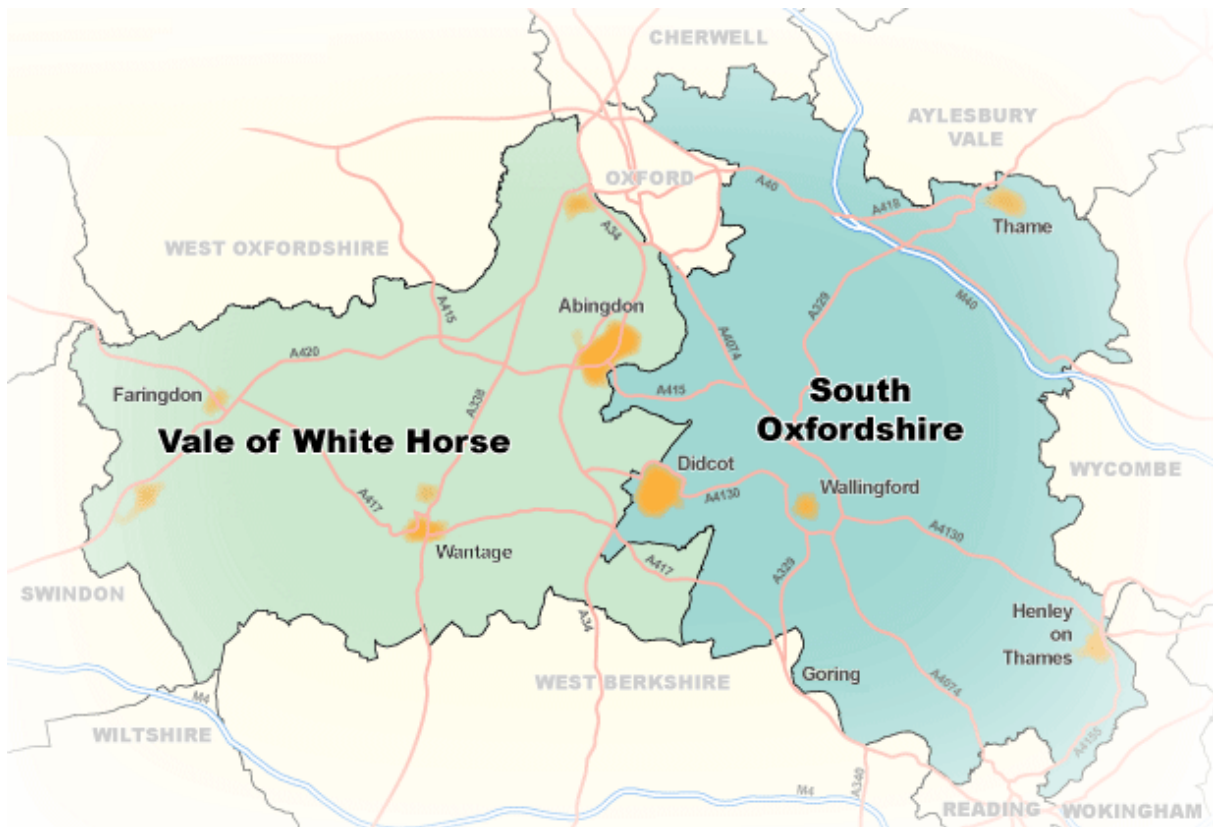


# South and Vale Community Safety Partnership

## Rolling annual plan 2020 - 21



**Confident and  
safer communities**

**SOUTH AND VALE COMMUNITY  
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

# BACKGROUND

## South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

Each year, the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) produces an annual plan which sets out how partners will work proactively to address crime and protect vulnerable people in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse over the coming year.

The plan is informed by the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership Strategic Intelligent Assessment<sup>1</sup> which looks at current data and trends over the previous year to identify priorities for Oxfordshire in preventing, reducing and tackling crime and disorder.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse is one of the safest places to live and work in Thames Valley and we are focused on keeping it that way, working with local organisations to reduce harm and support local services.

The mid-2018 population for South Oxfordshire estimated by the Office for National Statistics is 140,500 and for Vale of White Horse 133,700.<sup>2</sup>

The district of South Oxfordshire covers nearly 260 square miles. Its boundary reaches from the edge of the City of Oxford in the north-west along the borders of Buckinghamshire and Berkshire to the outskirts of Reading in the south. It has four main towns: Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford, with Didcot becoming increasingly dominant as the main urban centre.



