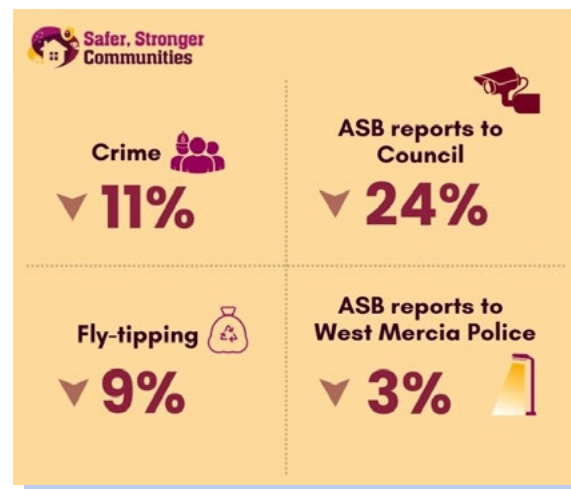


Figure 1 rolling year comparison - 2023/24 to 2024/25

As shown in the above in figure 1 during the last 12 months there has been a reduction in crime, anti-social behaviour and fly tipping across the focus areas of Building Safer & Stronger Communities investment has been made. Since the start of the programme anti-social behaviour and fly tipping has also reduced with the recorded crimes per 1,000 people consistently below the regional average and below the national average since 2023.

Pre-release and accommodation task and finish group

The purpose of pre-release and accommodation task and finish group is to have operational oversight, establishing best practice and ensuring effective partnership working is taking place to manage accommodation of individuals being released from prison. The task and finish group meets monthly and between April 2024 and March 2025 the tasking group has undertaken the following activities:

- Developed a robust data and intelligence framework and Performance Dashboard to inform priorities, deploy relevant interventions and monitor the impact that this intervention has made.
- Worked collaboratively with partners to manage accommodation of individuals being released from prison.
- Reduced or prevented existing reoccurring problems by tackling the vulnerability of the individuals being released from prison.
- A new national pre-release homeless panel will be implemented in the next year.

Serious Organised Crime Tasking Group

The purpose of serious organised crime tasking group is to address serious organised crime within the borough.

The serious organised crime tasking group meets monthly and between April 2024 and March 2025 the tasking group has undertaken the following activities:

- A clear meeting structure remains in place which offers clarity and consistency as to the requirement of each partner.
- The protected partnership intelligence sharing forum provide by SOCJAG continues to feed our attempts to combat organised criminality.

- The group are seeking to implement a 'Partners update' during the meeting whereby partners can move away from the Police led agenda to discuss emerging trends or concerns from their respective organisation.
- Our local SOC profile highlights the challenges in South Telford, a hub of significant risk to our children and young people through violence and drug exposure. The Police CE Team and Local Authority CATE team, provide a collection of specialists who work collaboratively to identify and safeguard those children at risk.
- The team continue to be innovative, building on the well-established partnership process to identify Perpetrators of CE and robustly task disruption activity within the wider SOC arena.
- The team are driving the use of Civil orders namely Slavery Trafficking Risk Order's (STRO's) to tackle the criminality and protect adults and children at risk of exploitation.
- The team are undertaking a deep dive into County Lines landscape within Telford under the stewardship of a recently appointed, dedicated, Detective Sergeant. This will encompass an evaluation of our risk management plans which protect those at risk of serious and organised crime groups.
- The currently have nine 4P plans which are governed centrally through the Organised Crime Management Unit structure.
- Each 4P is unique and the team continue to make progress in the disruption and dismantlement of each OCG.
- Statistically, the team continue to trend in an upwards direction, leading the force in OCG nominal disruptions (APMIS).
- The number of mapped OCG nominals has been reduced allowing for effective resource management and a greater understanding of our serious and organised criminal landscape.
- Several significant OCG nominals are awaiting Crown Court trial. The team anticipate this will have a significant impact on the shaping of our OCG's during the last quarter.

