

“Crime and the fear of crime have an adverse effect on all our lives. As a partnership we will build on our past successes in order to ensure that Oxford is a safe, friendly environment whether you live here, work here or are a visitor to our city. We will achieve this by tackling those problems of greatest concern to all of our communities.”

Developing the strategy

In 2004 OSCP conducted an audit of crime and disorder in Oxford city. This involved bringing together three key pieces of information:

- the views of our communities on the most important crime and disorder issues facing the people who live here, work here or visit Oxford.
- the analysis of data from a wide range of partners to identify the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in our city.
- the assessment of the work already taking place to tackle these priority crimes.

The result of this process was the identification of the five most important crime and disorder themes and the influencing factors that affect them. OSCP also recognise that different sections of society need to be supported in different ways, for example, the young and elderly. This strategy was developed to target these priority areas and reduce their crime levels in the city using the most appropriate methods.

Summary of successes

Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP) has been working together to reduce crime and disorder in Oxford since 1998. Some examples of our successes include:

- A 49% reduction in burglary of people's homes from 2602 in 1998/99 to 1330 in 2003/04.
- A 32% reduction in car crime from 6025 in 1998-99 to 4067 in 2003-04.
- A 19% reduction in robbery from 361 in 2001-02 to 291 in 2003-04, supported by the Government's Street Crime Initiative.
- A household security scheme contributing to a reduction of repeat victims of domestic burglary from 261 in 2000-01 to 237 in 2003-04.
- A reduction of the number of people sleeping rough on the streets of Oxford from 52 in June 1999 to 13 in September 2004, through the provision of targeted support.
- A domestic violence risk assessment model that is to be implemented across the Thames Valley Police area.
- Improved support for victims of domestic violence through the creation of a Victim Support Service Officer in the police domestic violence team.
- Installation of a £1.5m city centre CCTV scheme
- Secure Car Park status for Oxford's Park and Ride and other major public car parks.
- Implementation of a successful street wardens scheme in Blackbird Leys, Rose Hill and Littlemore.
- A scheme targeting our most prolific and persistent offenders, that has been recognised as regional best practice.

- Our NightSafe project targeting alcohol-related violent crime in our city centre.
- Creation of the Crime And Nuisance Action Team (CANAcT) who have successfully targeted perpetrators of anti-social behaviour through the use of Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, drug house closures and other interventions.
- Financing of a large number of youth diversion and drug education projects across the city, which divert young people away from drugs, crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Extensive consultation exercises to discover the most important issues of concern for the communities of Oxford.

The Partnership

OSCP is a partnership of organisations, not an organisation in itself. Its main purpose is to bring people together to tackle the crime and disorder priorities of the city of Oxford. The OSCP Steering Group is a group of senior officers representing the organisations listed below who meet quarterly to assess the progress of the partnership and advise on the way ahead.

Oxford City Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Oxford Local Police Area, Thames Valley Police
Oxford City Primary Care Trust.
Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Thames Valley Police Authority
National Offender Management Service
Oxfordshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team
Oxfordshire Youth Offending Service
Government Office for the South East