<sup>1</sup> <https://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/system/files/documents>

<sup>2</sup> <https://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/population-0>

The district of the Vale of White Horse whose name comes from the oldest chalk figure in Britain dating back to around 1000 BC stretches from the edge of Oxford to the edge of the Cotswolds. The district has three historic market towns, Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage. The area also covers Botley, located on the edge of Oxford, as well as the large village of Grove near Wantage.



The South and Vale CSP was created in accordance with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which established the principles of partnership working. The partnership involves the community safety portfolio holders from both district councils and officers representing:

- National Probation Service
- Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Oxfordshire County Council Fire & Rescue Service
- Soha Housing Limited
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Sovereign Housing Association
- Thames Valley Police
- Vale of White Horse District Council

## Working with the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) refreshed the Police and Crime Plan for the Thames Valley 2017-2021. The primary aims of this plan are to reduce crime and catch those that offend, and these are laid out under the following five themes:

- Vulnerability
- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Reducing Re-offending
- Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism
- Police Ethics and Reform

The CSP receives funding from the PCC to support the delivery of his plan. We therefore ensure that we take the PCC priorities into account when setting our own plan.

### The South and Vale CSP annual rolling plan

For 2020-21 the CSP will focus on the following objectives in the refreshed PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2017-21:

- manage demand on services through working together
- improve safeguarding in physical and virtual spaces
- target and manage harm and risk
- improve the local response to serious organised crime and terrorism

In addition to delivering these objectives through our core areas of work; **anti-social behaviour, hate crime, rural crime, burglary, fraud and cyber-crime, and terrorism**, the CSP will focus on three key priorities:

1. Tackling domestic violence and abuse, including early intervention to reduce harm and improving services for victims
2. Working with vulnerable people and children to reduce the likelihood of being exploited
3. Reducing knife crime and harm and vulnerability caused by drugs and alcohol

Each of these three priorities has an explanatory introduction and a set of key actions – please refer to page six. An action plan will be developed for each of these priorities to establish clear measures so we can track the delivery and impact of our plan. We will deploy our Community Safety grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner to support these priorities and continue to invest in early interventions to prevent harm developing.

In addition to our established statutory duties, we will continue to measure crime data and will respond to any increases in demand. The CSP will review its performance on a quarterly basis, agree any remedial action necessary and provide an annual report to the district councils' joint scrutiny committee.

## Crime Data

Over the past twelve months, recorded crime in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse has increased by 8.9 percent, an increase of 1,060 crimes (excluding fraud). Total of recorded crime for 2019/20 is 12,928. A total of 9,824 crimes were recorded in 2016/17, 11,120 in 2017/18 and 11,868 were recorded in 2018/19. The increase is reflected nationally and is largely attributed to improvements in compliance with National Crime Recording Standards, following recommendations made by Her Majesty's Inspectorate to all police forces in 2014. The reasons for variations in crime data from year to year can be complex. As often is the case, some of this is down to changes in crime recording and how police capture that information. However, there are some increases in crime types, as well as increased victim confidence in reporting certain types of offences.

The chart below shows the public perception of the fear of crime measured by district councils' resident's surveys every two years from 2012 to 2018.

	2012		2014		2016		2018	
	South	Vale	South	Vale	South	Vale	South	Vale
Safe in the day (%)	--	96%	99%	99%	98%	98%	98%	98%
Safe after dark (%)	--	93%	84%	90%	82%	79%	91%	91%

Base size: 1,100

## PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019-20

2019–20 has been another busy year for the South and Vale CSP, which has been successfully operating as a single Partnership since April 2011. For examples of some of the activities that the CSP supported, please see the CSP's annual report to Joint Scrutiny Committee

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk), [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)

## **PRIORITY 1: Tackling domestic violence and abuse, including early intervention to reduce harm and improving services for victims**

Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer. The abuse can encompass (but is not limited to): psychological; physical; sexual; financial; emotional: online or digital abuse.

### **Why is it a priority?**

Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) makes up a significant proportion of violent crime, as well as causing long lasting harm in families, and remains a priority for the Partnership. There are high numbers of children living in abusive homes. Despite under-reporting, the number of incidents which come to the attention of services is high. There are cycles of repeat offending and repeat victimisation and only a small fraction of perpetrators are convicted. We know that the long-term impact of experiencing domestic or sexual violence and abuse, whether directly or indirectly within a family situation, as an adult or as a child, can have a devastating effect on people's ability to cope throughout their life.

In Oxfordshire in 2019, Thames Valley Police recorded a total of 11,779 victims of domestic abuse crimes and incidents (+2% compared with 2018). South Oxfordshire had the greatest increase (+6%). Just over half of victims of domestic abuse were subject to repeat occurrences in Oxfordshire in 2019 and over 1 in 10 were victims more than 5 times in the year. 76 per cent of victims were female and 24 per cent were male.

