



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
Community Safety Partnership

# What is the Community Safety Partnership

A statutory requirement of the [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#) has been placed on **responsible authorities** for a local government area to formulate and implement:

- a) A strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social behaviour)
- b) A strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area
- c) A strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area
- d) A strategy for preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence in the area as well as reducing instances of serious violence in the area.

**Responsible Authorities** refers West Oxfordshire District Council, Police, Fire and Rescue, Health Partners (Integrated Care Board) and Probation Services. These responsible authorities are collectively known as Community Safety Partnerships and the statutory requirements are as follows:

- 1. The Group is ultimately responsible for preparing and implementing a Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Partnership Plan to tackle crime and disorder
- 2. Each of the five responsible authorities must be represented on the partnership
- 3. At least one of the representatives from each of the five responsible authorities must hold a senior position within their home organisation
- 4. Where there is an elected member responsible for community safety on the council for the district/unitary area, they must also be a member of this group.

# Who sits on the Community Safety Partnership?

## Internal Partners

**Geoff Saul, Executive Member for Housing and Social Welfare**

**Emmylou Brossard, Safer Communities Officer**

Heather McCulloch, Community Wellbeing Manager

Phil Measures, Service Leader, Environmental Health

Alison Gardner, Licensing

Andy Barge, Assistant Director

Jacqueline Wright

## External Partners

Thames Valley Police

Adults Social Care

Children's Social Care

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue

BOB Integrated Care Board

Oxfordshire University Hospitals Emergency Department

Probation

Youth Justice and Exploitation Service

Cottsway Housing

Oxfordshire Anti-Slavery Coordinator

Turning Point

Cranstoun Here4YOUth

# Duties of the Community Safety Partnership

- Bring together local partners to formulate and deliver strategies to tackle crime and disorder in their communities
- Undertake a Strategic Intelligence Assessment - an annual strategic assessment is undertaken behalf of all Community Safety Partnerships in Oxfordshire.
- Conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews - this is a multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person appears to have resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were or had been in an intimate personal relationship.
- Undertake Community Trigger Reviews - This allows residents to ask the Community Safety Partnership to review their responses to complaints of anti-social behaviour.
- Reduce reoffending - to protect communities from crime and to deliver a more effective and economically just system.

# Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police and Criminal Justice Plan

West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner have a duty to have regard to each other's plans. The CSP invites a representative from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) as an invited member of the Partnership and we have consulted with them in the formulation of our new Community Safety Partnership Plan.

Matthew Barber is the current Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, this is an elected post and the priorities of the OPCC change with the elected official and 2024 is an election year. The current priorities are as follows:

## **Current Priorities of the OPCC:**

- Strong Local Policing
- Fighting Serious Organised Crime
- Fighting Cybercrime and fraud
- Improving the Criminal Justice System
- Tackling Illegal Encampments

Whilst the Community Safety Partnership have taken account of the priorities set out in the Police and Criminal Justice Plan 2021-25 they have acknowledged that not all priorities within the Thames Valley wide plan should be reflected within the CSP Plan.