OSCP Co-ordinating Group

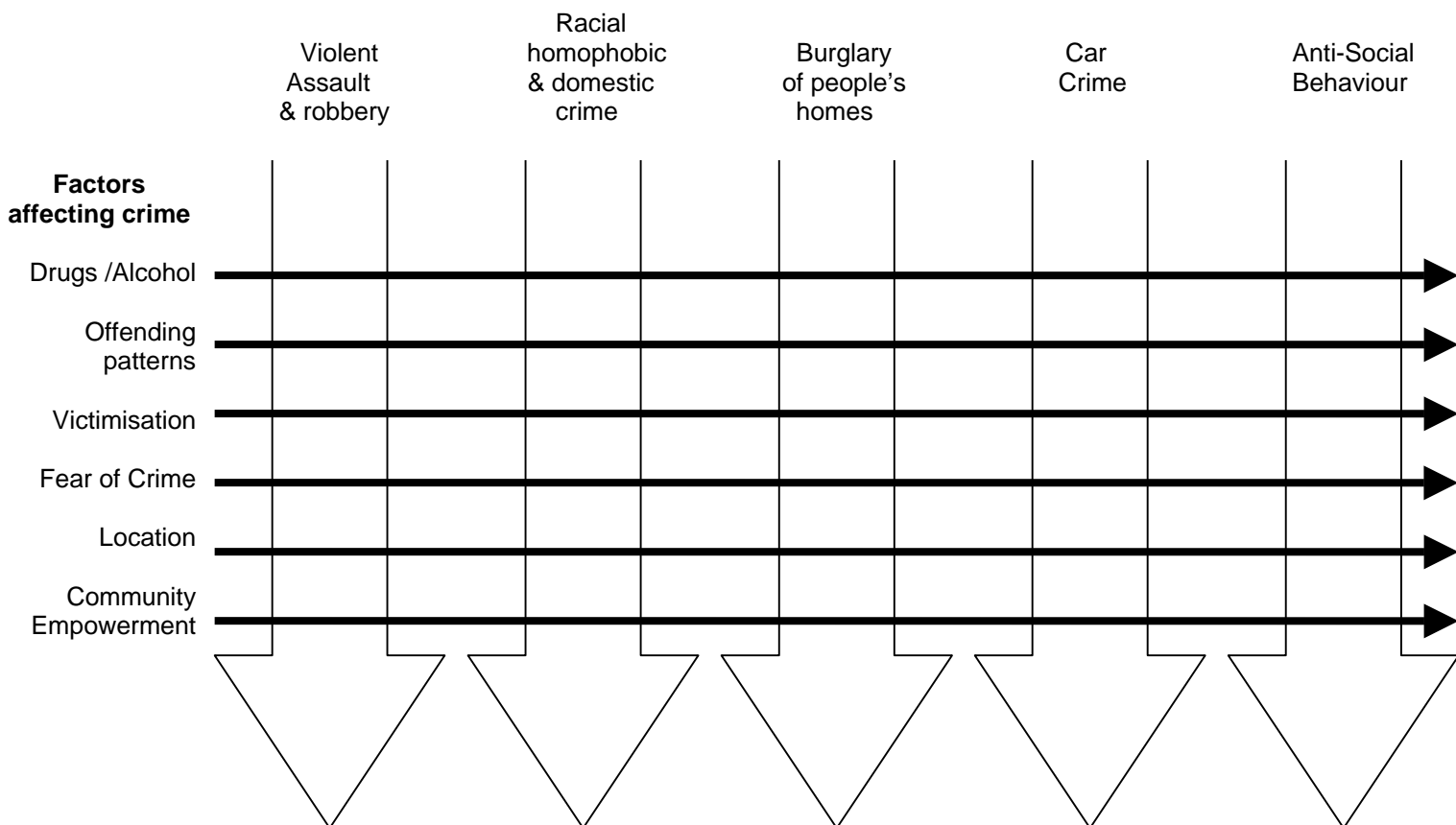
There is a small co-ordinating group up of four officers from the city council, county council, police and Primary Care Trust who facilitate the partnership and convene a number of sub-groups to tackle each priority area.

Other partnerships

OSCP is the partnership that delivers the community safety priority area of Oxford's Local Strategic Partnership, a body of senior officers from a wide range of organisations who agree a strategic direction for the development of Oxford as a city. OSCP works with the Local Criminal Justice Board who focuses on improving the performance and cooperation of criminal justice agencies.

Strategic Priorities

The diagram below illustrates the five strategic priorities for OSCP and the common factors that we found affected these priority areas.



Violent assault and Robbery

We will reduce the level of violent assault and robbery in Oxford city so residents feel safer in the city centre and in their neighbourhoods.

Targets:

- By the end of March 2008 we will reduce the level of violent assault by 20%, from 2238 crimes in 2003-04 to 1791crimes, identified as crimes recorded by the police.
- By the end of March 2008 we will reduce the level of robbery by 20% from 263 crimes in 2003-04 to 211 crimes, identified as crimes recorded by the police.
- By the end of March 2008, a higher percentage of residents in Oxford will feel safe at night, both in the city centre and in their neighbourhoods than they did in 2004, identified by the TalkBack Citizen’s Panel.

