

To: Council
Date: 22 July 2019
Report of: Ian Wright, Head of Regulatory Service & Community Safety
Title of Report: Oxford Safer Communities Partnership Update

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	Oxford Safer Communities Partnership's Annual Review 2018-19
Key decision:	No
Executive Board Member with responsibility:	Councillor Nigel Chapman, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Customer Focused Services
Corporate Priority:	Strong and Active Communities.
Policy Framework:	n/a
Recommendation: That Council note the report	

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, disorder and anti-social behaviour.
2. Oxford's Community Safety Partnership comprises representatives from Oxford Local Police Area, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council's Youth Justice Service, Trading Standards, Children and Adult Social Care Services, The National Probation Service (now incorporating Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company), Oxford University Hospital Trust, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, South Central Ambulance Service, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford University, and Turning Point
3. OSCP Executive Board agrees a set of annual priorities. In 2018-19 these were:
 - a. Tackling harmful street culture and its connection to drug dealing, young people and vulnerable adults at risk of exploitation;
 - b. Reduce serious violence and undertake a review of Nightsafe, the partnerships approach to policing Oxford's late night entertainment economy;

- 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; and,
- f. Tackling the open drug markets that impact on our communities' feelings of safety.

Achievements for 2018-19

- 4. Tackling negative street culture and its connection to drug dealing, young people and vulnerable adults at risk of exploitation.
 - a. Continued the Streetwise project in the city centre to tackle begging, drug abuse, street drinking and environmental crime, through engagement, support and enforcement approaches. Police, City Council, Turning Point and homeless services working together to support and address behaviour of the most chaotic clients. There are daily patrols by our City Centre Ambassadors, and street engagement by dedicated City Council and police resources.
 - b. Excluding the daily patrols, 30 multi-agency operations were conducted to address begging, alcohol abuse and anti-social behaviour. In 2018-19 Oxford Direct Services attended 833 locations and picked up 7,292 needles and syringes. East Oxford had the greatest number of "sharps" found, followed by Oxford City Centre.
- 5. Reducing serious violence and currently undertaking a review into policing Oxford's late night entertainment;
 - a. Review the partnership response to policing the night-time economy. Project brief developed during 2018-19 and partner data collection and analysis is underway. Managing the night-time economy does stretch resources and pulls officers away from tackling the more prevalent crime affecting our communities, hence the need to develop more multi-agency responses.
 - b. Developed a local hate crime action plan. Activities included:
 - i. Hate crime awareness week working with the police to promote reporting through their "Hidden harm" campaign.
 - ii. Police have an Independent Advisory Group representing a wide range of communities.
 - iii. Police Community and Diversity Officer works with communities in response to issues that raise community concerns or tensions.
 - iv. Hate crime page on City Council's website and the promotion of the Victim First service
 - v. Problem solving approaches to repeat victims and perpetrators of hate crimes reported to the police with all hate crime offences are reviewed by a specialist police officer.
- 6. Supporting the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy by tackling domestic abuse and other interpersonal crimes;
 - a. In 2018-19 a Countywide Modern Slavery Action Plan was developed and presented to OSCP. The Elmore research project on the extent of modern slavery in Oxford continues and is due to report back to OSCP in the autumn.

