

To: Council

Date: 3rd February 2014

Report of: Councillor Pat Kennedy, Board Member for Education, Crime and Community Safety

Title of Report: The Oxford Safer Communities Partnership

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To inform members of the work of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership.

Report approved by:

Executive lead member: Councillor Pat Kennedy

Policy Framework: The Corporate Plan

Recommendation:

1. Council is asked to comment on and note the contents of the report.

The role of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership

1. The Oxford Safer Communities Partnership is a statutory partnership of Responsible Authorities charged with identifying local community safety priorities in Oxford. The partnership set out their response to these challenges in an annually refreshed Rolling Plan. These requirements were originally set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and further amended by subsequent acts.
2. The Responsible Authorities are Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Clinical Commissioning Group, Fire and Rescue Service, Probation Service and Thames Valley Police. Other organisations' representatives on the Board include Oxford Brookes University, Oxford University and Oxford University Student Union. A list of partnership board members can be found in Appendix 1.
3. The partnership is chaired by Oxford City Council's Director for Community Services and meets four times per year. Meetings split between business planning matters and a themed topic, where additional people are invited to hear more about the issues affecting our communities, the partnership's work in responding to these challenges and to explore what they can contribute to tackling the issues.

Further information on the partnership can be found in the link below.

<http://www.saferoxford.org.uk/index.html>

4. The partnership is allocated a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner to support in the delivery of its Rolling Plan. These funds help to support officers within Oxford City Council's Community Safety Team, and the projects that they deliver. These posts are:
 - Data and Research Officer
 - Human Exploitation Coordinator
 - Violent Crime Reduction Coordinator
 - Anti-social Behaviour Prevention Project Coordinator

Oxford Safer Communities Rolling Plan

5. A key requirement of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership is to deliver its activities contained in the Rolling Plan. The plan contains only actions that add value through partnership working, not actions that are "business as usual" for members. The Rolling Plan is based upon the annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) undertaking by the partnership.

The priorities

6. The priorities identified in the strategy have been informed by the Strategic Intelligence Assessment. The assessment uses partnership data, community feedback through the Oxford City Council Talkback Survey, and information from frontline practitioners. This last element is particularly important as some offences are under-reported and will not appear in datasets or community consultation processes. The priorities are:

Inter-personal abuse, including domestic and sexual abuse, human trafficking, sex working and child sexual exploitation.

Violent crime, including alcohol-related disorder, serious youth violence, hate crime and robbery.

Anti-social behaviour, including neighbourhood nuisance, environmental concerns, drug misuse and rough sleeping.

Priority theft offences, including burglary of people's homes, theft from cars and metal theft.

Delivery of the Rolling Plan 2013-14

7. The Rolling Plan groups the activities that the partnership undertake into:
 - tackling problems affecting the whole community;

- supporting victims or preventing a person from becoming a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour;
- target those who commit, or are at risk of committing, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Whole community activities

- Student participation in the partnership is effective. We are encouraging student participation in the NAGS and Community Forums in areas where students live in largish numbers. The annual Student Safety Plan continues to educate and thereby reduce the chances of students becoming victims of crime in the city, encourage their involvement in the communities they live within and reduce anti-social behaviour.
- We continue to support the Student Community Warden schemes at both Oxford Brookes University and the University of Oxford by providing training and information sharing.
- Implement the Language School Student Action Plan 2013 to target seasonal spikes in robbery, protect students and combat anti-social behaviour. Operation Buzzard took place over the summer period to reduce robbery, primarily of visiting language students.
- Operation Blanket disrupts potential child sexual exploitation in the city and Operation Staysafe protects vulnerable children and young people.
- Deliver test purchasing operations on premises suspected of selling alcohol to under-18s.
- We are implementing a new CCTV project in Rose Hill.
- The Cleaner, Greener Oxford neighbourhood campaigns took place in South Park, Rose Hill and the Cowley Road.
- NightSafe continues to deliver reductions in violent crime in the evening economy, supporting business and customers.