To achieve this we will:

- Build on the initial successes of our NightSafe scheme by working with licensees to reduce alcohol-related violence in the city centre.
- Target robbery offenders in Oxford through the Prolific and Priority Offender Strategy.

Racial, Homophobic and domestic crime

In recognition of the significant under-reporting of these incidents we aim to increase public confidence in reporting them to the police and other agencies.

Targets:

- By the end of March 2008 we will increase the reporting of domestic abuse by 20% per annum, from 1795 in 2003/4 to 2154, identified as recorded police incidents.
- By the end of March 2008 we will increase the annual reporting of homophobic incidents by 100%, from 25 in 2003-04 to 50, reported to the Homophobic Awareness Liaison Team.
- By the end of March 2008 we will increase the annual reporting of racist incidents by 15%, from 259 2003-04 to 298, identified as recorded police incidents.

To achieve this we will:

- Support the Domestic Violence Risk Assessment in the identification and management of high risk cases.
- Support the Action Plan of the Oxford Multi-Agency Group on Domestic Violence, and the work programme of the Oxfordshire Domestic Violence Action Group.
- Support agencies in Oxford to improve the reporting of racist crime.
- Support HALT in the publicity of self-reporting of homophobic crime in Oxford.

Burglary of people's homes

Reduce the risk of Oxford residents becoming a victim of burglary.

Targets:

- By the end of March 2008 we will reduce the level of burglary dwelling by 25% from 1330 crimes in 2003-04 to 998 crimes, identified as crimes recorded by the police.
- By the end of March 2008 we will reduce the number of repeat victims of burglary dwelling by 40% from 246 in 2003-04 to 148, identified as crimes recorded by the police.
- By the end of March 2008, a lower percentage of residents in Oxford will feel worried that their home maybe broken into and something stolen than they did in 2004, identified by the TalkBack Citizen's Panel.

To achieve this we will:

- Target burglary offenders through the police Burglary Team and the Prolific and Priority Offender Strategy.
- Reduce the chances of being a repeat victim by offering crime reduction surveys to all victims of burglary dwelling and, where appropriate, financing security improvements through our home security scheme.
- Reduce the opportunities for domestic burglary offenders by identifying hotspots in the city and responding to them through a range of interventions including improved street lighting, Neighbourhood Watch, home security improvements and crime reduction advice.

Car crime

Reduce the risk of Oxford residents becoming a victim of car crime.

Targets:

- By the end of March 2008 we will reduce the level of car crime by 20%, from 4079 crimes in 2003-04 to 3263 crimes, identified as crimes recorded by the police.
- By the end of March 2008, a lower percentage of residents in Oxford will feel worried that their car maybe stolen or items in their car stolen than they did in 2004, identified by the

TalkBack Citizen's Panel.

To achieve this we will:

- Target car crime offenders through the police Autocrime Team and the Prolific and Priority Offender Strategy.
- Continue to support youth diversion activities aimed at combating car crime.
- Reduce the opportunities for car crime offenders by identifying hotspots in the city and responding to them through a range of interventions including media campaigns, working with the DVLA to encourage owners to secure and remove items from their vehicles, and maintaining security patrols in car parks.

Anti-social behaviour

We will reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour in our communities.

Targets:

- By the end of March 2008, a higher percentage of residents in Oxford will feel that the following concerns have improved rather than worsened, as identified by the TalkBack Citizen's Panel:
 - people aggressively begging
 - people sleeping rough on the streets
 - people using or dealing drugs
 - people being drunk or rowdy in public places
 - abandoned or burnt out cars
 - vandalism and graffiti to property or vehicles
 - conflicts or disputes between neighbours
 - teenagers hanging around

To achieve this we will:

- Work closely with the Home Office Anti-Social behaviour Unit as an Anti-Social Behaviour Action Area.
- Provide an anti-social behaviour Helpline for the residents of Oxford.
- Initiate community-led projects to reduce the types of anti-social behaviour of most concern to the community.
- Expand the existing Street Wardens scheme to more areas of the city and review their use of enforcement powers.
- Introduce Police Community Support Officers in Oxford.
- Continue to invest in youth diversion activities across the city, working with Oxfordshire Youth Service and the Youth Offending Team, among others.
- Ensure that the development of new and existing public buildings incorporate design out crime principles.
- Maintain the level of interventions to enable those sleeping rough on the streets of Oxford to access accommodation.
- Continue to target those aggressively begging on the streets of Oxford through appropriate enforcement powers.
- Continue to work closely with the Fire and Rescue Service, DVLA and other partners to speedily remove abandoned vehicles from the streets of Oxford.

