

Report of: Councillor Dee Sinclair, Board Member for Community Safety

To: Full Council

Date: 25 July 2016

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:

Finance: Paul Swaffield

Legal: Jeremy Franklin

Executive lead member: Councillor Dee Sinclair

Policy Framework: The Corporate Plan

Recommendation:

1. Council is asked to note the contents of the report.

Introduction

1. The Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP) is a statutory partnership of Responsible Authorities charged with identifying local community safety priorities in Oxford. OSCP was established in 1998, in accordance to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and further amended by subsequent acts.
2. The Responsible Authorities are Thames Valley Police, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, the National Probation Service, Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.
3. The partnership is chaired by Oxford City Council's Director for Community Services and meets four times per year. Meetings are split between business planning matters and issues.
4. The partnership set out their response to community safety challenges in an annually refreshed Rolling Plan. 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:
 - Human Exploitation Coordinator: coordinating and delivering OSCP's approach to child sexual exploitation, human trafficking, sex working and other forms of exploitation.
 - Violent Crime Reduction Coordinator: coordinating and delivering OSCP's approach to CCTV, serious youth violence, the management of high risk offenders and the Prevent agenda that targets all forms of extremism.
 - Anti-social Behaviour Prevention Project Coordinator: coordinates and delivers problem-solving projects to tackle anti-social behaviour, including the student house champion scheme, situational crime reduction programmes, Public Spaces Protection Orders and the Language School Forum.
5. Further information on the partnership can be found in the link below.
 - <http://www.saferoxford.org.uk/index.html>

Crime and antisocial behaviour in Oxford

6. The number of crimes recorded by Thames Valley Police increased by 2.6 per cent from 13,718 crimes in 2014-15 to 14,081 crimes in 2015-16. The majority of crimes continue to be lower than in 2013-14.
7. Violence against the person increased by 35.7 per cent from 1,879 crimes in 2014-15 to 2,550 in 2015-16. The number of sexual crimes reported increased by 30.5 per cent compared to the previous year from 380 offences to 496 offences. Many of these crimes were historic cases but there has been an increased confidence in reporting to the police. Hate crime incidents reported to the police average 100 per year.
8. Personal robbery reduced in 2015-16 compared to the previous year with 84 recorded crimes compared to 90 recorded crimes in 2014-15. Bicycle theft also reduced by 16 per cent from 1,810 in 2014-15 to 1,520 in 2015-16.

9. Burglary of people's homes increased by 26.7 per cent from 401 crimes in 2014-15 to 508 crimes in 2015-16. This remains low compared to the mid-1990s when there were over 2,500 burglaries per year. Vehicle crime also increased by 13.8 per cent from 780 crimes in 2014-15 to 888 crimes in 2015-16.
10. There was a reduction of anti-social behaviour crimes recorded by the police of 11 per cent to 1,938; however Oxford City Council has seen an increase in the number of contacts to the saferoxford@oxford.gov.uk address reached 5,800 compared to 3,500 in the 2013-14.
11. Oxford City Council provides an Out of Hours service for noise complaints. The service operates seven days a week from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Friday to Saturday, 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday and Thursday and 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. Monday to Wednesday. During the period November 2015 to May 2016, the Duty Officer received 94 requests to visit or contact the complainant. 50 cases were to deal with noisy parties and 23 requests to deal with loud music.

Oxford Safer Communities Rolling Plan Priorities

12. The priorities identified in the strategy have been informed by Oxfordshire's Strategic Intelligence Assessment. The assessment uses partnership data, community feedback through surveys, 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 for 2016-17 are:
 - Violent crime
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Organised crime
 - Preventing extremism
 - Abuse and exploitation
13. These priorities will be tackled through six strategic work areas:
 - Problem-solving community safety concerns at a neighbourhood level.
 - Local implementation of the Government's Violence against Women and Girls Strategy.
 - Developing our safeguarding approach to all forms of extremism including the delivery of the Prevent action plan.
 - Local action to tackle organised criminal gangs.
 - Understand roles and responsibilities to improve our response to exploitation and safeguard vulnerable people in a community safety context.
 - Understanding and engaging with our communities to reduce community safety risks and reduce demand.

Delivery of the Rolling Plan 2015-16

14. In 2015-16 there were a number of activities that support our community. These were:
 - The introduction of Community Protection Notices and Community Protection Warnings to tackle low level anti-social behaviour and environmental crime. In 2015-16 Oxford City Council's Anti-Social

Behaviour Service issued 154 Community Protection Warning Notices were issued to residents in Oxford. Those that failed to adhere to the warning notices received Community Protection Notices. 39 residents received these notices during 2015-16. Failure to comply with the notices could result in a fine being issued or being prosecuted at Magistrates Court. One fine has been issued and Oxford City Council had one successful Court prosecution.