Funding

- **Telford Street Pastors (£7,100)** – Telford Street Pastors have patrolled 49 nights across the financial year, this is a total of 1037 hours. Support team volunteers have provided 278 hours of support. During these patrols the teams have engaged with 1324 adults and 88 Under18's. The team have kept 23 vulnerable people safe and diffused 8 situations so that agitated or aggressive people did not commit violence or end up being arrested. The team have handed out flip flops, lollipops, provided first aid, vomit bowls, bottles of water and foil blankets.
- **Taxi Marshals (£16,000)** – the Taxi Marshals have successfully engaged with a total of 5,695 passengers and 3,849 taxi drivers, reflecting an increase of 1,158 interactions. They have provided guidance on unbooked fares and intervened to prevent drivers from plying for hire on 44 occasions. Additionally, there were two specific incidents where the marshals effectively de-escalated situations, thereby averting the need for emergency services intervention.
- **CCTV Systems in Taxis (£9,984)** – a total of 16 units have been ordered for delivery in March 2024 to the installer. In total, 18 units are available for installation (2 units carried over from 2024), which adds to the existing 43 units already installed from previous funding allocations.
- **Town Centre/Southwater Shoplifting project (£5,000)** – to have an additional ASB Officer working within the identified key times to enhance already existing partnership working arrangements. Whilst shoplifting is a criminal offence, with the Police taking the lead, this funding has been very worthwhile, supporting the existing partnership infrastructure in place, to address many types of ASB & crime across the Town Centre, Southwater footprint, building on existing operational and strategic partnerships, with shoplifting being a key focus point for all partners. Looking at the 3 LSOAs covering the town centre. Shoplifting, whilst only showing a 1% increase, is less than the borough overall which was 4%.

- **Southwater ASB/CCTV project (£10,000)** – the funding has enabled additional patrols for early evenings, weekends and at key times, which has included liveried vehicles, and cctv operators using CCTV to direct the team, working in partnership with the police to support positive partnership working and high visibility patrols. Comparing 2023 with 2024, we can demonstrate a decrease in all crime (-10%) and ASB reported to Police (-23%).
- **Cuckooing and Home Takeover Animation (£275)** – the animation was created to reduce the number of home take incidents therefore improving quality of life and reducing crime opportunities. The animation has been uploaded to the Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership and Safer Telford websites, along with signposting to partner agencies and the newsletter.



Safer Telford and Wrekin Priority 4 – Addressing serious youth violence

What have we achieved in the last 12 months?

In June 2024 a deep dive took place to look at serious youth violence (aged between 10 and 19). The data was broken down into victims/suspects, locations, genders and by age. The key findings of the report show that crimes involving serious youth violence decreased by 21.6% from financial year 2022/23 into 2023/24, after a 10.4% increase from 2021/22 to 2022/23. Overall there is evidence to suggest that the interventions implemented in April 2022 onwards are having a positive impact on the reduction of serious youth violence.

There is a question around the increase in possession of a weapon offences. This could be down to an increase in West Mercia Police carrying out stop and searches or an increase in children carrying weapons.

Between July to December 2024 there were no county lines recorded. There was one hate incident and was an isolated offence. There were 19 knife crimes recorded in the same period, which was a 49% (18) decrease on the same three-month period last year. Two knife crime offences were youth, meaning the suspect was between 10 and 17 years old.

Within the new dashboard there were 175 crimes recorded with a serious youth marker between September 2024-March 2025.

Serious Violence Duty Sub Group

The purpose of SVD subgroup is to address preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence in the area and reducing instances of serious violence in the area.

The SVD subgroup meets bi-monthly and between April 2024 and March 2025 the subgroup has undertaken the following activities:

- New dashboard to show SVD data.
- Undertaken an audit on the delivery of the SVD across the specified authorities.
- Delivered a target hardening approach for low to medium risk victims of domestic abuse.

Operation Freya Task and Finish Group

The purpose of Operation Freya task and finish group is to address serious violence crime within the borough.

The Operation Freya meets monthly and between April 2024 and March 2025 the tasking group has undertaken the following activities:

- The group have identified the top 20 nominals at risk of being either a victim/suspect or both of homicide on a monthly basis to map out preventions for each nominal.
- The group identified children and young people on the list in November 2024 and since then Family Connect and West Mercia Youth Justice have attended the meetings.

- Telford Community Safety Partnership Board are the only board across West Mercia to have introduced Operation Freya.