Comparator crimes

OSCP will reduce the number of crimes listed below as required by Public Service Agreement 1.

Target:

- By the end of March 2008 we will reduce the total of the crimes listed below by 20%, from 12742 crimes in 2003-04 to 10194 crimes, identified as crimes recorded by the police:
 - Car crime
 - Burglary of people's homes
 - Violent assault
 - Robbery
 - Theft from person
 - Criminal damage and arson
 - Pedal cycle theft
- By the end of March 2008 we will have reduced the number of crimes committed by our most persistent and prolific offenders by 25%.

Factors affecting crime

Drug and alcohol misuse

OSCP will continue to address drug and alcohol misuse, a significant concern for our communities with direct links to offending behaviour.

To achieve this we will:

- Work closely with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team to target drug treatment and support services where they are needed most.
- Continue to support community-led drug support initiatives.
- Actively participate in the delivery of the Oxfordshire Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.
- Review the extent of Alcohol Free Zones.
- Support the Oxfordshire Needle Exchange Scheme.

Offending patterns

OSCP will identify, intervene and rehabilitate those individuals causing the most amount of crime in Oxford.

To achieve this we will:

- Fulfil our obligations under the Prolific and Priority Offender Strategy, that include:
 - Prevent and Deter young people from becoming prolific offenders
 - Catch and Convict those offenders doing the most harm to our communities
 - Resettle and Rehabilitate Oxford's most prolific and priority offenders
- Continue to work with the most prolific young offenders through a Catch and Convict model for young people, managed by the Youth Offending Team and police.
- Target less prolific offenders through dedicated police teams for burglary, car crime and robbery.
- Tackle identified anti-social behaviour offenders using the most appropriate interventions.

Victimisation

OSCP will support victims of crime and reduce the levels of repeat victimisation.

To achieve this we will:

- Improve partnership working with voluntary agencies that provide support and advice to victims of crime, including domestic violence, racist crime and homophobic crime.

- Provide crime reduction surveys to victims of domestic burglary and domestic violence.
- Support the establishment of a Victim Support Unit in Oxfordshire, by Thames Valley Police and the Crown Prosecution Service.
- Work with the National Offender Management Service to provide community safety schemes for those on Enhanced Community Service Orders.
- Develop a plan to combat crimes against older people and provide more comprehensive support to victims by working with such organisations as Social and Health Care, Trading Standards and housing providers.
- Support witnesses to crime and anti-social behaviour through the criminal justice system.
- Work with education establishments to reduce crime against students and young people.

Fear of crime

OSCP will inform our communities of the positive actions being undertaken by partners to reduce crime and improve their capacity to support themselves.

To achieve this we will:

- Actively promote the work of partners through the most appropriate media.
- Run crime reduction campaigns to inform our communities how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.
- Inform our communities of the positive action taken in their neighbourhood against those causing harassment, alarm and distress.
- Promote NightSafe initiatives to reduce the level of alcohol-related violence and binge drinking.
- Publicise all anti-social behaviour initiatives under the "TOGETHER Oxford" brand.
- Work with our partners to increase the number of offences brought to justice within Oxford city and communicate our performance to the public.

Location

OSCP will respond to areas of high priority crime by working with partners to improve the physical environment.

To achieve this we will:

- Undertake hotspot analysis and so identify and invest in the most appropriate security improvements.
- Develop closer partnerships with, and support for, businesses to reduce the risk of employers and employees being a victim of the priority crimes.
- Ensure all major building developments adhere to "Secure By Design" principles.
- Continue to support our city centre CCTV system and review the use of CCTV in other appropriate locations.

Community empowerment and reassurance

This will provide community reassurance, improve local service delivery and reduce the fear of crime by increasing our communities' involvement in combating crime and disorder in their neighbourhoods.