Supporting victims current focus

- The Independent Review of Oxford City Council's Safeguarding Self-Assessment Safeguarding Review was an extensive and wide ranging analysis of our approach to safeguarding. It picked out many good points and we are working to embed the recommendations suggested, for example, training for members in safeguarding. A more detailed report will be submitted to Council on this in March 2014.
- Neighbourhood Police Officers have been trained as Single Point of Contact (SPoC) for child sexual exploitation and sex worker issues.
- We wrote and delivered multi-agency training on behalf of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board in child sexual exploitation.

- Continue the sanctuary scheme programme to improve the security of properties for people fleeing violence.
- Roll out multi-agency training on stalking and harassment.
- Worked with Thames Valley Police to improve their response to domestic abuse, stalking and harassment, and honour based violence following the roll out of the revised domestic abuse risk assessment process.
- Undertook a Domestic Homicide Review and developed pathways to share lessons learned from Domestic Homicide Reviews across the Thames Valley region to prevent further homicides.
- In partnership with the Probation Service, Thames Valley Police and the Oxford Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Centre, ran an educational campaign on sexual consent across the region.
- Oxford University Student Union (OUSU) continues to work with Colleges and sports societies to deliver sexual consent workshops for students at Oxford University; looking to enshrine this into their Freshers' Week induction programmes at the start of the next academic year.

Targeting offenders current focus

- Working with the County Council on the Thriving Families programme. A number of families in the City are in the scheme and that involves close liaison with Oxford City Council Housing, the Youth Ambition Programme, Early Intervention Hubs, the Community Safety and ASB teams, the police, probation and schools.
- Continued to deliver our Positive Futures Referral Programme across the city and implemented Operation Bonify, targeting young people at risk of gang-related activity.
- Developed our approach to prosecuting environmental crime and increased the number of enforcement actions year-on-year.
- The Community Response Team has been re-accredited with the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme powers by the Chief Constable. The team was the pilot for these powers which have now successfully concluded. The powers are now to be made available to other organisations within the Thames Valley.
- Between April and November 2013 the Community Response Team and Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation Team investigated over 1200 cases between them.
- Oxford City Council was the first agency to fully meet the new RESPECT standards for housing management in ASB and is currently working with the Home Office on implementation of the new ASB tools and powers being proposed under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill.

- The ASBIT team had two finalists in the Social Landlords Crime and Nuisance Group Practitioner Awards.
- Continue to run the “Risky Behaviours” course for young people in the city.

Measuring progress

8. A highlight report of progress measures and targets for Rolling Plan activities is provided to the Board at their quarterly meetings.

Future challenges for the Rolling Plan 2014-15

- Train hotels, guesthouses and bed and breakfast premises in spotting potential victims of trafficking and reporting processes.
- Run a trafficking conference to increase the understanding of tourist and transport organisations.
- Develop work with vulnerable adults who are victims of, or are at risk of offending.
- Enter negotiations with the Police on their proposed CCTV strategy.
- Refresh Oxford’s Neighbourhood Action Group model.
- Gain a better understanding of, and develop working practices to improve our response to people with mental health issues.

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List of background papers:

Further information can be found on the web site link below.

<http://www.saferoxford.org.uk/index.html>

Version number: 1

Annex 1

OSCP Board members:

Chairman – Tim Sadler		Oxford City Council
Councillor Pat Kennedy	Board Member for Young People, Crime and Community Safety	Oxford City Council
Supt. Christian Bunt	Oxford City Police Commander	Thames Valley Police
David Heycock	Risk Manager	Fire and Rescue Service
Richard Adams	Environmental Protection Service Manager	Oxford City Council
Carys Alty-Smith	Safer Communities Unit Manager	Oxfordshire County Council
Paul Sullivan	Security Services Manager	Oxford University
Andrea Siret	Community Liaison Manager	Oxford Brookes University
Daniel Tomlinson	Vice President - Welfare	Oxford University Student Union
Tan Lea	Early Intervention Manager, Central (Youth Lead)	Oxfordshire County Council
Pasquale Brammer	Drug and Alcohol Action Team	Oxfordshire County Council
Duncan Hume	Senior Probation Officer	Thames Valley Probation Services
Sue Howarth	Youth Offending Manager	Oxfordshire County Council