Funding

- **ARID data (£3,900)** – Linxs consultancy provide monthly monitoring returns which we produce for the hospital to show the quality of the data provided and benchmark progress. Since they started data collection in 2009 we have managed to achieve specific street of assault information in over 70% of cases. In the last year there have been challenges, as the hospital changed their approach, using clinicians to obtain information rather than reception staff. This resulted in an initial decline, as clinicians were not accustomed to getting geographical information from patients. Linxs have worked with the hospital to liaise with clinicians, and provided presentation documents stressing the importance of the dataset. This has been well received, and we are now seeing month on month improvements in the data which are taking us back towards the 70% benchmark. It should also be noted that the change of system means that more cases are being collected (as previously some incidents bypassed reception and were not covered). The data provided is shared with partnership representatives and analysts. We cleanse the information to ensure that the data has precise geo-coordinates, enabling rapid use by analysts for prevention and early intervention.
- **Crucial Crew event (£10,000)** – This year's annual event took place from the 24th June to 12th July, excluding 1st and 2nd July. This event accommodated a total of 2,232 Year 6 students from 48 schools. Following the event, a wrap up video was produced to inform schools of the events success.
- **Target School Prevent Support (£10,000)** – Develop a quality framework for schools and colleges to develop standards of what 'good' looks like with regards to implementation of the 'Prevent' duty. The education lead for Prevent has undertaken home office training to become the Prevent Portal Training Lead, they have also engaged in further training with the DFE regional Prevent lead and in sessions focused on raising awareness of extremist ideologies through national and regional Prevent networks This has enabled the education lead for Prevent to disseminate information to all safeguarding leads including those in the outside of the current focus group through the termly governor and DSL briefing which was attended by one hundred and forty individuals working across the education sector in Telford and Wrekin. Through the focus work and raising awareness sessions we have ensured that we have a strengthened approach and better awareness in frontline staff working with children who may be susceptible to radicalisation. The development of the quality assurance framework will enable school leaders to self-evaluate their current approach to minimising the risk of radicalisation and reducing the likelihood of enabling permissive environments where radicalisation can take place. This will support the development of strong networks to tackle the risk of radicalisation across the borough.

- **MDT – Racism Awareness Sessions – primary schools (£300)** – To provide free Workshops to schools during Hate Crime Awareness week to raise awareness of hate crime and how to tackle it within the school and wider community. A total of 293 pupils directly attended a HCA workshop. The funding allocated was £300, which is a total of £100 per school, which is one workshop. Due to demand from schools to support all Upper KS2 pupils, individual workshops were delivered to both classes in the year groups, at an additional cost to Telford and Wrekin Council. The total number of workshops delivered were 6. The pupils were from Y5 and Y6 pupils and a total of 293 pupils directly attended a HCA workshop in the three schools.
- **MDT – Racism Awareness Sessions – secondary schools (£1000)** – Due to the success of the workshops in KS2, the PCC allocated an additional £700 to MDT to provide workshops to an additional two primary schools and five secondary schools. We were able to support a total of 4 secondary and an additional 6 primary to the first cohort giving a total of 13 schools altogether. This was matched funded by TAW staff time to enable so many schools to take part. A total of 4187 pupils directly attended a HCA workshop. The total funding allocated was only £1000, which is a total of 24p per pupil per workshop, which is amazing! Due to demand from schools to support all Upper KS2 and KS3 pupils, individual workshops were delivered to both classes in the year groups and in Secondary schools, as year groups with staff supporting. As a result, the total number of schools delivered to was workshops delivered were 13. One school cancelled at the last minute so a replacement school, who had initially requested a workshop, due to a recent high number of racist incidents, was approached and accepted the late offer.

Safer Telford and Wrekin Priority 5 – Reducing deaths and serious injury on our roads

What we achieved in the last 12 months?

The purpose of Road Safety board is to develop and address issues within the borough of Telford and Wrekin by working in partnership through enforcement, engineering and education to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads within Telford and Wrekin.

By combining West Mercia's vision to provide a quality policing service-protecting people from harm and priority to keep our communities safe (echoing the Police Crime Commissioner's message to improve road safety by using practical and evidence led approaches), and Telford and Wrekin Council's vision to protect, care and invest to make a better borough-we will coordinate activities with better effect and feed into our stakeholders Community Safety Partnership meeting board.

The partnership board started then it stalled and has been re-started again in November 2024. The board meets quarterly and is chaired by the Prevention and Protection Group Manager at Shropshire Fire and Rescue (Alec Thomas) which is attended by police and partners. There has been two meetings since it was introduced and the group are beginning to receive KSI data.

Funding

- **Use of ALIGHT MEDIA Advertising Boards (£1998)** – the purpose and aim of the project was to fund digital advertising on the Digital Screens and bus stops in and around Telford and Wrekin over two months on the run up to and including Christmas and New Year. On the breakdown of figures the header Impressions 194k is based on people for example driving to and from work. There is also a difference in the figures whereby the Male and Female amounts to 97k whereby the age ranges amount to 92k. The missing 5k is suggested to be under 18's.



- **Road Safety (£10,000)** – this project was to raise awareness of road safety across the borough. The Active Travel & Road Safety used this funding to allow resource to build a greater working partnership with West Mercia Police, The NHS & Shropshire Fire & Rescue. This has now led to a 12 month campaign calendar around different aspects of road safety to be shared by Telford & Wrekin Council and involves partnership events and campaigns to reach a wider audience. The team have also developed their new 'Young Driver & Passenger' workshops. This is a three part workshop that has been developed using the expertise of Ian Edwards from Road Safety GB. This is the first time VR headsets will be incorporated into these types of lessons targeted at ages 14-25 and will be initially rolled out in Secondary schools and colleges as pilot to obtain feedback.