To achieve this we will:

- Increase the number of Street Wardens in Oxford to 26.
- Provide funding to expand the number of Police Community Support Officers to 12.

- Develop a Neighbourhood Reassurance model involving Community Beat Officers, Street Wardens, Police Community Support Officers and other partners' staff, based on the police Restoring Reassurance pilot.
- Consult and involve our communities in the delivery of local crime reduction projects.
- Use Crimestoppers to increase our communities' involvement in tackling their crime priorities.

Environmental Scanning

The patterns of crime and disorder in Oxford will change throughout the life of the strategy and the partnership will respond to these changes. OSCP will constantly assess the available data and respond appropriate to emerging trends. We will use the police National Intelligence Model process to tackle the latest crime and disorder developments. The OSCP sub-groups will identify medium term trends to prioritise their Action Plans.

Action Planning Process

All OSCP sub-groups identify trends in the location, patterns of offending and victimisation of each priority area. An Action Plan is created, detailing to actions that the sub-group will undertake to address the emerging trends. For example, actions to reduce burglary of people's homes involved targeting the location through improving the security of the premises, targeting the offenders through the activities of the dedicated police burglary team and prolific offender unit, and supporting victims through crime reduction surveys and advice, extensive Neighbourhood Watch and positive media coverage. Each sub-group will regularly review their action plans and task lists to sustain the continuous improvement in OSCP performance.

Monitoring and evaluation

All partnership-sponsored activity is monitored and evaluated by the OSCP Co-ordinating Group. Quarterly progress reports are submitted by funded projects to the group and issues of concern or good practice identified and disseminated.

Funding

OSCP receives an allocation of funding from the Home Office for agreed community safety projects. Annual spending plans are implemented, monitored and reviewed by the OSCP Steering Group. Crime reduction targets are aligned to these spending plans.

Performance

OSCP progress is monitored reviewed quarterly using a suite of crime and disorder indicators. They include the strategy targets and a range of indicators that represent partners' activities within each priority area. This enables the partnership to identify issues of concern, where corrective action is needed and to celebrate achievement.

Accountability

OSCP is ultimately accountable to our communities. OSCP will implement a robust system of accountability and feedback through community forums, committees, government agencies and our partners.

Information Sharing

OSCP partners share information under Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, detailed in a protocol signed by Steering Group members. Each information exchange group has a set of agreed procedures that detail the management of the information.

Communication Plan

The Communication Plan provides a framework for the partnership. The OSCP Communication Group, including partners' media officers, schedule and manage the delivery of communication activity in adherence to an agreed timetable.

Brokerage

One of the strengths of the partnership is the ability to forge links between organisations on topics that are of a concern to our communities but not identified as a crime and disorder priority, for example, road traffic accidents. OSCP will use its influence to foster work in this area between relevant organisations without necessarily allocating partnership resources or setting OSCP targets.

Partnership Development Objectives

OSCP is undertaking a rolling programme of self-assessment and has developed a plan for improving the way the partnership operates. We will continue to deliver on the actions set out in our Improvement Plan. We will seek to support the work of partner organisations in meeting their targets that have an effect on our crime and disorder priorities. We will seek commitment from partners to focus their resources on our crime and disorder priority areas identified by the citizens of Oxford.

Section 17

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, places a statutory responsibility on Local Authorities to consider the impact of all their functions on crime and disorder. OSCP partners bound by Section 17 will continue to seek new ways of working that positively impact on crime and disorder.

Equalities statement

It is a requirement of all OSCP partners or organisations delivering funded projects to adhere to an Equalities Policy. This requirement is included in the OSCP Conditions of Grant Agreement.

Contact Details

You can find out more about the activities of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership by logging onto www.SaferOxford.org.uk, emailing saferoxford@oxford.gov.uk or writing to:

Community Safety Officer
Oxford City Council
3rd Floor, Oxford Town Hall
St. Aldates
Oxford OX1 1BX
Tel: 01865 252283

Languages

If you would like to receive a copy of this strategy in one of the following languages, please contact the above address. *(in relevant script)*

Urdu
Albanian
French
German
Italian
Spanish
Chinese