### **What we plan to do**

We will:

- fund the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service to deliver outreach and support locally for victims of DVA
- fund and co-ordinate sanctuary scheme works for victims of DVA in South and Vale<sup>3</sup> - to provide a rapid response to enable people to feel safe in their homes and avert homelessness
- focus on early intervention and prevention, raising awareness of domestic abuse pathways, how to spot the signs and how to respond to abuse as a victim, witness or a concerned person

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<sup>3</sup> Mears – for more information about the small repairs/target hardening service, visit <http://www.mearsgroup.co.uk/social-housing/home-improvements/oxfordshire/>



## **PRIORITY 2: Working with vulnerable people to reduce the likelihood of being exploited.**

### **Why is it a priority?**

Exploitation can have a devastating effect on the physical and mental health of individuals, their families and communities. Traumatic and adverse experiences, especially in childhood, can have lasting effect and make the individual more susceptible to harm in later life.

Crimes involving exploitation often involve the criminal exploitation of vulnerable people, both adults and children on a physical, sexual or financial basis. Gang activity based around 'county lines', where drug dealers from elsewhere set up in local areas, leads to anti-social behaviour, violence and safeguarding concerns. Thames Valley Police is the second highest reporting police force for modern slavery incidents. In 2019, Thames Valley Police recorded 168 victims of Modern Slavery in Oxfordshire, above the number recorded in 2018 (144). Reports of child abuse and exploitation continue to be a significant concern.

### **What we plan to do**

We will:

- work with communities to improve general awareness of the signs of possible harm including child and adult exploitation and what action to take; and improve victim confidence to report issues
- protect vulnerable adults who are at risk of being "cuckooed" into hosting drug dealing
- provide support for individuals who are vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism leading to terrorism through the Channel process; and support collaborative projects and events which build cohesion and offer a positive alternative narrative to extremism (Channel Panel is made up of multi-agency partners who collectively assess the risk to an individual and decide whether intervention is necessary)
- improve understanding and raise awareness on the use of techniques to combat cyber-crime, including risks to children and young people's social and emotional wellbeing associated with the misuse of technology and risks associated with child exploitation.
- work with older communities to raise awareness of online fraud and how they can protect themselves from being a victim of both fraud and online scams.

## **PRIORITY 3: Reducing knife crime and harm and vulnerability caused by drugs and alcohol**

**Serious violence** has a negative impact on individuals, local communities and the whole of Oxfordshire. It undermines how safe people feel and their wellbeing. Offences of violence with injury are estimated to have the highest cost impact of all crimes when considering all the costs to individuals and services.

### **Why is it a Priority?**

Increases in knife crime is a significant concern for the partnership. Between 2018 and 2019 there was an increase in the number of crimes related to the possession of a knife in Oxfordshire, just above the increase across the Thames Valley region. The 167 possession of knife crimes in Oxfordshire in 2019 involved 137 recorded offenders, 37 of whom were aged under 18 and 27 victims (3 were aged under 18). 17 offences were recorded in both South Oxfordshire 143 per cent increase and Vale of White Horse 31 per cent increase.

Drug and alcohol misuse is often a factor in many offences, particularly crime relating to the night time economy, sexual violence, domestic violence, child abuse and anti-social behaviour. People suffering from poor mental health are more likely to be targets of crime and ASB; and being the victim can cause poor mental health. In 2018/19, there were 40 adult hospital admissions for drug-related mental and behavioural disorders in Oxfordshire. The number of under 18s in specialist substance misuse services in Oxfordshire was 185. This was up from 148 in 2017/18 and 102 in 2016/17. In 2019 (Jan-Dec), Thames Valley Police recorded a total of 2,221 alcohol-related crimes in Oxfordshire, just below number in 2018 (2,248).

### **What we plan to do**

We will:

- work with young people to raise awareness of knife crime to prevent young people from carrying knives
- provide support for young people by working with local young people's services to deliver detached work, one to one mentoring and diversionary activities
- support alternative activities for young people at risk of being drawn into serious organised crime, drug and alcohol use whilst supporting their mental well being
- work with communities to raise awareness of alcohol consumption and how to 'stay safe on a night out'
- identify areas/premises of concern, review data and agree necessary action through the Licensing and Responsible Local Authority Meetings



## CONTACT US

For more information, please contact a member of the South and Vale Community Safety Team:

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Websites: [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk) or [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)

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