Domestic Homicide Reviews Panel (DHR's)

The **Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Decision Panel** seeks to ensure that the processes in Telford and Wrekin to determine when a case meets the DHR criteria and the ensuing actions necessary to complete the review meet the standards within the Home Office Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews 2016 (referred to as the statutory guidance)¹. The Domestic Homicide Review Decision Panel is responsible for making a recommendation to the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership about whether a DHR should be commissioned or not.

The statutory guidance makes it clear that “where a victim took their own life (suicide) and the circumstances give rise to concern, for example it emerges that there was coercive controlling behaviour in the relationship, a review should be undertaken, even if a suspect is not charged with an offence or they are tried and acquitted.”

During April 2024 and March 2025 the DHR Decision Making Panel received three referrals for consideration with all progressing to full reviews being led by an independent reviewer who will review the cases to identify learning for all partners involved.

Nationally there has been a steadily growing realisation about the numbers of people who go on to complete suicide having experienced domestic abuse in multiple forms especially violence, coercive and controlling behaviour and non-fatal strangulation. This has been identified by important national policing led research via the Vulnerable Knowledge Practice Programme which has a special domestic abuse project www.vkpp.org.uk/vkpp-work/domestic-homicide-project

This work has helped all areas including Telford and Wrekin improve their awareness of suspected victim suicide after domestic abuse. So far there are now more DHRs taking place as a result and Public Health via the suicide prevention work is helping front line staff to better understand the links between the risk of suicide and domestic abuse. The Chair of the Community Safety Partnership is working to ensure that the police lead for the report's recommendation will have the time and support of the partnership to bring this work to the CSP.

This will continue to be a theme for next year especially as we move from the Domestic Homicide Review system to the new Domestic Abuse Related Death Review process.

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575273/DHR-Statutory-Guidance-161206.pdf

Alcohol and Drug Local Partnership Board (TWADP)

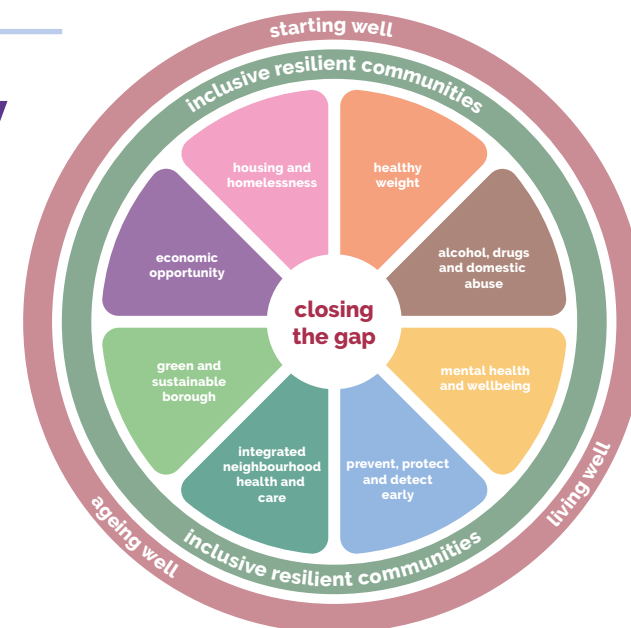
The purpose of TWADP is to develop strategic responses to address the misuse of alcohol and other drugs. The alcohol and drug local partnership board meets quarterly and between April 2024 and March 2025 the partnership board has undertaken the following activities:

- Commenced oversight of the implementation of a local Alcohol and drugs Strategy with prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery support as the priorities.
- Developed a strategic outcomes dashboard to monitor progress
- Steered a local alcohol and drugs forum to bring together local stakeholders to develop and annual action plan to implement the new strategy.
- Increased the number of new people commencing structured alcohol treatment
- Continued to commission additional organisational development support to further develop Telford's three Recovery Community Organisations
- Established incident response plans for incidents involving synthetic opioids and other novel or contaminated drugs posing serious health risks
- Carried out 270 Required Assessments for drug using offenders in the Criminal Justice System, and increase of 181.25% compared to 2023/24 and an increase of 358% compared to 2022/23
- Increased the proportion of prison leavers requiring drug treatment who commence treatment in the community from 50.72% in 2022/23, to 73.3% in 2023/24, and to 89% in 2024/25

Telford and Wrekin Health & Wellbeing Board Strategy

The Health & Wellbeing Strategy takes a broad approach incorporating priorities on the wider determinants of health, alongside lifestyle factors, better support for our most vulnerable children, young people and adults and the development of integrated neighbourhood healthcare.

