

**To:** Council  
**Date:** 23 April 2018  
**Report of:** Head of Community Services  
**Title of Report:** Oxford Safer Communities Partnership Update

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	Oxford Safer Communities Partnership's Annual Review
<b>Executive Board Member with responsibility:</b>	Councillor Tom Hayes, Board Member for Community Safety
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Strong and Active Communities.
<b>Recommendation(s): to note the report.</b>	

**Appendices: None**

## Introduction and background

1. Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP) was established in 1998 with the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act makes statutory authorities responsible for crime and disorder.
2. Oxford's Community Safety Partnership comprises of representatives from:
  - Oxford Local Police Area
  - Oxford City Council
  - Oxfordshire County Council's Youth Justice Service, Children and Adult Social Care Services
  - The National Probation Service
  - Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company
  - Oxford University Hospital Trust
  - Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
  - South Central Ambulance Service
  - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
  - Oxford Brookes University
  - Oxford University

## Achievements for 2017-18

3. Each year the partnership identifies the priorities for the year. In 2017-18 these priorities were:
  - a. Tackling the negative street culture and its links to drugs and exploitation
  - b. Safeguarding vulnerable adults, children and young people, including how to work with vulnerable adults with mental and chaotic lives
  - c. Tackling Organised Crime Groups
  - d. Reduce violent crime
  - e. Reduce anti-social behaviour
  - f. Support the Government's Violence against Women and Girls Strategy by tackling domestic abuse and other interpersonal crimes. These priorities will be tackled through six strategic work areas:

4. Over the year, OSCP partners, alongside their mainstream activities have delivered multi-agency projects in response to these priorities. Below are a few examples:

- a. Streetwise Operation

A multi-agency operation was developed to tackle the increasing issue around the negative street culture. The approach targets those people whose drug, alcohol misuse or anti-social behaviour causes significant harm to the public. A number of people have been supported off the streets and into support and treatment. Officers from Oxford City Council, Turning Point and Police were involved in high visibility patrols as part of a reassurance approach.

The Thames Valley Police Stronghold approach to serious organised crime focuses on working in partnership to support victims and disrupt Organised Crime Group (OCG) activities. Stronghold is prioritising work around open drugs markets in some parts of the city.

- b. Operation Eagle

To tackle the issue of modern day slavery, servitude and exploitation, Operation Eagle was developed by Thames Valley Police that drew together community safety teams across the Thames Valley area. The operation developed tools that assisted in prevention, enforcement and protect those vulnerable victims affected. The Hidden Harms campaign was launched in the autumn to address the range of modern slavery types. Supported by the City Council and other partners the campaign resulted in a front page article in the Oxford Mail and wide social media exposure.

- c. Home Office Peer Review

Partners were involved in a Home Office Peer Review of our Prevent duty. Key findings from the review showed a strong appetite to succeed in this agenda with structures for oversight and delivery particularly strong. The review also highlighted the need to develop a greater understanding of information sharing across the partnership and to increase the capacity and quality of training

A county-wide action plan has been developed which will be taken forward by all Community Safety Partnerships.

d. Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service

OSCP partners were involved with the review of domestic abuse services across Oxfordshire. Working with the office of the Police Crime Commissioner, contracts were awarded to ensure continuity across the service. The recipients of the new service contract are Refuge, a national organisation specialising in services for victims of abuse.

Oxford also provides an additional service that helps victims of domestic abuse to remain within their homes. This year, the Target Hardening Project has worked with 146 victims of domestic abuse to improve security measures within their home. Oxford is unique across the Thames Valley by having this programme.

e. Tackling FGM

OSCP supported Oxford Against Cutting to develop a toolkit which is now being delivered across primary schools in Oxfordshire. The toolkit was launched in January 2018 and will provide teachers information on what to look out for when addressing this problem and safeguard children.

f. Sex Workers Intervention Panel (SWIP)

Oxford's SWIP identifies and supports sex workers, families and the wider community. The panel meet up every six weeks and has up to 20 agencies involved to exchange information and coordinate agency interventions enabling greater support and understanding of the issue. This year, over 16 sex workers have been supported through multi-agency actions. SWIP has been identified by many partners as good practice to tackle sex working and crimes connected to this issue.

Moving forward, a National Ugly Mug awareness raising event will be held in April 2018 for professionals to implement this scheme locally.

g. Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Oxford City Council and Thames Valley Police have worked very closely to tackle anti-social behaviour. A number of Injunctions were obtained along with three Closure Orders to prevent "cuckooing". In 2017, a Council tenant was evicted from her property and imprisoned as a result of her anti-social behaviour. The offender had been aggressive and abusive to her neighbours over a number of years.

Other work included obtaining Oxford's first Mandatory Possession Order for serious crime and anti-social behaviour; the development of a number of environmental operations to tackle fly-tipping and illegal disposal of commercial waste.

h. CCTV

Two new CCTV cameras were installed in Speedwell Street to improve the coverage around Oxford City Centre. Oxford now has 49 cameras around the City Centre along with a number of mobile cameras that assist with multi-agency operations.

i. OSCP Stakeholder Event

To engage with other agencies and interested parties OSCP held a stakeholder event to review OSCP's achievements from the previous year and to highlight the priorities for the current year. Presentations were given by Tim Sadler (Executive Director of Sustainable City), Superintendent Joe Kidman; Richard Adams (Community Safety Service Manager); Liz Jones (ASBIT Manager) and Simon Manton (Community Response Team Manager).

j. Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

OSCP partners are represented on the Board and its sub-groups. Particular areas of work this year has been the continued focus on child sexual exploitation and the expansion of the groups work to include all child exploitation. This recognises the increasing risk of child drug exploitation emerging across the county.

The Board are also in the process of finalising the Joint Operating Framework for the Taxi Licensing and the Transportation of Children and Vulnerable Adults. The framework has been operational for three years and brings into closer harmony the licensing approach to taxis across the District Council areas and more established working practices with the County Council and police.

### **Priorities for 2018-19**

5. In March 2018 OSCP met and agreed the priorities for the new financial year. These are:

- a. Tackling negative street culture and its connection to drug dealing and young people at risk of exploitation.
- b. Tackling Serious Violence and Nightsafe review
- c. Develop a project to embed restorative approaches across partner organisations.
- d. Tackling Organised Crime Groups
- e. Support the Government's Violence against Women and Girls Strategy by tackling domestic abuse and other interpersonal crimes.
- f. Tackling the open Drug Markets that are blighting our communities.

### **More information**

If further information is required, please contact the report author.

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