- b. Continue the work of the Sex Workers Intervention Panel (SWIP) that supports vulnerable individuals who have chaotic lifestyles to reduce the harm to themselves and the wider community. This included the introduction of Sex Worker Harm Reduction packs including health products and support service information. SWIP also continued its support with the Ugly Mug information about aggressive customers, which was included within the packs. This national campaign provides warnings about dangerous individuals who attack sex workers.
 - c. Continued our work with partners across Oxfordshire to protect victims of domestic abuse including a Young People's Pathway, Domestic Abuse Training for professionals, and drafting of a Domestic Abuse strategy, delivery plan and dashboard. The Council provides a Sanctuary Scheme for domestic abuse victims to keep the victim and their family in their home. In 2018-19, 107 people received improved security measures, such as window and door locks, new front doors, fencing, door keys and lighting.
 - d. Worked with Thames Valley Police on the updated Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Protocol and supported the Thames Valley Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) Project to provide improved services for victims from BAMER communities.
 - e. Continued to work with our Oxfordshire local authorities to address safeguarding responses under the Joint Operating Framework for Taxis and Transporting Vulnerable Adults. Enforcement work has increased in the evenings resulting in a third of all complaints relating to taxis licensed by neighbouring district councils. All drivers are safeguarding trained.
7. Tackling Organised Crime Groups (OCG's), that included:
- a. Working against OCG's primarily led by the Multi-Agency Drug Exploitation (MADE) partnership group. Most OCG's in Oxford are involved in the drug trade. A 4P's (Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare) approach results in the protection of young people, vulnerable adults and disrupting the groups.
 - b. Promote, advise and support all activities incorporated within Thames Valley Police Cyber Crime Strategy.
8. Tackling the open drug markets that impact on our communities' feelings of safety by identifying hot spot areas that are affected by the open drug markets and support communities to "take back" their streets.
- a. Launched in 2018, TVP and Oxford City Council's Public Spaces Drug Task Force targeted priority areas such as Meadow Lane, South Parks, Friars Wharf and areas in East Oxford. Community call-backs develop intelligence and provide reassurance (259 so far). A further 15 smaller neighbourhood areas have been identified and problems solved.
 - b. The Task Force uses a three stage approach to addressing drug misuse and dealing in public places:
 - i. CLEAR – high visibility police and partner activities to remove dealers and engage users
 - ii. HOLD – installation of crime reduction interventions to target the location, with the support and involvement of community groups, business premises and landowners
 - iii. BUILD – legacy activities to encourage the community to use the space, report concerns and maintain the presence associated with the two preceding stages.

- c. Supporting our communities by addressing a number of environmental anti-social behaviour issues. Last year, Community Response Team officers, Environmental Health Officers, Planning Enforcement and the police attended a farm as a result of a number of complaints regarding bonfires on this site with residents suffering with toxic smells and black smoke.
 - d. Led by the MADE group, County Drug Line (CDL) activity has fluctuated during the year in response to making Oxford a less hospitable - environment to deal drugs in open spaces and “cuckooed” properties. A number of arrests have assisted in the disruption in these activities.
9. Supporting those vulnerable adults who are at risk of being “cuckooed” into hosting drug dealing with the use of Closure Orders to protect these vulnerable victims. Close cooperation between housing providers, Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation Team (ASBIT) and the police is essential. In 2018 a council tenant was subjected to cuckooing from drug dealers from outside the city. As a result, ASBIT obtained an injunction preventing other persons except from the tenant living at the property. Over the year, ASBIT obtained 2 Notices Seeking Possession, 3 Closure Orders and 3 Injunctions.
10. Alongside this work, training of professionals has been provided by the Willow Project, a Thames Valley wide service tackling exploitation and slavery. The Willow Project also assists supporting victims that have been “cuckooed”.
11. The partnership’s priorities for 2019-20 are:
- a. Tackling the harm caused by drug exploitation through our multi-agency violence and vulnerability plans that will:
 - i. work together under our STRONGHOLD arrangements to impact on local organised crime groups involved in dealing drugs;
 - ii. work with statutory and voluntary sector youth agencies to deliver coordinated responses for young people at risk of drug exploitation;
 - iii. work with our communities to reduce the impact of drug exploitation through our Public Spaces Drugs Task Force’s CLEAR, HOLD and BUILD approach;
 - iv. support vulnerable adults at risk of drug exploitation.
 - b. Improving public safety in Oxford’s late night entertainment areas;
 - c. Supporting the Government’s Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy by tackling domestic abuse and other interpersonal crimes;
 - d. Working with partners across Oxfordshire to address modern slavery and exploitation; and
 - e. Responding to hate crimes by working with our communities and partner organisations to encourage reporting and delivering interventions.

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Background Papers: None	