

To: Council

Date: 6 October 2025

Report of: Community Safety Service Manager

Title of Report: Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP)
Annual Update 2025-26

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	Provide a summary of OSCP's achievements in 2024-25
Key decision:	No
Cabinet Member with responsibility:	Cabinet Member for Safer Communities
Corporate Priority:	Strong and Active Communities.
Policy Framework:	
Recommendation(s): Note the report	

Appendices: None

Introduction and background

1. Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP) is Oxford's statutory partnership to address local community safety priorities in the city. It is responsible for plans to reduce the fear of crime, minimise the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime and address community safety concerns to improve the lives of our residents, businesses and visitors.
2. OSCP has an Executive Group that brings organisations together to work in partnership to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Oxford City Council chair and facilitate the partnership which meets on a quarterly basis to review the priority plans and identify emerging risks within the city.
3. OSCP Partnership Executive Group comprises of responsible authorities, as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and other local partners, including Oxford University Hospitals, Oxford Brookes University, the University of Oxford, Turning Point, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
4. The Police and Crime Commissioner provides some of the funding to address the priorities for the year, including modern slavery, serious violence and domestic abuse. OSCP's priorities compliment the priorities of the PCC's crime plan, as set out in the Police and Crime Plan 2024-29.

5. The annual Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, produced by Safer Oxfordshire Partnership provides the crime data to assist in identifying those priorities.
6. To view the full Joint Strategic Needs Assessment or TVP's Police & Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan, please click on the hyperlinks below.

<https://data.oxfordshire.gov.uk/jsna/>

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan/>

OSCP Priorities 2025-26

7. At an OSCP Executive Group meeting, held on 30th June 2025, the following priorities were agreed.

Anti-Social Behaviour and neighbourhood crime

- Develop and implement problem-solving plans for ASB hotspot areas, including undertaking crime prevention surveys with our communities.
- Address environmental crime such as littering, fly-tipping and waste in gardens that can blight our neighbourhoods.
- Continue to improve CCTV across Oxford by working in partnership with other local authorities and TVP.
- Oversee ASB Reviews that enable victims of anti-social behaviour to request a review of how agencies addressed persistent ASB complaints.
- Tackle retail crime by supporting TVP's Operation Purchase, the police-led retail crime reduction initiative.

Reduce Serious Violence

- Work with the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership to deliver the statutory Serious Violence Duty requirements set out in Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. These are:
 - to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence.
 - identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area and the causes of that violence.
 - prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.
- To address drug dealing in open spaces through a problem-solving approach.
- Support the work of the multi-agency Serious and Organised Crime group to identify and disrupt organised criminal groups.
- Work with young people who are at risk of offending or socially isolated by providing diversionary activities and becoming more inclusive within our communities.
- Work with partners and housing providers to identify, support and protect vulnerable people whose property has been taken over (cuckooing).

- Continue the successful NightSafe partnership that aims to improve safety in Oxford's nighttime economy areas.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- Commission Domestic Homicide Reviews and implement recommendations.
- Support Oxford City Council to achieve Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation (DAHA), ensuring the council maintains the accreditation for future years.
- Support the delivery of the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- Increase the safety of women and girls in the night-time economy through our NightSafe programme that works with licensees, Higher Education partners, student bodies and our communities.

Modern Slavery and Exploitation

- Develop multi-agency plans to support victims and disrupt perpetrators of modern slavery and exploitation.
- Continue the work of the Thames Valley Anti-Slavery Network to increase awareness and cooperation in prevention, communications and disruption of activities, preventing victims becoming exploited.
- Identify trends in the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and pathway referrals to identify emerging themes.

Preventing Extremism

- Work with partners to implement the requirements of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 for publicly accessible locations.
- Support the Oxfordshire Prevent Strategy in its actions to deter people from extremist ideology.

OSCP Achievements 2024-25

8. This section provides a summary of some of the partnership projects undertaken throughout the year.
 - TVP launched Operation Purchase that tackled retail crime. Officers undertook a robust operation to address shoplifting within our neighbourhoods and city centre. Over the 12 months from February 2024 to January 2025, there were 2,534 reported crimes, an increase of 39.9% compared to the same period the previous year. This resulted with an increase in the solved crime rate of 35.6%.
 - In 2024, Oxford City Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation Team successfully rescued fourteen animals found in a flat. The tenant had been using the flat to keep unsupervised animals including twelve dogs, a chameleon and a rabbit. Neighbours raised concerns due to the smell and welfare of the animals. After obtaining a warrant from court, the Council coordinated the rescue of the animals that involved the police, RSPCA, Housing Officers, and the Council's dog warden.

- In 2024, Oxford's Problem-Solving Officer collaborated closely with residents by undertaking environmental visual audits, consulting with residents and implementing projects that improve the community.

Several mobile CCTV cameras were deployed across Oxford to support intelligence gathering for TVP's Stronghold cases that addresses drug dealing, abuse, and anti-social behaviour. Introduced and trained staff from Oxford City Council on the use of Body Worn Cameras to enhance opportunities for evidence capture and assist in the detection and prevention of crime and ASB.

- Oxford's Anti-Slavery Coordinator worked with several agencies including Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority, HMRC, Adult Social Services, Quality Improvement Team and Home Office were involved with a Care provider that was identified as exploiting their workers. Thirty-two workers, who worked across Oxfordshire were identified as being exploited and were supported by Victims First Specialist Services or Anti-Slavery Initiative Oxford (ASIO) who OSCP commissioned. As a result, twenty-nine people found other employment.
- OSCP organised a summit dedicated to the issue of serious violence and knife crime, with a particular focus on supporting young people. Several partner agencies attended, along with county and city councillors. The Police and Crime Commissioner, TVP, Oxfordshire Youth Justice Service, and Youth Groups funded by the PCC gave presentations on their work to combat serious violence.

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Background Papers: None