

To: Council
Date: 18th July 2022
Report of: Cllr Diko Walcott, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities
Title of Report: Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP) Annual Update 2021-22

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	Provide a summary of OSCP's achievements in 2021-22
Key decision:	No
Executive Board Member with responsibility:	Cllr Diko Walcott, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities
Corporate Priority:	Support Thriving Communities
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation(s): Note the report	

Appendices: No

Introduction and background

1. The introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed statutory responsibilities on the police, local authorities and other Responsible Authorities to convene a multi-agency partnership to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in their local area.
2. Oxford Safer Community Partnership (OSCP) meets on a quarterly basis to set local community safety priorities in the city and develop and monitoring multi-agency plans to address these priorities.
3. The Oxford's Community Safety Partnership comprises:
 - Oxford City Council
 - Oxford Local Police Area
 - Oxfordshire County Council's Youth Justice and Exploitation Service, Fire & Rescue Service, Trading Standards, and Child and Adult Social Care Services

- National Probation Service
- Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust,
- Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group,
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner,
- Oxford Brookes University
- University of Oxford
- Turning Point

OSCP achievements 2021-22

4. Each financial year OSCP agrees a set of annual priorities based on a Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) of crime and disorder in the city. The SIA, and an interactive crime dashboard can be found on the Oxfordshire Insight website:

<https://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/community-safety>

5. The summary of the partnership's achievements in 2021-22 includes:

- 5.1. With the support of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Oxford City Council was awarded £426,000 to address Violence against Women and Girls through new measures to help women and girls travelling in and out of Oxford at night. "Safe Journey, Safe, Safe Destination" brought together the Police Crime Commissioner, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford Police Area, Oxford University Security Services, and Oxford Brookes University, West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils, in a unique partnership that makes a difference for women and girls in the City.
- 5.2. Upgrade of CCTV cameras in Oxford city centre to high definition digital cameras and improve sight-lines for CCTV and in overgrown areas.
- 5.3. Expanded CCTV coverage to include The Plain, Cowley Road and Temple Cowley.
- 5.4. Upgrade of the Oxford City Council-owned CCTV Suite in St. Aldates Police Station to a fully digitised solution with the capacity to monitor new CCTV cameras in Oxford City Council tower blocks, low rise blocks and the Covered Market.
- 5.5. Improved street lighting on transport routes across Oxford, Abingdon, Didcot and Witney.
- 5.6. Introduced a Safe Places scheme within the night-time economy to provide a place where people can get support in a safe environment.
- 5.7. Launched the Nightsafe Oxford Network to bring together partners and organisations in the night-time economy, including the police, CCTV operators, Street Pastors, night bus drivers, taxi drivers, fast food outlets and licensed premises. Members of the network will receive bystander training to spot and assist people in need, communicate with each other through a radio system, have direct contact with the police CCTV control room and receive briefings from the police on what to expect during the weekend.

<https://www.oxfordcitycrimepartnership.co.uk/nightsafe-oxford/>

- 5.8. Promoted to licensed premises the Licensing Security and Vulnerability Initiative (SAVI), an online assessment programme designed to help the owners and operators of licensed premises provide a safe and secure environment for their managers, staff, customers and local communities.
- 5.9. Commissioned a Drink Spiking Awareness Course to train as many front-line workers such as bar and security staff as possible, in order to raise awareness about drink spiking amongst venues, ensuring staff know what they can do to help victims, and minimising the frequency of this crime. Drinking spiking testing kits purchased for use by police officers and universities.
- 5.10. Project Vigilant targeted predatory behaviour and sexual assault in the evening economy. Dedicated uniformed and plain clothed officers patrol areas of the city to identify people who may be displaying signs of predatory behaviour. Oxford City Council serve notices on subjects of concern.
- 5.11. Oxford City Council became a member of the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) and are working towards accreditation which will demonstrate a client-led approach for all customers who have or are experiencing domestic abuse. Policies and procedures, robust risk and case management, inclusivity, domestic abuse informed staff will need to be embedded into working practice to achieve this.
- 5.12. Recruited 2 full time Domestic Abuse Housing Link workers within the City Council. They provide a single point of contact for the customer journey through the process from homelessness to secure accommodation. In addition they identify good practice and areas for improvement within the Council departments which will assist in achieving the DAHA accreditation.
- 5.13. Councillors conducted a scrutiny review of provision to support survivors of domestic abuse in Oxford. There were 48 recommendations, the majority of which will be completed through the DAHA accreditation. Staff training was a common theme and a programme of training has already started.
- 5.14. Deployment of mobile CCTV cameras in six locations including within the Covered Market to prevent business burglary and installation of a new lighting column in Wytham Street in response to drug dealing and ASB, match-funded by City Council councillors.
- 5.15. Developed a new structure and pathway to identify and support adult victims of exploitation and slavery. To ensure a strong response, all cases of modern slavery and human trafficking cases are alerted to Anti-Slavery Coordinator who records and assesses the information and coordinates the response with the police, Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority, DWP and Adult Safeguarding.
- 5.16. Successful disruption activities carried out on a guesthouse where sex working was causing significant community concerns. Police, Fire Service, Victims First Specialist Service and Oxford City Council's Community Response Team, ASBIT, Planning Enforcement, Revenues and HMO Enforcement teams executed a warrant on the property. Although there were no victims of trafficking, other enforcement actions were taken resulting in the property being closed temporarily.

OSCP Priorities for 2022-23

6. The priorities detailed in OSCP's annual Rolling Plan 2022-23 were developed by all the members of the partnership taking into account the overview of crime trends affecting Oxford. The plan is due to be signed off by the partnership in August and the priorities for 2022-23 are:
 - 6.1. Develop responses to neighbourhood crime priorities such as open space drug misuse and dealing, anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related violence through the work of the Community Safety Problem Solving Officer.
 - 6.2. Address anti-social behaviour that effects our communities through support and enforcement processes.
 - 6.3. Coordinate and implement Oxfordshire's Modern Slavery Strategy through the work of the Oxfordshire Anti-Slavery Coordinator
 - 6.4. Prepare for and deliver the Serious Violence Duty in partnership with the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit.
 - 6.5. Coordinate activity to address the violence against women and girls agenda with the Safe Journey, Safe Destination project that aims to keep women safe when out and about in Oxford late at night.
 - 6.6. Continue to tackle domestic abuse and support the delivery of the government's Violence Against Women and Girls strategy through the introduction of DAHA accreditation in social housing stock, support for the Oxfordshire DA Strategy Group and the implementation of Oxford City Council's scrutiny review recommendations.
 - 6.7. Build on the work of the Safer Streets 3 project to improve our approach to alcohol-related disorder through the Nightsafe Oxford Network.
 - 6.8. Develop a hate crime action plan to support communities.
 - 6.9. Reduce the level of cycle crime in the city through the Bike Crime Reduction Partnership.
 - 6.10. Support the work of the Prevent and Protect Duty of the Counter-Terrorism strategy.
 - 6.11. Work with partners in Oxfordshire to evaluate the feasibility of an Oxfordshire CCTV Hub.
 - 6.12. Use our Common Place consultation process to engage with our communities in order to understand their community safety concerns and develop responses.
 - 6.13. Develop partner support and use of the Interact web-based dashboard to better understand local community safety trends and evaluate interventions.
 - 6.14. Review our membership, structures and working groups to ensure we have the partnership capacity to support delivery of our priorities.

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Background Papers: None

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