- Accreditation to level 2 of Restorative Justice training for thirteen officers from Oxford City Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Service. This accreditation will help to support a positive resolution when tackling anti-social behaviour.
- Working with our community, OSCP delivered four Appreciative Inquiries on key anti-social behaviour topics affecting our community. Topics included graffiti, busking and youth disengagement.
- Oxford City Council's Licensing Service introduced safeguarding and awareness training for all new taxi licences and alcohol licensed holders. This training supports the national programme, "Say Something if you See Something". This scheme is now being rolled out across Oxfordshire as best practice.
- Increasing the coverage of CCTV in Oxford City Centre with the installation of three cameras in St Aldates and Speedwell Street, bringing the total of 41 cameras in the City Centre.

15. In 2015-16 OSCP delivered on a number of initiatives that helped and supported victims of crime. These were:

- Responding to complaints under the Community Trigger programme. The aim is to review any case where the complainant was not satisfied with the outcome or the failure to investigate properly. Since September 2014 eight applications were received to activate the Trigger. Of these, four applications passed the required threshold and led to an anti-social behaviour case review.
- Oxford City Council's Licensing Team investigated 234 complaints made by our residents and visitors to Oxford in relation to taxi drivers, taxi vehicles or taxi operators. As a result, six applications to renew or apply for taxi licenses were refused and four licenses were revoked.
- OSCP supported a community based service that works with young people who are in abusive relationships. SAFE provides one to one support for young people that have been victims of crime. This includes providing additional work with victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence under the 16. OSCP also supported the development of the Building Respectful Families 12 week programme where there has been child on parent abuse. Three programmes have been delivered in the past year, providing support to 23 families.
- OSCP supported Oxford City Council's Homelessness Project that aims to keep victims of domestic abuse in their homes. In 2015-16 the project provided improved security measures to 160 victims (including repeat

victims). No domestic abuse victim presented themselves homeless during the year.

- Delivered a number of events including Restorative Justice Conference for over 100 practitioners that work in the domestic abuse and sexual abuse field, provided domestic and sexual abuse awareness training to 236 students from Oxford Brookes University and delivered to over 100 officers, child sexual exploitation awareness training to Oxford City Council staff, private care homes and hostels.
- Supported the Independent Trauma Advice (ITA) Service who works with victims of exploitation and slavery. Twenty-three victims of exploitation received support in 2015-16 with one person being the victim of domestic servitude. The ITA service also referred eight victims to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to provide victims supported housing and personal support.
- Launched Oxford's Hotel Watch that aims to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Eighty-four hotels, guesthouses, short let accommodation and bed & breakfast establishments have signed up to receive Thames Valley Police's Hotel Alert.
- Working with other agencies, Oxford City Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Service interrogates the Council's IT systems when there is a concern on a vulnerable child on behalf of Oxfordshire's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

16. In 2015-16 OSCP delivered on a number of initiatives aim to tackle offending in Oxford. These were:

- Joint operations conducted by Oxford City Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Service and Thames Valley Police that supported the introduction of Public Spaces Protection Orders introduced during 2015.
- Ensuring parts of Oxford City are now compliant for mobile CCTV cameras.
- Oxford City Council's Licensing Team, in partnership with Thames Valley Police conducted five test purchase operations, visiting 21 licenced premises for underage sales. Three premises failed and were issued with fines and warning notices were issued against the licensed premise holder.
- Provided support to Making Changes that work with male perpetrators of domestic abuse. Last year there were 64 referrals. The community based perpetrator programme lasts 27 weeks and challenges the underlying beliefs and intentions of males which gives them a sense of entitlement leading to violence and abuse their views
- Oxford City Council provided a weekend Out of Hours Operation from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. with two officers patrolling the City Centre and East Oxford dealing with noise complaints, anti-social behaviour issues,

street trading, distribution of free printed matter and taxi and licensed premises concerns.

- Supported the delivery of the Oxford City Council's Youth Ambition programme with the development of a programme for young people in Rose Hill that had caused a nuisance for residents.

Challenges for OSCP

17. The continued funding of Police and Crime Commissioner funded posts. The Commissioner has committed to maintaining the funding levels for 2016-17; however with significant budget reductions required these posts may be at risk in future years.
18. Ensuring CCTV coverage continues in the most effective way in light of the reduction of funding from Thames Valley Police. Funding of salaries will reduce by 30 per cent per annum until 2018-19.
19. Improve multi-agency working in response to mental health problems that impact on community safety.

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