# OPCC and the Community Safety Fund

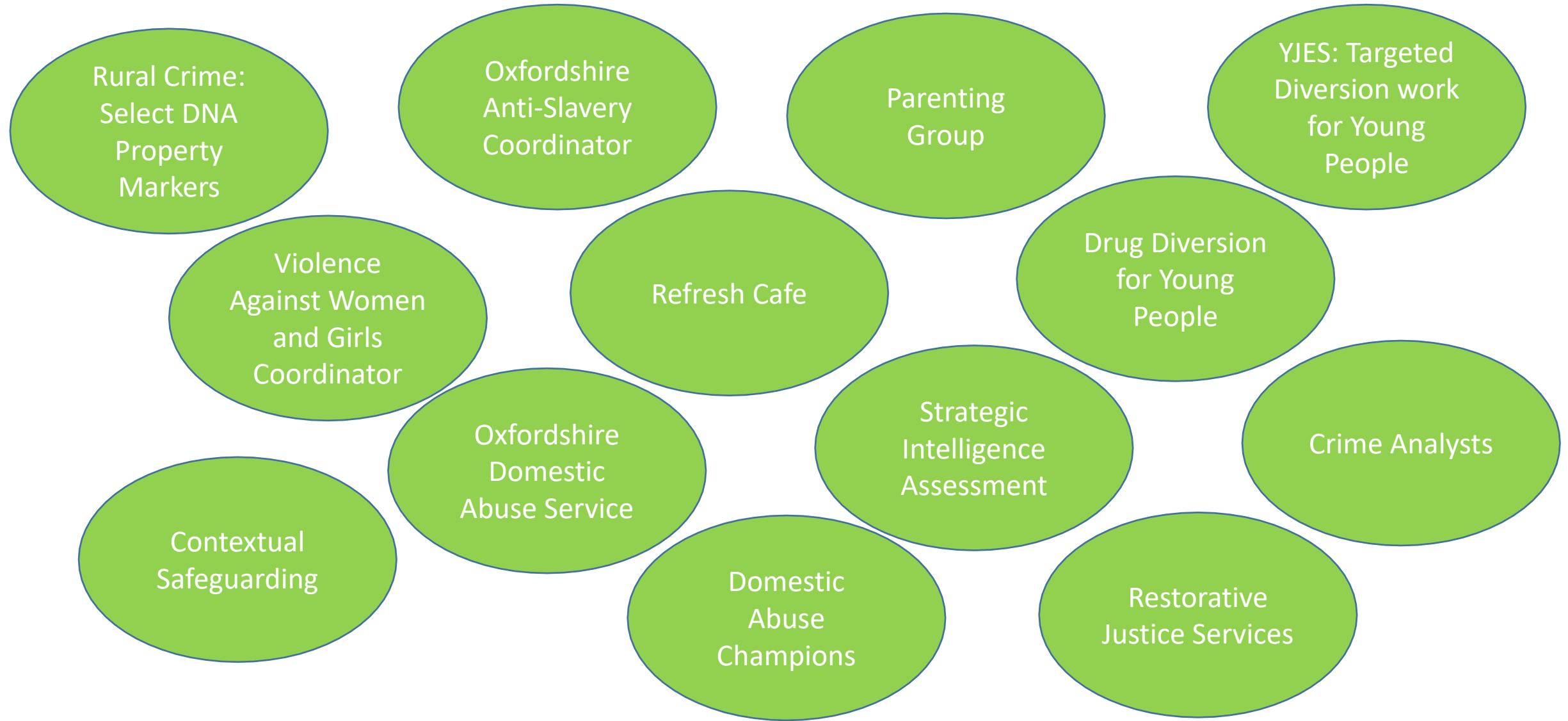
*“Investigating and enforcing crime is not the only, nor the best approach to making communities safer. The police cannot cut crime on their own. Effective partnership working is essential.”*

This is why the OPCC provides the Community Safety Fund, a direct grant to support CSPs in delivering on the actions and priorities of their partnership plans.

In 2022/2023 Oxfordshire was allocated a direct grant of £686,820 for use by Community Safety Partnerships, the Youth Justice and Exploitation Service, Police, Public Health Probation, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue and the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board.

Funding is apportioned to the whole of Oxfordshire in 3 year blocks which gives flexibility to work collaboratively across Oxfordshire and to plan for longer term projects with greater impact and time for evaluation.

# What has this funding provided across the Oxfordshire and Locally 2022/2023?



# West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership Rolling Plan January 2024 to March 2027

This is a new plan with new priorities:

- Serious Violence
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls
- Rural Acquisitive Crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Fraud
- Modern Slavery
- Counter Terrorism

It should be noted that this plan is very new and awaiting publication on the council's Website. It is a rolling and working plan, and priorities and actions may change over time so the plan will only be updated annually on the website.