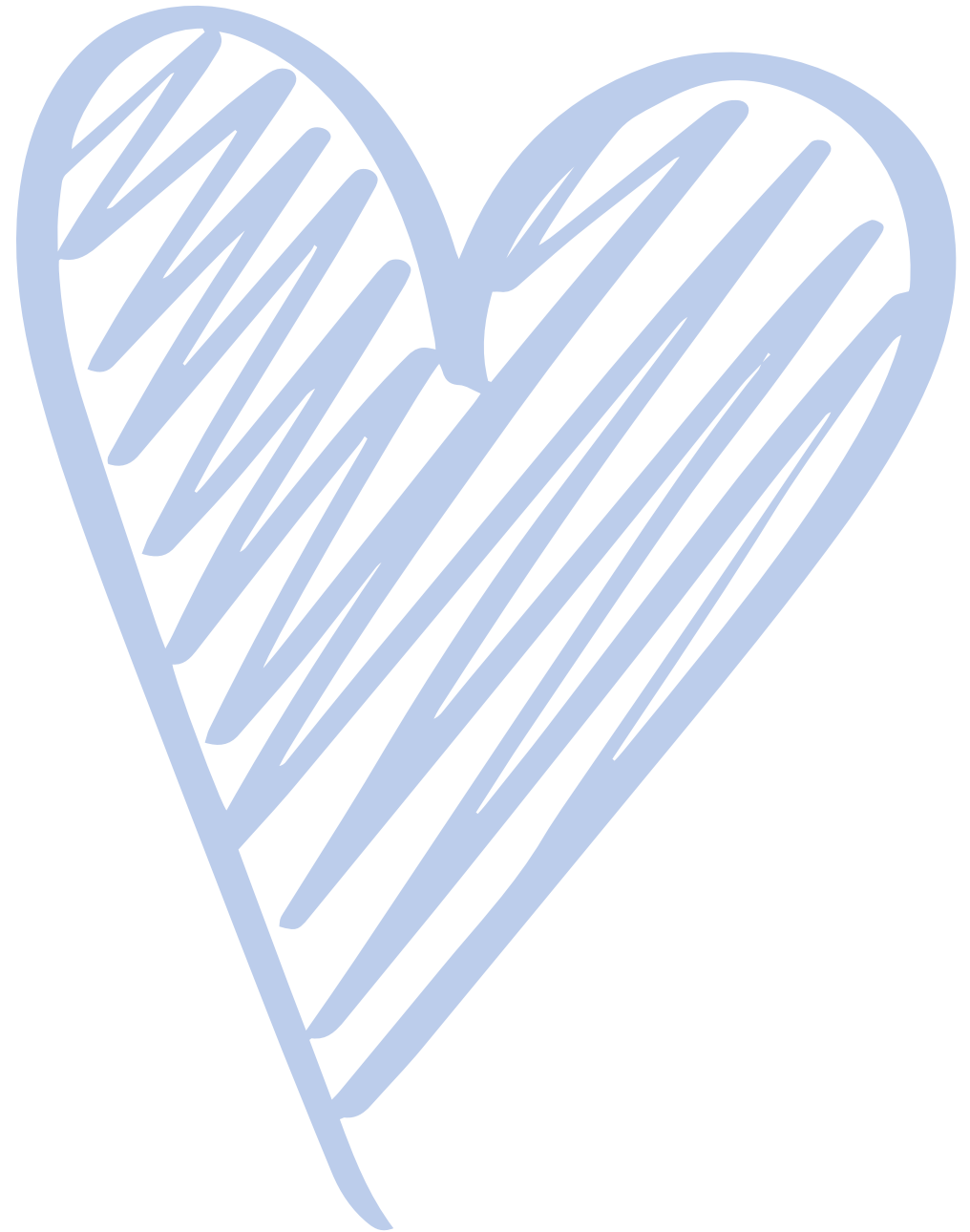
The priorities which strongly impact on resident's health and wellbeing and align most strongly to the community safety agenda are: inclusive resilient communities, alcohol, drugs and domestic abuse and mental health.



A heartfelt thank you to...

The 100's of professionals up and down the borough who have continued to support the partnership, their colleagues and the residents of Telford and Wrekin to live in a safer, stronger community.

To find out more about the Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership and access resources please visit [**Safer Telford**](#)



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