# Youth as a Focus in the Community Safety Partnership 2024 Rolling Plan

The Community Safety Partnership contributed to the funding of West Oxfordshire District Council's Youth Needs Assessment, a very comprehensive report detailing the views and issues of 3908 young people.

As a result of this work the CSP have committed to making young people a priority within the new CSP Plan.

Young people and feelings of safety across the district:

- 3.5% (127) of young people said that home was not a safe place for them
- 20% (649) of young people said school was not a safe place for them
- When asked about feelings of safety in their hang out areas, 1.4% (53) felt very unsafe and 4.6% (170) felt unsafe, when combining both scores, young people in Witney accounted for 55% percent of young people feeling very/unsafe.
- Young people would feel safer having someone else with them or being part of a group; having increased or better lighting; having more police or police patrols in the areas they hang out; CCTV; having somewhere safe to go/hang out.
- 4.7% (182) of young people raised concern about gender based violence, sexism and harassment; and 4% (158) of young women identified feeling at risk from boys and men because of their gender
- 146 young people identified drugs as a challenge young people face today and 259 disclosed smoking cannabis in the last year
- Nearly 12% of young people told us they had felt the need to carry a weapon, nearly half were female

# Serious Violence Duty

This is set out in law under the [Police, Crime and Sentencing Act](#) (Chapter 1, Part 2) and requires authorities within a local government area to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including domestic abuse.

*“Serious Violence includes specific types of recorded crime, such as homicide, grievous bodily harm, incidents that involve a knife and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as county lines drug dealing”*

This is an agreed Thames Valley wide definition and Community Safety Partnerships have a responsibility to report back to the Home Office on the following crime types as part of this duty:

## **Group 1:**

- All homicide
- All grievous bodily harm
- All knife crime
- ... inclusive of all ages, location types (public/private) and domestic flags

Whilst not being reported back to the Home Office, West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership will also consider the following when considering the risks around serious crime in our communities:

## **Group 2:**

- All actual bodily harm
- All drug supply/trafficking
- All sexual assault
- All rape

# How has the CSP helped Tackle Crime and Disorder so far?

- Supported victims of Domestic Abuse through financial contribution towards Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service
- Delivered Cut it Out, Domestic Abuse awareness training to hair & beauty professionals and students, to help them identify the signs and signpost.
- Successful Domestic Abuse campaigns.
- Providing repeat victims of crime and high risk victims of stalking and domestic abuse with Ring battery operated cameras to support with target hardening and the ability to provide evidence to support prosecution.
- Development of Safe Places across the district to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our communities have somewhere safe to go for help if they are ever feeling unsafe whilst out in our towns and villages.
- Supporting in the creation of West Oxfordshire District Council's Youth Needs Assessment
- A variety of youth focused interventions focused on youth anti-social behaviour and drug exploitation.
- Development of strategic work across a wide range of community safety related issues, including exploitation, modern slavery, combating drugs, fraud, serious violence, violence against women and girls, and extremism
- Community engagement through Have Your Say events, Community Resilience Forums and the Annual Rural Crime Conference at Blenheim Palace
- Supporting in the creation of Oxfordshire's Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan and Strategy
- Utilising a multi-agency approach through the Joint Agency Tasking and Coordination Group to tackle local issues including anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse at an operational level.
- Utilising Safer Streets Round 3 Funding to help women and girls feel safer when walking home from Witney in the dark, by improving lighting and removing foliage including overhanging branches to improve visibility in alleyways, trimming tree branches that were obscuring CCTV visibility, and providing Witney Street Pastors with resources for when they patrol on Friday and Saturday nights.

Thank you for your time, I hope you now have a better understanding of the Community Safety Partnership and the work it undertakes.

Emmylou Brossard, Safer Communities Officer

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